



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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL!

Have you made your New Year's Resolutions? Many will choose resolutions such as: exercise more, go on a diet after all those Christmas treats, read more, take up a new hobby, travel, spend more time with family or friends. The list goes on.....

There are definitely some other options noted in the pages of this publication. For instance:

- Share your love abundantly.
- Love even your adversaries.
- Talk to someone about what LWML does.
- Pray for our Mission Grants and give from your heart.
- Renew your faith through God's Word and Sacrament.
- Be thankful for God's blessings and mercy.
- Serve the Lord with Gladness.
- Use the gifts God has given you to spread the Gospel.
- Attend your first LWML Convention.

Why not try one of these today and see what the New Year brings? Oh and here's another one from the Psalms.....

Psalm 136:1

Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

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Shelley Stewart
PRESIDENT

GOD IS LOVE

We think of love as warm, cuddly, and comfortable. Coming from the military, my favorite verse about love is John 15:13 *Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.* Recently one of the lesser known verses about love was brought to my attention. Song of Songs 8:6 b *For love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave.* I see this every day in the mortuary. Love doesn't end because someone has died. If anything, it becomes stronger as we share stories and memories with friends and family.

How wonderful that Jesus showed us this blessing of love. Can you imagine never knowing love, or never loving anyone? How horrible! Luckily for us, God is love. 1 John 4:16 says, *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.* God gives us the blessing of love to have and share with others. Let's not share sparingly! You never know when someone could use an extra helping!



THE GREATEST LOVE GIFT

People rightly recognize February as a month to celebrate love because of Valentine's Day, but I think we could make just as good of a case for the month of January being the ultimate month of love. In January we're still celebrating the season of Christmas and God's greatest gift of love in His Son, Jesus! *For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son* (John 3:16). Jesus was and is a gift of love in many ways, but in this brief devotion I invite you to consider Jesus' love in His suffering and bearing with us. The great German, Lutheran theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, *Christian love draws no distinction between one enemy and another, except that the more bitter our enemy's hatred, the greater his need of love. Be his enmity political or religious, he has nothing to expect from a follower of Jesus but unqualified love.*

God was an enemy of the entire human race when He first decided to love us through Jesus. We needed that love more than we could possibly know, and He was ready to suffer us and give us that love at any cost. As it turned out, His love cost Him the very life of His

Son. He bore with our fears, our lies, our faithlessness, our anger, and our violence, and gave us nothing but divine love in return. By God's grace, we blessed ones have received, accepted, and embraced this love through faith, and have been tasked with sharing the exact same love that we received from God with one another. *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* (John 13:34). This verse teaches us never to think that the story of God's love ended with Jesus! When Jesus bowed His head in death, God's love was just beginning. Now it is our duty as Christians to bear with and suffer one another in the same way – even, and especially, our greatest enemies. Difficult and deadly as it may be, what an honor it is to lay down our own lives for others after the pattern of the One who first laid down His life for us. Consider who in your life might look at you as an enemy, and place yourself in the shoes of Jesus. God grant us His Spirit not to let His flow of heavenly love stop with us.



Duane Meisner
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 971848
EL PASO, TX 79997

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

It is truly an act of love to spread the Word. Everyday our missions are working to get the Word to people in other countries. For example, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation will take the \$5000 grant and use it to translate and publish one thousand copies of Luther's Small Catechism and children's Bible storybooks into the languages of the people of Ghana. These books will be used throughout the Lutheran schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (in fellowship with the LCMS). Nearly half the students attending these schools come from Muslim families looking for a good education for their kids, and this is their first exposure to the love of Christ. It is amazing what a relatively small amount of money and so much love can do! Please pray for all of our missions as they work to spread the Word of God. Also, please be patient as we transition responsibilities to new officers and have run into small issues sending out our first grant payments in 2024. These issues will be resolved soon and payments will be made!

YWR APPLICATIONS DUE

I hope you had a Merry Christmas! January is here and so our applications are coming due for the District YWR candidates to this coming National Convention! If you were thinking of encouraging a young lady to apply, they need to start now. All applications are due to Melisa Anderson ywr@lwmlrmd.org by January 15th. Please go to the website lwmlrmd.org to locate the application and find where to send it.

The applications will be reviewed and voted on during the Board of Directors

Meeting in February. The YWRs will get to go to Omaha in June and participate in the YWR program and sit with the Rocky Mountain District delegates during the meetings! This is a great way to introduce them to the LWML and give them a program to meet new friends and make connections! Please go talk to the young women who you feel would benefit from attending.

Direct further questions to Melisa Anderson.



Christina Bean

SERVANT
RESOURCES VP

JESUS LOVES US

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

This Christmas, as we look to the birth of Jesus, we have the opportunity to renew our faith in Jesus and the salvation he brings to us through His birth and sacrifice. We talk about love. We love our children. We love our husbands. We love chocolate. There are many types of love, all of which enrich our lives. The love of Jesus for us is so great, so deep, we cannot fully comprehend it. It is truly life changing. It gives us a glorious life beyond this sad world. Jesus loves us, as the children's song tells us. He loves us enough to pay for our salvation. His gift of love is the greatest! Merry Christmas, and enjoy God's gift to us in His son!!!



Margaret Blazek

CHRISTIAN LIFE
VP

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 3	2025 LWML PRAYER SERVICE AVAILABLE ON LWML WEBSITE
JANUARY 15	APPLICATION FOR YWR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION IS DUE
JANUARY 30	ORDER YOUR LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY BY TODAY
JANUARY 31	BANNER DESIGNS DUE TO CHRISTIE PEEBLES
FEBRUARY 7-8	EC/BOD MEETING IN DENVER, CO
MARCH 1-APRIL 30	REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE LWML CONVENTION
MAY 1	LATE REGISTRATION FOR THE CONVENTION
JUNE 1	DEADLINE TO CANCEL AND RECEIVE A REFUND
JUNE 26-29	41 ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN OMAHA, NE





Lutheran Women
in Mission

LWML PRESIDENT 2024 DISTRICT GREETINGS

A short video of President Eden bringing greetings is available on the LWML YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/EWrhJkGHAtI>.

This link has been added to our Rocky Mountain District website. This is the video shown at many of the 2024 district conventions, but we would like to promote it to those who were not able to view it.

Thank you for your partnership!

In His grace,
Eden Keefe,
President
Lutheran Women in Mission



LINDA HARSH

MISSION
SERVANTS
COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

A NEW YEAR – THE DISASTER RECOVERY CONTINUES...

The headlines have died down but the needs continue to mount for those dealing with the destruction of Hurricane Helene. Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School is located on a hill in Asheville, NC. Their property didn't sustain as much damage as many of their neighbor's. In the aftermath of the storm, this congregation began preparing and delivering meals to people without food. Next, Emmanuel became a staging area for several disaster relief organizations including:

- Orphan Grain Train, delivering shipments of water and relief supplies,
- LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) clearing debris,
- Forged in Fire, a mobile kitchen aiding with food preparation for those in need.

All three organizations have been recipients of LWML mission grants. Isn't it awesome to see our grants at work?

Emmanuel also established a Hurricane Helene Fund so their congregation can be the hands and feet of Jesus in this crisis. Pastor Skopak said that generous contributions are being distributed through a grant program to help people get back on their feet. They have already distributed funds to help replace household furniture not covered by insurance, catastrophic home repairs not covered by insurance or FEMA, and income for hourly workers without jobs due to storm damage. Contributions may be mailed or given online:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School
51 Wilburn Place
Asheville, NC 28806
Church # 828-252-1795
EmmanuelLutheran.info

On LWML Sunday, my group traditionally serves coffee and autumn treats between services. In 2024 we decided to designate the freewill offering to Emmanuel's hurricane relief efforts. Announcements and signs including Emmanuel's beautiful logo spread the word and then we collected offerings over a two week period in purple buckets. This year your group may wish to sponsor a donation drive on Valentine's Day, gather a freewill offering at a Lenten Meal or even plan a collection on LWML Sunday 2025 for Emmanuel's Hurricane Relief Fund. LWMLers know how God multiplies our dimes and dollars to accomplish His purposes.



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

WE NEED YOU

Volunteers are always needed. To help round out our LWML RMD ministry, we need a person who can coordinate and write prayers to be sent out to our prayer warriors via Mailchimp. This person would receive prayer requests, write up a short prayer, then send it to Sue Giddings, *Tidings* Editor, or Christie Peebles, VP of Communications. They would then create the email to be shared via Mailchimp. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Shelley Stewart, president@lwmlrmd.org

We are also in need of a Social Media Administrator. Please contact Christie Peebles, communications@lwmlrmd.org, for more information.



SUE GIDDINGS

TIDINGS EDITOR

ATTENTION BANNER DESIGNERS

In our November/December issue of *Tidings* were detailed instructions for a banner to represent the Rocky Mountain District at the upcoming National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The convention theme is *Growing in God's Grace* and will be held June 26-29, 2025. Please get your design juices flowing and submit your idea to Communications VP, Christie Peebles, by January 31st. The designs will be voted on at the Board of Directors Meeting in February.

The banner is ordinarily carried by the current president and YWR's at the convention opening.

ORDER YOUR QUARTERLY SOON

You may order your individual print subscription or *eQuarterly* subscription at this time. You can also get both for the same price. The order form is available on the LWML website, lwml.org.

If you wish to order bulk subscriptions or single issues, please contact the LWML Office at 1-800-252-5965.

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly print subscription orders received by January 30, 2025 will begin with the Spring 2025 issue. You may pay with a credit card. The *Quarterly* features LWML news from around the nation and world. Find out how God has blessed others, with what our groups are doing in His service. Read Bible studies, and information about what your mites are doing. The Winter 2024 issue has lots of important information about the upcoming convention in Omaha. Don't miss out; order yours today.



PIE AUCTION LOVE

Sue Giddings

A HAPPENING IN THE DISTRICT

It has become a well known fact that the women at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Durango, CO are master pie and dessert makers. This has turned into an annual Pie Auction fundraiser for charity. With offerings like chocolate bourbon pecan, triple berry, pineapple upside down cake, and preacher's cake the bidders had many choices. There were even treats for the kids to bid on. It was fun to see everyone enjoying the action.

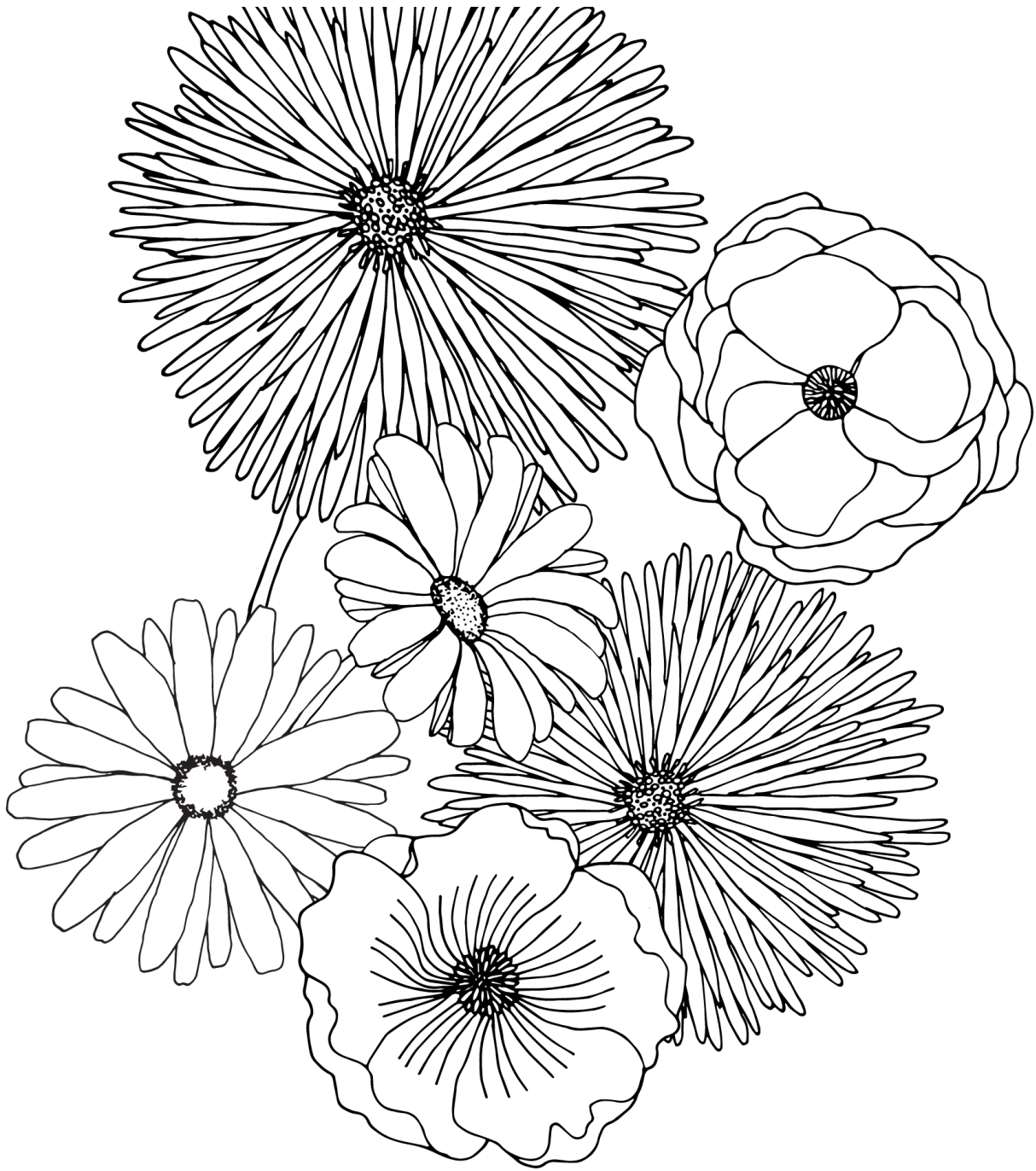
The Pie Auction has been an annual fundraiser for the Women in Mission at St Paul's since 2012. It has funded many charities locally, district wide, nationally, and globally. This year the targeted charity was LCMS Disaster



Relief to help the hurricane victims on the East Coast. Although the proceeds were modest in the beginning, the giving totalled over \$4,700 this year. A successful fundraiser as well as an opportunity for fellowship.



Pies and other desserts freeze well and can be a part of a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, or you can eat them right away. Next year a request has been made for savory offerings. Maybe a pot pie or quiche will come to the auctioneer's block!



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

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*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



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