

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2015



Wyoming District LWML Spiritual Resource Newsletter Fall 2015



President's Message



Give thanks, with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks, because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now, let the weak say "I am strong."; Let the poor say, "I am rich."; Because of what the Lord has done, for us. Give thanks – Give thanks. LSB 806

The song, Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart, comes to mind as we are approaching this season. On social media it is not uncommon to list a reason for being thankful each day during the month of November. Keeping with this, I won't list 30 reasons, but here are some that come to mind:

- I am thankful for my parents, who raised me as a Christian and had me baptized at an early age.
- I am thankful for my husband, who was raised LCMS, and who has been very supportive of my endeavors.
- I am thankful for the early encouragement I had as a young wife and mother to become active in the church.
- I am thankful for my congregation at St. Luke's – where I am nourished and fed.
- I am thankful for being a member of the LWML WY District and for serving with such a supportive board.
- I am thankful for my Bible study and coffee groups – where I am surrounded by fellowship.
- I am thankful for the livelihood that the Lord has entrusted my husband and me with; and for those five marvelous individuals we call our grands.
- I am thankful for being able to saturate myself in the Lord's word every morning.

But, most of all – I am thankful for whoever you are – that's reading this right now. I am thankful for your being a loyal servant.

May our Lord, who loves us so much that He gave His only Son to die for our sins, truly bless you and hold you tight during this season of thanksgiving!

Serving with joy,
Danyne



Thank You, LORD!



High Plains Zone Report - Angie Macy

Our Fall Rally was held at Our Savior Lutheran Church on Sept 27 with 36 members and 2 Pastors present. Thanks to all who made the Rally a success with God's Blessings!

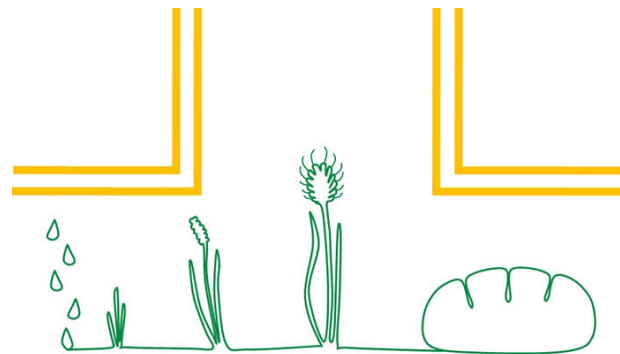
A report was read about the National Convention held in June and attended by Angie Macy. Cindy Backes showed a CD on the Joy Shop Retreat held in April at the Harriman Retreat Center with an attendance of 38 members and 1 Pastor.

Reminders of upcoming meetings for LWML in Chadron for the Wyoming District in June 2016, the National Convention to be held in Salt Lake City, UT in June 2017 and beginning discussions for the Wyoming District meeting to be held in Cheyenne in June 2018 to be hosted by High Plains Zone. Election was held and

new officers were installed by Pastor David Anderson, closing by Our Savior and dinner followed.

2016 LWML WY District Convention

SAVE THE DATE



Lord of the Harvest

Isaiah 55:10,11

June 23-25, 2016

Chadron, NE

Christian Life Chair Report -- Kathy Barr

Four new Mustard Seed Devotions were printed this year and are now available. After each description is the order number.

In Times of Need 30 Mustard Seed Devotions, written by Rev. Larry Krueger, Rev. Mike Mattil and Rev. Kris Whitby. The authors explore the topic of God displaying his goodness through times of illness and affliction offering encouragement to the believer. **#LWML40197**

The Race of Faith 28 Mustard Seed Devotions written by Amanda Stacy, DCE. These devotions follow the process that runners go through getting ready to run and during the run and apply them to our faith life. Amanda notes that "Running goals - or any other goals - can only be achieved with positive motivation, hard work, and perseverance... faith in God can do infinitely more." **#LWML40196**

The Word: Wisdom for Living 32 Mustard Seed Devotions, written by Marcia Gomulka and Myrna Lou Meyer. Based on the Bible's wisdom literature. The authors note, "God wants us to come to Him with the needs and desires of our heart. While we may not know God's specific will for all that we ask, He is always ready to listen." **#LWML40198**.

Everyday Celebrations 28 uplifting messages by Elaine Bickel and Jan Struck highlight celebrations of Baptism, confirmation, and weddings as well as birthdays, anniversaries, and family gatherings. These devotions are meant to be enjoyed and then shared with family and friends. **#LWML40195**

Here is a sample from Everyday Celebrations, the newest Mustard Seed.



What's for Dinner?

Bible verse: There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

Mothers may dread hearing the question, "What's for dinner?" They know the answer will please some and disappoint others. Family dinners can be a great reminder of God's goodness no matter what is being served.

God could have had all the food look or taste the same, but He created bright red watermelons and tomatoes, purple grapes and cabbage, green beans and lettuce, orange pumpkins and carrots.

God gave us taste buds so we could experience salty, sweet, and sour. He gave us the desire of food so we could receive the nutrients we need, just as we receive spiritual nutrition through Jesus' body and blood shed for us on the cross and given to us in the Lord's Supper. He offers to us both physical and spiritual nutrition and says, "Enjoy!"

God wants us to recognize and enjoy His goodness when we come together. This will only happen if we see all this as a gift from God. So what's for dinner? An opportunity to see and taste God's goodness again!

Thank You, Lord, for the food You provide from Your bounty. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Gospel Outreach Report – Barb Schaer

Dear Friends of the Wyoming District LWML,

God's richest and warmest blessings be with you all.

The Executive Board of the Wyoming District LWML is beginning to plan for its biennial convention to be held in Chadron, Nebraska - June 23-25, 2016.

As members of the Wyoming District LWML, we have a unique opportunity and privilege to minister to people throughout the world through our "Mission Grants" Program. Mission projects (grants) are supported by our "mites" contributions during each biennium.

At this time we are asking for societies or individuals to submit proposals to be considered for the next biennium. Guidelines and criteria for submitting as well as the "Guidelines for Submitting Project for the National LWML" can be found on the LWML WY District Website: <http://www.wyolwml.org/> Please submit your proposal(s) to me no later than **January 1, 2016**.

If you have questions or need further direction, please feel free to contact me:

Barb Schaer, VP Gospel Outreach

PO Box 36

Gordon, NE 69343

308-282-1516 (office)

308-360-0316 (cell)

schaer@enebraska.net



A word from our Senior Pastoral Counselor - Pastor Ken Humphrey

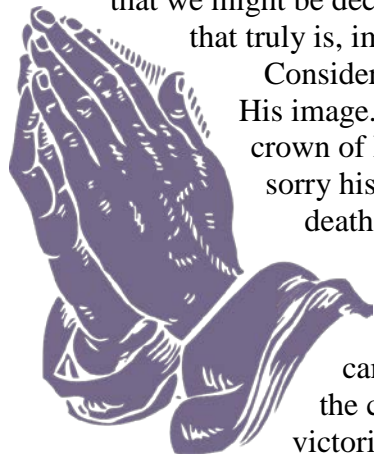
Let Us Give Thanks

“Give thanks”—with Thanksgiving holiday fast approaching, that phrase seems almost trite, doesn't it? No, I don't mean that we ought not give thanks for all that our Lord has given us, but how we often hear it expressed in our culture. For example, we're told how we should be thankful for everything we have—and then we “need” to hit the Black Friday sales to get even more stuff, right? But as Christians, we look at things from a different perspective, do we not?

Perhaps we should be more aware of the many gifts our gracious Lord showers upon us daily. Certainly we work hard, but everything is ultimately from God, even the skill and strength to work and succeed. In the Large Catechism, Luther wrote in the explanation of the 1st article of the Creed that everything, no matter how small, is a gift from the Lord. The reformer writes “I am God's creature. I mean that He has given and constantly preserves for me my body, soul and life, my members great and small, all my senses, reason, and understanding, and so on. He gives me food and drink, clothing and support, wife and children, house and home, and more... Therefore, it is clearly suggested and concluded that it is our duty to love, praise and thank Him.”

Psalms 92:1-2 says “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.” Day and night we thank our Lord for everything in this life. That might remind us that not only should we give thanks for all we have, but also to Whom we give thanks. That is, we don't thank a generic “god” out there somewhere in the cosmos, we give thanks to the Lord who spared not even His only-begotten Son so

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2015



that we might be declared righteous in His sight for the sake of Jesus. What a wonderful gift that truly is, immeasurable in its greatness!

Consider that before the fall into sin, we were God's chosen treasure, created in His image. Our heavenly Father loved us the most of all He had made—we were the crown of His creation. But we chose our way, not God's way, and that has been the sorry history of the human race from Adam and Eve on down. That way ends in death, and God would have been fully justified letting us walk that way to our own eternal destruction. But that was not His will, nor His plan for us.

So Christ Jesus, true God with the Father, but also true man by virtue of the body and human existence He received from His mother Mary, came to redeem us and to buy us back for God. Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross to atone for our disobedience. Through His innocent death and victorious resurrection, He has reclaimed us as God's sons and daughters.

We have now been assured of an eternal home with Christ in heaven. We have a priceless inheritance, but it is not measured in investments or land, nor in dollars or the square footage of our homes. St. Paul reminds us, "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:4). As God's children, through faith in Christ, we are destined to inherit everything that is His, and that means everything! No wonder the psalmist says, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

Jesus told His disciples, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32). You needn't worry if you've done enough to merit the Kingdom. The fact of the matter is you haven't—and neither have I. Not even the very best person you know qualifies for the Kingdom of God. But God isn't selling us His Kingdom, He's giving it away—to you, me and all whom our Lord calls. It's the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom, and with the promise of the Kingdom, there comes all the gifts which sustain us in this life: God gives us His good gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation As the Psalmist says (107:1) "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" It's yours now and forever—in Christ Jesus our Lord. That truly is a reason to give thanks, this season and always, amen.

In Christ—
Pr. Ken Humphrey

Human Care – Debbie Lee

The scholarship committee has selected six recipients for the 2015-2016 school year and each recipient will receive \$1,100 to be divided between the Fall and Spring semesters.

One seminarian and five Concordia attendees were awarded the Wyoming District LWML scholarships available to Wyoming district members each year.

Please note the scholarship application for the 2016-2017 school year will be available after January 2016 and each congregation in the Wyoming district will be sent the application form and information to submit before the June 15th, 2016 deadline. All full time Concordia students and seminarians are encouraged to apply.

Our prayers go out to all students of the Word.

Check out the LWML WY District Website

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



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

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

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 upcoming Conventions
- District Board of Directors Openings
- Applications for 2016-2018 Mission Grants
- And of course, current and past Newsletters

Yellowstone Zone Report – Linda Fischer



The 2015 Spring “Joy” Workshop was held on Saturday, April 18th at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Lovell.

Pastor Brandt led the opening devotion, taken from 1Peter:1. We were reminded that our risen Lord is Lord always, and we are looking for Him to come again. We can light the Paschal Candle in the sure knowledge that He will come again.

Pastor Wisroth led our Bible Study which was based upon Colossians 3:13, which tells us “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

Danyne Six gave a presentation on the importance of LWML By-laws and encouraged every society to rewrite theirs. She gave each society president a copy of a Short Form Revision, a sheet of By-laws Tips, and a copy of the revised By-laws from St. Luke’s LWML in Worland to be used as a guideline for revision.

Gwen Walker, dressed as a red crayon, (which matched the theme for the workshop) led our prayer partner activity.

Linda Fischer gave a Zone Update and hoped that she would see a lot of us at the National convention in Des Moines, IA in June, 2015.

The 2015 Fall Rally titled “Bountiful! Sow Nourish Reap” was held on Saturday, September 19th at Immanuel Lutheran in Powell, WY. Registration was from 9:30-10 am and we enjoyed our Silver Tea. There were 30 in attendance with 28 ladies, and 2 Pastors.

Pastor Brandt led the Opening Devotion about Ahab and Mary receiving a sign from God, even though they didn’t ask for one. We sang “Praise, Love, Serve” to get started.

Pastor Tinglund led the Bible Study titled “So! So? Sow! So!” Pastor pointed out that our faith does not come from within, and that God works in ways that we don’t understand. We need to trust in

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2015



His ways. "Faith comes from hearing", so people must hear God's word by "spreading His seeds" everywhere, and "shining our light" in the world.

After lunch we heard about the In-Gathering. The Powell Quilter's group collected sheets for quilt backings and monetary donations for other quilting expenses and shipping. They make quilts and give them to the Life Flight crew to Billings, the Hospital, new mothers, Orphan Grain Train and others. They also auction quilts off each year to benefit needy people and missionaries. They quilt each Tuesday through LWML.

Danyne Six our District President presented next. She talked about our District Convention. Jan Struck is coming as a presenter! It will be in Chadron, Nebraska at Chadron State College. She also talked about the next national convention, which will be held in Salt Lake City in summer 2017 with the theme "Jesus Christ Above All." Our District is behind in giving because each society has not yet given their \$85 donation. It is important that each society come up with their contribution. Everyone from our District is really encouraged to attend the Salt Lake convention, as it is close enough to drive to. Linda is the Chair of the decorations committee, and each person is asked to "Serve the Lord as He enables us".

Shurie Scheel presented about representing the District as one of the Young Women's Representative at this summer's national convention in Des Moines, Iowa. Overall, she had a good time and learned a lot about national LWML. Her favorite parts were helping sort the in-gathering for Orphan Grain Train and the other servant activities.

Linda then read through her report from National Convention as the Zone Representative. She was a booth attendant for the 2017 National Salt Lake City Convention, she accompanied President Danyne Six to events, and was a voting delegate. The goal for the next biennium is \$2 million! Patty Ross is the new National President. You can still watch the video stream at the national website.

Society donations need to be sent soon, as this is "Seed Money" and is needed prior to the convention. If your society has already sent yours, we appreciate you still sending more from things like recycling, and Thrivent Choice dollars.

Danyne also led a discussion about our zone By-laws. She read through the proposed changes. The motion to approve the changes, including changes to the Spring Workshop, was made by Brenda Ellis, Sandy Dittmer seconded. It was approved unanimously. Linda will send out a new copy of the by-laws to the Society Presidents.

The Election of Officers was next. President and Treasurer stay the same for two more years. We are electing Vice President and Secretary now. The nominating committee presented Brenda Ellis as Vice President and Sandy Dittmer as Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor.

The new officers are now: Linda Fischer as President (right), Brenda as Vice President (middle), Sandy as Secretary (left),

Marcy Ohman as Treasurer (not pictured).



2017 SLC Convention Update – Lois Anderson, Chairwoman

The convention theme, a powerful statement of our faith, has been selected by the LWML Executive Committee and the Convention Programming Committee – Jesus Christ Above All. This theme is based on Philippians 2:9: *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.*



Goal: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, I will proclaim Jesus Christ above all.

Objectives: Each Convention attendee will be:

- Encouraged through Worship and Bible Study
- Equipped to share His message of salvation
- Engaged in celebrating God's faithfulness while serving the Lord with gladness

The logo has also been selected and will be revealed to the Host Committee at its November 21, 2015, meeting and to the LWML members at large after the Board of Directors' meeting early in 2016.

Our Host Committee Treasurer, Rhonda Johnson, reports a balance approaching \$19,000. Thanks be to God for your fundraising efforts to reach our goal of \$20,000 by the end of this year!

Information and binders from the Pittsburgh and Des Moines Convention Host Committees have been shipped to me for review. I will be sending each coordinator her department's information before the November 21, 2015, WebEx meeting.

Please pray for the Host Committee and how we can share our God-given talents to help proclaim **Jesus Christ Above All** to the convention attendees and to the surrounding Salt Lake City community. God bless each of you as we joyfully walk together on this SLC Convention journey.

Lois Anderson, Chairman
SLC Convention Host Committee

Next Issue of LWML WY District Newsletter



The next issue of Wyoming Spiritual Resource Newsletter, the winter edition, will be compiled after the February Board of Directors Meeting. **Any** LWML member can contribute to the newsletter ☺ Please forward this Newsletter along to all LWML ladies. - Jennifer L. Scheel, Editor