



A publication of
Lutheran Women's
Missionary League
Rocky Mountain District

VOLUME 80 #2

September/ October 2024

Contents

- President.....2
- Pastoral Counselor.....3
- Gospel Outreach VP.....4
- Servant Resources VP.....5
- Christian Life VP.....5
- Keeping Up With the Times.....6
- LWML Acronyms.....6
- Mission Servants Report.....8
- Fall Rally Schedule.....9
- A Happening in the District.....10
- Save the Date.....10
- More District News.....11
- Contacts.....12

GOD'S PROMISES

We often find ourselves making promises to our family, our friends, even God. Do we always keep those promises? Well, we often fall short for one reason or another, whereas God has a perfect record of keeping His promises to us.

For you know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare, and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11. God certainly has plans for His servants in the LWML. Becky Meyer points that out in her article by comparing the first LWML mission goal with our current goal. She and treasurer Ann Hernandez will soon have some new technology available for us to give our mite offerings online. Be watching for that to happen in the coming months.

As you read through the *Tidings* this month, notice that our groups are engaged in serving in many ways from tying fleece blankets to collecting baby goods and school supplies for needy people in our district. The RMD mission grants for this biennium range from district charities to charities in Honduras, Haiti, and Ghana. We are living out Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) to make disciples of all nations and we are confident of His promise, *I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Are you wondering what is happening in your zone? Zone Rallies are happening in the next two months. They will have lots of information about what the LWML is doing, as well as offer time for fellowship, worship, and Bible study. See the schedule on page 9 and be sure to save the date!

Keep an eye on the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* for Convention News. The most recent issue includes an article that originated in our district. See page 26 , *Stoles for Yambio.*

Have a Blessed Fall!

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



GOD'S PROMISES

Shelley Stewart
PRESIDENT

When I was in high school, my parents gave me a box of cards titled "God's Promises". Each card had a scripture and promise from God, and the cards are divided into sections: hope, freedom from fear, comfort, healing, and praise and thanksgiving. I find comfort in knowing there are that many promises. Not just one, but many. Our Heavenly Father knows that we need to be told over and over, to be reassured. Isaiah 40:8 says *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.* (NIV) These promises will be true today, tomorrow, and always.

My verse for this biennium is Psalm 121:1-2 *I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.* (KJV) This verse has always been special to me. Growing up in Colorado, the mountains were always present. I find that when I am away, I am very "directionally challenged", because I'm used to looking to the mountains for "west". My mother always told me the mountains were "God's Country." No matter if you feel the same way, our help does not come from the

mountains, but from God. But the mountains are a promise of His majesty and power. God knows that we need his visual reminder as well as the spoken promises. We see this reminder every day, everywhere, not just in the mountains. Maybe it's in the rain, or a cool breeze on these hot days. Or it's in a vibrant sunrise, the promise of a new day, or the colors of a sunset, promising comfort and peace in the night. The smoke from the wildfires made the sunsets bright red and vibrant in Denver. That reminds me that even in something horrible and terrifying, there is beauty.

Today, make a point to look for God's promise to you. Once you recognize it, you will see it everywhere and you wonder how you ever went without it before. Luckily we aren't ever without God's promises and presence.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121: 1-2



A PERFECT RECORD

We have all been on the receiving end of broken promises. It's never easy, because it means trust has been broken. In these situations it becomes all too clear that a promise itself is only words, and that the only real *value* of those words is as good as the trustworthiness of the person speaking them.

Isn't it wonderful and remarkable that God has a perfect record of promise keeping? And He has made thousands of them: promises to love us, forgive us, protect us, keep us, guide us, and prosper us, among many others. One should think that there is no one more trustworthy than God! It's ironic, then, if you are anything like me, that it is most difficult to trust in God when life is a struggle and things are not going as desired or planned. I say "ironic" because our trials in life, in reality, only *reaffirm* God's trustworthiness! We may not want to think about this as much, but in addition to all the comforting promises of God, we also have some more challenging promises: The promise that we Christians will have trouble in this world (John 16), that people will hate us because of our faith (Matt. 10), and that our lives will

be ones afflicted by war, famine, earthquakes, plague, tribulation, persecution, death, lawlessness, and lovelessness (Matt. 24)! And these only scratch the surface of the more challenging promises of God in the scriptures. That being the case, one might say that God is perfectly trustworthy, *even when we'd rather He not be!*

When things are at their worst in life, the question in our minds then changes from "is God trustworthy," to "is God LOVE-worthy." Indeed, dear Christian friends, He is. This is why we can say as part of our communion liturgy, "it is good, right and salutary at ALL times and in ALL places to give thanks to [God]" – yes, even in times and places of trials and suffering. Why is that? Because God is all in all. He is with us. He loves us. And He has promised us that, even in the worst of times, He is in control and *working for the good of those who love Him*. (Rom. 8:28). He has overcome the world. He who endures to the end will be saved. We can trust in Him and His love, *especially* in the most challenging of times.



Duane Meissner

SENIOR
PASTORAL
COUNSELOR





MISSION GRANTS MITE PROGRESS

	GRANTED	PAID
Mt. Zion Lutheran, Boulder, CO	\$5,000	
Concordia Lutheran Radio Ministry, Sud-Est, Haiti	\$5,000	
Concordia Seminary Food Bank/Re-Sell It Shop	\$5,000	
Concordia University Acts 1:8 Fund	\$6,500	
CTSFW Food and Clothing Co-op	\$5,000	
Kitchen Renovation at God Cares About You	\$8,000	
Mission Evangelical Luterana Confesionalen Honduras	\$6,500	
LHF Bible Books for Ghana's children	\$5,000	
Lutheran High School Missions (LuHi)	\$8,000	
MOST Ministries Feet on the Ground	\$6,000	
Orphan Grain Train Shipping Container	\$5,000	
Redeemer Lutheran School Scholarship	\$5,000	
Set Apart to Serve LCMS Office of Pastoral Education	\$5,000	
Math Curriculum/ Manipulatives Trinity Lutheran	\$5,000	
	Total	\$80,000

Andi Noblitt

GOSPEL
OUTREACH VP

REMEMBER TO
SEND MITES TO:

ANN
HERNANDEZ
LWML RMD
TREASURER
PO BOX 1657
ALAMOGORDO,

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

We are starting a new biennium and have new mission grants to support. Starting something new can be daunting, but we have the Lord to lean on. God commands us to be His good stewards, and He promises that He will be with us as we do His work. His promises are more than just theological concepts—they are living assurances that profoundly impact our lives and our work. By grounding our efforts in His promises, we can approach our mission grant goals with confidence, hope, and effectiveness.

One mission that we will support this biennium is the Concordia Seminary Food Bank and Re-Sell It Shop which has been in operation on the campus for more than 25 years. They provide vital services to seminary students and are a permanent Concordia Seminary program. The shop helps make life as a

seminarian more affordable by providing essential budget relief to students. Most of Concordia Seminary's students live on tight budgets as they prepare for pastoral and diaconal ministry. The groceries, personal care products, clothing and necessary household items that the shop provides – at no cost in the Food Bank and at very low cost in the Re-Sell It Shop – allow seminarians to more fully devote themselves to their studies as they prepare to become pastors, deaconesses and missionaries for the church. May God bless their mission and ours as we enter this new period with God's promises giving us strength!

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

– Joshua 1:9

YOUNG WOMEN, CONSIDER SERVING



Christina Bean
SERVANT
RESOURCES VP

Do you have a young woman who would be a great fit as a district YWR to the upcoming national convention?

Keep your eyes peeled during October for the district YWR application! It will be sent out to the zone presidents and will also be available on the district website.

This program allows two young women to attend the national convention and participate in the national YWR program. This program

allows the YWRs to get to know the District President and delegates in addition to making connections with other young women and mentors!

Please start considering now if you are between 21 and 35 and are interested or if you know anyone who would be a good candidate! This application will be due January 15th so don't wait until after Christmas to talk to the people you think would be good candidates!

GOD'S PROMISES

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7

This is the message I saw on my phone when I woke up Sunday, August 4, and immediately knew that my sister's husband, after 6 weeks of hard-fought struggle in the hospital, was finally freed from that struggle, at peace in the arms of Jesus. My thoughts immediately turned to my sister. How was she doing through all of this? How do you cope with such a loss after 56 years of marriage, a lifetime shared together with the joys and sorrows that come with life, to knowing that your faithful companion is no longer in this world with you?

This tremendous loss is suffered every day by many, many people in this fallen world. What helps people get through such a loss? The Bible tells us that, **After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** 1 Peter 5:10 This whole experience, the hard days and nights

in the hospital ending with Art's peaceful end when his heart simply slowed then stopped, has allowed us to share our faith with one another. My sister and I would share Bible verses with each other on a day by day basis as she dealt with this total experience, the struggle, and the final loss. God's promises are true. As He says in Deuteronomy 31:6, **Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.**

God gives us the comfort of His Holy Word with its many promises of comfort and joy. He is forever faithful and is with us till the end and beyond. He fulfills His promise of salvation in our Holy Savior Jesus through His atoning death and victorious resurrection. Praise and thanks to Our Lord Jesus for His gift of salvation!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



Margaret Blazek
CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP



Becky Meyer

PLANNER

KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES

When the Lutheran Women's Missionary League started in 1942, women collected change in Mite Boxes. They were encouraged to:

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day.
- Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted.
- Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day.

Times have changed!

The value of \$1 in 1942 is the value of \$19.04 today. Registration fees for a district convention were 10¢ and 25¢ for the national. The first LWML biennium mission goal was \$15,000; the current LWML mission goal is \$2,350,000. To keep up with these developments, we have to encourage giving more than loose change!

In addition, the way that our society interacts with money is changing. A 2007 Pew Survey found that, "nearly three-in-ten adults (28%) say the most common way they take care of their regular monthly bills is by an online or electronic payment." Jump forward 10 years to a survey in 2017 that found, "56% of all bills are paid online today and that most consumers paying online do so via billers' websites rather than via financial institution bill pay or third-party bill pay sites." The study also revealed that, "Millennials and Gen Xers pay the largest proportion of their bills online (61% and 60%, respectively)." The numbers kept rising as a 2019 survey found, "Eighty-three percent of those surveyed expressed a desire to pay with digital convenience, using a mobile device or online platform. While more than 20 percent prefer using a payment app, only about five percent said they want to pay through the mail." These surveys were all done before the 2020 pandemic provided the impetus to move more and more toward online payments.

The LWML RMD wants to keep up with the changing financial times. The Executive Committee researched various platforms and selected the Lutheran Church Extension Fund partnership with Vanco. This platform should be up and running in November.

Adding an online giving option will facilitate mite contributions from our members, expand our donation group to other LCMS congregants, and streamline how we do business by allowing transfers from Groups to District and online payments for District events. We are excited to offer this new option and hope you will find it to be beneficial!

LWML ACRONYMS

Have you ever been confused about acronyms in LWML and what they mean? Here are a few of the most common ones:

- **LWML:** Lutheran Women's Missionary League/Lutheran Women in Mission- the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.**
- **YWR :** Young Woman Representative- Any mature young woman, preferably 22-35 years of age*, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously ... attended a national convention as a Young Woman Representative is eligible to become a **YWR**. A **YWR** candidate should have a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and is able to participate ... full scope of the convention.
- **LWML RMD: Rocky Mountain District – Mission Statement:** As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. The LWML Rocky Mt. District is comprised of several states in the southwest. We have Colorado and New Mexico, as well as Vernal, Utah; Page, Arizona; and El Paso, Texas. With such a variety of places, our district is a fascinating place to live and visit. The greatest quality of people in the Rocky Mt. District is that they love the Lord Jesus Christ with all their hearts and let that love shine.
- **SIC:** Sister in Christ - Sharing the faith in Jesus and to have a relationship in the Heavenly Father, whose spirit we share with him and with others.
- **Heart to Heart-Sisters of All Nations-**The purpose of the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations is to: Motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for women to serve others, participate in LWML, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.
- **EC:** Executive committee - includes the elected and appointed officers for district or national, district EC meets quarterly
- **BOD:** Board of Directors - The executive committee and zone presidents, meet once yearly
- **EPC:** Event Planning Committee: responsible for planning the convention and retreat, meets monthly
- **ID:** Interdepartmental meeting - biannual meeting of national committees and national EC
- **AOL:** Assembly of Leaders: National training meeting for district officers
- **President's Assembly:** National meeting for district presidents
- **PR Dept:** handles communications and publicity for national
- **CWIM:** Church workers in Mission committee: makes resources for church workers on the national level



Nancy Kraft
Western Zone
Christina Bean
Servant
Resources VP



MOMMY GIFTS FOR YOUR LOCAL PREGNANCY CENTER

LINDA HARSH

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Life Choices in Longmont wants every client to know they are loved and cared for, even the abortion-minded woman. They give a Mommy Bag to each woman as she is leaving her first appointment to contemplate the difficult decision ahead. Often these women feel judged and ashamed so this is just a little pampering to give them a boost. Nail polish, toiletries, small cosmetic bags, chapstick, hair ties, fuzzy socks, granola bars, gum and mints are a few of the items typically included in these bags. They also have Daddy Bags for the men who come into their center.

Check with your local pregnancy care center if this is a project you or your group would like to champion. Each center operates a little differently; find out the best way to assist the women who are facing unexpected pregnancies in your area.

Please keep pregnancy care centers in your prayers! Life Choices in Longmont was the victim of arson and vandalism right after Roe v. Wade was overturned. It took over a year to refurbish the building. During that time, a local church donated space allowing their ministry to continue nonstop. Due to the outpouring of support and donations, when Life Choices moved back into their building they were able to purchase a second ultrasound machine, giving them the ability to serve more women. God is good! The new interior is inviting and warm. You can get a glimpse of it in the photo below, taken when I delivered our convention *Gifts From the Heart*.



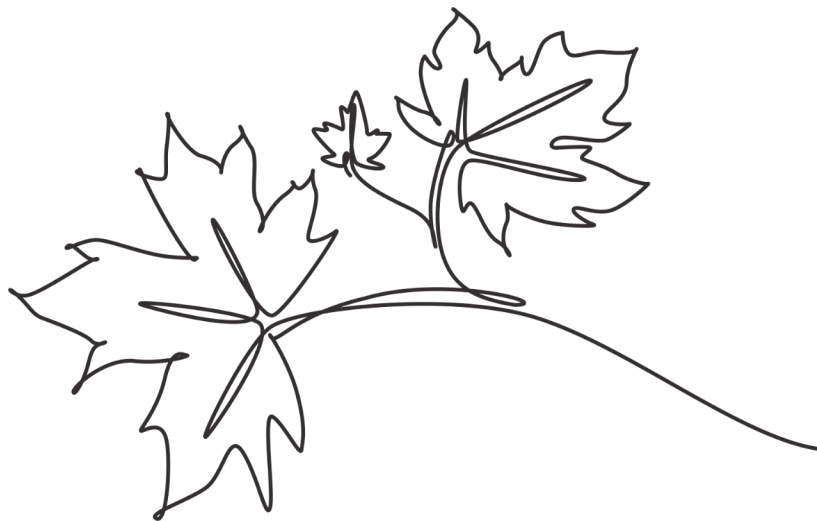
FALL RALLY SCHEDULE



DATE	ZONE	LOCATION
August 24, 2024	Pecos Zone	Immanuel, Carlsbad, NM
September 7, 2024	Rio Grande	Trinity, Alamogordo, NM
September 14, 2024	Northern NM Western	Las Lunas, NM Messiah, Grand Junction, CO
September 21, 2024	Four Corners Northeast	Trinity, Gallup, NM Sterling, CO
September 28, 2024	Northern	Immanuel, Loveland, CO
October 5, 2024	Southern	St. John's, Canon City, CO
October 12, 2024	South Central	
October 19, 2024	North Central	Wheat Ridge L.C., Wheatridge, CO

FALL RALLY
NOTES

Be sure to save the date to attend your Zone's Fall Rally!





COLLECTING NEEDED SUPPLIES

St Paul's Women in Mission, in Durango CO, decided to hold their own ingathering for school supplies. The beneficiary was the La Plata Family Centers Coalition. A large box was decorated so that all congregation members might help fill the box with supplies for needy families in the county.

St Paul's Women
in Mission

A HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

Items collected, pictured below, included backpacks, water bottles, crayons, pencils, markers, glue sticks and various notebooks/composition books.

In place of their monthly meeting, the ladies met to sort through the supplies, read a Psalm, and then went to lunch together.



Belinda
Burmeister

**RETREAT
CHAIRMAN**

SAVE THE DATE



Be sure to save the date for the 2025 Biennial Rocky Mountain District Retreat. Retreat Chairman, Belinda Burmeister is working out the details and will include an article in a future *Tidings* issue.

Left is a picture of Pastor Mike and Cheryl Mattil who will be our retreat speakers. Stay tuned.

A FUN AFTERNOON “DOWN ON THE FARM”

Our Sisters in Christ of Trinity, Fort Morgan spent a fun-filled afternoon “Down on the Farm”, Saturday, July 21st. They gathered to learn what it means to be *Lutheran Women in Mission*. They spent time together visiting and getting to know each other as they hand-tied fleece blankets for the Morgan County Foster Care program. All the blankets tied were animal prints, in keeping with the farm theme. Our favorite one was a cute red and black ladybug blanket. Over a dozen blankets made with love and laughter were gifted to the young people of our community. We had a great time serving as *Lutheran Women in Mission*!



Chris Bostron

CONVENTION
COORDINATOR



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS *

Next EC Meeting	November 16, 2024	Zoom
YWR Applications Due	January 15, 2025	
BOD Meeting	February 7-8, 2025	TBD
National Convention	June 26-29, 2025	Omaha, Nebraska
RMD Retreat	September 5-7, 2025	Glorieta, NM
RMD Convention	June 2026	Colorado Springs, CO

* Use your new knowledge of LWML Acronyms to understand this calendar.

contact us

PRESIDENT

Shelley Stewart
president@lwmlrmd.org

CHRISTIAN LIFE VP

Margaret Blazek
christianlife@lwmlrmd.org

COMMUNICATIONS VP

Christie Peebles
communications@lwmlrmd.org

GOSPEL OUTREACH VP

Andi Noblitt
missions@lwmlrmd.org

SERVANT RESOURCES VP

Christina Bean
resources@lwmlrmd.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Susan Herrmann
secretary@lwmlrmd.org

TREASURER

Ann Hernandez
treasurer@lwmlrmd.org

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Pastor Kevin Cramm
jrpastoralcounselor@lwmlrmd.org

SR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Pastor Duane Meisner
srpastoralcounselor@lwmlrmd.org

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Mona Book
assistant2president@lwmlrmd.org

ASSISTANT TO THE TREASURER

Martiza Munoz
assistant2treasurer@lwmlrmd.org

TIDINGS EDITOR

Sue Giddings
tidings@lwmlrmd.org

PLANNER

Becky Meyer
planner@lwmlrmd.org

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Barbara Wertz
parliamentarian@lwmlrmd.org

CONVENTION COORDINATOR

Chris Bostron
events@lwmlrmd.org

CONVENTION CO-CHAIRMEN

Becky Meyer
convention@lwmlrmd.org

RETREAT CHAIRMAN

Belinda Burmeister
retreat@lwmlrmd.org

CONVENTION REGISTRAR

Joey Schilling
registrar@lwmlrmd.org

ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN

Susan Avila
arch-hist@lwmlrmd.org

PRAYERS

Janet Krogh
prayers@lwmlrmd.org

SOCIAL MEDIA ADMINISTRATOR

Lori Schick
socialmedia@lwmlrmd.org

MISSION SERVANTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Linda Harsh
missionservants@lwmlrmd.org

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sue Frauenfeld
scholarships@lwmlrmd.org

COMMITTEE ON YOUNG WOMEN CHAIRMAN

Christina Bean
ywr@lwmlrmd.org

TEENS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

TBA
teens@lwmlrmd.org

HEART TO HEART SISTERS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Heidi Norton
h2h@lwmlrmd.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Beth Nagy
nomcom@lwmlrmd.org

STRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Marilyn Grasz
structure@lwmlrmd.org

*I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121: 1-2

connect with us

Facebook
[LWML.RMD](#)

Instagram
[lwmlrmd](#)

Website
[lwmlrmd.org](#)

Email
hello@lwmlrmd.org