

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Winter 2016



Wyoming District LWML Spiritual Resource Newsletter Winter 2016



President's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ;

Mark your calendars – June 23-25, 2016 . . . Pack your bags!!! It's time to get ready for the 23rd Biennial LWML Wyoming District Convention in Chadron, Nebraska! The theme "Lord of the Harvest" based on Isaiah 55:10 has been our inspiration as we have planned together the programming for this convention. We have been lifted up by prayers; now we are truly excited to share this time together!

We will welcome Reverend Martin T. Schnare from Alliance, NE as the proclaimer for our opening worship; and, want to thank in advance Reverend Peter Bertram and the congregation at Our Savior's for graciously hosting the communion service and reception Thursday evening.

Our district counselors, Reverend Kenneth Humphrey and Reverend Jais Tinglund, are busy preparing the Bible study and devotions for each day. Through their leading, we will delve into our biblical verses.

We look forward to welcoming Kaye Wolff, who will bring us greetings from LWML. She is the Special Focus Ministries Vice President and oversees the Committee on Young Women and the Heart to Heart Sisters. You will be hearing from her a couple of times during our convention!

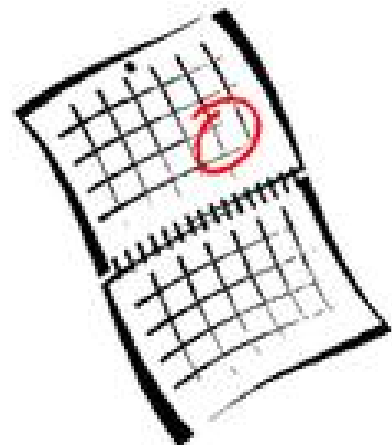
We will have the pleasure of hearing from Pastor Andrew Utecht from the Rosebud Indian Reservation; from Hope Dunbar and her musical creativity and inspirational offerings; and, from Jan Struck, the national humorist we have all grown to love and identify with. What an amazing convention we're looking forward to!

Thank you to the Pine Ridge Zone and especially Barbara Schaer, Convention Chair and Terri Denniston, Zone President, for the countless hours put into making this convention a reality. Without many hands working together a convention cannot happen.

I can't think of a better place to be during June 23-25 this year can you? Let's hear it for Chadron, Nebraska!

Enjoy every minute of every day as we seek the "Lord of the Harvest" and serve Him with joy and thanksgiving!

Danyne Six
LWML Wyoming District President





Chimney Rock Zone Report

The LWML Chimney Rock Zone was saddened this year after losing one of the faithful LWML sisters that had served on several committees and was currently serving as the “fearless leader” as president when her battle with the “Big C” commenced and “forced her to let go” of this responsibility. Connie Cordes fought long and hard and faithfully served as long as her health allowed. She was

called to her heavenly home in early December of 2015.

We thank God for her leadership and friendship as she was a wonderful example of LWML servanthood. She touched many of us that had the privilege of serving alongside her. Prayers continue for her husband and family as they continue to grieve her loss.

... and on we go ...

The Chimney Rock Zone and the Pine Ridge Zone held a joint Christian Life Workshop in April, 2015 hosted by Mt. Calvary, Bayard. The theme was “Comforting God’s People”. Pastor Strawn, Zone Pastoral Counselor, led the group in Bible Studies, “Living with Pain – Life Plan Disrupted” and “Living with Pain – What About Healing”. The group enjoyed a guest speaker who spoke of her experience using a service dog. The ingathering at the workshop was items for the “Gifts for the Heart” for the 2015 Des Moines LWML Convention. Also enjoyed during the day were features/sketches by the Christian Life Committee and the HOPE/Leader Development Committee.

The Chimney Rock Zone Fall Rally was hosted by Zion, Chappell in October, 2015 under the theme “Sow. Nourish. Reap” based on 2 Corinthians 9:8 (which was also the theme for the Des Moines LWML Convention). Pastor Strawn led the Bible Study. The main speaker was the zone delegate to the convention. Since this was the first convention she had attended as a delegate, she shared her qualms, thoughts, concerns, excitement, encouragement, thankfulness, etc. Included in the business meeting was election of officers for the 2016-2017 year. The ingathering for the fall rally was a monetary ingathering to help cover the cost of shipping containers for the Orphan Grain Train. Guest speaker was an OGT representative. The Human Care chairman led the litany for the ingathering project. The HOPE/Leader Development committee presented a sketch and the Christian Live Chairman had a Closing Devotion.

Looking forward to LWML opportunities in 2016 ~ Christian Life Workshop April 24, 2016 hosted by St. Paul, Bridgeport; Wyoming District Convention June 23-25, 2016 at Chadron State College; Fall Rally to be held in October, 2016 hosted by Salem, Gurley; and perhaps a Prayer Coffee or retreat sometime in between.

Serving, with God’s Help,
Jeanette Stahl

Treasurer's Report – Charlotte Hamilton



Lord of the Harvest

Isn't it always amazing how our Lord answers our prayers just at the right time? It still never ceases to fill my heart with a prayer of thanksgiving when we get to see the harvest of our prayers. We can plant a seed of Jesus through our mission grants, and through our scholarship funds, as well as through each society's in-gatherings, and someone else comes along and waters it, and then the Lord brings the growth. That is what makes it so exciting to be a part of LWML. For example, back in the spring of 2015, national LWML put out a request that we were behind in our mites and that mission grants needed to be honored. What an outpouring of love, dedication and prayers that came to the Lord, and He answered. Not only did we make our mite goal at national level, but we went over, and the money was applied to the new grants for the next biennium.

I have served almost two years as your district's treasurer, and I have seen answered prayer come in each and every month. As we prepare for our upcoming convention in Chadron, Nebraska in June, I am asking each and every one of you to prayerfully go to our Lord with requests that this convention will bring Him all the glory and that He will bless our speakers, our delegates, our Pastoral Counselors, all who are running for an office, all who are leaving an office and all of the board of directors. This is an exciting time, and as we get closer, I also ask that each society pray over their mite offerings. We are behind on paying our mission grants, and we need to pay them before Convention gets here. The President and I have been working for weeks on a budget for 2016-2018, and we are trying to be responsible stewards to what each of you have given. Yet we step out in faith as all things are possible through our Lord. I remain faithful in His word.

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

Gospel Outreach Report – Barb Schaer

A check has been sent to Trinity/HOPE for \$5,000 to feed the children in Haiti. 2 grants remain to be paid – the second half - \$2,000 to Tell The Good News Convocation and the \$850 grant to the Wyoming District for the Hispanic start up.

16 grant applications were received for the committee to review and make recommendations for placement on the ballot at the next convention. 11 grants were chosen to be placed on the ballot. Notifications will be sent to all the applicants to inform them of their status. A brief description of the grants chosen to be placed on the ballot will be coming soon.

Please remember to keep filling those mite boxes with all your coins and bills, pray a prayer each time you make a deposit and soon those little mites soon turn in to “mighty mites”.



2016 LWML WY District Convention



Lord of the Harvest

Isaiah 55:10,11

**June 23-25, 2016
Chadron, NE**

Watch the website for registration packets

VP of Servant Resources Report – Terri Denniston

In my office of Vice President of Servant Resources, I am charged with the “icky” duties. Finding leaders (nominations), reading and approving bylaws (boring) and reminding executive committee members to keep their guidelines current (nagging.)

The slate of candidates for the next LWML Wyoming Convention in Chadron on June 23, 24, 25, 2016 is becoming a reality. Yet, it is not complete.

This brings to mind the account of Esther. This book of the Bible is the only one where God is not mentioned once! However, God’s hand in the events is very apparent. Esther had to undoubtedly compromise her culture to be brought in the court of a pagan king. Still, it was no accident that she, a Jew, was made queen. It was God’s doing. She was in place to approach the king for the salvation of her people. They were being targeted by one of the king’s men for extermination. During those times, however, a woman had to be summoned into the presence of the king, if she approached without that invitation she could be subject to death. If she chose to not address the king, God would find someone else but she would miss out on an opportunity to be of service to her Lord and his people.

Esther did address the king. She exhibited many leadership qualities that we can consider as we look to be of service to our Lord and our LWML.

- We are alive at this time and in this place for a reason. It is God’s intention for us to be alive in Him.
- Our gracious God desires us to partner with Him in His mission. It is a joy to live in His will.
- God doesn’t need us in accomplishing His will, but we certainly need God as we carry out our responsibilities.
- If we don’t answer God’s call for bold service, He will use someone else, but we will miss out on the joy of serving.
- God’s business is risky business. We take the chance of offending others by living in God’s way, but it is a privilege to be a witness for Him in this world



When I accepted my first position at the district level of LWML there was some serious prayer going on. As I fulfill my “icky” duties, I see that they aren’t “icky” to Him. He works through me as I carry out my responsibilities. LWML is an organization that strives to share the salvation of Jesus Christ with those near and far. Esther was Jewish woman in a foreign land who didn’t strive to be queen, yet she was available for God’s timeless plan. Does God use the LWML in His timeless plan? This organization’s focus is on the salvation of Jesus Christ. Our current culture finds that offensive, it is risky to share that salvation with an unbelieving world. Yet, we are called to do so. God will give the increase; after all He is the Lord of the Harvest! Prayerfully, consider if you are willing to fill one of these positions. Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Vice President of Christian Life. God will use your availability to further His kingdom and you will be welcomed by your LWML sisters!



Lutheran Women In Mission
Wyoming District Lutheran Women's
Missionary League

Serve the Lord with Gladness... Psalm 100:2

**Check out the LWML
WY District Website**

<http://www.wyolwml.org/>

The website is your go-to place for information about your LWML WY District. You can find things like:

- Our District Bylaws
- Pictures from Convention in Des Moines
- Information on LWML WY District Convention
- District Board of Directors Openings
- Mission Grants
- And of course, current and past Newsletters

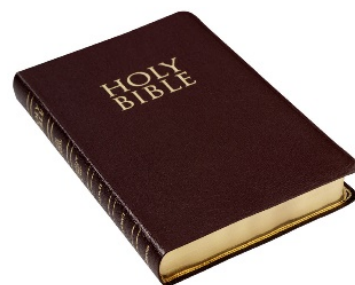
A word from our Senior Pastoral Counselor - Pastor Kenneth Humphrey

That Faith Once Delivered

Dear friends in Christ, Jude wrote in the beginning of his epistle “Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (1:3). He goes on to warn about false teachers who’ve crept into the Church, and how we must be on our guard to keep those who “pervert the grace of our God” for sensuality and all sorts of vice, denying our Lord Jesus and His atoning work.

But have you given much thought to that little phrase used there by Jude: “the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints”? What does that really mean, for them and for us? Jesus’ vicarious work on our behalf, indeed, even the faith to trust in our Lord, has been “delivered” to us. With Holy Week and Easter fast approaching us, consider what happened at the culmination of that first Holy Week: some two thousand years ago, Jesus was put on trial, beaten and crucified on a hill just outside of Jerusalem, then raised on the third day. But how does that get to you and to me? Unfortunately, Doc Brown’s flying DeLorean time machine isn’t available so that we can go to Calvary and see this personally.

So, once again, how does this get to us? How are we kept safe from those who’ve “crept in unnoticed” (v. 4) and, like the devil, would tear us away from the faith? Luther touches on this issue when he preached on how the devil afflicts the Church in one of his house postil sermons (see LW 75; sermons were delivered by Luther at his house to his friends and family between 1531 – 1535) when he said “For the accomplishment of this work Christ has instituted the necessary means; namely, Holy Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, the Word and Absolution, also other offices pertaining to the ministry, whereby the devil is to be cast out from the people, so that they may become free from his thralldom and that his kingdom may be destroyed.”



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How often have you heard someone say (or thought to yourself) that “I don’t need to go to church to believe in Jesus?” While it’s true that we needn’t have a fancy building with stained glass and an organ to have the church (we could meet in a home or out in a field somewhere), it doesn’t follow that we can check out of the worship life of the saints—because where is God giving His gifts of Word and Sacrament but in the Divine Service? It may not seem all that exciting, but those are the means by which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains our faith, for as Luther wrote in the same sermon, “As the rain which falls upon dry land produces vegetation and blossoms, thus does the Word of God, most assuredly, produce fruit in some hearts.”

Or, to put it another way, “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25). The evil one wants to tear you down and away from Christ—but you know the One who is far greater than the devil, our Lord Christ. Therefore, continue to meet together, gladly hearing the Word preached into your hearts and know that wherever you are and whatever may happen in this world, Jesus has promised to never leave you or forsake you. That promise is yours, delivered to you in the waters of Holy Baptism, and given to you again and again as you receive His gifts. Our cups truly overflow, because God is superabundant with His love and grace. So come, receive the greatest gift that could ever be given—and receive it over and over again, because our great God loves to give you His great gifts! In the Name above all names, that of our Lord and Savior Jesus, amen.



Pine Ridge Zone Report – Terri Denniston

“And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.” Luke 10:38

Pine Ridge Zone societies are busy getting ready to welcome the members of the LWML Wyoming District to Chadron, NE on June 23, 24, 25 2016. Things are falling into place and nicely. We hope to add to your spiritual growth, your mission growth, and just have fun! Please make plans to join us.

We plan to take part of our Christian Growth Workshop in April to prepare convention bags. We did meet for our Fall Rally in October in Alliance at the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran School. Zone Counselor Pastor Firminhac led us in an opening devotion, prayers throughout the meeting and led the closing. We were given a lovely tour of the school. The PTA provided us a sack lunch to go as we headed back to

our homes. Head Teacher Jill Mueller and Pastor Mueller gave a presentation of the history of the school. It was an honor to actually get to visit a place that some of our mite offerings support. We had a special offering to benefit the school as they were in the process of putting in a fence around their playground. Leah Sherman was elected secretary and Ellen Burbank was elected Vice President. YES! Elected! Pastor Firminhac installed these officers to their new positions. Praise God for giving the LWML such willing women to serve.

2017 SLC Convention Update

Lois Anderson, Chairwoman

The LWML Board of Directors, who met in St. Louis on February 4-6, 2016, heard many details about the 2017 Convention in Salt Lake City (SLC). When the four Hosting District Presidents and I presented our oral report and posed the question: “Are you ready to join us on our journey to Salt Lake City?” – the overwhelming response was a loud “YES!”

How exciting it was for us to hear their enthusiasm! They are ready to join us in SLC and we will be ready to welcome them with open arms! Our hosting responsibilities are beginning to pick up speed. The following activities have been accomplished or are in process:

- Convention shirt vendor was selected and the first order of shirts will soon be placed. Shirts will be available for purchase at district conventions.
- Appointments for Chairmen within the Host Committee have been filled with the exception of the Worship Support Chairman.
- Director applications have been distributed and appointments are being made.
- Promotional gifts were made and given to each BOD member at the meeting.
- A song “We’ll Be Comin’ to SLC” was written by Montana YWR Emmi Going and her mother Sue. The BOD loved it and they will use it at their District Conventions to help promote the SLC Convention.
- The Call for Worker form will be available for distribution at your district conventions.

The SLC Convention logo was revealed to the Host Committee during its meeting in November 2015, to the BOD recently, and to everyone soon. As more details become available, they will be posted on the LWML’s website at www.lwml.org/2017-convention. Watch for more information about the **Diamond Dazzle Gala Celebration!** – LWML’s 75th anniversary party!

Our Host Committee Treasurer, Rhonda Johnson, reports a balance of \$21,000+. Thanks to all who made this possible and we especially praise God for this blessing. Your societies are now encouraged to set up a local scholarship fund to help defray registration costs for their volunteers. Along with creating enthusiasm within the congregations, these special events will help many volunteers with the needed financial support to help them along their journey to Salt Lake City.

Thank you for your continued prayers that the Host Committee’s work will bring glory to God. Then with joyful hearts and open arms we will welcome others on their journey to SLC and together proclaim **Jesus Christ Above All.**

Lois Anderson, Chairman
SLC Convention Host Committee



Calling all Artisans!



The LWML store has combined with CPH. Instead of an LWML Store, we will open up the store to craftsmen who would want to sell small, Christian-themed crafts or jewelry. If the artisan wishes to donate all of their profits to LWML, then our Christian Life Chairman will sell them in the store. If the artisan wants to keep any of the earnings, he or she must “man” his or her booth.



Contact Karen Bergquist at (307)851-4773 by June 1, 2016 in order to get supplies to convention.



Paint Chadron Purple!

Because of the changes in the LWML Store, we will no longer receive the 10% discount that had made ordering through the convention advantageous. However everyone is encouraged to pre-order their purple products from the LWML store to wear and show off at convention. Order through lwml.org/store or contact Karen Bergquist at (307) 851-4773 for a catalogue and group order form.



The Next Issue of LWML WY District Newsletter

The next issue of Wyoming Spiritual Resource Newsletter, the Summer edition, will be compiled after convention in Chadron, NE. Please forward me your pictures!!! **Any** LWML member can contribute to the newsletter ☺ Please forward this Newsletter along to all LWML ladies. - Jennifer L. Scheel, Editor