



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

# WOMEN OF THE WORD

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A Publication of the Pacific Southwest District - LWML

Summer 2017

## Perspectives from President Bonnie



### Cataracts and Conventions

For the past year or so, I've noticed that my glasses were getting weaker and weaker and reading and sewing were difficult. I gradually gave up on activities that required "new glasses" which I was convinced was my problem. My eyes were so bad that it was like looking through dirty glasses. When the day finally arrived that I had my eyes examined, I was surprised to hear that my problem was cataracts and I needed surgery as soon as possible. It has now been a month since this discovery process started and I have two "new eyes." It is exhilarating to see everything so clearly and to be able to read the small print and thread a needle. I am excited about reading, sewing and just seeing everything so clearly!

Now, I know you're wondering what this has to do with Convention. It's simple! After months of dedicated work in our ministry, we sometimes grow weary and tired. We continue our work but sometimes we may need an extra nudge to get moving. Then comes a Convention! Convention opens our eyes to new opportunities, helps us to understand more about our ministry and ways we can improve our work, recharges us with God's loving Word, refreshes us with visits and hugs from other LWML sisters and sends us home with new ideas, ready to see the world in a different light and eagerly move forward in our ministry! We embrace our work with new vigor and excitement!

I'm excited to join everyone in Albuquerque in June! There will be so many opportunities to serve and grow. There's the "Tee Up 4 Mites" golf outing, Mission in Motion (walk), servant connections, blood donations (you give, they take), Gifts from the Heart, worship services, Bible studies, singing, voting for new officers and grants, food, shopping and lots of fellowship!

If this isn't enough to open our hearts and eyes, there's the Saturday Night Diamond Dazzle! It starts with a joy-filled parade led by LWML President Patti Ross, followed by past presidents, District Presidents, and past District Presidents. Then it will be time for the celebration to start. There will be dinner, and maybe some dancing, entertainment, music, special surprises and more. It's a time to dress up; wear your bling, or something from your favorite decade or any shade of purple! Bling it up and come and celebrate!

Our District Caucus will be held from 4:10-6:15 on Thursday. I don't have the specific room number, but I'm sure it will be posted at Convention. Everyone attending the Convention from the Pacific Southwest District is invited to join us as this time. We'll also have our District photo taken at this time and we want all our smiling faces in the photo. (If you can't find me, you can text me at 702-743-3258 or Barbara Carter 909-225-0241.)

We will all return with "new eyes," excited to get back into our ministries with new ideas and inspirations. We will all be dazzled and energized!

Joy from my heart to yours!

*President Bonnie*



# WOMEN OF THE WORD



## Teachings from Pastor Tim



### “Rock, Paper, Scissors!”

Let’s play a game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors!” You put out your right hand, I will count to three, and then you show me your choice of a rock, paper or scissors! Ready? Here we go! One, two, three! I have a Rock! What do you have? Scissors? My rock beats your scissors! Paper? Your paper beats my rock! Want to play again?

It seems our themes from our February Retreat, “The Rock Speaks;” the National Convention Diamond Dazzle Celebration, “Christ is Rock Solid;” and next year’s District Convention in Las Vegas “He Rocks!” all have one common dominator: Rock! Here in Prescott Valley, AZ we have our share of rocks. Our ground is solid rock! It is so rocky it seems that

every time you pick up one rock from the ground, more new rocks emerge from the depths of the ground.

I have discovered three popular purposes for rocks in the Old Testament. One purpose of a rock is for the capital punishment called stoning. Another use of rocks is building an altar for the Lord. And the third use of rocks is to receive water from God. All three purposes are symbols for us today in our relationship with Jesus! Rocks will hurt and destroy if they are being thrown. That was the punishment of sin in the Old Testament. Rocks also glorify God! The Israelites even built a monument out of rock in the middle of the Jordan River as they crossed over to the Promised Land. When the rocks weren’t being thrown they were being built into an altar for God! Those rocks of sin became the rock of Jesus! Just as those in the wilderness received water from a rock, we, too, today receive God’s grace through the Rock of Jesus. Jesus took the rocks of punishment which were aimed at us! What do you have in your hand - a rock of sin or a rock of grace? The Rock that is Jesus is always the best Rock to have and to stand on! I hope you will join us for the next couple of conventions as we receive nourishment from the Rock of Jesus.



Check out the trivia questions found elsewhere in this publication. Submit your answers by July 15, 2017 to [Lyndaviken@gmail.com](mailto:Lyndaviken@gmail.com) to be entered into a drawing for a surprise gift from the LWML store!



# WOMEN OF THE WORD



## Human Care Happenings with JoAnne



Congratulations! You have been elected Vice President of Human Care! How did this happen? Here is how it happened for me. As a child, I watched my parents serve in the church. As an adult, my path to becoming an officer began about 35 years ago when Helen called and invited me to an LWML meeting, and kept calling month after month until I finally attended a meeting. Then it was Carolyn who asked me to serve on the zone board, assuring me that the board would help me (and they did). I served in various zone offices and then Linda invited me to serve as the District Historian, and now I'm VP of Human Care. It was the persistence and encouragement of many people along the way that brought me to this place. So what does a VP of Human Care do? The bylaws state that the mission of this position is to 'respond to the needs of others by providing the basic necessities of



life to those in our community and around the world.' How can we accomplish this? What needs to be done?

First, we need to identify the needs of others. Look around you, watch the news, listen to those near and dear to you who are hurting in some way.

Second, we need to pray for wisdom as we seek to help. What would God have us do in this place and time?

Third, we need to act. This action can take many forms. For major disasters, we can make financial donations to larger organizations, such as Lutheran World Relief, LCMS Disaster Relief or any number of global relief organizations. Sometimes our donations pooled with others can make a bigger difference. We can continue the work of the LWML through the mission grant program which impacts ministries around the world, touching thousands of lives. We know that those mites can change the world. We can support something local in our own area. Our district has done this through the collection of baby items, shoes, food, underwear, socks, hygiene kits, beans, rice, school supplies, backpacks, and so much more. Local societies have their own mission projects, providing for local needs. We can also be more personal in our response to the needs of others – write a note, bring a flower, call, listen, make a meal, pray, hug, or share a devotion. We need to look within ourselves and see where and how we can respond to the needs of those around us according to our circumstances. We need to act.

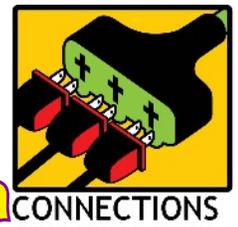


Fourth, we need to turn again to God for His strength, for 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13)

As your VP of Human Care, I try to bring ideas and areas of need to your attention. I organize in-gatherings, such as Orphan Grain Train projects or gift cards for the families affected by the fires or food collections for the hungry. I try to encourage each local society and individual to look, listen, and act on behalf of their neighbors, close and around the world. You might consider applying for a district mission grant or multi-cultural mini-grant. Applications are available on the website. Currently the website is also listing "A Year's Worth of Human Care Ideas" that changes every month and helps you in three areas – self, service, and spiritual. Check it out for ideas. Please share your ideas with me and others. Let your imagination go and try something new. *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not of works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (Ephesians 2:8-10)

JoAnne Sloan

# WOMEN OF THE WORD



## Life with VP of Communications Lynda



I remember it well: sitting in the basement of my church listening to the ladies talk about who was going to host the next meeting, who was going to bring what to the next event and who would be the next recipient of a donation. Oh, and those Mites! We can't forget about those Mites!! I was just a preschooler, but I can still smell the "egg" coffee that my mother was famous for making! But the thing I remember overwhelmingly is the dedication and love for the Lord that all of these women had, and how they were quietly and simply serving in the church basement of Peace Lutheran Church in tiny little Barney, ND. What I didn't know then, is that this quiet dedication was impacting our entire world as they gave their Mites and as they prayed for people around the world!

Going ahead just a few years – I had been married for 3 years and had a 3-month-old infant when my husband, newly ordained Pastor Brad Viken, began serving in his first church. And guess what? I was once again sitting in the basement of my church as we talked about who was going to host the next meeting, who was going to bring what to the next event and who would be the next recipient of a donation – and of course, Mites cannot be forgotten!! And sitting near me in his infant carrier was my son. As my family grew and God blessed us with twin daughters as well - and as my husband loves the LWML as much as I do – soon, we were bringing two infant carriers and a high chair as we continued to serve our Lord through this instrument.

As our children grew older, they didn't always come to "meetings," but I continued to share the joy with my fellow sisters in Christ in whatever church my husband was called to serve. I was blessed to serve on the Zone level and the District Level, as well. Each step brought me so many blessings! I thank God that He has allowed me this privilege!

Each office that I held began with someone praying and then mentioning to me – "Say, have you ever thought about???" Usually, my answer was "No – I haven't thought about that!" but when I went to the Lord in prayer, He more often than not said, "Do this! I'm with you!!" And whatever way I thought I was going to be "helping," it always turned out that I was blessed to overflowing for doing such a small task.

Currently, I serve as the Vice President of Communications for the Pacific Southwest District LWML. Once again, if you had asked me 5 years ago if I would have been in this position, I would have laughed you out of the room! But....the joy I get from working with the beautiful, Godly women of the District LWML and getting to communicate with and meet so many of you beautiful, Godly women throughout the district has been such a blessing to me and my family! I have learned over and over again that God means it when He says, *"...I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Jer. 29:11 ESV. Only He can qualify those He calls in such a miraculous way. God is very much active in our District and I can't wait to see His plans unfold through all of us ordinary women!

Fast forward to present day: I have the joy and privilege of watching my daughters coming to LWML meetings on their own. Beth serves as President of our local society and Mycah serves as our VP of Christian Life and will be one of 3 Young Women Representatives from our District going to Albuquerque in June. And guess what? We don't have a basement in our church, but as we sit and discuss who will host the next meeting, who is going to bring what to the next event and who will be the next recipient of a donation – and of course, how do we bring in more Mites? - there beside my daughter, sitting in his car seat, is my grandson! *Lynda Viken*



# WOMEN OF THE WORD



## 37th Biennial Convention June 22-25, 2017 PSW District Young Women Representatives



**BREE ANN JOINER** lives in Upland, CA and is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Ontario. Bree is widowed raising a 10-year old son and a 7-year old daughter. She teaches Middle School at Redeemer Lutheran School and volunteers with the church's altar guild and serves as the middle school youth leader. She is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation in her family to be involved in LWML. When asked about how she feels about her upcoming trip to Albuquerque, she said, "I couldn't be more excited! I can't wait to gain some resources and bring them back! I'm excited to get more women involved in our group and help grow our LWML!"

**CRYSTAL AGUILAR** lives in Hesperia, CA and is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hesperia. She is married to her high school sweetheart and they have been blessed with a 4-year old daughter and a 2-year old son. She is a leader with her church's youth group as well as a member of the board of education. She works full time from home and is a "big sap" that loves making/remiscing memories. When asked about her upcoming trip, she said, "I feel honored to have been chosen and am looking forward to meeting fellow women of Christ and having a dear friend along for the adventures makes it even better!"



**MYCAH VIKEN** lives in Moreno Valley, CA and is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Hesperia. In December she graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders and recently started a job as a speech language pathology assistant. She currently serves as VP of Christian Life in her local society. She and Crystal Aguilar have been close friends for many years. When asked about her upcoming trip, she stated, "I'm excited about going and meeting women from around the country and seeing what's in store for the future of LWML!"



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# WOMEN OF THE WORD



Looking for ideas to raise funds for your local LWML societies or congregations? Try out the “Brown Bag Auction”!

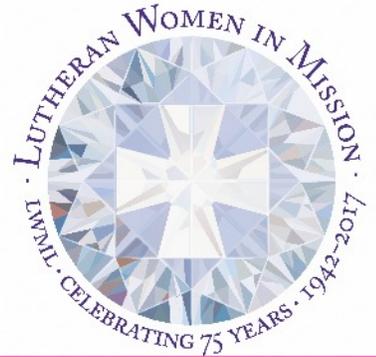
Plan a social gathering of some type - perhaps a spring or summer lunch or brunch - which will also include an auction. Invite each person attending to bring a “Brown Bag Auction Item” with a note attached giving a clue about what’s inside. For

example, a musical Christmas clock might have a note attached saying “Keep the Beat.” Everyone attending will also be able to bid on the various “mystery” items. Appoint an auctioneer – preferably someone outgoing and able to inject some fun into the procedures. After the meal or social portion of the event, the auctioneer begins the auction, reading the clue for each item and inviting people to bid – and to keep the bidding going to bring in the best price. Our event was held after a potluck; everyone had a great time, and we made over \$300.

- Debbie Mueller, Mountain of Faith Lutheran Church, Cordes Lakes, AZ

*Thank you Debbie for submitting this article!*

*Does anyone else have some great fund-raising ideas you’d be willing to share?*



## Upcoming National Conventions:

2017 – Albuquerque, New Mexico – June 22-25

2019 – Mobile, Alabama – June 20-23

2021 – Lexington, Kentucky – June 24-27



## 2016-2018 District Mission Grants

### National Mite Goal Results as of 3/31/17



Lutheran Braille Workers NLS Cartridge Conversion, Yucaipa, CA.....	\$10,000
Cornerstone Mission Project, Inc., Kingman, AZ \$ .....	\$ 5,000
Zion’s Helping Hands-Food Ministry, Zion Lutheran Church, Blythe, CA .....	\$10,000
Weekend Backpack Childhood Hunger Program, El Centro, CA.....	\$10,000
“Reaching Families with Hope and Care”New Life Pregnancy Center, Yuma, AZ	\$10,000
La Mesa “The Table” Ministry, Christ’s Greenfield, Gilbert, Az.....	\$ 9,600
Yuma Community Food Bank, Backpack Program, Yuma, AZ.....	\$10,000
East County Transitional Living Center, El Cajon, CA.....	\$10,000
“Make a Joyful Noise” Music Ministry, Yuma Lutheran School, Yuma, AZ.....	\$10,000
Hands of Christ Feeding the Needy, Our Savior’s 1st Lutheran, Granada Hills, CA	\$10,000
Raising the Roof: Expanding Early Childhood Christ Lutheran, Vail, AZ.....	\$10,000
Redeemer Lutheran Church Food Ministry, Ontario, CA.....	\$10,000
Playground Equipment at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sierra Vista, AZ.....	\$10,000
Future Leader Scholarships, Pacific Lutheran High School, Gardena, CA.....	\$10,000
Arizona Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association, Prescott, AZ.....	\$10,000
Celebrating Recovered Lives, Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, AZ.....	\$ 9,000



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## LUTHERAN MINISTRY AT ASU INSTALLATION SERVICE

The installation of Rev. Greg Fairow as Campus Pastor and Sharon Owens as International Student Ministry Director of Lutheran Ministry at Arizona State University (ASU) was attended by 105 people on Sunday afternoon, January 29, 2017. ASU is the largest public university in the U.S. with over 80,000 students on the main campus in Tempe, AZ.

Eight pastors from valley churches were in attendance with three serving as scripture readers. Rev. Mark Hoelter of Transforming Campus Ministries, delivered the sermon. Pastor Misch served as Liturgist with LCMS District President, Rev. Larry Stoterau performing the installation. Also representing the LCMS District was Gary Norton, Faciltator for Revitalization.



Special music was arranged by Music Director Ellen Brown with guest musicians in a brass ensemble and guest singers joining the BSLC choir.

The reception following the installation worship service was provided by Thrivent and the LWML Ocotillo-Palo Verde Zone 27/30. Please join us in praying for this ministry as it grows and flourishes with the grace and mercy of our Lord.

*[Editor's Note: Thank you to Sandra Wardwell for submitting this!]*

## CONVENTION CENTRAL



Here's your spot for all things District Convention!



**BANQUET**

**Convention Theme**  
"He Rocks"

**Theme Verse**  
"and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."  
1 Cor. 10:4

**SINGING**

**SPEAKER:**  
Cindy Steinbeck

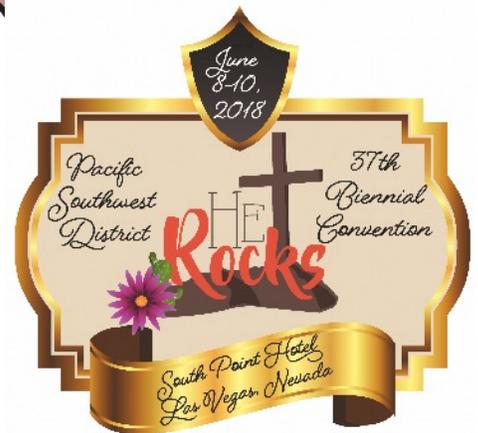
**MISSION WALK**

**Location:**  
South Point  
Las Vegas, NV

**BIBLE STUDIES**

**SILENT AUCTION**

**Convention Logo**



# WOMEN OF THE WORD



Congratulations to our trivia contest winner from the previous issue of WOW – . **Barbara Wade** of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Wickenburg, AZ! Barbara won the beautiful necklace on the left. Barbara is the Church Office Manager and lives in Wickenburg where she and her husband have lived for 12 years. Before living in Arizona, they lived in Arkansas working for the nuclear power plant!

Redeemer Lutheran Church's LWML has around 15-25 members. They gather together each month with a pot luck luncheon, devotion, and business meeting, and do quarterly donations to Lutheran Braille Workers and Lutheran Bible Translators. They also have a sewing

group that meets every week to make quilts and lap robes, which they either sell or donate. They recently donated 21 quilts to the Lutheran World Relief pick up site in Phoenix.

Congratulations, Barbara, and thank you for your service to the Lord through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Please keep Barbara and the ladies of Redeemer Lutheran Church's LWML society in your prayers as they actively serve the Lord through their talents.



Deadline for the Fall 2017 WOW is August 15, 2017. Please submit news from your societies/zones (pictures always welcome!) to [lyndaviken@gmail.com](mailto:lyndaviken@gmail.com).

## Your 2016-2018 District Officers

President.....	Bonnie Karch
VP Christian Life.....	Chenette Cole
VP Communications.....	Lynda Viken
VP Gospel Outreach.....	Nancy Heredia
VP Growth & Development.....	Linda Moat
VP Human Care.....	JoAnne Sloan
Recording Secretary.....	Linda Merkle
Financial Secretary.....	Cynthia Burell
Treasurer.....	Nila Rodriguez
Sr. Pastoral Counselor.....	Rev. Brad Viken
Jr. Pastoral Counselor.....	Rev. Tim Blau

## Trivia Questions:

1. What is one purpose for a rock in the Old Testament?
2. Where can you find a year's worth of Human Care ideas?
3. Whose mother was famous for making "egg" coffee?
4. What are the first names of the three Young Woman Representatives?
5. Where will the 2019 National Convention be held?
6. What is the theme for the 2018 Pacific SouthWest District LWML Convention?
7. Who won the last WOW trivia contest?

