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PEACE

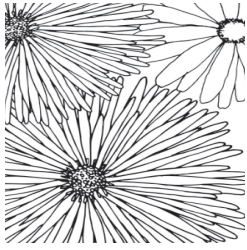
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:27

When Jesus spoke these words to his disciples He also promised to send them a helper, the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us with *groanings too deep for words* (Romans 8: 26b). This verse has given me great peace and comfort over the years because sometimes I just don't know what to pray for.

In this month's *Tidings* we learn about the peace that passes understanding, the peace that can release us from our worries, the peace that God can make a difference in people's lives through our mission service projects, and our Mites. We are reminded to take it to our Lord in prayer and find a Bible study that takes us back to God's word.

As fall approaches make plans to attend your zone's Fall Rally and find peace in the knowledge that you have sisters in faith. Find peace in the scriptures renewing yourself through God's word. Pray for the mission of the LWML and the missions that we support with our mites globally. And if you don't know what to pray for, let the Holy Spirit do the work.

At the end of October many will celebrate Reformation Sunday. In the words of Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," we are reminded, *A champion comes to fight, Whom God Himself elected...The Lord of hosts is He, Christ Jesus Mighty Lord...He holds the field victorious.* We can have great peace in knowing who fights for us in these turbulent times.



Shelley Stewart

PRESIDENT

HE'S GOT THIS!

This time of year is anything but peaceful. School is starting, along with all the kick-off events for new seasons of Bible Studies, Sunday School, even church picnics! It's exciting to be beginning again, but it's also a little overwhelming. The Bible tells us *do not be anxious about anything* in Philippians 4:6. Sometimes that is easier said than done! However, the verse goes on to tell us to "present your requests to God". This reminds us to keep our focus on Christ, and in our eternal salvation. My mantra at this time of year is Matthew 6:34 Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. There is nothing we can solve by worrying before the event even happens! But, if we pray about our worry, not only will we feel better by getting it off our chests, then we put the situation in God's hands, since it wasn't really in our control in the first place! I was telling my daughter yesterday how, now that all the family is home from trips and vacations, I can relax

because everything is "back under control." Then I started laughing because nothing is ever under my control at all! This is freeing, knowing it's not all up to me, but also terrifying, knowing nothing is up to me at all!

As I head out to see a lot of you at Fall Rallies, I'm excited to be starting something new, but also to continue something that was started before any of us were here. Although LWML started with previous generations, Christ's Church was started way before that! And when Christianity as a religion began, it spread from a few people to a few more, then a few more. None of this is our doing! Our job is to plant the seed, then to stand back and watch God work. That is why *the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* (Philippians 4:7) None of this is under our control, and that is why it surpasses understanding. Maybe we weren't meant to understand it. God is in control! He's got this!

PEACE THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Pastor Duane
Meissner

JUNIOR
PASTORAL
COUNSELOR

Moments after I first sat down to write this article on the subject of “peace” I received a phone call for which I had been preparing myself for months. A dear sister in Christ, and member of my beloved congregation, had just passed away. I had regularly been visiting Elaine in her home for fellowship over coffee and pastries, worship, prayer, and the Lord’s Supper ever since her health took a turn for the worse. She struggled more than most people these past months. She always downplayed her suffering, but her visibly decreasing energy, labored speech, and the oxygen tank to which she was always tethered betrayed her condition. Yet, Elaine was always a remarkable woman of peace.

Peace is a commodity that everyone wants, but is, seemingly, in short supply. We naturally go about our quest for peace attempting to eliminate the things that threaten to disrupt it, be they health problems, relationship tensions, work stress, financial instability, or some other such marker of the brokenness in this world. If only our disruptions were in short supply! My late friend, Elaine, sought relief from her own stressors in life. She successfully leaned on other people for help with tasks she could no longer complete on her own, and worked with medical professionals to find solutions to some of her health issues. She was right to do so, and I thank God for those blessings! **But, Elaine never let her peace become dependent on a lack of suffering.** Elaine had

something better — something more reliable. Elaine had a peace that *passes all human understanding.* (Philippians 4:7). Elaine found her peace in her Lord, Jesus.

2000 years ago, Jesus handed over a Ministry – one full of tremendous suffering and hardships – to a group of understandably confused and scared disciples, saying, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* (John 14:27, emphasis added) It was imperative that the disciples of Jesus ultimately find their peace not in the ways of the world with a focus on the elimination of suffering, but rather in Him: in His presence, His lordship, His providence, and His ultimate victory over sin, death, and the devil. Through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, these disciples found that transcendent peace! They were able to carry out faithful, cross-filled lives in Jesus’ footsteps in peace, without letting the brokenness of this world break them.

Thanks be to God the same Holy Spirit that empowered the disciples to bear their burdens in peace is being poured out on otherwise confused and scared disciples like you and me still today. We can enjoy that same, transcendent peace. I know the soul of my dear sister Elaine is enjoying it still today in Heaven as she waits for her Lord Jesus to fulfill all His promises. That thought makes me smile today in the middle of my grief. It even gives me a little extra peace.



MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

Andi Noblitt

GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP

REMEMBER TO
SEND MITES TO:

YVONNE STEEBY
LWML RMD
TREASURER
PO BOX 1657
ALAMOGORDO,
NM 88310

	Granted	Paid
Fostering Faith in the Forest at Lutheran Valley Retreat	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Financial Assistance for CTSFW Food & Clothing Coop	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
God Cares About You: Summer Intern Ministry	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000
Trinity HOPE: Feeding Haitian Children Spiritually & Physically	\$ 5,000	
Support for the University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder	\$ 5,000	
LHF: Providing Lutheran Books to the former Soviet Union	\$ 5,000	
Worker Wellness for LCMS Chaplain Families	\$ 3,000	
Colorado Mesa University: Outreach	\$ 6,000	
LBT: Old Testament Translation in the Bandi Language of Liberia	\$ 8,000	
Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute Infrastructure Investment	\$ 6,000	
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch: Kruse Memorial Chapel Transformation	\$ 4,000	
LBW: Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central & South America	\$ 8,000	
Equipping MOST Ministries Construction & Repair Teams	\$ 6,000	
POBLO: Cross-Cultural Outreach Ministry Training to RMD Churches	\$ 5,000	
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	\$ 3,000	
TOTAL	\$ 80,000	\$ 13,000

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me--practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9.

We can have peace knowing that what we have received from the Lord is being put to good use. With God's blessings, and your support, we were able to pay two grants in full and one partially this period.

We paid \$5,000 to CTSFW Food and Clothing Coop. The Coop is available to students enrolled in classes leading to ordination in the holy ministry or certification in the deaconess program. Food, clothing, and household items are available at no cost to the students. Students register and volunteer time for the privilege of

use. For information go to ctsfw.edu/support-ctsfw/give-for-today/co-op-donations/food-and-clothing-co-op/.

We also gave \$5,000 to Lutheran Valley Retreat which is a year round retreat and summer camp facility for all ages tucked away in the Pike National Forest. Their mission is to share God's grace and glory through His creation. For further information go to lvr.org.

Finally we were able to send \$3,000 to God Cares About You Mission in Albuquerque, NM. Their main goal is to share God's word with people by the power of the Holy Spirit. They want people to clearly hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; His message of salvation by grace through faith in Him. godcaresaboutyou.com

We thank God for being able to support these important missions!

TAKE IT TO THE LORD

How can I be at peace when my situation is constantly shifting? I do not know about anyone else, but God's plan for me and where I end up are not always what I had originally planned for myself. How do you deal with being asked to accept new roles of leadership or unexpectedly being asked to apply to be a Young Woman Representative or Teen Representative?

My very first recommendation when things are changing around you, and you start to feel overwhelmed, is to go to the Lord in prayer. It is amazing the peace experienced, taking the issues to Him and not trying to face them on your own. Next, I would recommend finding out the expectations of this new role and

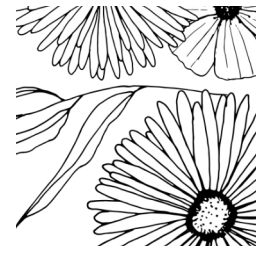
CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES FOR YOU

If you are like me, the start of the school season feels like the start of a new year. Summer often brings a slower pace of life as we refresh our souls, enjoy nature and family. Fall brings back all the activities (often including LWML group meetings, YEAH!) and a more regular schedule with all the stress. If you are feeling stressed about your group's Bible study topic this year, let me help you. I want to let you know about some resources that the Christian Life Committee has that we can loan to your group. Here are some titles in our collection:

consider if you are able to fulfill the commitment. Unfortunately, life will always have obstacles that pop up, but if you are already aware of any major conflicts before agreeing, it may not be the time or season for the shift in role. *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven* (Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV). LWML.org has resources to list the duties and expectations of each office, as do our district bylaws (lwmlrmd.org) at the level you are considering. Peace, in leadership or when there is a shift in roles, comes from the faith and knowledge that God is with us, guiding us, and we don't have to do the task alone.

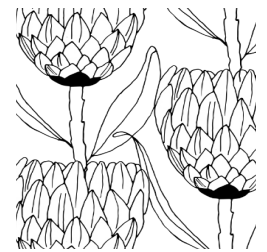
Perserverance: Praying through Life's Challenges by Donna Pyle; *Peter...From Fisherman to Fishers of Men* by Donna Pyle; *Where Love Abides* by Donna Pyle; *Overflowing Abundance* by Donna Pyle; *Your Strong Suit* by Donna Pyle; *The God of All Comfort* by Donna Pyle; *Love Rules: A Study of the Ten Commandments* by Christina Hergenrader; *Soul Spa: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal* by Sharla Fritz; *Waiting: A Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust* by Sharla Fritz; *Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman* by Elizabeth Ahlman; *Living a Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma; *Balance: Christ Filled Living* by Kay Meyer; and *A Work in Progress* by Carla Krazl.

Interested in one of these titles?
Contact me through
christianlife@lwmlrmd.org



Christina Bean

**SERVANT
RESOURCES VP**



Christie Peebles

**CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP**



FOR US AND WITH US

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

National LWML
LWML SUNDAY
2022

“For Us and With Us,” is the theme for LWML Sunday 2022 and is based on Paul’s letter to the Romans. Paul tells us that each of us has faced challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength (Romans 8:31–39). But, in Christ, who is for us and with us, we are already more than conquerors through Him who loved us. This celebratory LWML Sunday will encourage all hearers of the victory which is already ours through Baptism, so we might live each day confidently trusting in Christ.

2022 LWML Sunday downloadable materials, authored by Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson, are now available from the national LWML site: lwml.org/lwml-sunday



For Us and With Us

Romans 8:31–39

LWML NATIONAL
CONVENTION
2023



Date: June 22–25, 2023

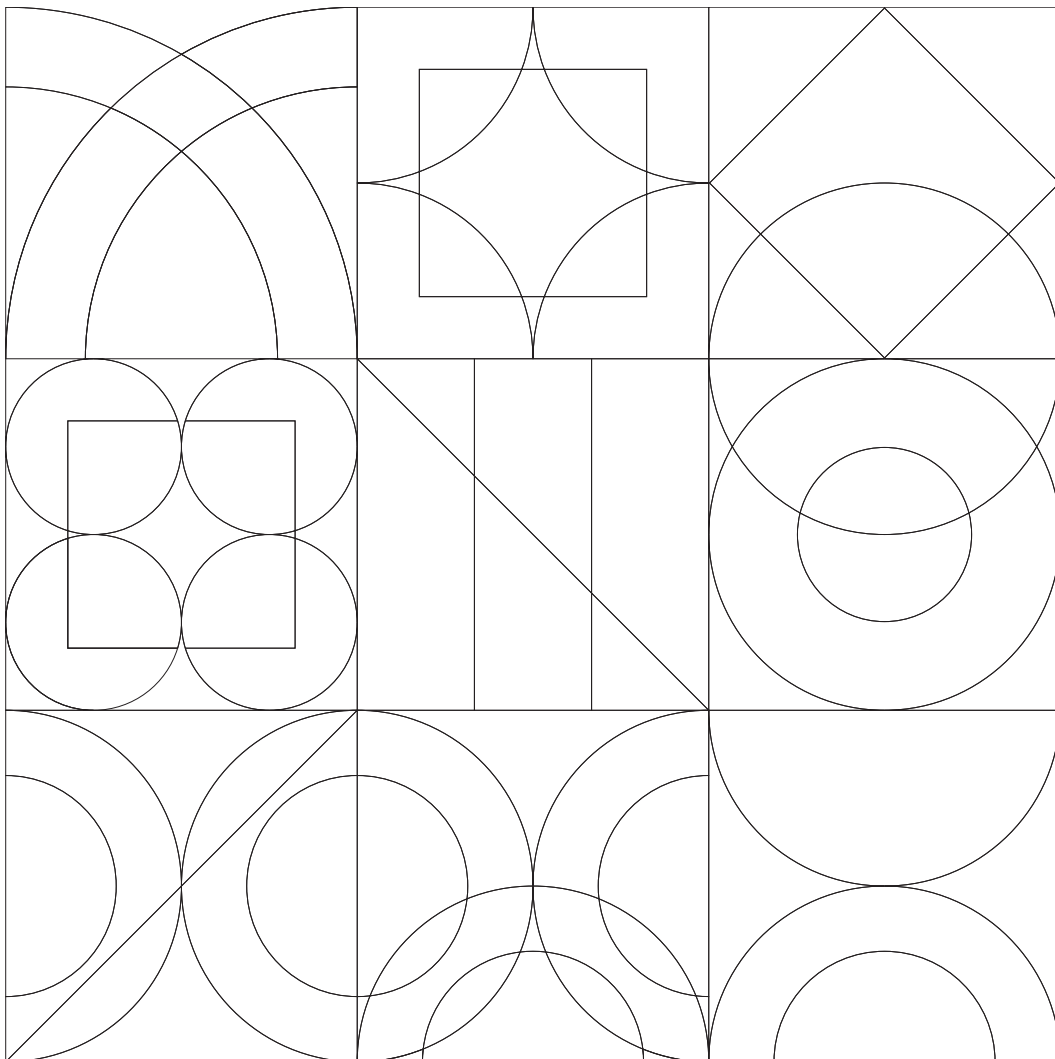
Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Theme: Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Scripture Verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12–13).*

**Second Biennial LWML RMD
Fall Retreat
September 8–10, 2023
Glorieta, NM**

TRUST





Linda Harsh

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE

MENDING LIVES ONE STITCH AT A TIME

TenderLove Community Center was selected for one of the three offerings we gathered at our convention in June. Their program empowers homeless and low income women to achieve stable, self-supporting lives for themselves and their families. Linda Ballenthin and I had the pleasure of touring the Community Center the Thursday before the convention began; the scope of the services they offer their clients is impressive. We knew they taught sewing and fashion design, we found out that each student must design and sew their own unique graduation gown plus complete a group project designing and sewing a wedding dress to graduate from their 12 month program . We discovered they also teach small business skills, G.E.D. preparation, financial literacy/money management, elderly care giving, community health work and computer skills. They added recovery/transitional housing to their program to bridge the gap of the long waiting period for permanent housing. Since 2013 they have inspired and assisted over sixty individuals per year to move from poverty to self-sufficiency.

We donated a total of \$1718.98 to TenderLove plus two large boxes of

miscellaneous hygiene items. These items were donated to our Gifts From the Heart Ingathering. Initially, we offered these extra items to God Cares About You but they had already received an abundance of hygiene kits so they preferred to share the bounty with TenderLove. Before the tour, we didn't know that TenderLove had a housing program and could use these items. But God knew!

Debbie Johnson, Founder/CEO has a background in fashion design and an interesting back story. If you live in the Albuquerque area, Debbie would make an inspiring speaker for your next group or zone event. Thank you for your generosity, please keep this faith based outreach in your prayers.



FALL RALLIES ARE IN THE AIR

The Fall Rally season began on August 20, 2022 with the Pecos Zone hosting their rally in Clovis, New Mexico at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Building on the 2022 Convention theme, the ladies of this zone chose "Perfect Gifts from Above" and the convention verse from James 1:17, *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*



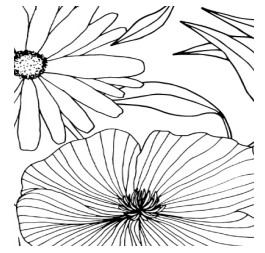
Highlights of the day, pictured above, included the Bible study led by Pastor Kyle Brown from Grace Lutheran Church in Hobbs, NM.

Deaconess, Brittini Brown from Grace in Hobbs, NM shared information regarding the purpose and duties of a deaconess.



Additionally, LWML RMD President, Shelley Stewart shared district convention news and upcoming district and national LWML events. Thanks to Sylvia Bean for sharing her photos and information.

Be sure to check the schedule on [page 10](#) and make plans to attend your zone's Fall Rally.



FALL RALLY NOTES





Sue Giddings

A HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

SUMMER FUN

In lieu of business meetings, St Paul's Lutheran Women in Mission chose to host some activities this summer. In June the ladies met for a walk on Durango's river trail then had lunch together. In July they planned a tea which was postponed until August due to illness. In August they met for a fun evening of music, wine, food, and fellowship at Foxfire Farms Winery in Ignacio, Colorado. All ladies were welcome to attend and a few gentlemen joined us at the winery.



Above, Women in Mission enjoy tea and snacks.

Why not host some non meeting events and send your ideas to *Tidings* Editor, Sue Giddings?
tidings@lwmlrmd.org

Fall Rally Schedule



One down and nine to go

FALL RALLY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

- Western Zone
Grace Fellowship, Gypsum, CO
September 10, 2022
- Northeastern Zone
St. Paul's, Julesburg, CO
September 17, 2022
- Rio Grande Zone
Mission, Las Cruces, NM
September 17, 2022
- Four Corners Zone
Trinity, Cortez, CO
September 24, 2022
- South Central Zone
Mt. Olive, Aurora, CO
September 24, 2022

OCTOBER

- Southern Zone
Rock of Ages, Colorado Springs, CO
October 1, 2022
- Northern Zone
Mt. Hope, Boulder, CO
October 8, 2022
- North Central Zone
Gethsamane, Northglenn, CO
October 15, 2022
- Northern NM Zone
Calvary, Rio Rancho, NM
October 22, 2022

DESIGNATING GIFTS

Helen was married for fifty-two years. Her husband Ralph was called home last year. This year, responding to her attorney, Helen finally made an appointment to meet with her attorney to review her will, which she had created twenty-five years ago with her husband. Before going to the attorney, Helen met with her LWML Gift Planning Counselor to consider her charitable gifting plan. She was shocked to find gifts she planned from her estate long ago were no longer appropriate. One gift was to a women's shelter sponsored by her congregation that closed just last year. One was to support a specific missionary who had served in Asia for fifty years but had retired seven years ago. One gift was designated for a ministry that she had never heard about. She said to the Gift Planning Counselor, "I am not sure if I should put a plan in place again because it might get outdated." The counselor pointed out two things. The gift to the missionary had a definite expiration

date to it. Every missionary's service will come to an end at some time. A better gift would have designated the ministry that was placing the missionary. Beyond that, the counselor emphasized that a ministry gifting plan is based on the best plan for that current moment in time. It requires regular review, at least every five years, to make sure that it is keeping up with changes. Her fears could be addressed by simply committing to this regular review. Helen felt better.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you think through appropriate ministry gifts that are not as prone to having an expiration date. They can also regularly review your plan, making sure it is up to date. Contact Carol vonSoosten at: Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org, Phone: 800-741-4138, or on the website lwmlgiftplan.org; or our RMD Gifts of Love Advocate Elizabeth Weber by email at weber4342@acsol.net or on her cell 970-361-0794.



Beth Weber

GIFTS OF LOVE

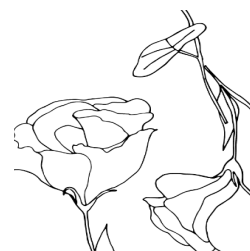
OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Have you ever considered serving on a district committee? New committees are being appointed now. Committees include Scholarship, Structure (bylaws), Christian Life, Leader Development, Committee on Young

Women, Heart to Heart Sisters, and Teen.

Committees need your new ideas and willingness to serve the LWML RMD.

Contact Shelley Stewart, President, or Sue Frauenfeld, Nominating Committee Chairman. A volunteer profile is also available to fill out on the website (lwmlrmd.org).



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

contact us

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*And the peace of God,
which surpasses all
understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:7

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