



# WOMEN OF THE WORD

FALL 2016



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As a teacher, summer holds special meaning for me. It's a time to change my daily routine, sleep a little later, and have more time for family and leisure activities. It's a time to evaluate past accomplishments and look for ways to challenge myself. Challenge means change! I know change can be difficult, but it can also be rewarding and excit-

ing. It's definitely a time of spiritual and personal growth!

The Executive Committee developed goals to unify our boards, meet our Mite goal, encourage more young women to become involved in the LWML, increase attendance at our retreats and conventions, and add to our methods of communication. Our next step will be to break these down into specific activities and then find ways to successfully reach our goals.

We will be guided through the biennium with these words: *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples* (John 15:7-8 ESV).

It's exciting to see the topics of all the Fall Celebrations. The Executive Committee is eager to attend these celebrations and bring news from the Board of Directors. We also enjoy sharing these inspiring events upon our return.

We have begun preparations for the 2018 Convention. Please pray for our Host Co-Chairs and committees as they move forward in their tasks.

It's time to make your plans to attend the 2017 District Retreat in Ontario! Forms and details will be distributed at the September Board of Directors' meeting and will also be available on our website.

### ***I'm getting excited!***

I welcome your prayers as I prepare to attend the National Board of Directors' meeting in St. Louis at the end of October.

As we begin this biennium, it's important to remember the work of LWML in your prayers and encourage others in their work.

***Bonnie Karch, President  
LWML Pacific Southwest District***



## COUNSELOR'S COLUMN

One of the many blessings I have received from my mom, who is now in heaven, was to remind me each year of my past celebrations. Not only would she remind me of the usual birthdays, but give me a heads up of my wedding anniversary so I would plan a wonderful evening for my wife. She would also remind me of the anniversary day I graduated from High

School (Maryvale High in Phoenix), from College (Christ College, Irvine) and Seminary (St. Louis).

But the key date that she would remind me of and celebrate with me, and which has the most impact on me and my ministry today, is my Baptismal Birthday! Each year, my mom would make sure I knew that October 3rd was a special day in my life. For years I took her reminders for granted, until one Thanksgiving Eve day. I was in my office and I remembered I had baptized a young girl a year ago that day. I had not seen the girl or her parents all year. They lived two blocks from the church. Remembering how my mom would remind me of my baptism, I decided to do the same. I walked over to the family's house and knocked on the door. As they opened the door and welcomed me in, wondering what type of visit this might be, I gently smiled and said, "Today is your daughter's baptismal birthday." We had a nice visit catching up and the next Sunday, they were in church!

I now strive to celebrate all the members' baptism birthday, especially our youth, to remind them that they are a child of God and a disciple of Jesus. As I begin my four years with you as a pastoral counselor, I will challenge you to celebrate your baptismal birthday, and all of your family and friends as well. Whenever we meet for the first time, tell me your date when God adopted you into His family!

The bonus of celebrating our "born again" birthday is that others will ask and want themselves and their families to be baptized as well! You know my baptism date, October 3rd. What is your date? If you have not been baptized, you are in store for a wonderful gift from our amazing and loving Savior, Jesus Christ. Ask your Christian friends and your pastor for more information about being baptized.

Caring through Christ,

***Tim Blau  
Junior Pastoral Counselor***

## Get Connected!



<https://www.facebook.com/PSWD.LWML/>



[www.psdlwml.com](http://www.psdlwml.com)

### Christian Life

Hello! My name is Chenette Cole, and I will be serving as the LWML Pacific Southwest District's VP of Christian Life for the 2016–2020 term. I am looking forward to providing information for personal devotions and LWML society devotions. I will be providing websites and titles of books that can be looked through and chosen by your LWML society. If there are any suggestions for devotional materials that you would like the PSD LWML to use, please let me know and the Spiritual Resources Committee will review the information. Once it has been reviewed I will share with our Zone Presidents to pass on to our local societies.

A few websites to peruse for Advent and Christmas are *christianbook.com*, *dayspring.com*, *cph.org*, and, of course, *lwml.org*. Also, sign up for the Mustard Seed devotions which can be found on *lwml.org*, and a devotion will be emailed to you daily. I have provided a list of Advent and Christmas devotions and bible studies from *christianbook.com* to your Zone Presidents. Please ask them for a copy. Now will also be a good time to check out these websites or your local Christian bookstore in preparation for Easter devotions.

Our Pacific Southwest District Retreat is coming soon! Please share the word at your church and invite a few women in your congregation who are not involved and want to know more about LWML. This will be a fun and different way to show them what we are about. The retreat will be Feb. 3–5, 2017 at the Embassy Suites in Ontario, California. The speaker will be Cyndy Steinbeck whose theme is named after and based on her book *The Rock Speaks*. Please check with your Zone President or online at *psdlwml.com* for the retreat applications.

A friendly reminder: There is an email prayer chain managed by Mary Ellen Jeske. If you would like to share your prayer requests via email, please send them to *emmejeske@att.net* and your prayer requests will be shared with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. May God continue to bless and keep each of you, and look forward to seeing you at the retreat!

*Chenette Cole, VP of Christian Life*

### Communications

Hi, my name is Lynda Viken, and I am the Vice President of Communications for your district LWML!

I am so excited about the opportunities God is opening up for us! You may have noticed our new website, if not please check it out (see below). There, you can find out about mission grants, upcoming events, how to get in touch with district officers, and news from around the Pacific Southwest District. If you have anything for the website, you can click on the “contact us” link on our website and send it to VP of Communications Lynda Viken.

Additionally, please check out our Facebook page. Our Facebook administrator is Mycah Viken. If you have something you think should be put on the Facebook page, please send pictures, articles, etc. to *mycahjean.viken@gmail.com*

Special thanks to Michael Herbstreit with “Simply to Serve!” Michael created the website and is helping with ongoing maintenance. We are looking for someone to assist as Webmaster for our website – Michael made it user-friendly for us!

We are seeking someone with graphic layout experience to assist with the *WOW* publication. Amy Gill, who has been awesome in helping us with *WOW* for several years, will continue assisting the national LWML with the Quarterly and assisting with graphics for the LWML 75th Anniversary celebration, so she will be unable to continue assisting at the district level. While we will miss Amy's help with this, we are excited for her to be able to work on such a great projects!

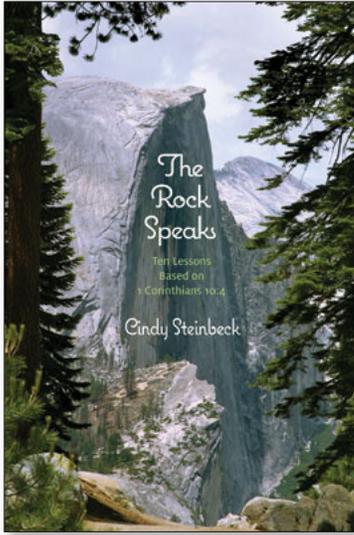
The district website is also a chance for the zones to be represented! We would love it if each zone would submit information that we can put on the website about your specific zones – what makes you unique and special, what God is doing in your area! Please send any information you would like on the website to *lyndaviken@gmail.com*

Thank you to Linda Koch who is also a member of the communications team. She is assisting with editing and her knowledge and experience of the district LWML is invaluable. Thank you, Linda, for your continued service.

Above all else, we ask for your continued prayer for our district LWML.

God bless you,

*Lynda Viken, VP of Communications*



## LWML Pacific Southwest District Retreat February 3-5, 2017 Embassy Suites

3663 Guasti Road, Ontario, CA 91761

**Cindy Steinbeck will be back as our Bible Study Leader sharing from her new book, *The Rock Speaks*.**

Cindy was a Bible Study leader some years ago. If you missed her, this is your chance to hear her.

Song leader will be Scott Hayden, lead singer at Redeemer, Ontario.

Come, enjoy, renew; see friends again and meet new ones.

Barbara Carter  
Retreat Chair 2017

## Is God calling you to serve? Are you looking for ways that you can serve and bring glory to God?

In June 2018, several district office terms will come to an end, and we need new servants to step up! It's never too early to start considering and praying about submitting your name for one of these positions.

The following roles are the office and committee terms that will end in June 2018:

- The **Vice President of Gospel Outreach** is responsible for promoting mission opportunities (4 years)
- The **Vice President of Human Care** acts as the ingathering coordinator and coordinates servant opportunities (4 years)
- The **Recording Secretary** is responsible for taking minutes at meetings (4 years)
- The **Treasurer** is responsible for making payments for approved grants, approved expenses, and preparing the financial report four times a year (4 years)
- **Pastor Counselors** are responsible for preparing and leading devotions, Bible studies, and encouraging the society and zone counselors (4 years)
- The **Nominating Committee** needs five members to be a part of nominating officers (2 years)

Please begin praying about and considering whether you would like to join the district committee or offices. If you feel that you or someone you know would be a good match for one of these offices and would like to know more information, please feel free to contact a member of the 2016–2018 nominating committee:

**Tammy Slater, Chairman**.....858-668-0632 ..... tamjamzzz50@yahoo.com  
**Ginny Bowers** .....626-359-2070 ..... ginnybowers@hotmail.com  
**Dinah Cole** .....323-299-5629 ..... cdcole72@gmail.com  
**Elizabeth Hauser**.....562-862-2158 ..... ehauser3@verizon.net  
**Sandra Wardwell**.....480-334-4176 ..... swb426@asu.edu  
**Rev. Brad Viken**.....760-949-4945 ..... basicfaith@hotmail.com

Please keep the nominating committee in your prayers, as they begin this two-year plan with God's direction.

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).*

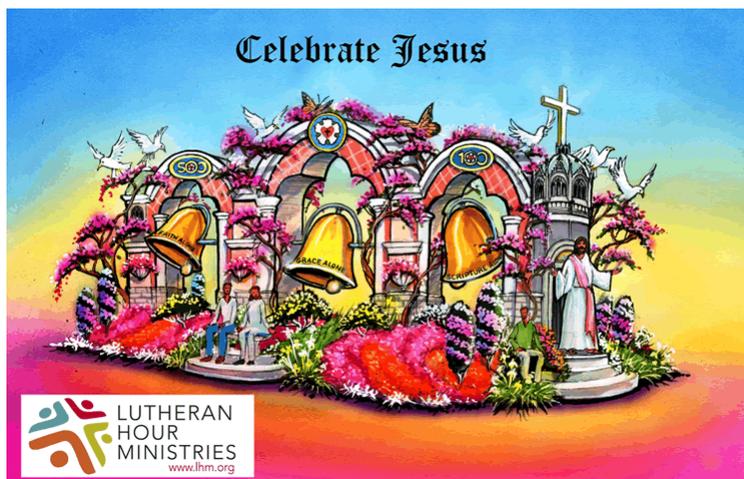
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**Funds are available for scholarships to attend the retreat. Please contact Karen Duprey, Endowment Fund Chairman, at [karenandjoed@verizon.net](mailto:karenandjoed@verizon.net) to receive an application.**

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**The 2018 LWML Pacific Southwest District Convention will be held in June 2018 in Las Vegas, NV. The theme is "He Rocks" based on I Cor 10:4.**

*... for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.*



## A Positive View of Jesus

### Zones 3 & 4, Spring Celebration and Luncheon

by Betty Dennis, Zone 3

"A Positive View of Jesus" was the theme for guests from Zones 3 and 4 who attended the Spring Celebration and Luncheon on April 23, 2016 at Canoga Park Lutheran Church. Guests enjoyed a presentation by special Keynote Speakers Richard Gast (General Chairman of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee), and Lynn Gast (Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee member). The Gasts told us of all of the requirements necessary for the float to appear in the Tournament of Roses® Parade again in 2017. With millions of people viewing the float, this is a chance to provide a powerful Christian witness and message of hope in Jesus. Guests enjoyed a delicious homemade pulled pork lunch with root beer "floats" for dessert — all donated, prepared, and served by supportive men from the congregation. The church Bell Choir helped us get in the mood for a parade, former Petal Pushers shared their memories in decorating floats, and Cynthia Burrell updated us on all of the upcoming District activities. Special thanks to Zone 3 President Susan Shiller, who kept the program moving smoothly, and for those who worked so hard to make it a special day for all.

## 2016–2018 Pacific Southwest District Mission Grants \$150,000

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Lutheran Braille Workers, NLS<br>Cartridge Conversion, Yucaipa, CA .....                  | \$10,000              |
| Cornerstone Mission Project,<br>Kingman, AZ.....  | <b>PAID!</b> \$ 5,000 |
| Zion's Healing Hands Food Ministry,<br>Blythe, CA .....                                   | \$10,000              |
| Weekend Back Pack Hunger Program,<br>El Centro, CA .....                                  | <b>PAID!</b> \$10,000 |
| Reaching Families with Hope and Care"<br>New Life Pregnancy Ctr, Yuma, AZ .....           | <b>PAID!</b> \$10,000 |
| La Mesa "The Table" Ministry,<br>Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ .....                   | \$9,600               |
| Yuma Community Food Bank,<br>Back Pack Program, Yuma, AZ.....                             | <b>PAID!</b> \$10,000 |
| East County Transitional Living<br>Center, El Cajon, CA .....                             | \$10,000              |
| "Make a Joyful Noise" Music Ministry,<br>Yuma Lutheran School, Yuma, AZ .....             | \$10,000              |
| Hands of Christ Feeding the Needy, Our<br>Savior's First Lutheran, Granada Hills, CA..... | \$10,000              |
| Raising the Roof: Expanding Early<br>Childhood, Christ Lutheran, Vail, AZ.....            | \$10,000              |
| Redeemer Lutheran Church Food<br>Ministry, Ontario, CA.....                               | \$10,000              |
| Playground Equipment at Immanuel<br>Lutheran, Sierra Vista, AZ.....                       | \$10,000              |
| Future Leader Scholarships, Pacific<br>Lutheran, Gardena, CA .....                        | \$10,000              |
| Arizona Lutheran Outdoor<br>Ministry Assoc. Prescott, AZ.....                             | \$10,000              |
| Celebrating Recovered Lives,<br>Christ Church, Phoenix, AZ .....                          | \$ 5,400              |

### District LWML Officers

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### Women of the Word (WOW)

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Please email submissions as early as possible,  
be extra careful with punctuation.



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but remember not to tag photos!