



Volume 69, Issue 5
March 2013

TIDINGS

Lutheran Women in Mission Rocky Mountain District



Are you going to the convention in Pittsburgh?

Do you want to see who else is there from the Rocky Mountain District?

The best way to connect with people from home is to **go to the RMD Caucus and take part in the RMD picture.**

On **Thursday, June 27 between 4-6 p.m.** we will meet in a room with sisters and brothers from the Rocky Mountain District for a caucus and we will have our picture taken. First we'll do one and then the other, but we won't know which happens first until closer to convention time. Look for times and locations in the first newsletter distributed at the convention.

Other important facts about the 2013 convention:

- **Early registration costs less** than registering after March 14, so register right away!
- Every registrant needs to **complete an Acknowledgement Release Form** for emergency contact information.
- **FAQs** (Frequently Asked Questions) are posted at www.lwml.org
- Visit LWML committee and various vendor **booths in the Exhibit Hall** being renamed the "**LWML Neighborhood**".
- Look for our **Rocky Mountain District banner** to be on display in Exhibit Hall C after the Friday morning procession.

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Carol's Corner

I read the following article by our LWML President Kay Kreklau on the LWML home page during the week of Oct. 14. For this issue of our *Tidings*, I wanted to write some words to share the excitement of the upcoming LWML Convention in Pittsburgh. This article kept replaying in my mind. I found I couldn't say it any better than our national president, so please read on for her thoughts (and mine too) about convention.

Spur One Another

“And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching”. (Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV)

In just a few months we will convene for our biennial national convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Thousands of mission-minded women (and a few brave men) will be together in one place. Does it get any better than that?

These kinds of gatherings are the perfect opportunity to spur one another toward what LWML does so well—*love and good deeds!* When we come together as a unified body of Christ, we connect back to the core values that motivate us. It's a time for renewal, for revitalizing our mission and vision, and to be part of something that is bigger than ourselves. Wow! No wonder God's Word encourages us to “not give up meeting together.”

Take a moment to visualize being in that convention hall filled with your sisters and brothers in Christ bringing honor and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now, may I *spur* you today to prayerfully consider attending the Pittsburgh convention? I hope to see you there!

From the President's Notebook:

Thank you to the ladies of Zion Lutheran in Brighton, CO for hosting the February Executive Committee meeting and the 2013 meeting of the Board of Directors. We appreciate the hospitality and generosity for providing housing, meeting space, and meals to all of us.

PING Update – Last issue you heard about a presentation happening at the Board of Directors meeting about PING - **P**repared, **I**nspired, **N**ourished, and ready to **G**o. Be sure to ask your zone president about her experience with PING.

Mite Deadline – Send all mite contributions to RMD Treasurer Beth Nagy through March 31 and they will be sent to LWML to count towards meeting the mission grants for the 2011-2013 biennium.

Pittsburgh Convention Info.: Look on page 1 for a note about our RMD caucus and our district photo during the Pittsburgh convention. If you go to PA, look for us to meet and then be ready to smile for our RMD picture.



Joy in His Service,
Carol von Soosten

LWML RMD 2012-2014 Vision Statement



Reach
Everyone
As
Christ's
Hands



Two children were running around the house one day, one chasing after the other. "You...broke...my...toy!" she shouted breathlessly at her younger brother.

Mom breaks up the fight before it gets too out of hand. "You kids stop it. Right now. And say you're sorry."

The younger child, hiding behind mom's leg, smiles as he says, "I'm sorry," then sticks out his tongue. The older child, still furious, speaks behind clenched teeth, "I... forgive... you." But as soon as mom's back is turned, she looks at her younger brother, points a finger at him, and mouths, "I'm going to get you!"

Sounds like a typical sibling altercation, doesn't it? Forgiveness is certainly not an easy concept to grasp as children. You might think that we "get it" more as adults, but I'm not so sure about that.

No, all too often, we adults treat repentance and forgiveness much like children do. Two people get into an argument. One is clearly in the wrong, but refuses to repent. "I didn't do anything wrong. How dare you tell me I need to apologize?"

Sometimes, we treat forgiveness like a commodity to be traded. "Yeah, I'll forgive you. As long as you do some-

thing for me to show me you're really sorry."

Or when someone has committed a sin against us and asks for forgiveness, we might just withhold it. "I'm not sure if I can ever forgive you for what you've done," and then bringing it up over and over again.

But thanks be to God that He doesn't treat us like we treat each other, but instead, grants us forgiveness!

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Those familiar words from our liturgy remind us that God desires to forgive us even though we do not deserve it. He doesn't hold our sins over us, pretend like we haven't sinned, nor remind us again and again that we've sinned. No, Jesus won victory over sin, death, and the devil by His death on the cross, and grants us forgiveness. When we confess our sins to God – no matter what they are – we are assured that God will forgive us.

In this Season of Lent, as we ponder the Passion of our Lord, let us remember why Jesus died: So that we would be forgiven and granted everlasting life.

Your Sins Are Forgiven

Pastor Schultz
Junior Pastoral Counselor

Remember to send your mites each month to our RMD Treasurer. Her address is:

LWML RMD
Beth Nagy, Treasurer
PO Box 270144
Louisville, CO 80027



Know Your Mission Grants

Judy Piepkorn
VP Gospel Outreach

Mission Grant Recipients for the 2012-2014 Biennium

	<u>Granted</u>	<u>Paid</u>
Training African Pastors for Gospel Outreach in Africa	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,000
Trinity/HOPE Haiti	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,000
Religious Life Curriculum Illustration Costs	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000
Sunday Sermons for the Zulu of South Africa	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank	\$ 7,000	\$ 0
Rocky Mountain District – Debt Assistance	\$ 7,500	\$ 0
Concordia Early Childhood Learning Center	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Concordia Seminary Graduate School		
International Student Support	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Outreach Resource Centers	\$ 5,000	\$ 0
Support for University Lutheran Chapel – Boulder, CO	\$ 6,000	\$ 0
Helping Blind People See Jesus	\$ 4,000	\$ 0
God's Word in Their Heart Language – Teaching the Mende to Read Scriptures	\$ 4,450	\$ 0
Fostering Faith in the Forest	\$ 3,000	\$ 0
	<u>\$72,450</u>	<u>\$13,000</u>



\$13,000

Mission Grant Update

Judy Piepkorn,
VP Gospel Outreach

Greetings LWML societies and members! As I write this update it is snowing outside and it looks like a winter wonderland. A covering of snow always reminds me that Jesus covered us all in the pure white of forgiveness when he died for us. This miracle took place for all mankind when Jesus died and rose again for you and me. We are the chosen ones to tell this Good News to others. The LWML does this through our Mite giving for funding mission grants. We have had a slow start this biennium. Please pray that our societies will focus on the **joy** we have in giving **cheerfully** to the grants the Lord has set before us.

Early in September we were able to partially fund the Concordia Early Childhood Center in Riverton, Utah. Just today we were able to send partial payments to three other projects and to pay in full the Concordia Early Childhood Center. Nearly 3/4 through the first year of the biennium we have paid a total of \$13,000 leaving a balance of \$58,950 for the next 5 quarters.

Please pray for our grant recipients as you put your coins in your Mite box. Let us focus on reaching our goal. Ask the Lord for His guidance in reaching people with the message of salvation through our mission projects. And **praise Him** for His mercy.

Are You Stuck?

Debbie Yocky
Planner

Have you ever seen the movie *Groundhog Day*? Bill Murray plays a reporter sent to cover the annual event. Somehow he gets stuck in a time loop and re-lives Feb. 2nd over and over. Eventually, he begins to use the day to learn new skills, make new friendships and change his outlook on life.

Have you ever felt like you are in an endless loop like Bill Murray's character in the movie. One day feels just like the last—same stresses, same problems, same commitments and appointments.

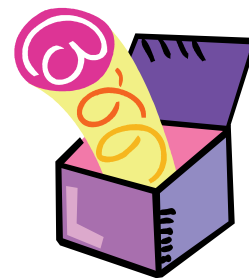
We don't have to live trapped in that rut. We have been reborn; redeemed through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We are new people. We are no longer bound by our sins and our past mistakes. We have been redeemed to live the life God has created for each of us to live. God has even created good works for us to do.

If you are feeling "stuck" in the doldrums of winter with no spring on the horizon, here are some suggestions to reenergize your life.

1. Seize the moment. Time goes by so fast. You will never get a chance to live this exact moment again. Don't waste your time worrying about the future or daydreaming about the past. Be aware and alert in this moment. Focus on the task at hand; listen to the sermon; ponder the Word.
2. Spend time with friends and family. Being with friends and family sharing a meal or telling stories feeds the soul. Don't isolate yourself.
3. Reevaluate personal and group priorities. Take time to reevaluate what activities and meetings your group is scheduling. Do they still meet the needs of your group or are they doing them just because "We've always done that". Try something new, learn a new skill, join a new Bible study.

We never have to stay "stuck" in the middle of winter. Spring is just around the corner.

Out of the Box!



On our Rocky Mountain District LWML website at www.lwmlrmd.org you will find a new Lenten devotion for use by your societies or for your individual use.

"Repentance and Forgiveness: a Lenten Meditation in 7 Voices" can be found on the Christian Life page. You may also email me for a copy of it at vpchristian-life@lwmlrmd.org.

New Lenten Devotion

Colleen Spahr
VP Christian Life

Human Care

Human Care is God in Action through YOU!

Deb Kruger
VP Human Care

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Were you ready for some football? I know we all watched the Super Bowl. It was amazing to see how New Orleans has been restored after Hurricane Katrina. It has taken a long time to rebuild homes and businesses after the devastation the storm caused. But with the help of human care ministers serving in various capacities, Louisiana's beautiful cities have made a wonderful come back. As with any storm (whether it is a hurricane, fire, tornado, etc.) we mourn our loss, and then we rally from the ashes and rebuild what was lost with strength from the Lord. A segment from one of Pastor Gregory Seltz' sermons from the Lutheran Hour based on Jeremiah said: "Where do you go? Where do you go when the pressure mounts, when the expectations rise above your abilities and strength? The Prophet Jeremiah reminds us that no matter what day it is, when life is beyond hard, God provides real strength. Maybe the pressure cooker is rising for you today. Maybe you're saying, 'Super Bowl pressure, they don't know the half of it.' Maybe you're feeling that kind of pressure right now. Maybe you're feeling like it's all come down to this and you've got to perform, you've got to get through, you've got to make it, or it's all over, right?"

With the Lord in our corner there is nothing we can't do. Game On!



Serving—a Mission Servant Devotion

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Luke 22:27 says, "For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I [Jesus] am among you as the one who serves."

What a powerful model Jesus is for all of us! He is King of Kings. He is Lord of Lords. He is the Son of the Most High God and yet He serves. He washes feet; He touches the untouchables; and He mixes and mingles with the undesirables. What a Mighty God we serve, One who knows who He is and still is a humble servant!

In the Scripture verse, Jesus, along with His disciples and perhaps other important guests, are at the table together. They are all being served and Jesus uses the occasion to continue the concern of a dispute about who is the greatest. (Read Luke 22:24-26.) Jesus informs His followers that they are to be different from those of the world who crave power, who love to be seen, who love to be in charge of someone and who pride themselves on prestige. Jesus reminds them, and He reminds us, that we are not to be like that. Instead, we are to observe and model His examples. He chose to serve instead of being served. His service carried Him all the way to the cross.

Yes, Jesus chooses to wash your feet and what He has done for you, you are to go and do likewise for others. That is what it means to be great. Our Lord uses you, through your service in the LWML, to touch the lives of so many. Indeed, there are those that do not even know most of you, if any of you by name, and yet their lives have been and are being changed by Christ's love that comes through your service. The service that you give is being done by the work of the Holy Spirit who empowers you to love from your hearts, modeling the examples of Jesus as you walk in His footsteps. May He who is Lord of the church, continue to bless you to be a blessing. Amen.

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, oh, how we love to call on that name, the only name that everyone must acknowledge in order to be saved. Bless the work of the church through the hands that perform the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Do this, Lord, so that many more lives are touched.

Gifts from the Heart

JUNE 2013



[Jesus said:] "...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
John 4:14

Participants attending the 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will be able to demonstrate the love of Jesus through Gifts from the Heart donations. Agencies in Pittsburgh have been chosen to receive the gifts from your heart. You may bring these items in unlimited quantities. At registration, you will be directed where to drop off your gifts.

Quilts/Blankets – New, adult and baby sizes (pack in heavy duty plastic bag)

Diapers – Size: preemies, 3, and 4
Wipes

Kits – All donations are to be new and regular size. Please pack kit items in a clear plastic zip lock bag (2 gallon size works well). Keep donation items in original wrapping.

BABY KIT

Receiving blankets
 Sleepers – preemie/newborn
 Onesies – preemie/newborns
 Outfits – preemie/newborn
 One Christian tract or Bible verse (inside the bag)

MEN'S KIT

Men's boxers (L – XXXL)
 Men's T-shirts (L – XXXL)
 Men's socks
 One Christian tract or Bible verse (inside the bag)

BATH KIT

Bath towel and washcloth
 Full size toothpaste
 Toothbrush
 Women's or men's deodorant
 Bath/Bar soap
 One Christian tract or Bible verse (inside the bag)

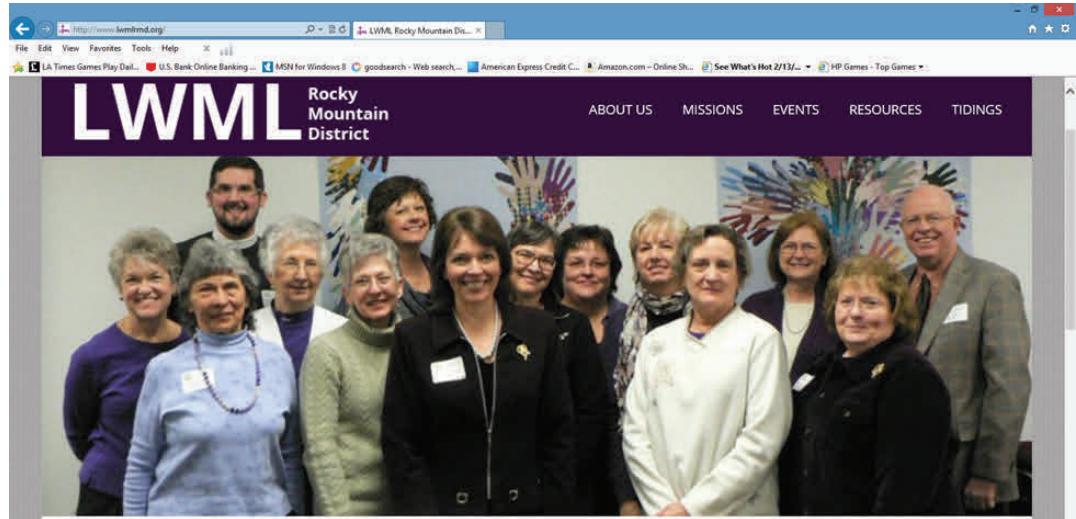
DEVOTIONAL KIT

Bible
 Journal
 Devotional booklet and pen



www.lwml.org

New Web Page & Address



www.lwmlrmd.org

The re-design is thanks to Laura Raben who is the Promotions Coordinator for Lutheran Church Extension Fund in the Rocky Mountain District. We thank her for her work on our behalf.

Rays of SonShine

St. Paul's Lutheran Ladies Guild in Durango, Colorado held a Pie Auction on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, 2012. The purpose was to fund our year end charities of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Lutheran Hour Ministries, and our local Manna Soup Kitchen. 25 pies were donated by 12 ladies in our church. Doug Reusink, husband of one of our members, acted as auctioneer. The auction took place after church and in less than thirty minutes we had raised \$805 for our charities. Praise the Lord for our generous members who baked and bought Thanksgiving pies.

Sue Giddings
Secretary/Treasurer



Liz Reusink hands off a pie to auctioneer, Doug Reusink.



Barb Kasik, June Dunn and Anne Erickson admire the pies.



The *Treasured News* newsletter began in September 2012 as a means of communication between the LWML treasurer and the 40 district treasurers.

Beginning with the January 2013 issue, you will read about the “Seven T’s of Stewardship” written by our LWML Junior Counselor Rev. John Heckmann. These articles share with us how we, as a receiving people, use our gifts from a giving God.

From *Treasured News*: Reaching the mission goal only for the sake of meeting our budget is based on “law giving.” Gospel motivation works because ALL of life is one of stewardship. The Bible tells us about a giving God and a receiving people. How the receiving people use all that comes from a giving God is what Christian stewardship is all about. Pray about what you will give, and give joyfully.

Also included in the *Treasured News* are articles about LWML events that create an awareness of our mission grants and ways to encourage their support. Any society, zone, or district that has a unique event or method of promoting awareness of our mission grants is encouraged to send pictures and/or information to treasurer@lwml.org. Readers of this newsletter will enjoy hearing about your enthusiasm for LWML.

Treasured News is a monthly publication prepared by LWML Treasurer Lois Anderson. Any zone or society treasurer who would like to receive a copy, please contact Beth Nagy to have a copy emailed to you (or if you do not have email, a printed copy will be mailed).

Joyful Response[®] is an electronic offering transfer service now available for our Rocky Mountain District LWML societies, zones and individual members to send in mite offerings. *Joyful Response*[®] is just like the automated or electronic transfers you may already use for loan or utility payments. This is a free service which allows direct contributions of mites from a designated account paid directly to the LWML RMD StewardAccount[®] with Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Joyful Response benefits to the LWML member —

- Electronic mite offerings occur just like money or check contributions without the time and expense of writing and handling personal checks or money.
- The member specifies the frequency and the amount of the contribution.
- The contributed amount is still traced to the society, zone and district for recordkeeping purposes.
- Participation is open to everyone.
 1. Members do not need to have an LCEF investment.
 2. Participants do not need to be LWML members.

Joyful Response benefits the LWML —

- The organization continually receives mite offerings on a consistent basis—
 1. when monthly meetings are not held, i.e., summer months
 2. when members cannot attend a meeting.
- Record-keeping efficiency is increased.
- Discussion of stewardship and mission response is encouraged.

This service is for sending in mite offerings only, other contributions, such as delegate fund, *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* subscriptions, special gifts and the like will need to be sent by check in the usual manner.

Applications will be available on the LWML RMD website or by contacting LWML RMD Treasurer, Beth Nagy.

President Carol is signing up to use *Joyful Response*. Join her in using this new way of sending mites for our mission grants. It is quick and easy and safe.

*Treasured
News*

&

*Joyful
Response*

*Joyful
Response*[®]

*A free electronic mite giving
opportunity for individuals and
societies of Lutheran Women’s
Missionary League.*

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March 31 is the end of LWML's 2011-2013 biennium mite deadline.

Any mites sent to RMD Treasurer Beth Nagy through **March 31** will be sent to LWML and still be counted to help LWML meet the grants approved at the 2011 Peoria convention.

If every society across the country sends \$75, LWML Treasurer Lois Anderson said we would reach the mites needed to fund all the mission grants.

Won't you please spread the word and help with your prayers and your mites? Maybe your society has been blessed and can return to the Lord gifts over and above \$75. Let's all pray together and send all mites to RMD Treasurer Beth Nagy today!

LWML Amounts as of December 31, 2012

Mite Goal for 2011-2013 Biennium: \$1,825,000.

Average Monthly Funds Needed to Meet Mission

Goal: \$126,138.

Amount Received to Date: \$1,446,586.

Amount Needed for Goal to Date: \$378,414.

Amount Ahead/Behind Goal: \$(150,288.)

