



Hello PSD Women (and Men) in Mission!

***Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. (Ps 95:6-7)***

What makes you feel TREASURED? Maybe a heartfelt gesture from a spouse, child or friend? Receiving a card or gift in the mail? How about the Good News that Christ, our Savior, died and rose for our sins?

After everything we have all been through over the past couple years, our emotions have run the gamut! Now it is time to heal, time to "worship and bow down" and feel the love of our Good Shepherd.

The Host Committee, made up mainly of people from the Phoenix area, is working on special plans to make the attendees at our LWML Pacific Southwest District Convention in Tempe, AZ next summer feel TREASURED! "Treasured!" is the convention theme based on Matt. 13:44-46, the parable about the pearl of great value. We will be kicking off the convention the evening of Friday, June 3, with a worship service open to the public with PSD-LCMS President Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson as our proclaimer. We are so excited to have Kathy and him join us. We will also be hearing Jan Struck as our keynote speaker – you might remember her as a hilarious Katie Luther at the Albuquerque LWML convention. And leading us in Bible Study will be acclaimed author and speaker, Donna Snow. If you have downloaded (from LWML.org) or purchased any of her Bible Studies, you know how special that will be. So much else is being planned. We call it a "convention" because business will be conducted, but it will be FULL of very uplifting and inspiring sessions to help you know the love of Jesus and make you feel TREASURED! We are offering a scholarship for each church in the District to have a pastor attend, so please encourage your pastor to join us too! Registration and scholarship forms will be available in mid-December on PSDLWML.org under the tab "District Convention 2022". You are a TREASURE!

In addition to the Convention, here are a few things we have upcoming for you to consider:

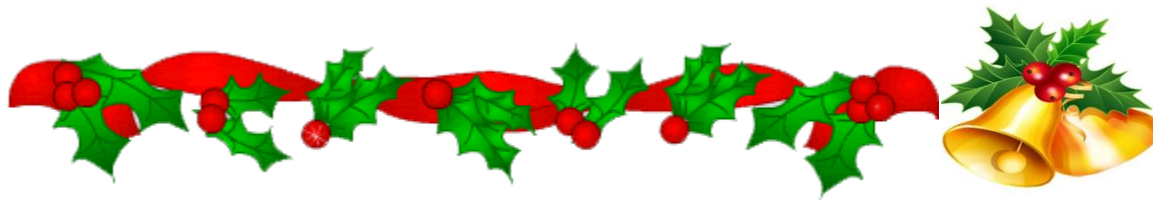
- What's Your 80? The LWML is celebrating 80 years in 2022. Check this newsletter for creative and fun ideas to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something.
- We are working on a plan to hold zoom Bible studies in 2022. Sign up with your email on the left banner of our home page at psdlwml.org to receive important notices about this and other District LWML news.
- Watch for detailed info regarding Undie Sunday!!
- We are planning to join the Petal Pusher volunteers on Thursday, December 30, an LWML Day to decorate floats, including the Lutheran Hour Ministries float on which national LWML President, Debbie Larson will be riding.

What else would you like to see happening through LWML? We want you all to feel included, loved and TREASURED! You can contact me through the psdlwml.org website or through your Zone President. I encourage you to feel treasured by staying in the Word, praying for each other, supporting your Mite Box, planning a servant or fellowship activity – and connecting with your LWML Sisters and Brothers because YOU ARE THE HEART of LWML.

May God bless and keep you until we see each other again!

*Nila Rodriguez*  
PSD LWML District President





On December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, as we remember and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, we also need to remember how important it is for us to share his good news even in the middle of the holiday rush.

We need to make time to tell those who do not know Jesus, about His love, grace, and peace. We should make Jesus a priority on our list. In our society, typically we list our priorities in numerical order and as we accomplish them, we cross them off. Let's make Jesus a part of all our priorities especially in our busy and complicated lives. Instead of making Jesus the first priority, or perhaps second for some people, I suggest this Christmas season, and the following years, we set the example of the importance of making Christ the only priority.

We often have so many priorities in our life that when it comes to Christmas, Jesus is number one; then we go to the second priority and so forth. I have decided to remove Jesus from my priorities, and make him the only thing necessary. I want to celebrate that He came from heaven, born of the Virgin Mary. I want to share his light with this lost and dark world not only the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, but the whole year. I want this world, without peace and uncertainty, to experience the peace that only comes from the Prince of Peace named Jesus. That's why I want Him to be the focus of this season; He is the only reason, the only priority, the only need that can make the songs of the angels on his birthday sound in our ears. Let's share this message.

*Pastor Ramon Contreras*

Please send Mites and Quarterly Monies to

**Barb Virus, Financial  
Secretary 2021-2024  
542 E. Lomita Ave.  
Orange, CA 92867-6048**

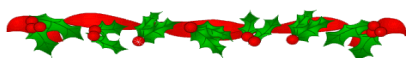
Make checks payable to Pacific Southwest  
District LWML

### **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

Did you know that we have beautifully designed Memorial Cards to use in honor of a loved one's special occasion or in memory of someone who has gone to be with the Lord? Undesignated gifts accompanying these honorarium/memorial cards go to District Mission Grants. Contact me for information. As your group officers may have held elections and new leaders are taking on new roles, please be sure that your church group treasurer has the correct information to send mite offerings. God's blessings!

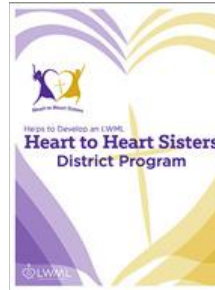
Barb Virus, District Financial Secretary 2021-2024  
542 E Lomita Ave., Orange, CA 92867-6848  
714-801-5252 [bvirus@juno.com](mailto:bvirus@juno.com)

*Giving Tuesday may have passed but we welcome any of you who forgot to send your gift to send it now. Thank you for supporting the PSD LWML Mission Grants with your mites! Your love and generous heart makes it possible for us to share the saving grace of Jesus Christ with many of the hurting communities around our District and. To God be the glory!*





See new  
resources and  
videos at  
[Heart to Heart  
Sisters](#)



## Special Focus Ministries

### The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters Committee is to:

- Motivate, equip, challenge, and provide mentoring opportunities within the LWML for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships.
- Produce and facilitate the Heart to Heart Sisters District Leaders program for the LWML Convention.
- Provide resources to facilitate the Heart to Heart Sisters District program.



## Church Workers in Mission

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12).*

We praise God for the church workers of the LCMS, and their dedication to share His love with those around them. We pray that they find renewed joy in serving our Savior and sharing His love. May God bless their ministry to His glory.

### The purpose of the Church Workers in Mission committee is to:

Engage all pastors and church workers and build relationships as we partner in spreading the Gospel. Provide LWML resources and support to involve and connect with all LCMS rostered workers.

Find new ways to connect and care for your church workers by visiting [Church Workers in Mission](#) where you will find an introductory video and a list of resources available for you to share with your church workers. It's essential that we encourage, pray for, support and care for our Pastors, Deaconesses, DCEs, Teachers, and other church workers.



Kaye Wolff practices signing with  
Deaconess Diana Rice.

## Deaf Ministry Outreach

### The purpose of the LWML's focus on the deaf community is to:

- Intentionally reach out to welcome sisters in the deaf community into fellowship and service with Lutheran Women in Mission.
- Encourage and equip hearing, hard of hearing, and deaf women to participate equally as sisters in Christ.
- Encourage LWML women to invite and connect with women in the deaf community to grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

For more information visit [Deaf Ministry Outreach](#)





## Orphan Grain Train, AZ Begins to Touch Lives

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN ARIZONA BRANCH

1329 N. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite E 15, Phoenix, AZ

Branch Manager, David Eide, 602-689-5999,

[kdeide@cox.net](mailto:kdeide@cox.net)

Orphan Grain Train Arizona is up and running. Rendell Odum, from You Matter Ministries, stopped to pick up 15 assorted boxes. La Mesa Homeless Ministries picked up 3 boxes. The volunteer from Mesa, Jennifer, also signed up as a regular volunteer. On Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Atonement Lutheran middle school students, along with two teachers and Pastor Larson from Atonement Lutheran Church donated some much-needed school supplies and stayed for two hours helping to sort clothing and shoes that others had donated. On November 5, OGT Arizona drove a 26 foot truck to Sells, Arizona on the Tohono O'odham reservation and delivered much needed clothing, shoes, school supplies and durable medical equipment.

Orphan Grain Train Arizona, is always looking for volunteers to help sort and pack donated items and help with delivering these items to various charities around Arizona. Currently OGT Arizona is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month from 8 am to 12 pm (although we are adjusting the dates in November and December to account for the holidays). Donations can be dropped off on those Saturdays. If a group wants to volunteer during the week like the middle school students, please call and arrangements can be made. Cash donations are also welcomed to help defray the cost of packaging and shipping. Please send a check to the Branch Treasurer:

Jeannie Becker  
Orphan Grain Train  
16670 W. Bajada Trail  
Surprise, AZ 85387



# Get Ready for the 39th Biennial PSD Convention!



## Special Edition Convention WOW coming January 3rd

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it (Matthew 13:44–46).*

- ❖ Convention to be held June 3-5, 2022!
- ❖ Embassy Suites in Tempe, Arizona.
- ❖ LCMS District President Gibson will join us with his wife Kathy.
- ❖ Jan Struck will be our Keynote Speaker.
- ❖ Donna Snow will lead us in Bible Study.
- ❖ Great pre-convention speakers.
- ❖ All Pastors are invited to join us!
- ❖ 2022 Convention Scholarship availability to any applicant (no restrictions) and your Pastor!
- ❖ Convention WOW will have all the information about the convention, registration, and scholarships.

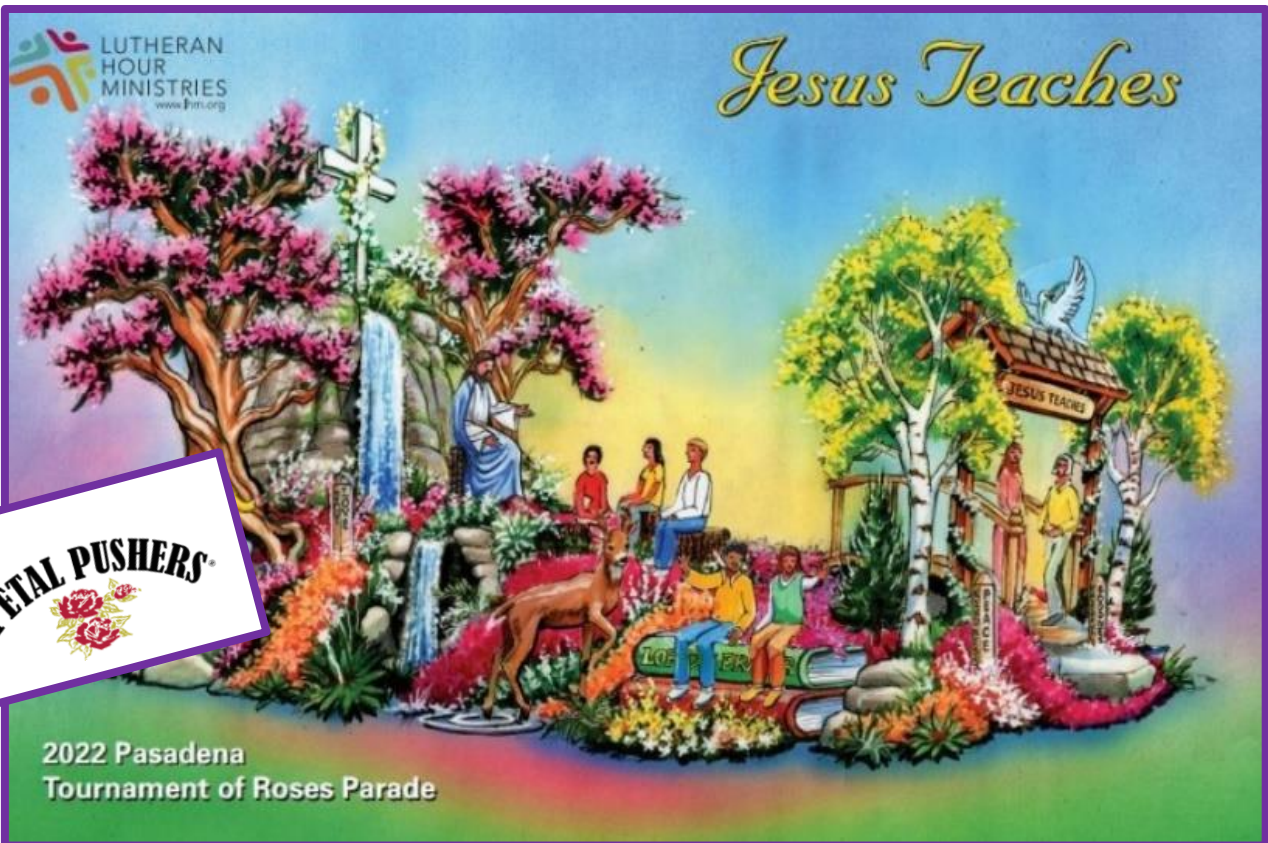


***Give yourself the perfect gift  
by attending the convention!***

*Please keep our President, Site Coordinator, Pastoral Counselor, Convention Co-Chairs, and Committee Chairmen in your prayers as they continue to expand the plans for this exciting event. Don't miss out!*







**LWML President Debbie Larson** will be riding the float this year. **LWML decorating day** is Thursday, Dec. 30 Shift 1 from 8 am to 4 pm. Sign up through Laverne Mirly – [lamirly@yahoo.com](mailto:lamirly@yahoo.com) ASAP

The **PetalPushers®** is a group of 4,000-5,000 volunteers from across the US and Canada who decorate floats. These volunteers are organized and coordinated by the LHMFC. PetalPushers® volunteers will decorate the LHM float this year along with as many as nine additional floats. Phoenix Decorating, our float builder, makes a donation to LHMFC in proportion to the number of hours worked by the PetalPushers® volunteers. Go to <https://www.petalpushers.org/contact>

This is the 71<sup>st</sup> year that the Lutheran Laymen's League has been invited to enter a float. The Southern California District of the Lutheran Laymen's League has announced that the 2022 Rose Parade will wind its way down Colorado Boulevard once again proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Be sure to look for the Lutheran Hour float "*Jesus Teaches*" on January 1. Your gifts make the Lutheran Hour and our Rose Parade Floats possible. You can send your gift to the LHM Float Committee, P.O. Box 20044, Riverside, CA 92516-0044 or visit [www.petalpushers.org](http://www.petalpushers.org) to make a donation.





## The Sixth Sense of Living



Let us review what most of us, I presume, learned during our early school years. We learned that we all have five senses – sight, hearing, taste, smell, and touch. I regret that I have to challenge this “fact” and alert you to the reality that you and I, and all people, are not limited to only “five senses” but instead we have been gifted with six senses!

The sixth sense that has often been forgotten and ignored is our “sense of humor”! Yes, sad but true, many people, and schools, have totally missed the point that a sense of humor is really what keeps us, and the world around us, moving and bringing joy and hope to people everywhere. Garrison Keillor, humorist, once stated that God does indeed have a sense of humor, but the problem is that he has such a slow audience! How true, how true.

I once suggested to a Lutheran publishing company that they print my new book, titled, “The Humor of the Lutheran Church.” I also suggested that they print it on a 3 x 5 card. I have yet to hear back from them!

Perhaps you are thinking of someone right now in your life that you think does not have this “sixth sense,” that sense of humor. Please, do not point them out, especially if they are sitting next to you! I suggest that people who seem to be “groan ups” and grumps in life really need to be given permission to laugh. It could be that they see life as being ½ filled or even ½ empty when instead they need help in seeing life as a bigger glass! Aging is a blessing to be celebrated and laughed at, rather than a burden to endure. Our “sixth sense” enables us to live an “ever-laughing life!” Start each morning looking in the mirror and you will always be reminded that the Lord really does have a sense of humor!

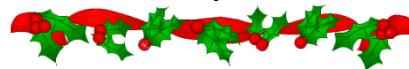
Father Andrew Greeley once said, “We are born with two incurable diseases – Life from which we die, and Hope – which says that death is not the end.” Our sense of humor enables us to deal positively with these two realities.

Author Henri Nouwen put it this way. “Hope means to keep living amid pain and desperation and to keep humming in the darkness.” Yes, our sixth sense of humor helps us to deal with the AH-HAs and the UH-OHs of life, because we know how it all turns out. Hope and humor over experience, every time!

So enjoy your sixth sense this day, as you also give thanks for those other five senses, even if our eyes and ears and tastes are dimming and dwindling. So what if you no longer feel or look like a “whipper-snapper” because your whipper has snapped. Use this day as a day to smile and laugh and let those around you wonder what you are laughing about! And even tell them!

Find more humor @ [cph.org](http://cph.org)

By Dr. Rich Bimler  
Contributed by Linda Koch



"Dr. Rich Bimler's wit, wisdom, and inspiration shine through on every page of Joyfully Aging. Using Scripture as constant touchstone Dr. Bimler (or "Rich," as people all over the world know him) provides an antidote to our youth obsessed culture with a perspective on aging as a time to reflect, mentor, laugh, connect, and pray. What a treasure for old and young alike."

**David Walsh, Ph.D.**

Dr. Rich Bimler is former president of Wheat Ridge Ministries and currently serves Wheat Ridge part-time as Senior Staff Associate and with Lutheran Life Communities. His previous work includes LCMS National Staff, DCE, and assistant to the president of the LCMS. Bimler is an active writer, blogger, and speaker.





## Saguaro Zone 26 LWML Fall Celebration



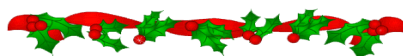
On Saturday, November 6, 2021, the Saguaro Zone 26 LWML Fall Celebration met at Crown of Life in Sun City West, AZ. There were 8 churches represented with 58 attendees. The Ingathering, of 429 items (diapers, baby wipes, blankets, booties, and caps) along with 17 No-Sew blankets (tied that day), was donated to Choices Pregnancy Center. The Free Will offering totaled \$271.00. A big thank you goes out to the many ladies for the countless hours of donated time, preparing the blankets, planning the event, and attending that day. The Ingathering and the Free Will Offering will touch many lives!

## Supporting our Seminary Students



Seminary student support has been an intentional objective for the LWML group at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona, (Pacific Southwest District) for many years. The group usually plans two events each year to raise funds for one or more seminary students. One of these events is usually a soup supper, but the uncertainty of gathering in person caused them to instead plan a “soup supper with a twist.”

A Thrivent action team grant was used to purchase mason jars and the ingredients to make soup, muffin, and mug cake mixes. All mixes were sold before Thanksgiving so that the congregation could purchase the mixes to use with their left-over Thanksgiving turkey, or to purchase as gifts. More than \$1,200 was raised through donations and sales, all of which will support a son of the congregation who is in the seminary in St. Louis.





## Supporting Newly-Opened Orphan Grain Train

Epiphany Lutheran Church, Chandler, AZ, is supporting the newly-opened office of Orphan Grain Train located at 1329 N 29th Ave, Suite #15, Phoenix, AZ. Epiphany Quilters delivered 55 lap quilts and many pillowcase dresses on October 27 to the new warehouse facility and stayed to sort donated items. The quilts were first blessed by Epiphany's Pastor Mark Rossington during the worship service on October 24.



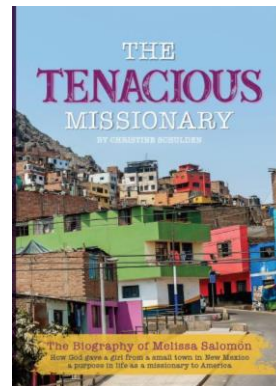
L-R with quilts: Dotties Jurgens, Jean Weber, Marcia Johnson, Ramona Buerger, Kathy Baumhofer



L-R Outside OGT: Tina Goosen, Ramona Buerger, Dottie Jurgens, Marcia Johnson

**Melissa Salomón**, an active member of the LWML since the 1980s, is the subject of the latest Mission Nation Publishing book, **The Tenacious Missionary**. The story spans from Melissa's life as a young Hispanic woman, living with her grandparents in New Mexico, to her work within the LCMS and the LWML, particularly with Heart to Heart Sisters, a group which Melissa helped create. Melissa's work serving her Lord in border ministry and as part of the team that opened the first Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) office in Mexico located in Tijuana, is also highlighted.

This inspirational book is the seventh book in the Missionaries to America series published by Mission Nation. The non-profit organization hopes to help Lutheran churches "reach ethnic groups other than our own" through their books, blogs, newsletters and pod casts. Click on the following link if you would like to learn more or order a copy of [The Tenacious Missionary](#)



A Great Christmas Gift!



Melissa Salomón remembers hearing gunshots in the rough Los Angeles area neighborhood where she spent her teen years. Despite her fears, she wondered how she could help. After earning a degree at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, Melissa dove into border ministry, tenaciously living out her calling to serve others. She established One Thousand Generations, a ministry in Tijuana, Mexico, that shares the word of the Lord and provides support to community members. Melissa's decades-long involvement in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has touched the lives of thousands of women, perhaps most notably through Heart to Heart Sisters, a program that prepares multicultural women to become leaders in the Lutheran church.



## LWML Mission Statement

Recite this often, as you praise the Lord for the opportunity to be His witnesses!

**As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim  
Christ,  
support missions, and equip women to honor God  
by serving others.**

Remember, we are HIS as we continue Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus!

### Please Consider...

- *Serving on the Endowment Committee.* Contact Barb Virus [bvirus@juno.com](mailto:bvirus@juno.com)
- *Serving on the Communications Committee* Anyone who would like to help manage the PSD website. Contact Susan Thomas [communications@psdlwml.org](mailto:communications@psdlwml.org)

*Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people (Revelation 14:6).*

As we look around our world, we see ugly things and, at times, we just want some good news for the day. Of course, Jesus always has a good Word for us to brighten our day. However, the Word that He speaks to us is not just a Word for today, but it is, as John says, *an eternal gospel*. It is Good News that endures through the ages. It is Good News that is truly good no matter what the circumstances, for that Word declares to us the life Christ has won for us eternally. As God's children, we know the hope we have as we stand in the strength of that eternal Gospel. However, many do not. Your support of the LWML through Gifts of Love can make a huge impact as, together, we seek to proclaim this eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world: *every nation and tribe and language and people*. Our counselors stand ready to assist you in discovering ways that your gift can make an eternal impact on peoples' lives, for the eternal Gospel proclaimed unites the world to our Lord and to the life He gives us.

**A builder** needs the right tool to perform his work. God's people need the right tools to make the right gifts, the right way, from their estates to family and ministry. For some, the right plan will require multiple tools. You might make a bequest from an IRA to your favorite ministry when the Lord calls you home, creating a charitable remainder trust that will care for family for 20 years, and then resulting in gifts to ministry through a family donor advised fund. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can lead you through a process to plan what you want to do, and how to do it.

For help thinking this through, contact your LWML Gift Planning Counselor. We can assist you with expressing your faith through your Christian Estate Plan. LWML provides free, professional Christian estate planning services. We can be reached at 1-800-741-4138.

Wishing you a year filled with God's love in the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Your Partner in Him,  
Linda Gage, LWML Gift Planning Counselor







Pacific Southwest District  
[www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org)

### 2020-2022 MISSION GRANTS PAID

|                                                                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Patient Care Assessments – Alternatives Medical Clinic, Encinitas CA               | \$10,000  |
| 2. Atonement Lutheran School Art Easel Sets, Glendale AZ                              | \$ 3,000  |
| 3. Living in Grace Home; response to financial responsibilities Las Vegas NV          | \$10,000  |
| 4. Homeless Native Americans Find Hope/Lutheran Indian Ministries Phoenix, AZ         | WITHDRAWN |
| 5. SUBMERJ; Saving Unborn Babies, reach out to Jesus, Downey, CA                      | \$ 7,744  |
| 6. Little Lambs Tuition Scholarships Christ Lutheran Boulder City, NV                 | \$10,000  |
| 7. Equipping, Encouraging & Empowering in Christ, Phoenix, AZ                         | \$10,000  |
| 8. Scholarships for St James Lutheran Preschool, Imperial Beach, CA                   | \$10,000  |
| 9. Reaching Families with the Gospel, Concordia Lutheran, Chula Vista CA              | \$10,000  |
| 10. An Equine Endowment/Saddles of Joy Inc. Yuma, AZ                                  | \$ 7,700  |
| 11. Van Go Home Grocery Delivery for Shut-Ins, Lake Havasu, AZ                        | \$10,000  |
| 12. LINC Los Angeles Urban Mission Training, Los Angeles, CA                          | \$10,000  |
| 13. Strategic Envisioning; Iglesia Lutherana la Santisima Trinidad, San Bernardino CA | \$ 8,000  |
| 14. Deaf Outreach Training Workshops/Lutheran Deaf Outreach, Sun City, AZ             | \$ 9,000  |
| 15. Operation School Bell/Assistance League of Yuma, Yuma AZ                          | \$10,000  |
| 16. I Make a Difference/Hospice of Yuma, Yuma AZ                                      | \$10,000  |
| 17. Playground Safety Surfacing Trinity Lutheran Church & School Temecula, CA         | \$10,000  |

### You're Invited ... Connection Sessions via Zoom

Isn't it great to stay connected to  
your sisters in Christ?

Go to [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org) and select  
EMAIL SIGN-UP at the top left side  
of the Home Page to get the Zoom  
notices. Join the fun!

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**Pastor Timothy Jenks**, Doctrinal Review

**Kathy Baumhofer**, Copy Reader

**Linda Koch**, Copy Reader

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pictures and make comments but remember not to tag  
photos.

