



# WOMEN OF THE WORD

Issue 49

Winter 2011-12

## President's message....



### HIS LIVING WATER – LET IT FLOW

Here in Southern California, and in some other areas of our district, we actually had “weather” this fall – something besides the blue skies and sunshine that we have come to expect. Rain, heavy at times, came at what many thought of as inconvenient times – during rush hour, on the weekend. Some may have even been chanting that old rhyme, “Rain, rain, go away. Come again some other day.” But others recognize the great blessing these rather brief encounters with weather have brought, particularly the lowering of the fire risks and the benefits to those struggling to produce crops.

All too often, we tend to react in a similarly negative way when we experience challenges in our lives. So many unplanned events or interruptions can seem like bad weather that we even refer to the most difficult as storms. We try to justify them with adages such as “into each life some rain must fall.” Do we really expect blue skies and sunshine throughout our lives? Or can we, with prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit, see all circumstances as blessings from God, sent to give us what we need?

Trusting God and His promises given in the waters of baptism allows us to receive the rain and storms of life, along with the sunshine, as His gifts. As Jesus says in our theme verse, “streams of living water will flow from within...” Those who believe in Him will be filled to overflowing with faith, hope, peace, love, joy, grace, forgiveness, and compassion. We will be enabled to share the Life we have received in and through all circumstances. May God help you to receive the Living Water from Christ, and to let it flow!



**YOUNG WOMEN'S TASK FORCE** – Our Peoria Young Women's Representatives Jessica Lair and Amanda Stepanek accepted an appointment to head up a Young Women's Task Force for our District. Their work will be to discover where the young women are in our district, what they are passionate or concerned about, how we can help them grow in the Lord, and how they might want to serve in the LWML. They have created an on-line survey and shared the link to it through e-mails, on websites, by placing notes in the PSD E-news and sharing the information with school principals, in outreach. If you know any young women (20 – 35), please encourage them to take the survey, found on [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org). Help them connect with Jessica or Amanda.

**OUR DISTRICT CONVENTION** – The registration packets were distributed to the Zone Presidents and the Executive Committee at the December Board of Directors meeting for the convention. The information is also now available on our district website, [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org). Please share the excitement about this event with friends and family, and begin now to make your own plans to attend. **Dates:** June 8 – 10, 2012; **Theme:** “His Living Water – Our Joy in the Lord” based on Psalm 126:3 – *The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy!* You won't want to miss this! If you need any help accessing the forms or information about convention, contact your Zone President or any of the Executive Committee members listed in this publication. We really do want to get to know them!

**Register Now! Plan to attend this event by the sea!**

**President's Message Continued on page 3....**

## Christmas Greeting!

Our Christmas story is truly amazing! What a treasure! God's son, Jesus, the promised Savior, comes to earth as a humble baby. And God chooses humble parents for His son - simple folks, from a simple town, with simple faith. Remember Mary's words to the angel when he told her she would be the mother of the Messiah. She said, “I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.” She was only a servant, willing to be used by the Lord.

Thomas Merton once said, “Give me humility, in which alone is rest, and deliver me from pride, which is the heaviest of burdens”. So true! God does great things to those humble servants who entrust their journey to His care.

May Christ bless you and your family this Christmas season as you serve, your Savior.

*Pastors Larry and Steve*

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### District & LWML Websites

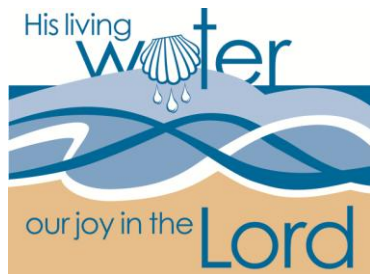
- [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org)
- [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

### Contact us:

- [psdlwml@gmail.com](mailto:psdlwml@gmail.com)



# District Convention Time!



## Sharing Your Creativity At the 2012 District Convention

The June 2012 LWML District convention promises to be inspiring and rewarding. The theme reflects the joy in our Lord and His living water. And, it's being held beside one of God's truly amazing waters --- the Pacific Ocean in beautiful Ventura, California.

We would like to invite you to share your creativity with others at the convention. It's such a joy to see the artwork created by our own LWML members and friends who attend the convention! It doesn't cost anything and we would love to display your art.

The categories are listed below and the only requirement is that your art reflect a Christian theme (and it can be created from a kit).

- **Crafts** – Pottery, macramé, sewing, etc.
- **Collections** – Crosses, angels, nativities, etc.
- **Needlework** – Weaving, quilting, cross stitch, etc.
- **Painting and drawing** – All media
- **Sculpture** – Clay, metal, wood, etc.
- **Banners** - (If possible, please provide your own pole and stand)

Some members thought it would be nice to display special nativity scenes. If you have a special nativity piece, you are welcome to display it.

The letter of invitation for the Christian Arts and Crafts Display and the Display Form for you to complete will be available from your local president sometime in December or January. Please complete the form and send it in right away. Each participant will receive a special gift just for displaying!!

*Christian Arts & Crafts Display Committee*

### Exhibits Committee

The Exhibits Committee for the 2012 LWML Convention has been gathering names of prospective exhibitors that we think will be of interest to all attending the convention.

The hotel has ample hallway space for exhibitors to display and advertise their products. You won't want to miss the goodies that some of the exhibitors offer.

*Joan Warnock, Exhibits Chairperson  
Joy Ambuehl, Vice Chairperson*



Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
Pacific Southwest District

## Women of the Word

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2011

PLACE: REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

920 W. 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET

ONTARIO, CA 91762

PH. 909-986-2615

TIME: 11:00 AM

An administrative meeting of all the Zone Presidents with the Executive Committee, for worship and introduction of the aims and goals of our National Committees.

## DISTRICT CONVENTION

*HIS LIVING WATER-OUR JOY IN THE LORD*

DATE: JUNE 8 – 10, 2012

PLACE: CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

450 EAST HARBOR BLVD

VENTURA, CA 93001

WWW.PSDLWML.ORG



**REGISTER NOW!**

## President's Message Continued here.....

### LWML UPDATES

**MILESTONE REACHED!** LWML recently sent out a news update that we have reached the amazing amount of \$100 million in Mites for the support of the mission goal since we started almost 70 years ago. This news release is included with the President's report, along with the latest Mite Marathon – Race to the Finish poster with fresh ideas for encouraging Mite donations. Both of these are available on the LWML website, or via e-mail from me.

## UNIQUE GIFTS AND TALENTS!

"God has given each of us unique gifts and talents. When we weave those gifts together, a magnificent quilt is created that is a blessing to us all." (Simple Gifts for Quilters, 2009)

Unique gifts and talents – that's what we have in Christ. God has designed our LWML - Pacific Southwest District Quilt. The Bylaws called for officers. Prayers, Spiritual Gift Inventories, nominations, forms, and meetings have led us toward the completion of a job that was begun when each of you were formed in your mother's womb. You were designed by God for this time and place.

The Nominating Committee's job description continues until the end of the 2012 District Convention. The members of the committee praise Jesus for the work that He has done through us. It is an amazing and awesome feeling to be in God's presence. You, as a District, have stepped forward in the Lord and we thank each of you for your prayers and commitment.

The Nominees will be introduced to the Board of Directors on March 3, 2012. Continue to lift each nominee in prayer. God knows who they are and your prayers will be directed for each one.



*In Jesus,  
JoAnn Bradley,  
Nominating Committee Chairman*


## President's Message Continued.....


**LWML** is looking for writers, in particular to prepare devotions. Check online under Program Helps, *Willing Writers Wanted*, for more information.


**BYLAWS NOW ON LINE** – The most recent edition of the LWML Bylaws are now available on the LWML website, as well. These will be handy in remembering the new department names and what committees go with which department.


## SERVANT EVENTS AT CONVENTION

This is a first for Pacific Southwest District conventions. Following the example of the last two national conventions, Servant Events will replace the Interest Sessions that usually occur on Friday afternoon. These Servant Events will provide an opportunity for attendees to help in the community as well as worldwide.

 Start saving your unused soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other hygiene as well as cosmetic items for an ingathering for the Lighthouse Women & Children's Mission, part of the Ventura County Rescue Mission. A list of requested items will be included in your registration packet.

 Learn about the journey the women and children who come to the Lighthouse Mission take. Then help sort the ingathering items for these less fortunate individuals.

 You may also want to help cut, tie and/or sew quilts to provide warmth for those reached through Lutheran Border Concerns and Lutheran World Relief.

 Find the hero/heroine in you! Give blood — the gift of life — to patients in the community and across the nation.

*Sign up for the Servant Events of your choice on your convention Registration Form.*

*Servant Events Committee*



## TAKE A TOUR OR TWO!

Enjoy one or more tours in and around the city of Ventura. A number of outstanding tours have been planned by your Host Convention Committee for the LWML convention in Ventura, California. Tours will be available pre- and post-convention as well as on opening day, Friday, June 8.

- ★ Walk in and out of the quaint shops and bakeries or have a sit-down Danish meal in downtown Solvang.
- ★ Tour the rose-lined paths and enjoy the aroma and beauty of the flowers at the Rose Story Farm.
- ★ View the career of former president Ronald Reagan and check out Air Force One at the newly updated library in Simi Valley.
- ★ See the historical places and distinct eras of the diversely rich history of California with a self-guided Historic Ventura Walking Tour.

Take in all the sites to and from each destination with transportation provided by Heritage Valley Bus, Inc., except, of course, the walking tour in Ventura.

Be sure to sign up early for the tour(s) of your choice!

## Mission Mite Update

This year has seemed to just fly by. Here we are looking at winter and the birth of our Lord Jesus.

### MISSION GRANTS

The applications for new Mission Grants for the 2012-2014 biennium were reviewed by the Mission Grants committee on October 28, 2011. There were 26 grants approved to be on the ballot at the District Convention in Ventura, CA June 8-10, 2012.

Thank you to the Mission Grant committee: Elaine Kercher, Tomasita Spann, Beverly Rasmussen, President Linda Koch, Pastoral Counselors Rev. Larry Bogardus and Rev. Steve Benson, and PSD President Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau for their diligence in reviewing and selecting the grants.

### MITES

To meet our Mission Grant goal of \$130,000, we must raise **\$50,125** by **December 31, 2011**. Here are a few suggestions on how to bring in more Mites: ask for change from one Sunday offering a month to be given to LWML; host a "noisy" Mite collection; and keep a Mite box in your car for loose change. These are just a few ideas. If you have a unique way your society collects Mites, please let me know by contacting me at judie\_theel@yahoo.com.

**He is love expressed and joy fulfilled – may your Christmas be blessed with both. Have a Wonderful Celebration. "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11 NIV**

*MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE GOSPEL OUTREACH DEPARTMENT*

*Judith Theel,  
VP Gospel Outreach*



### MITE DEADLINE

Please be as generous as you possibly can with your Mite Box™ donations and your other gifts to our district. *We have already funded eight of our mission grants for a total of almost \$80,000*, all thanks to God, but **still need nearly \$50,000** to provide for the rest. Please help spread the word that all Mites need to be in the Financial Secretary's hands by **December 15, 2011**.

### Now Recruiting!

#### WOW Distribution chairperson!

Marj Maynard has sold her home and is relocating with husband. We need someone in the San Diego, CA. area to take her position and learn the WOW printing and distribution duties. Call 310-717-6608 or email Sharon Dean, VP Communications at [srdean1@verizon.net](mailto:srdean1@verizon.net), for more information.

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye! PSD Speaker List Updates

Have you had a good speaker at one of your events that you really liked and wanted to share that person with others? Well, the PSD Speaker List is the place to put their name. Ask if you can submit their name and information to me and I will contact them.

If you have updated information on a current speaker on the list or if you could not reach someone let me know and I will try to find out their current information.

If your name is on the list and you would like it to be removed or would like any of the information changed, let me know.

This updated list will be available at the March Board of Director's Meeting.

*Karen Duprey,  
Vice President Christian Life*

## Mission Grants

### Goal — \$130,000

- Healthy Mother, Baby & Child Support, Kingman, AZ \$10,000 (Paid)
- Open Two Blind Centers in PSD & Train Two Directors, St. Louis \$10,000 (Paid)
- Deaf Ministry Outreach, First Lutheran, Burbank, CA \$10,000
- Shepherd Canyon Retreat Scholarship Fund, Fellowship Ministries, Tempe, AZ \$10,000 (Paid)
- Campaign – Fallbrook Pregnancy Resource Center, Fallbrook, CA \$9,900 (Paid)
- Griefshare Ministry, Risen Savior Lutheran, Sun Lakes, AZ \$1,125
- Developing & Producing Christian Curriculum, (Good Shepherd Auxiliary), Hemet, CA \$10,000 (Paid)
- St. Paul Lutheran Church Community Mission Outreach, Los Angeles, CA \$ 9,000
- K.N.O.W. Jesus, Faith Lutheran, Whittier, CA \$10,000
- Saving Grace Lutheran Church, Chairs for Multi-purpose Building, Queen Creek, AZ \$10,000
- Bridging Our Community Church, a Senior Faire, St. Paul Lutheran Church and Nehemiah Project, Los Angeles, CA \$10,000 (Paid)
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Child Development Center Infant/Toddler Program Expansion & Community Outreach, Menifee, CA \$10,000
- Pacific Lutheran High School Scholarship Fund, Torrance, CA \$10,000 (5,000 Paid)
- Preschool Scholarship Fund, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Hemet, CA (partial) \$ 9,975 (Paid)



### NOTE FOR SOCIETY TREASURERS

Please send **Mite offerings**, as well as **payments** for **Quarterly** subscriptions, to:

**Penny Mackie, District Financial Secretary, 13653 Lanning Drive  
Whittier, CA 90605**

You also may order Mite Boxes, Children's Mite Boxes, and receipt vouchers/order blanks from Penny. **Please make checks payable to LWML Pacific Southwest District.**

### Joy to the World!

**Always use our Website: [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org) as a resource.**

**QUARTERLIES** – Many of you have received by email a letter about our financial challenge. This can be alleviated if we receive more of the Quarterly subscription payments before the December 31<sup>st</sup> end of the Biennium.

Our thanks go to the many societies who have already sent in full or partial payments. For those who have had difficulty trying to reduce the number of their subscriptions, we ask only that you do the best you can and thank you for that.

Further questions about Quarterly subscriptions should be directed to Char Chamberlain at [garthgold@cox.net](mailto:garthgold@cox.net) or Sharon Dean VP Communications. **NOTE:** The deadline to make any decreases to your Quarterly Subscription for the next year is **April 2, 2012**.

**Merry Christmas!**