

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2013



Wyoming District LWML Spiritual Resource Newsletter Fall 2013



President's Message—

What a wonderful and inspiring time we had at the convention in Pittsburgh. The 24 people from our district who attended were Quenched by the Water through bible study, worship, luncheons, speakers, and fellowship. Be sure you ask your zone delegate, Pastor Humphrey or one of our Young Women representatives Darci Boche, or Leah Sherman, to share their experience with you! I know they will be happy to fill you in on their convention experience.

Looking ahead we have some truly exciting things coming up. In June we will meet in Casper for the Wyoming District LWML convention. Your district board is busy making plans for this exciting event. Plan now to attend, June 12-14, 2014. You will experience there, strengthening of your faith, renewed friendships, and information about the purpose and function of LWML. The theme, based on Hebrews 12:2 from the English Standard Version "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the Joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" To me the beginning of the verse "looking to Jesus" reminds us exactly where our focus needs to be – right there on Jesus. He will guide us each step of the way as we look to honor Him.

After the 2015 Convention in Des Moines, IA, we look a little further ahead to the national convention of 2017. It will be held in Salt Lake City Utah and we together with the Rocky Mountain and Utah Idaho Districts are the hosts. Lets plan now to attend this convention, and to volunteer to serve on the host committee. This is an opportunity for us to contribute to the convention which we have not helped to host in nearly 40 years.

As all these events are coming closer please keep the convention committees in your prayers that God will guide the preparations to be events that will give glory to Him.

Getting back to our Wyoming District convention, please look to the leaders within your society and zone, and honestly, look at yourself and the leadership qualities that you have, and consider running for a district office, or offering to serve in an appointed position.

Please look for the possibility of proposing a mission grant. If you have an idea for a grant, our Vice President for Gospel Outreach Barbara Schaer is happy to help you with the preparation of the proposal. She will work with you so the process is not on your own!

As I close I want to encourage each of you to be active in your prayer life, talk to our Lord often. Be faithful in your attendance to a Bible Study, knowing that through His word your faith is nurtured. Be loyal in attending worship and partaking of the Lord's supper where you will receive His wonderful gifts.

Thank You for allowing me this time to share with you. Enjoy the rest of your rally as we Serve the Lord with Gladness!
Carrie Brumbaugh – Wyoming District LWML President



***REMINDER – Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly and Society Record Sheets Needed ***

The 2014 invoices for the Quarterly were mailed to Society Presidents at the end of September. If you are a new Society President, the invoice may have gone to the outgoing president—please check with her for the invoice. If your Society wants to decrease the number of 2014 subscriptions of the Quarterly that you receive, please contact me with that information before my December 10, 2013 deadline for subscription changes. This is the only time during the year that decreases are processed. Societies may increase the number of subscriptions any time during the year. Make checks payable to Wyoming District LWML and mail to Brenda Ellis, WY District LWML Financial Secretary, at 221 N. 44th St. Cody, WY 82414.

Please mail me your updated Society Record Sheet so I can update my records. Forms were mailed out with the Quarterly invoices. Also, please contact me with any changes in your number of Quarterly subscriptions or other questions related to the Quarterly--Barbara Coverdale, 307-871-5875 or bcoverda@wyoming.com.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

**Secretary to the President
Barbara Coverdale**

YELLOWSTONE ZONE NEWS

The Yellowstone Zone Fall Rally was held at Grace Lutheran in Greybull, WY on September 28, 2013. There were 31 ladies and 2 pastors in attendance. The theme was Quenched by the Living Water and the Bible Study was lead by Pastor Brandt. The election of new zone officers was held and new officers are pictured below.



L-R: Pastor Brandt; Marcy Ohman, Treasurer; Linda Fischer, President; Danyne Six, Vice President; not pictured: Shurie Scheel, Secretary

From Our Pastoral Counselor—

Dear LWML,

Thank you so much for your support of Project: Lutheran Pastoral Education West Africa. I recently returned from doing my teaching over there. It was a tremendous experience. The men whom we teach there are wonderful and so very appreciative of our efforts. They have invited us back for the 2014 year and we sincerely hope to be able to do so. As a matter of fact we hope to be able to expand our work starting in 2014, where two trips to Sierra Leone would be made plus the one trip to Liberia. Each of these trips cost approximately \$21,000.00 So you can see our continued need.

At the 2013 convention of the LCMS the delegates welcomed the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia into altar and pulpit fellowship. This act was a tremendous blessing to them to acknowledge the partnership and work that has been going on for years in both Sierra Leone and Liberia. Yet, as President Amos Bolay pointed out while we were there in Liberia teaching, is that the new church body needs training. Training in theology and practice. This we were privileged to provide for two weeks. The Liberian Lutheran Church is sorely in need of resources and training. What your support helped to provide was those resources (books and papers) for the classes we taught, it covered the expenses for students and teachers to be at the ELWA compound for the teaching, it provided their meals and aided in the travel of some, it covered teacher costs- airline tickets and shots so as to be in Africa, it provided for the medical and dental attention one the students needed while we were there. What you helped to accomplish was tremendous!

Each of the students took the time to personally thank us for the classes. One of the students even went so far as to say "I now know why I am a Lutheran, what a blessing!"

So truly what blessing for me to hear those comments and I hear them for you. You the LWML are to be greatly thanked for the work you do to help this project and all the projects you engage in to take place. The work you do to make these efforts happen is beyond belief. I thank you greatly, I admire what you do, and lift to God in prayer and thanks your tremendous outpouring of love. Keep up the good work and God bless you as you go forward.

In Christ's Service,

**Rev. Mark Maas,
Junior Pastoral Counselor**



Check out the Wyoming District LWML web page <http://www.wyolwml.org/> for more information about submitting a Mission Grant Proposal for the 2014-2016 Biennium. **The deadline for Grant Proposals is January 1, 2014.**

Inspirational Resources

From Christian Life Committee Chairman Kathy Barr

Here are some suggestions of new devotional resources for you to use at your meetings.

1. ***Back to School***. This devotion based on witnessing uses a backpack full of object lessons.
2. ***Building Materials***. This would be a good opening or closing devotion emphasizing the foundation of our faith.
3. ***Uplifted For the Lord***. This is a litany to uplift and encourage each other through God's Word. These free printable program resources are found at the LWML website. Go to the Wyoming District LWML website www.wyolwml.org and click on the National LWML link.

Go to the Resources tab at the top of the page.

Scroll down the list to Printable Program Resources and click.

On the LWML Resources page, scroll down to the section titled PROGRAM HELPS AVAILABLE FROM LWML.

Click on **Printable Program Resources**:

Locate the titles you want from the list, click and print.

May the Lord richly bless you through these resources.



GUIDELINES FOR AN E-SOCIETY

I was scoping out the LWML web page to find something interesting for this article when the above title caught my eye!! **WHAT????** I wondered "what next will they think of"? Then I continued to read the guidelines and found them to be very interesting. I would like to share some of the information with you.

An e-society, otherwise known as e-LWML, cyber-society, or virtual LWML, is a group of women who conduct their regular Bible study and business via e-mail rather than in face-to-face monthly meetings.

The main benefits of an e-society are convenience and flexibility. The member can open her meeting e-mail and participate whenever and wherever she chooses. This allows women who work outside the home, have major family responsibilities, or have limited transportation or mobility issues to be a part of LWML, without committing to attendance at monthly meetings. In addition, "attending" a meeting via computer allows immediate access to the LWML Web site for resources and information.

The purpose of an e-society is the same as a traditional LWML society – to serve the Lord with gladness. Properly structured, there are opportunities for spiritual growth, mission service and outreach, gathering mites, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

Included in these guidelines are:

Requirements of Members

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2013

Officers**Regular E-Society Meetings****Annual Meeting****Projects****Working with Other LWML Groups****Affiliating with LWML**

E-Societies are new entities and are still evolving. As with traditional societies, they can organize, structure, and govern themselves in a manner that meets the needs of the group.

To read the complete guidelines, go to: www.LWML.org, scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on "meetings, bylaws & more", then look under "Publications."

God bless you as you serve the Lord with gladness.

Evie Miller, WY District LWML Parliamentarian

E-mail: epmiller@centurylink.net

Phone: (308)879-4351 or cell (308)250-1944

1 Corinthians 10:31

Just a quick note from the "Mite Box" lady here.

Mites have come in well this year and we are way ahead of schedule. 2 grants were paid after the October board meeting, leaving 2 grants left to be paid. The two grants paid were the second half of the "Tell the Good News" Convocation in the amount of \$1,500 and the Scholarships to the 4 Lutheran Schools in the amount of \$4,000.

There are two grants remaining to be paid – the second part to Hands of Mercy in the amount of \$1,900 and the partial payment of the last grant to Lutheran Bible Translators in the amount of \$3,300.

Many thanks to all of you as you have feed your mite boxes to over flowing and blessed the lives of many people.

The packets for grant requests for the next biennium are in the mail to each church, if you have an idea for a grant request, be sure to submit it to me by January 1, 2014.

Thanks for your attention. Keep filling up those mite boxes!!!

Barb Schaer

VP Gospel Outreach



Human Care

What to do? What to do? This time of year seems to grab all of my attention and demand more time than I have. I thought I had things well in hand when an email reminded me it was my turn to submit to the WY District LWML newsletter. My brain has used its quota of creativity. Ah ha! I decided to check to the www.lwml.org website for ideas. I looked under the tab of Mission Servants (formerly known as Human Care.) There is a recent devotion. It is based on our last district convention theme! God is good and gracious and very creative when I am not. A new convention with a new theme is being prepared even as this newsletter is being read. There will be many opportunities to help, serve, and be creative. Perhaps, this devotion will help you prepare to serve in some capacity. I also share this advice, check out the www.lwml.org website for some very creative ideas when you don't know "what to do?"

Serving the Lord with Gladness, Terri Denniston Vice-President of Human Care

His work - our response

Prepared by Des. Ruth McDonnell



"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:8-10).

Our salvation is a gift of God. We don't have to earn it. Indeed, we can't earn it. We have absolutely nothing about which to boast. We have nothing to offer to God. What can we give to the One who created all there is? He is the Giver. He gives us life and salvation. We are simply the recipients of His divine goodness and grace. But St. Paul tells us that there is more to the life of a Christian. Although we cannot do anything to earn God's favor, He has prepared works for us to do. Living in His grace, as His workmanship, we share God's good work with the world. As those redeemed by the blood of Christ, we love and serve our neighbors. We share His love with the world. No, God does not need your good works, but your neighbor certainly does!

God, our Father and Creator, You saved us by faith through Your Son, our Lord, and have prepared works for us to do. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit, we may remain in this faith and produce the works You would have us do, all for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



"...what does the LORD your God require of you ... to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul ..." (Deuteronomy 10:12).

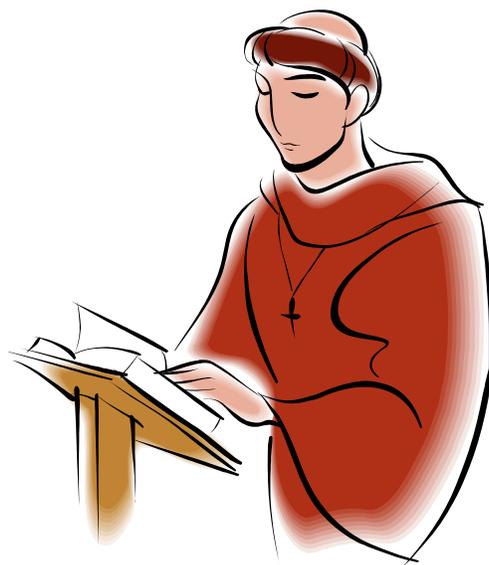
From Our Junior Counselor

This end of October brings a reminder of our Lutheran heritage: on October 31st, 1517, an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther posted 95 Theses for discussion and debate amongst academics and religious authorities over the issue of indulgences, the practice of the faithful purchasing forgiveness of sins from the Church. It might seem kind of surprising, but Luther doesn't really touch on justification by grace through faith in this paper; those issues came later as a consequence of Luther's realization that forgiveness of sins is not something that can be purchased—it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:9).

The Lord used Luther and many other reformers to bring about a recovery of the Gospel in the Church, which had sadly covered over the Good News with a mountain of festivals, prayers to saints, pilgrimages, veneration of relics and the like. Yes, the Gospel was still there, for Jesus said that the “gates of hell would not prevail” against His Church (Matthew 16:18). While we have God's sure promise that the Church will exist for all time, this doesn't mean that everything will go well for Christians in this world. In the time of the apostles, thousands of Christians were martyred for confessing the faith; under the Roman Emperor Nero, believers were fed to lions to entertain the crowds at the Coliseum while Nero himself would have Christians coated with tar and set on fire in order to illuminate his palace grounds.

While we don't see anything like that in our country (or in most of the western world), Christians in our day still face terrible persecution for the sake of the Gospel. Last month, the Pew Forum released its report on religious oppression in the world; it turns out that Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world. Christians in countries such as North Korea, Syria and Iraq face death for being a follower of Jesus. The Coptic Christians in Egypt face discrimination and persecution at every turn, especially now that Egypt's government is Islamist. A few weeks ago in Pakistan, as Christians were leaving a Sunday service, two suicide bombers blew themselves up in the middle of the crowd; some eighty people were killed. As we pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world that our Lord would protect them and keep them steadfast in times of persecution, we can also say a prayer of thanks that God has blessed us with a nation that allows for free expression of religion.

However, just because we don't face personal danger in our land as a consequence of our faith, this does not make the Church in America immune from attack. As you're probably aware, there are provisions in the new healthcare law which would require religious institutions to go against long-standing teachings by providing birth control and abortifacients as part of their medical insurance; the state is telling churches how they are to live out their faith. You can also see it in the way Christians are often portrayed in popular culture—usually as hypocritical bigots or worse on most TV shows. There's also a constant attempt to undermine Christian teaching by attacking the authority of God's Word. Last year, there was a bit of papyrus about the size of a business card making the rounds, of unknown date and unknown provenance, which makes reference to “Jesus' wife.” The Harvard professor who presented this at a conference in Rome sees this as a proof of Jesus' life and that orthodox Christian thought is merely one strain among many “authentic” versions of Christianity. Aside from all the other issues of this papyrus (where it came from,



Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2013

why Gnostic texts should be considered Christian at all, etc.), Anthony Sacramone (a Lutheran writer and commentator) rightly says “Ask yourself: Why would the authors of the canonical Gospels invent a celibate Jesus? To appeal to ... Jews? Who prized marriage and children? The Romans? Yeah, they were a continent bunch. That crazy uncle no one ever talks about? Wouldn’t His “eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom” constitute one of those hard or counterintuitive sayings that “prove” that the historical Jesus really said it? (I’m not making a brief for celibate clergy here. But, if you’re going to lie about your Messiah, at least tell more appealing lies...). If there’s a debate that will be ignited, it will be, once again, over whether the non-apostolic fables composed centuries after Jesus lived constitute an equally viable interpretation of Christianity. The Orthodox Coptic Church, in addition to every other creedal church that has survived into the present era, says no. The “Christianity must change or die” crowd, of course, says yes.”

Of course, this is just the latest in a line of attempts to attack the Bible: a few years ago it was the “Gospel of Judas;” before that there was the “Gospel of Mary;” you might also remember that the Dead Sea Scrolls were going to destroy Christianity. Frankly, if one gathered together all the supposed “bombshells” that were going to overturn the Church, I think you might have enough pop for one small firecracker. Mr. Sacramone hits the nail on the head there—this all about getting Christianity to give up the Gospel. It doesn’t matter when or where—Christians were being put to death in ancient and modern times; or how it gets done in a nonviolent manner by driving Christians out of the public square through government fiat or by constant assaults on the veracity of scripture, the goal is the same: to get you to give up the Gospel, to get you to give up the faith once delivered unto the saints. There are many churches that are willing to go along with this kind of thinking; we naturally are reminded of mainline liberal Protestant churches which have given up the Gospel for a social “gospel” years ago. But also, there are many churches that would be considered “Bible-believing” that reduce Jesus to a life coach or self-help expert.

What Luther recovered almost 500 years ago and what we need to cling most tenaciously to is the Gospel; the Good News that “that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me” (I Corinthians 15:3-8). This truth saves, and it’s why the world hates the Gospel and everyone who has been given to trust in it. So when you feel assaulted by the world, don’t be surprised—the devil (who is, after all, this world’s prince) is doing his best to tear you away from God. Remember that the devil will flee when he is resisted (James 4:7); so stand firm in the faith, for it is true—ultimately true, despite the raging of this sin-sick and dying world.

Pastor Ken Humphrey



Wyoming District President, Carrie Brumbaugh, has been selected to serve on the National LWML Committee on Young Women. Congrats and God’s richest blessings as you serve Him with gladness!!!