



Wyoming District LWML Spiritual Resource Newsletter Fall 2011



From the Wyoming District LWML President--

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6

I look at the words of Paul in Philippians and can't help but think of all of you and the work of the LWML. It has truly been a joy this fall to meet with so many of you in your rallies and experience your warmth and fellowship around God's word. The LWML in this Wyoming district is alive and well and excited about spreading the good news of Jesus wherever we are. We can all certainly be thankful about this! We pray that God

will continue to bless us, being confident that He will be with us until the day of Christ Jesus!

What a privilege to represent this district at the LWML Convention in Peoria in June. There were many highlights there for me. The meetings of the board of directors for two days before the actual convention were very informative and full of much joy and anticipation of the convention. It was the first chance I had to meet the other District Presidents, and make some wonderful new friends in Christ. I enjoyed witnessing all the action in the hall during the servant events, and sang in the convention choir for Thursday evening's opening worship. Friday morning, carrying the banner, with Bridget our Young Woman Representative beside me was a wonderful way to begin the business portion of the time there. I was pleased to see that women were engaged in the process during the bylaw portion of the business. There was good discussion from the floor that resulted in a change from what had been suggested by the structure committee. Hearing the mites in action speakers just emphasized again what we really are all about, spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mites do wonderful things in the lives of many people. Being with Jesus in that setting strengthened my walk with Him and that is indeed the best highlight of all!

The Wyoming District LWML executive committee just met and plans are really beginning to come together for the convention in Powell in June. Please look around for possible mission grant recipients. I know there are many possibilities out there, and the Gospel outreach committee is eager to help you write up your grant. Don't let the writing part exclude a worthy project. Connie Cordes can answer questions and help make the writing almost painless for you. Remember that the deadline is January 1, 2012. So put your thinking caps on!

Looking ahead to our convention in Powell, we are lining up some wonderful presentations, speakers and events. We will have two terrific Bible Study presenters, Rev. Larry Miller and Rev. Allen Strawn. I know they will bring life to our theme through God's word. Our theme is "God's grace through faith and not of ourselves!" Eph 2:8-9. Please pray for all of the planning for this convention that it will be a God-pleasing event, which will edify his people!

**Serving gladly with you!
Carrie Brumbaugh**

In this issue: President Carrie Brumbaugh, VP Human Care Terri Denniston, Christian Life Gwen Walker, Yellowstone and High Plains Zone reports from Gwen Walker and Cheri Maas, Financial Secretary Jeanette Stahl, VP Gospel Outreach Connie Cordes, Parliamentarian Evie Miller, Young Women challenge, Convention invitation, and Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Strawn.

HUMAN CARE

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:20

I am weird. I like meetings. I especially like LWML meetings. I was able to attend the 34th biennial convention of the LWML in Peoria, Ill., this past June. I was fascinated to watch the bylaw changes. The debate was a bit confused and started to get complicated. Thankfully, the parliamentarian was able to untangle the strings of discussion and get them rolled into a ball that could be “knit” into something that made sense.

One of the items of discussion had to do with a name change. The bylaw committee determined that Vice President of Human Care didn't really explain what that position was all about. My ears perked up since I was newly elected to this position on the District Level. After much discussion, the name was changed to Vice President of Special Focus Ministries. I'm still not sure what I am supposed to do with that, but I'm suspecting our Wyoming District will have to do a bylaw change, too.

As I prepared this article – “a work which our newsletter editor prepared in advance for me to do”, I searched the various LWML websites for an enlightening article on Human Care/Special Focus Ministry/Mission Service. It seems the name change has caused some confusion which isn't quite as untangled as I had hoped. I did a word search on “Works” on the Bible Gateway website thinking God's Word would straighten out my befuddled thinking. It was interesting. There are many references to works in the Bible. In the Psalms, God's “works” are marvelous, miraculous, profound and worthy of our praise. In other books of the Bible, man's “works” often lead to trouble, self-righteousness, and ruin.

Yet, we are His handiwork called on to do works that have been prepared for us. As we go about doing works as people of Christ, with Christ living within us, through our Baptism, the Lord's Supper and reading the Holy Scripture, those works are “good”. It is Christ who makes them that way.

Maybe that is why I like meetings, especially LWML meetings. I see women who love Jesus and want others to love Jesus. Even when the debate gets heated it is because, through Christ, the LWML wants to do the good works Christ has appointed. I will eventually find out how the changed name of the office I hold will affect the duties for which I am responsible. In the meantime, God will continue to work through the LWML and share His Saving Grace, Jesus Christ, with all who have ears to hear and eyes to see.

One way in which the LWML carries out the mission of sharing God's Grace is through their “Mustard Seed” daily devotion. If you have an email address, a daily devotion will be in your email box each day. You can subscribe at http://www.lwml.org/resources/mustard_seeds/subscribe.php . Or you can order “Mustard Seed” packets from the LWML catalog.

May God continue to bless the Good Works you do through His Son, Jesus Christ, as you share with the world the Mighty Deeds He has done.

Terri Denniston
Vice President of Human Care



Wyoming District Convention
June 21st-23rd 2012
Powell, Wyoming

God's
GRACE
through



FAITH

And not of ourselves!

Eph.2:8-9

**Mark your calendars for June 21st-
 23rd of 2012! The Wyoming District
 convention will be in Powell, WY. We
 are planning for it to be filled with
 Bible Studies, Wonderful Speakers,
 Fellowship, Food, and Fun!**

**Look for registration forms in
 the Spring Newsletter!
 We hope to see you in Powell in June of
 2012!!**

LINDA FISCHER AND JOYCE VELAND
—Convention Chairwomen

Wyoming District LWML
2010-2012 Mission Grants Update

1. Orphan Grain Train, Rocky Mountain Division	\$ 3,500 *PAID
2. Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Food Co-op	5,000 *PAID
3. LCMS Joint Seminary Fund	2,500 *PAID
4. Trinity/HOPE-Haiti Lutheran School	5,000 *PAID
5. Wyoming District-LCMS Evangelism Committee	3,000 * PAID
6. Training Pastors for Gospel Outreach in Africa	5,000 *PAID
7. Veterans of the Cross	4,000 *PAID
8. Wyoming Unit of Good Shepherd Auxiliary	3,900
9. Lutheran Blind Mission -Partial Pay	2,100

Total amount of Mission Grants **\$34,000**

Just a little bit of history from your Financial Secretary ~ Jeanette Stahl

LWML Missions - Mite History

The Widow's Mite *Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-43).*



Mite Boxes - How They Began Perhaps inspired by the various "cent" or "mite" societies of the early 1800s, the Woman's Mission to Woman (Baptist) urged members in its first circular letter in 1871 to use their new mite box to raise funds. The entire family was encouraged to contribute. The garnet-colored paper box had an opening on the top and the words, "Woman's Mission to Woman," in gold letters on the side.

St. Paul's Counsel on Giving *And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:1-7).*

LWML Mite Boxes Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totalled \$6651.31 in 1930.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and bylaws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.

At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through voluntary offerings. Instead of "mite boxes" some societies called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thank-offering boxes." The first Mite Box design had space for districts to imprint local messages. In publications and speeches, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:



- 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

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

Times and Mite Boxes Change

Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Districts still retain 75% of mite offerings for the work of the LWML at that level. National mites fund over \$1 million in mission grants.

Gospel Outreach

Send your Mission Grant Proposals

Now that the fall before Convention is upon us it is time to begin researching and writing new mission grant proposals for selection at our biennial convention in Powell, Wyo., June 21-23. Each society or church was sent updated guidelines for submitting a Mission Grant Proposal. The form available on the website will also be fine. If you need a copy or need help please let me, Connie Cordes at ccordes@hughes.net, know and I will do my best to help. **The deadline to submit is Dec. 31, 2011.**

We have two grants left to pay this 2008-2012 biennium. I believe we are on a good schedule to complete them before the next group is voted on. The loving giving generosity of the LWML is always uplifting.

Continuing the pattern of the newsletter articles from me, I will convey a little about two other grant proposals, numbers 7 and 8:

Mission Grant 7 -- Veterans of the Cross for \$4,000.

*Serve the Lord
With Gladness*

Veterans of the Cross identify retired church workers or their surviving dependents who are suffering acute financial stress. A small amount of money is provided to supplement their income in meaningful ways (i.e. to pay an outstanding bill, make up a shortfall, or cover an unplanned expense). Financial challenges for aged church workers grow even more urgent with health problems and unexpected emergencies.

Many Veterans of the Cross retired before the new retirement plan leaving very little to live on. Others have no pension because they served congregations that did not participate in a synodical benefits program.

Mission Grant 8 -- Wyoming Unit of Good Shepherd Auxiliary for \$3,900.

These monies will be used to fund the video production and duplication for the Religious Life Curriculum by Bethesda Lutheran Communities. This project is central to the mission of Bethesda Lutheran Communities and Good Shepherd Auxiliary: Sharing the Gospel message with people with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities.

Teaching God's Word in effective ways to people with DD requires materials that they can understand and relate to, and can be easily used by teachers in congregations and community settings. No other agency or publishing company has this mission, or the expertise to take on this challenging project.

**Connie Cordes
VP Gospel Outreach**



Wyoming District LWML PARLIAMENTARIAN
Evie Miller

It is amazing what you can find when surfing the World Wide Web, especially the LWML Web site. The real problem is that your time goes by so fast!!! Before you know it, you have been at the Web site for over an hour!! AND you have yet to find what you are looking for . . . not because it isn't there, but because you were interested in other items you found.

I found a game that might be fun to play at one of your meetings. I am an "ole secretary" at heart so finding just the "right words" to say when taking minutes or typing a newsletter or typing a letter is always interesting to me. Let's see how you do at this game.....

DOES THIS BELONG IN THE MINUTES?

Date and time of the meeting	YES
All main motions as finally adopted	YES
The name of the person who seconded a motion	NO
The signature of the secretary	YES
A summary of a guest speaker's remarks	NO
Whether the minutes of the previous meeting were approved	YES
A list of the refreshments served	NO
The number of votes for each candidate in a ballot election*	YES
*If questioned, the statement is correct if the word "ballot" is inserted in the statement.	

THE SIGNATURE. Minutes should be signed by the secretary and can also be signed, if the assembly wishes, by the president. The words *Respectfully submitted* - although occasionally used - represent an older practice that is not essential in signing the minutes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Capitalize *bylaws* when referring to the official name: *The Bylaws of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League*. Use lowercase when using general terms: *Our bylaws need to be revised*.

Evie Miller
Wyoming District LWML Parliamentarian

1 Corinthians 10:31

Pre-Order from the LWML Catalog-- And Save Postage!

Any LWML societies or members who would like to order items from the LWML catalog can save postage by planning ahead. Decide what you want to order and have your society president contact Danyne Six, the Vice President of Christian Life! Your Zone president can provide you with her address and/or email address.

Send your order to her before Jan. 30, 2012, and your District officers can pick up your order either at the April board meeting or at the District Convention! Those not attending could ask someone from their zone to pick up their orders.



Yellowstone Zone Report

At the Yellowstone Zone Fall Rally, 29 ladies and two pastors had “The time of their lives,” focusing on God’s word in Bible study by Pastor Brandt and Pastor Rupert, Christian fellowship, singing and a delicious meal served by the Worland ladies.

Bibles, blankets & bears were the focus of the in-gathering. They will be given to the Boys’ School. Danyne Six invited one of the employees to come and speak to us about “his” boys. His heart for his work was evident as he spoke to us about what he does. He is also a member of St. Luke’s and was very pleased to be able to give the boys Bibles to keep. He said it would mean a lot to them, as would the blankets and the bears, since many of them don’t have many possessions.

Suzie Landis was our Yellowstone Zone convention delegate, with Barb Atkinson chosen as alternate.

Gwen Walker
Yellowstone Zone



High Plains Zone Report

Our Zone has had good meetings this year. Our Annual Spring Joyshop was held at Grace, Pine Bluffs, April 23. We had a "baby shower" in-gathering. It was great fun. We even had wonderful shower centerpieces. For a servant event we assembled polar fleece into 31 blankets which we gave to Project Linus and The Wyoming Children's Society. Both places were very grateful for the gifts and sent thank-you notes. We were able to donate the centerpieces to the Wyoming Army Guard who happened to be hosting a baby shower for deployed families and they used them as decorations and door prizes. As always, we had a great Bible study from Pastor Kumm and a delicious lunch from the hostesses.

Between our Joyshop and Rally, we celebrated with our President-Elect as she found a new job and were saddened when we realized it meant she would be leaving our Zone. Jennifer Scheel will be a great asset to the Riverton area and we pray God's blessings upon her.

Our Fall Rally was held Sept. 25 at King of Glory, Cheyenne. Our business meeting went smoothly with all elections being from floor nominations. It is inspiring to see the willingness to serve. Pastor Kumm again led us in Bible study. Pastor Maas stepped in as our guest speaker had a scheduling snafu. He spoke to us about Safehouse, our local women's shelter. We had an in-gathering of quiet-time toys for children who end up at Safehouse with their mothers. We collected enough items to fill 18 tote bags each with a book, coloring/game book, crayons, and a quiet toy. Safehouse was very thankful to receive these items.

Looking forward, our Spring Joyshop is held the fourth Saturday of April and our Fall Rally the fourth Sunday of September. Some years back, we voted to host a Spring Retreat in place of the Joyshop. We are still working on this idea since the weather is so iffy. We had one wonderfully attended Retreat, and the next year got snowed out! Recently, we found that the Retreat Center of the Rockies at the Harriman exit on I-80 has reopened for business, so we may have a close-to-home option.

Our Zone ladies have been encouraged to attend our annual Reformation Festival hosted by King of Glory on Oct. 30 and to attend the Tell the Good News convocation in Casper in January. We look forward to both of those.

**Serving with Gladness,
Cheri Maas
High Plains Zone**

Attention All Societies:

District L'WML Convention is coming up

June 21-23, 2012

In beautiful Powell, WY

It's never too early to start planning.

Here is our challenge for you...

Choose/elect a minimum of one Young Woman from your Zone to attend District Convention.

Start a "scholarship fund" to either pay for travel expenses or convention registration fees.

That Young Woman should then be encouraged to participate in future society and zone meetings by sharing her Convention experience.

Who knows how else she may become involved in L'WML!

See you in Powell!

*Jennifer Scheel & Bridget Scherbarth
WY District L'WML YWRs*



**Jennifer Scheel and Bridget Scherbarth,
Young Women Reps, are shown chatting
at the October Board meeting in Casper.**

From our Pastoral Counselor-- Giving Joyfully and Freely

Our October 2011 Executive Committee meeting of the WY District LWML spurred an interesting discussion on the topic of “giving.” At the request of at least one of the board members, I agreed to tackle the topic from a Biblical perspective in this newsletter article.

How we tend to look at giving is what is being given. After all, isn’t the first question around birthday, anniversary, and Christmas time, “What did you get?” Or sometimes we focus on the act itself, “Did you give them a thank you card?” or “Did you give cheerfully?” Strangely to us, the topic of giving does not actually begin with the gift or the act of giving. But rather, giving begins with the one who gives. A gift can (but not always) tell us a lot about the giver.



It is appropriate then to look at first and foremost the greatest giver(s) to inform our understanding of being a giver. God, our Heavenly Father lovingly, freely, and willingly gave of Himself, His only begotten Son, into human flesh, humbling His Son to born of a woman, born under Law. God, our only Savior, Jesus, freely and willingly humbled Himself to be born of a woman, born under Law, to willingly keep the Law on our behalf, to graciously endure all of our temptation, yet without sin. He gave of Himself, even when He was tired and needed time away by Himself to pray. And as the writer to the Hebrews said, “who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising its shame.” Jesus joyfully gave of Himself, selflessly, all the way to His death.

And look what else, (as if salvation isn’t enough) that the great Giver gives. Luther summarizes it in both the meaning to the First Article and the meaning to the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer. Quite a list if you ask me: body, soul, eyes, ears, all my members, reason, senses, clothing, shoes, food, drink, house, home, devout husband or wife, devout children, land animals, money, goods, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and all that I have.

So, it is now worth asking, what are some of the characteristics of the Giver? Selflessly. Willingly. Freely, with no strings attached. Sacrificially. Joyfully. Abundantly.

“God gives abundantly so that we may give abundantly, joyfully, sacrificially, and freely with no strings attached.”

Completely. Because of this, it is all good news for the one who receives the gift. Remove any one of these characteristics of the Giver and the good news is tarnished, diminished, and ultimately then removed.

Well, I can never give like that! I can never be that kind of giver! Of course you can’t. And neither can I. That is why our good and gracious God is that kind of a giver. Because we can’t. Yet it does inform how we should give in all circumstances. All that we have is given to us by God, through the grace of His Son Jesus. Since it has been given to us, we can freely give what has been given to us to others. Why? Because we will be provided for! God gives abundantly so that we may give abundantly, joyfully, sacrificially, and freely with no strings attached.

If we were to attribute how it is that we give, and make that how God gives, we would be dead. We wouldn’t be able to survive if God were to give the way we give. Thanks be to God that He does not! Thanks be to God for the mercy extended to us through Jesus Christ for the glorious and bloody gift of the forgiveness of our sins, even the sins of how we give (or don’t give). All of the gifts that God gives to us in Jesus are worthy of our thanks, praise, and service to God and our neighbor.

May God lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Pastor Allen Strawn
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Bridgeport, NE
WY District LWML Senior Counselor

How, Lord can I look to the future?

Of the Word

It is impossible to walk forward if we're looking back. Sooner or later we will stumble. It is much safer to look to where we are going than to where we have been. Likewise, we won't ever see what the future holds if we continue to live in the past. How can we possibly have a better tomorrow if we are still living with the troubles of yesterday? The past is past.

God wants us to live joy-filled lives. That is possible if we focus on Him. We receive God's forgiveness when we go to Him in prayer, confessing our wrongs, fears, regrets, and doubts about the past. *God is faithful and reliable. If we confess our sins, he forgives them and cleanses us from everything we've done wrong* (1 John 1:9 GOD'S WORD).

We are forgiven! Now it's time to move on, time to focus on hopes not fears. It's time to recognize God is waiting to lead us to a future He has already planned for us.

In the Word

Forget what happened in the past, and do not dwell on events from long ago. I am going to do something new. It is already happening. Don't you recognize it?
Isaiah 43:18-19a (GOD'S WORD)

Let us pray:

Gracious Lord, I am ready to focus on Your promises of forgiveness and love. Help me to grow in faith and be willing to allow the Holy Spirit to lead me where You have planned for me to go. May I recognize Your blessings along the way. In Jesus' name. Amen.

If you enjoy this, you can receive them daily through your e-mail. Just go to the LWML web site to get signed up.

**Submitted by Gwen Walker
Christian Life Chair**

For next edition:

The next issue of Wyoming Spiritual Resource Newsletter, the Winter edition, is scheduled to be sent out in mid-February 2012. Please send any items you want to include to Christina Counselor, Newsletter Editor at WYDistNewsEditor@gmail.com by Feb. 12, 2012.