

LWML Wyoming District Newsletter  
Fall 2018



## President's Message – Barb Schaer

### WHY ME? WHY NOW?

These 2 questions were asked of us that attended the recent Assembly of Leaders (AOL) meeting in St. Louis. And they got us all to thinking about the how's and why's that the Lord uses to mold and shape us through life.

Most of the time, we never quite know why we are chosen to do a certain task or fulfill a certain duty but we assume those responsibilities and do them to the best of our abilities. There are many times that we feel that we are inadequate and unable to fulfill the challenges that we face, but we never have to go through it alone.

All too often we are like the stubborn child that wants to “me do it myself” but forget that we don't have to “do it” alone. Many times it is difficult for us to admit that we need help and fear that we may fail. One cannot have success without failure.

We tend to look at failures and setbacks as road blocks instead of seeing them as opportunities. which become stepping stones and building blocks. We learn from mistakes and gain insight which helps us to grow in many different ways. St. Paul instructs us – Romans 5:3-5, “...We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given us.” And then he continues in verse 6: “for while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” We are the ungodly! Christ died for us, for our weakness, our sin, our inadequacies!

We all face different challenges each day. What a difference it is to realize that Christ takes hold of those challenges and turns them into opportunities of service. Our Savior invites us to look to Him as our Leader and follow Him in faith, knowing that He will never leave us or forsake us.

In the First Article of the Creed we confess that God not only creates but also provides. He not only provides us with opportunity, He also provides the help and assistance we need. Think of His provision in these terms. 1) Both before and also at our District Convention we prayed that God would give us leaders, able both physically and spiritually. 2) He answered our prayers and did just that. 3) He has also given us our fellow LWML sisters and brothers who are willing, ready and able to give us that helping hand.

As the new LWML president of the Wyoming District, I have asked a few times – Why Lord? Why me – who am I to do this? His answer – why not? I have chosen you. Your fellow sisters in Christ have chosen you! Go in the name of the One who alone is the way of salvation and serve! Wow! What assurance. What empowerment! So we will go forward as the Wyoming District LWML working together to help fulfill our mission statement

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Board of Directors, of the Wyoming District LWML is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she may use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. We are reaching

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out to others through the LWML to bring the good news of Jesus Christ, our Savior. He died on a cross for our sins to give us eternal life with Him in Heaven.  
God's richest blessings to you all!



### Assembly of Leaders – FOLLOW THE LEADER

Pastor Jakob Berger, Shurie Scheel, Terri Denniston and Wyoming District LWML President, Barb Schaer attended the Assembly of Leaders (AOL) conference in St. Louis, MO – Nov. 3 – 10. Under the theme of Follow the Leader, over 180 people gathered to learn more about the LWML, what it does and how it functions.

The AOL is held every 4 years to help leaders of the church grow and train others to become leaders in the LWML. For the first time pastors were invited and junior counselors were encouraged to attend, in order to give them a better awareness of the LWML and encourage them to share with their fellow pastors.

Participants attended small interest sessions which focused on how the LWML can be of service to its members and what the members can do to help accomplish this.

The AOL attendees will be holding some training sessions with the Wyoming District Board of Directors and then around the district. Dates and locations will be determined later.

The goal is to help equip everyone to Follow the Leader, our leader, Jesus Christ!



### Vice President of Gospel Outreach – Ellen Burbank



A blessed Advent to you! As of October 12, 2018 \$1,034,250 of the national LWML Mission Grants have been met! An additional \$548,000 remains to be paid. Thanks be to God! As a reminder, the accounting for the 2017-2019 National biennium ends in March 2019, so please encourage your local societies to send in mites on a routine basis. 25% of mites submitted to the Wyoming District are then sent on to the national goal.

The new Wyoming District mite goal (voted in in June at District Convention) is \$35,000. Listings of mite grants are available on [wyolwml.org](http://wyolwml.org) As grants are paid this list will be updated. Please keep these missions in your prayers!  
In less than one year from now, we will be requesting mission grant applications for the 2020-2022 biennium! Be thinking of projects and ideas for our district to support!

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### Vice President of Christian Life – Brenda Ellis

My main goal for this year was to find something to replace the CPH store as well as the LWML store at the District Convention after CPH had decided they would not be attending. After pondering many thoughts through my head of something new we could do I came up with the idea of a Craft Fair. We had participation from all six zones, which made for a wide variety of items to shop from. The money that was donated from the Craft Fair totaled \$1,142 of which was applied to our Wyoming District Mission Grants. There was definitely a lot of positive feedback from the Craft Fair so it may be something we will do again in the future.



### High Plains Zone – Jeannie Hockersmith, President

This year the High Plains Zone hosted the Wyoming District Convention in Cheyenne, Wyoming June 21-23, 2018. The staff at Laramie County Community College were very accommodating. The Craft Fair was a new event and offered a wide variety of items from jewelry to T-shirts, decorative items, and much more. The mission speakers inspired us all with accounts of their work with people on the Wind River Reservation, with the Jewish population, providing clean water in Africa and more. A Cream Can Dinner and Sing a Long were enjoyed by all, sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church. Bible Studies encouraged our faith in our Lord and Savior. Blessings abounded at the ingathering and servant events, where people worked diligently to put together back packs filled with hundreds of donated items for children at the Wind River Mission. Other volunteers finished fleece blankets that will be donated to worthy recipients. Praise the Lord for everyone in the Zone and Wyoming District who served in any capacity or were able to attend this blessed and memorable event!

Our Fall Rally adopted the District Convention theme of “Jesus, No Other Name” from Acts 4:12. Trinity Lutheran Church in Cheyenne hosted the Rally on September 23, 2018. Installed as new officers were Susan Tobin, President and Pastor Joshua Scheer as Pastoral Counselor. Tina Kats will continue to serve as Member at Large, and Delores Lund as Treasurer. Pastor Scheer led us in a Bible Study centered around the book of Acts. Each Society reported on their activities for the past year. Our program was presented by Tina Kats and Candace Debowey, who gave a personal account of their visit



to the Wind River Mission this summer. There they learned about the mission of serving the Native American population, the blessings as well as the many challenges that Pastor Sonnensheim and his family have experienced while serving the Lord in this capacity. The LWML members unanimously decided to donate our offerings for this important mission.

I have enjoyed many blessings while serving as President of the High Plains Zone, for the past two years, and wish to welcome our new President, Susan Tobin from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, WY.

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## Vice President of Human Care – Shurie Scheel

Greetings from the Human Care Committee!

This year has just flown by, and it is again time to begin looking for scholarship recipients. I will be mailing out the most recent scholarship applications in December, and will be doing some advertising so that we can continue to get good applicants from the Wyoming District students attending Lutheran colleges.

Four (4) scholarships for the 2019-20 school year will be awarded to students who are members of the Wyoming District Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and will be attending a Lutheran school. The amount of each scholarship is \$1000, which will be equally divided between the first and second semesters. Two alternates will be chosen as recipients in case one of the original recipients becomes ineligible.

In addition, one (1) scholarship in the amount of \$1000 will be awarded to an applicant who meets the above requirements. If there are no qualified applicants, this scholarship may be awarded to a descendent of Alex and LeOra Pitsch and studying for full-time church work.

The deadline to apply is March 31st, 2019, as we will be choosing recipients at our board meeting in April. Please help us get the news out!

I was honored to represent our District at the Follow the Leader training in St. Louis in November. We had a great time, and learned a lot about “following our leader”, who is of course Jesus! We are eager to share what we learned there at your Zone events and our upcoming Wyoming District Board Meeting. May God bless each of you as we head into this busy season of Advent, and celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus!

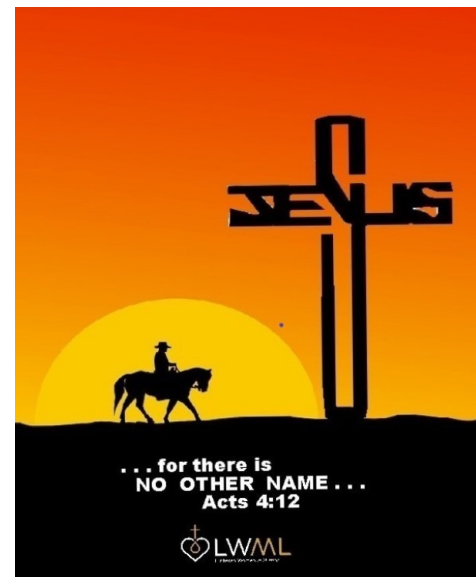
Merry Christmas to your families!

## SENIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR - Pastor Martin Temme

What a joy to attend the October Wyoming District LWML Board meeting and see that the new team of leaders – each an answer to prayer and a gift of God - is ready and willing to go! Even though there are new faces and needed organization and orientation LWML mission is still on the go with plenty of willing enthusiasm and energy!

And the mission energy is throughout. On a District level the first of new mission grants has been paid. On the national level \$1,034,250 of the \$1,582,250 approved for mission grants has been dispersed. The name that is above all names continues to be shared throughout the world. And that is good because there is no other name than Jesus by which salvation is known. Our Lutheran Women in Mission join in Praise to the Lord all the way to Mobile and back in 2019! Yes, Praise The Lord!

And while we praise and serve, the mission goes on at the home front as each District Congregational society carries out their own mission and service opportunities. In their own societies our ladies continue to grow in Christ





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through Bible Study, Mission education, inspiration, support and nurture, all the while honored in humility to share the love of Christ now and on through the Wyoming District Convention in 2020. As we, in the coming months, again prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, we are touched by God's grace - truly amazing – for “unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior Who is Christ the Lord!” This is indeed the name that is above all names, the Savior of all nations. Praise the Lord.

## Parliamentarian – Terri Denniston



As strange as it may seem to many of you, I begged to be your Parliamentarian. I laughed when I received the notebook with a celebratory background. Yes, I was celebrating, that President Barb Schaeer honored my request. As I began to write this article, I wanted to begin with a Bible verse pertaining to parliamentary procedure. The phrase that came to mind was “in this way.” I did a Bible search to find one that would apply. The first ones to pop up (repeatedly) were from Leviticus.

In this way the priest will make atonement for the community, and they will be forgiven. Leviticus 4:20 NIV I opened my study Bible to determine if what I was thinking was true. Yes, Leviticus is mainly a rule book for the priests to follow in making atonement for our sins. I am not putting

Roberts Rules of Order on the same level as God's Holy Word to us, however it does become a useful tool for us to carry out the plans He has for us. Our work will be calmer and focused if we know how to conduct meetings in an orderly manner.

I was also blessed to attend the Assembly of Leaders Conference held in St. Louis recently. The theme was “Follow the Leader.” Many of our breakout sessions informed us of the many tools we have to carry out our objectives of Mission Inspiration, Mission Service, and Mission Education as we “Follow the Leader,” Jesus. I eagerly signed up for the parliamentarian and bylaw/structure sessions. I found out, I'm not the only crazy one!

In this way, I follow our leader, Jesus Christ and serve you with joy! The Roberts Rule of Order manual now resides on my table with my Bible. Already, I have found it helpful. I ask you not to hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions that are causing confusion. We will learn together and perhaps you'll catch my enthusiasm for parliamentary procedure. It is a gift!

## Yellowstone Zone – Brenda Ellis, President



Our Spring Workshop was held on April 28th hosted by the ladies from St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Worland. Pastor Korb did the morning devotion with Responsive Prayer 1 and also led us in the Closing Devotion. Bible Study was led by Pastor Kumm titled Athanasius Against The World. About Athanasius and the Nicene Creed. Mite Sketch and Offering were led by Gwen Walker. She read the April featured mission "NOLA 4-H, Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless and Hurting.

We gathered together in Cody at Christ the King on September 15th for our Fall Workshop. We had 29 ladies and 3 Pastors present.

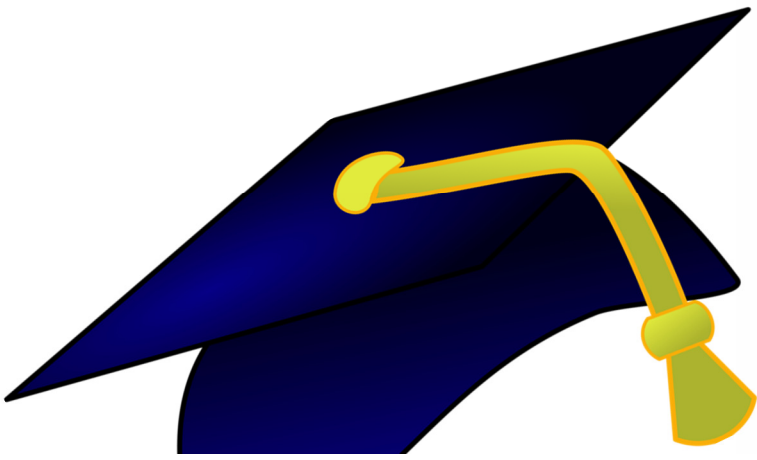
Pastor Kumm did the morning devotion with Responsive Prayer 1 and he also led us in our Closing Devotion. Pastor Kumm spoke to us about the Liberia Mission that he and a few other Pastor's are helping with titled "Project: Pastoral Education in West Africa." This is one of the Mission Grant Projects that we support with our mites.

Our ingathering recipient was the local Serenity Pregnancy Resource Center. We had Rachael Williams from the Center speak to us about their services. We were able to present them with an abundance of baby clothing, diapers, blankets, gift cards, cash and numerous other items they are in need of.

Gwen led us in our mite offering with the Mite litany of "Completion of Lukonda Lutheran School building in Uganda".

Discussion about the District Convention was shared by those that had attended and they had enjoyed all the great speakers we were privileged to hear. The ingathering to the Wind River Mission was overwhelming for all of the wonderful items that were donated.

The Spring Workshop will be held on April 13th in Cody. Mark your calendars for National Convention June 20-23rd, in Mobile, Alabama.



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