

Wyoming Spiritual Newsletter Fall 2012



Wyoming District LWML

Spiritual Resource Newsletter

Fall 2012



President's Message—

We are basking in the glow after the convention. What a wonderful time was had by all in Powell. The Opening worship lifted us up, and the Bible Studies were enlightening, and filled with grace. Pastor Maas brought Sierra Leone so close for us, and we laughed, cried and grew as sisters in Christ from Terri Denniston's keynote presentation. We truly thank the Yellowstone Zone for their fine hospitality. You did an outstanding job ladies!

LWML celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. Many changes have taken place in 70 years, but as women in this wonderful organization we need to look at changes in the world around us, as additional opportunities to spread the Gospel, while continuing our focus on Bible study, service and giving. As we are reminded in our LWML pledge that in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us.

Let us continue to learn from and live for Jesus.

Let us continue to take joy in being His voice, hands, and feet.

Let us continue to focus on missions, not meetings.

Be sure to keep checking the LWML website often, as changes are made there on a regular basis. Each time one of our district projects is paid there will be an update, so you can track the progress on our district grants. The national website is filled with wonderful helps for your meetings, and suggestions for mission highlights, as well as weekly articles from officers. Each one is written to help keep each of us informed and inspired.

Some of you have already celebrated LWML Sunday and others will soon. Designed under the theme "Salted for Service" the service focused on the Scripture from Mark 9:49-50 "Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." What a wonderful celebration authored by President Matthew Harrison.

Be sure to make plans to attend the 35th Biennial LWML convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 27-30 2013. The theme is *Quenched by the Water* [Jesus said]"...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14)

At the district Executive Committee meeting, October 13th we will be selecting a design for the district banner for the Pittsburgh convention. If you have a design idea please submit it to any member of the executive committee, or email us from the district website wyolwml.org. This design should be based on the theme "quenched by the water" but cannot use that logo. We look forward to having many ideas for this banner.

I pray God will continue to bless you as you continue to serve him through the LWML in our Wyoming District!

Your sister in Christ,
Carrie Brumbaugh

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**Yellowstone Zone – Gwen Walker**

Greetings to all from the Yellowstone Zone, A BIG thanks to everyone for the wonderful district convention. It is always an inspiring time to be with fellow believers and grow in God's word. A special thanks to Linda Fischer and Joyce Veland for all of their hard work as co-chairs of the convention. Everything from the wonderful speakers, pastors and Bible studies to the great weather and food were truly a blessing. God is so very good. What a great way to be renewed and refreshed!!!

We are looking forward to our Fall Rally in Cody on September 22.

Our theme is "The harvest is plentiful" based on Matt. 9:37-38. Our in-gathering will support the Crisis Intervention Center in Cody. Pastor Brandt from Lovell will lead the Bible study and Pastor Holm from Cody will give the opening devotions and closing prayer.

In His Service,
Gwen Walker, Yellowstone Zone President

Dear Friends in Christ-

With school starting up again, there's something else that some of our youth are preparing for: confirmation classes. Perhaps you've a child or grandchild going through the confirmation process; at Trinity, we've four young ladies preparing to be confirmed in the faith this spring, including my daughter Christine. When you consider the hard work and study our youth go through as they study Luther's Small Catechism, you might remember your own work when you went through confirmation-- do you still remember your catechism memory work? Of course, learning the Small Catechism is only the start of a lifetime of Biblical learning.

So why do we go through all this? Why have churches that go by the name "Lutheran" traditionally placed so much emphasis on learning and understanding the Christian faith? There are many Christian churches (even some Lutheran ones) that don't really emphasize the specifics of what they believe and are happy to have people there regardless of the content of their faith. As long as a person "believes in Jesus," that's all that really matters.

But what does it mean to "believe in Jesus"? In Matthew 16:13-20, the evangelist records Peter's confession of faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Remember that it was prefaced by Jesus' question to the disciples about who the people said He was. Despite the variety of answers, it could be said that the crowds "believed" in Jesus—but what they believed about Him wasn't correct; their ideas didn't encompass who Jesus truly is. For that matter, even the demons "believe" in Jesus (James 2:19); but it's a knowledge of their doom, not trust that Jesus is the Savior. I've heard some Christians say about their belief that they've "no creed but

Christ and no book but the Bible." However, all sorts of groups (the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, etc.) say they believe in Jesus and in the Bible yet they are so far from what the Church has confessed through the ages as to be unrecognizable, so there must be something more to it—something that must be confessed (believed or professed) to help us express the truth.

Alright, how about we just leave the teachings of the Church at "Jesus is my savior"? Even then, the problem is that doing so is to ask the question "what does it mean to have a savior?" To say that Jesus is Lord and Savior, the Son of the living God, is to make all kinds of assertions about Christ and what He has done—and this is what we encapsulate in our teaching (and "teaching" in the Bible is synonymous with "doctrine;" doctrine is not a dirty word!), most especially in the Small Catechism. That's why we use it as the basis for our instruction—not to replace the Bible (which is alone God's Word and the rule of faith) but to summarize its teachings about the Christian faith. Whenever I hear people say that we should just teach Jesus and forget about all this doctrine stuff, I'm reminded of a conversation I heard several years ago: a pastor I know was speaking to several others at a

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conference about the importance of teaching the Catechism to the young. In response, another pastor quipped “I thought we were supposed to trust in Christ, not trust in the Catechism,” to which my friend replied “Yes, but who is Christ and what has He done for you that you should trust in Him?” You might remember those questions from the Small Catechism’s section “Christian Questions with their Answers.” To know and confess that Truth is to trust in Christ and to understand that through God-given faith is to hold fast to what Christ taught.

No, we do not believe that Christians are to be found only in Lutheran churches—Luther himself said that there were many wolves within and sheep without the churches of the reformation. But since our Lord Christ told His disciples that they should teach the world everything He had commanded (Matthew 28:20), we cannot simply dismiss those things that have been given to us through Word and Sacrament, for they are the true means by which the God creates and sustains faith and trust in Him and His only-begotten. Therefore, the faith taught in our churches is not something to boast about or lord over others in arrogance, but to receive thankfully and share with others joyfully as God brings people in our lives. Embrace that clear Gospel teaching and proclaim that truth to others as God gives you opportunity!

In Christ—

Rev. Ken Humphrey

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church-Morrill, NE

Wyoming District LWML Junior Counselor

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A **nomination** is a formal proposal to the voting body, in an election to fill an office or position, suggesting a particular person as the one who should be elected. The usual practice is to have nominations, which tends to narrow the voting down to qualified and willing candidates. The two most common means of nominating candidates for office are nominations from the floor and by a nominating committee.

1. From the Floor

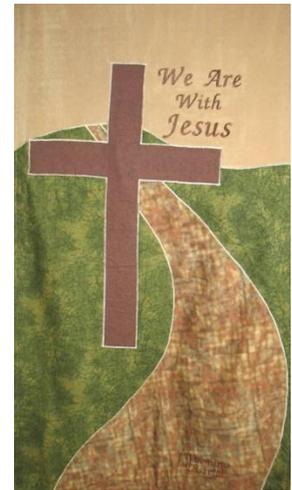
The chair calls for nominations from the floor by saying, for example, “**Nominations are now in order for the office of President.**” Any member may then call out, for example, “**I nominate Mrs. A.**” without first standing or being recognized by the chair. No seconds are necessary. The chair then announces, “Mrs. A is **nominated.**” When it appears that everyone who wishes to has made a nomination, the chair says, “**Are there any further nominations?** [Pause.] **If not,** [pause] **nominations are closed.**” In the average society, a motion to *Close Nominations* is not a necessary part of the election procedure, and it should not generally be moved.

2. By a Nominating Committee

When a nominating committee is to be used in an organized society, its members should be *elected*, not appointed. The committee may nominate one (or, less commonly, more than one) candidate for each office, and should secure each nominee’s consent to serve before doing so. The Nominating Committee may report at the meeting at which the election is to be held or at a previous meeting, whichever procedure has been established by rule or custom. At the meeting, the chairman of the committee should report, “**Ms. President, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations: For President, Mrs. A; for Vice President, Mrs. B [etc.]**” The chair (that is, the assembly’s presiding officer – not the chairman of the Nominating Committee) then calls for further nominations from the floor: “**For President, Mrs. A is nominated by the Nominating Committee. Are there further nominations for President?**” When there are no further nominations, the chair closes nominations as described earlier.

It is possible either to take nominations for all offices before electing any, or to take nominations for the first office, conduct the election for that office, and then repeat this procedure for each of the offices to be filled by election.

Elections are commonly conducted by ballot. If only one candidate has been nominated for an office, the chair simply declares the nominee elected (which is referred to as an election by “Acclamation”) *unless the*



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organization's bylaws require a ballot vote, in which case such a vote must be conducted. On any ballot, "write-in votes" may be case for any eligible person even though he or she has not been nominated.

If no candidate receives a majority, balloting continues, retaining as candidates all who do not voluntarily withdraw. If there is no different provision in the bylaws, a candidate takes office as soon as he or her election becomes final. Organizations often prefer to provide for new officers to assume office at the close of the meeting at which they are elected or at some later time.

- Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised in Brief

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1 Corinthians 10:31



Photos from WY District Convention in Powell. Clockwise from top left: YWRS, The Mighty Might Box, Mr./Mrs. Rogers, Past Presidents, Pastors, Pastor Strawn, General Session, & Ingathering.

Wyoming District LWML



IN BUT NOT OF – Pastor Mark Maas

Well it's fly season at our home. No matter how hard we try to keep doors and screens shut the flies are in the house. And they land wherever they like and cause distractions with all their antics of landing on the shoulder, head or hand. But every now and then they also land in things. They land in the cup of coffee only to discover they can't now get out. They land on the fly paper only to now learn they will not be able to get away. They land in the dish water and are trapped. And they now become of the dishwater, of the coffee, of the fly paper. They are trapped by those things when they land in and on them.

Now, I agree this analogy is a little odd for the point I am going to make, but here goes. Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Gospel of John the seventeenth chapter, talks about His believers being in the world but not of the world. In other words the believers in Jesus Christ are to interact with the world, they are to have dealings with people of the world, they are to be witnesses in the world, BUT they are not to be of the world. Believers in Jesus Christ are not to adopt the world's view of things; they are not to accept the world's morals and values as their own. Believers in Jesus are always to remain a separate

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and distinct voice, have a unique view, take a different approach on many matters because believers in Jesus are of Jesus and have the mind of Jesus and not OF the world.

So then when the believer in Jesus would give in to the world, give in to the culture they become trapped by it and are lost. They get washed down the drain because of it. Just like the fly in the dishwasher when the stopper is pulled or cup of coffee gets tossed out.

What is even worse is when it is a Christian church that encourages the giving in to the culture, or accommodating the world. This accommodation is encouraged in the name of looking attractive to the world saying, "See we aren't all mean". The accommodation is encouraged, saying "It's the loving thing to not speak against sin". The accommodation is encouraged because it is argued that God has changed His mind even though the Bible says He changes not. The accommodation occurs because a church no longer believes the Word of God to be relevant on a particular subject, the culture makes a determination which the culture likes and the church then follows that route. In each of these cases as the church would move away from God and His word to accommodate the world around it that church leads their members on a path of destruction. They've abandoned the revealed will of God and have become in and of the world.

And the individual believer and their family must watch and be concerned with the similar accommodation to the world. Just think of how much we expose ourselves to the world. The world's view of life, values and morals is so prevalent and so invasive, yet so opposed to God's view. But yet look how regularly we accommodate it, accept it and give in to it. The world cannot be our friend if our truest friend is Jesus. Recall what you confess as your trio of foes, the devil, the world and your own sinful flesh. This is why James writes in 4:4 "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world is an enemy of God." And John in his first epistle records at 2:15 "do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." So, think for a moment on how much you let this world influence and direct your living and the lives of your children. Think how often you permit recreational activities to dictate what you do and where you will be. How often is the Divine Service missed in order to make the recreational event on a Sunday morning, and you the Christian don't speak a word against it? What truly are you teaching your children, saying to God, and your neighbor by such an approach to life? But that places God second to the world and its activities.

No dear believer you and I are in the world not to accommodate the world and give in to the world but to fight against it and pull people out of it, to change it by way of faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus came to overcome this world of trouble, and we in Him then also overcome it. This overcoming of the world brings with it the bonus of an eternal life with God in heaven. You see we can get so caught up in the present world and life that we lose sight of what our eyes are focused upon, which is the life that is yet to come! That life is ours by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is at the cross on which Jesus died where the overcoming takes place. It is Jesus who lived in this world without sinning and died as the sacrifice for all sins. In that death you are saved as Christ overcomes the world and lives and reigns for you!

In the Lord's words believers in and followers of Jesus are "in the world" they are not to be "of the world", meaning you the believer don't agree with every aspect the culture, the world would throw your way. You the believer in Jesus don't follow and agree with all that the world would say is right and true. Rather those of you who believe and follow Jesus are to seek to change the culture and the world. Those who follow and believe in Jesus are to go and make disciples revealing to people the truth as Jesus spoke it. It's not easy but it is what believers, who are not of the world, are called to do! You in Christ have overcome the world! Don't accommodate rather overtake. Amen!





VP of Human Care – Terri Denniston

“For it is by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is a gift of God not of works so that no one can boast.” Eph 2:8,9 This was our theme verse for the 2012 WY District Convention and it was studied in many and various ways – all very enlightening. As Vice President of Human Care, I was charged with overseeing the Gifts of the Heart (Ingathering) which fits nicely with verse 10 in Eph 2. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” As we understand the glorious Gift of Grace that God has bestowed on us we know that works follow. Our Gifts of the Heart at convention were generous and the recipients grateful. By God’s grace they will see

His love through these material things and begin to look to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, for the more lasting spiritual things. With that said, here is another need that your society might consider meeting.

Mercy Kits Needed for Tornado Victims

Recent tornados and floods have resulted in a barrage of requests for Mercy Kits, (also known as Hygiene Kits) for the victims. Our supply is now dangerously low. Your help is needed to replenish the supply of Mercy Kits

The contents are as follows:

One bath towel, dark color recommended One washcloth, dark color recommended One bath-size bar (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging One tube of toothpaste One sturdy comb, remove packaging 6 Band-Aids (or similar brand), medium size, secured together All items should be in new condition. You can wrap the smaller items in the washcloth. Wrap the washcloth and the remaining items in the larger towel.

Instructions on how to wrap the items in the towel are as follows:

Spread the towel out flat. On the two long sides of the towel fold them in about 5 inches on both sides. Place everything in the center, between these folds and then roll the towel up. To secure the rolled towel use strong cord or a strong ribbon securely tied at both ends. These Mercy Kits pack very nicely in boxes. If you have already made up your kits or have purchased your contents and they do not follow the above requirements, do not change them or repack them. Send them to us as you originally planned.

This makes an excellent project for youth groups, church groups, scout troops, mission groups, or individuals.

Mercy Kits can be sent to Orphan Grain Train Warehouse, 606 W. Phillip, Norfolk, NE 68701, or contact the Orphan Grain Train branch near you.

Thank you for helping Orphan Grain Train bring *Relief for Human Need Worldwide*.



For the next edition: The next issue of Wyoming Spiritual Resource Newsletter, the winter edition, will be compiled in January. I will send out a couple of emails to let you know if I need an article from you. ☺ Please forward this Newsletter along to all LWML ladies, as I don’t have the most updated addresses.

Jennifer L. Scheel, Editor