



# LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

## WOMEN OF THE WORD

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A Publication of the Pacific Southwest District - LWML

Spring 2017



## Perspectives from President Bonnie

What an experience to attend the Board of Director's meeting in Saint Louis! I admit that the thought of meeting at the end of January during cold weather and snow flurries was slightly daunting, but I was eager to see what challenges and opportunities would be in our future together in the LWML ministry.

We started out with a tour of the International Center, where we enjoyed the beautiful hand-crafted Christian art throughout the building, toured the museum that shares the history of the Missouri Synod in the United States, attended a chapel service, visited with President Harrison, and toured the radio station.

Our next stop was the Historic Trinity Lutheran Church - Saint Louis, established in 1839. Their historian was impressive! This church still holds a monthly service in German, uses the communion ware brought to the US in the 1800s from Germany, and is very active! Our last stop was a jump-out-of-the-bus to take a picture of the famous Arch! Sorry; it was too cold to jump out of the bus so I took my picture from inside the warm bus!

After an enjoyable morning of touring, worship and fellowship, we settled down to business. The convention in Albuquerque was a high priority. Delegates -you will receive more information from me on your responsibilities, duties and convention activities! What an opportunity to come together in fellowship, worship, and the business of LWML. Of course, the convention will feature lots of BLING and a huge Diamond Dazzle Parade and Celebration!

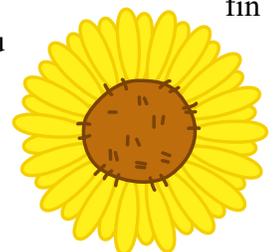
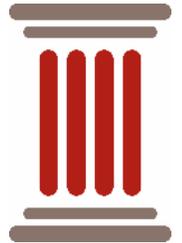
The LWML received a Mite Challenge from Rev. Robert Roegner, Senior Pastor Counselor. If the Board donated \$2,500 in Mites, he would shave off his mustache and beard. Word to the wise: never issue a challenge to the women of LWML unless you are prepared to lose! As we began our work of meeting this challenge, the bar was raised. If we raised \$5,000 in Mites, he would also shave his head! The final balance collected was \$8,291.19 and still growing! We did allow him to keep his hair as he was scheduled to appear on TV, but he pledged to keep the beard and mustache off until Convention if we reach \$10,000!

A special thanks to our 2017 Retreat Committee for hosting an inspirational weekend in Ontario. Our speaker, Cindy Steinbeck, touched my heart when she told us that "receiving is one of the greatest gifts in giving. We are giving when we are receiving." It's the lesson I learned waiting for my broken foot to heal. We look forward to meeting Cindy again in Las Vegas at the 2018 Convention.

Our MITE goal is our pressing challenge today. We are \$274,558.97 short of our national goal. **Funds must be received to District by March 17<sup>th</sup> so they are forwarded by March 31<sup>st</sup>!** It's important to remember that together we voted on these grants, and these agencies depend on us to provide them with the finances to help those desperately seeking physical comfort and the word of God! I challenge you to come up with creative and fun MITE challenges. We need to meet our commitment to the people who work in the mission field with feet on the ground. They are depending on us! Together, with the Lord's help, we can help others!

Let's celebrate together in Albuquerque, New Mexico!

*President Bonnie*



# WOMEN OF THE WORD

## Ponderings from Pastor Brad



### “The Sun Will Come out Tomorrow”

What a great line, what a great song, what a great attitude. It is all about looking past the struggles of now and seeing that something better can be as close as after our next night of sleep. BUT.... factually speaking and scientifically speaking, the statement simply is not true.

The sun never actually comes out or goes away. The sun is always there. It never moves, it never shuts off or looks the other way. It never changes its perspective toward us. It is simply THERE - where it has been since God put it there at creation. The only thing that changes is our relationship to the sun. As the earth revolves around the sun, we get our seasons, hot and cold, long days and short days, more sun exposure and less sun exposure. As the earth rotates, spins on its axis, we

have our days and our nights, darkness and light. So, yes, we have different degrees of connection with the sun, but the sun did not cause them; the earth's movement caused them.

And then there are days with thick, dark clouds and even rain. Sometimes it can feel as though we will never see sunlight again, due to the number of days of successive cloudy weather. GLOOM. But again, the sun is still doing what it does, moment by moment, day by day, sending light and bringing heat. It is just that something else got in the way.

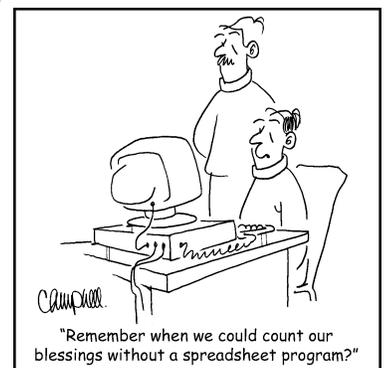
So, you see, the problem is never with the sun, it is always with our relationship to the sun. It is a matter of how we have turned away or what things have gotten between the earth and the sun.

So now that this great song has been destroyed for all of you, let's relate it to our faith life. The Bible makes it clear that our God never changes. He never abandons us, he does not choose to stop blessing us. It is the relationship that changes. It is a matter of how we have turned from his presence in our faith journey as well as how other outside influences have had varying degrees of impact on that relationship, such as loss, sickness, death of a loved one or financial distress. The list goes on. These things get in the way, but they never change God. **“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.”** Isaiah 40:28 ESV and **“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.”** Malachi 3:6 ESV These great words remind us that our eternal creator God never loses his fire, never loses his luster, never loses his desire to be the center of your life, to fill you with profound blessings. So, as we continue to look to Him, even if it seems to be a spiritual night or winter or storm, we are not consumed.

Even if we have caused the problem by our lack of faithfulness, He still looks for us and will receive us back faithfully and fully. **If we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.** 2 Timothy 2:13 ESV So as you journey

through the highs and lows of life, remember: “the Son won't come out tomorrow, He is with you today.”

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”.** Hebrews 13:8 ESV *Pastor Brad*



# WOMEN OF THE WORD

## Focus on Financial Secretary Cynthia

Hi, my name is Cynthia Burell. I am currently serving as Financial Secretary for LWML Pacific Southwest District (2016-2020). It is my job to accept, record and deposit all funds received by the district. I do this with great joy and I love serving the Lord in this manner. All information with respect to the revenue received is forwarded to our Treasurer, Nila Rodriquez. We work closely together to assure that our revenue reports are in balance.



Each quarter, I present a report to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors indicating what revenue has been received and the year to date totals for the biennium. A



quarterly detailed zone report is given to each zone president for review with her societies. This report is handy for each society to verify that my records match what was

submitted. **If they do not, please let me hear from you.**

**Also, if you need mite boxes or vouchers, please let me know.** There is a box on the vouchers to order those, but you can also e-mail me. We have beautiful card sets available for use to honor or memorialize someone special while benefiting our mission projects.

Your Zone President can pick these up at our District Board meetings, and may already have some available. Consider making a donation to Mites using these sets in the name of someone you love.

We are closing in on the National Biennium and as of mid-February we are still over \$160,000 short of our two million dollar grant goal. **Mites should be mailed to me no later than March 17, 2017** to assure that I receive and bank them prior to the end of March. My last deposit for March will be March 29<sup>th</sup>. By the way, those return address labels we all get in the mail can be used on your voucher when sending in your mites.



**Also remember your Lutheran Woman's Quarterly subscriptions are due no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.** You can find that order form on our website under "Forms and Resources."

If you need me I am just a click away. Find me on our awesome new website at [www.psdlwml.com](http://www.psdlwml.com). Click on "About Us" and then "Contact Us," select Financial Secretary and send me that e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you to those of you who send me beautiful little notes along with your mite money. It always amazes me how they come just when I need them. God works in wondrous ways!

Blessings! *Cynthia*



Check out the trivia questions found elsewhere in this publication. Submit your answers by April 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

## Observations from Gospel Outreach



### START NOW ON 2018 PSD LWML GRANT APPLICATIONS

It seems so far away - after all, it's only March. However, time will pass quickly, so now is the time to fill out your 2018 Grant Application for the Pacific Southwest District 2018 District Convention! There are two types of grants available: the PSD Mission Grants may be any amount up to \$10,000, and the PSD Multi-cultural Mini Grants are available up to \$1,000. **Both have NEW DEADLINES!** The deadline for both is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. That seems like it is far off, but what happens is that most people wait until the summer starts. The summer is filled with so many other things that putting a grant together gets away from us and then people are panicking in September to meet the deadline. **May I**

**suggest you apply now?**

First, identify a need in your church ministry, Lutheran school or community ministry. **READ** the guidelines for the grant **CAREFULLY!** There are new guidelines which you must follow or your grant will not be considered by the Grant Committee. If the grant is received before the end of June, then it can be looked over for any errors, which may be corrected before the actual deadline. **DON'T WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE.** Apply today. Grant applications may be found at [psdlwml.com](http://psdlwml.com). Look under resources. Then click on forms. On your mark, get set, **GO!**

*Nancy Heridia*



### 2016-2018 Mission Grants

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 1 <sup>st</sup> 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

*Suggestions/comments  
always welcome!  
We'd like to make this  
YOUR publication  
and want it to have the  
information YOU are  
looking for!*

# WOMEN OF THE WORD

## Retreat 2017

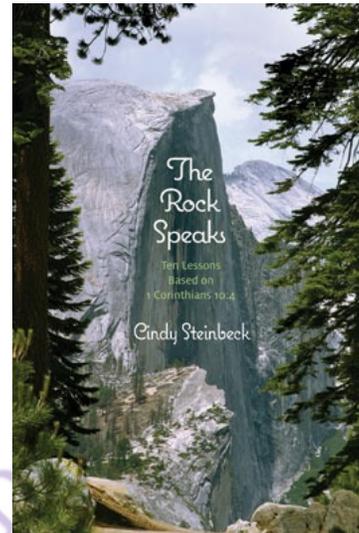
And a good time was had by all at the 2017 PSD LWML Retreat! *"The Rock Speaks"* was a very well attended retreat – as a matter of fact, it was the largest attendance in many years. A large number of attendees were first-timers, and we hope to see them again! Many others returned, eager to hear more from Cindy Steinbeck, who introduced her insights in *"The Vine Speaks"*, our District LWML retreat four years ago. Whether a first-timer or a regular attendee of retreats, all were moved, inspired and blessed as Cindy shared how The Rock – Jesus Christ – strengthened and guided her through some of her most difficult times.



The retreat evaluations have provided some very good ideas for future retreats, along with some wonderful comments for Cindy Steinbeck, (Bible Study Leader), Scott Hayden (Song Leader) and Pastor Tim (our District Jr. Pastoral Counselor). Thank you all for sharing your thoughts with our committee.

I could not have done my job without my staff: Judith Theel with Registration, Amanda Stepanek with Packets and Badges, Tracy Smoyer with Decorations, Karen Duprey and Char Peapenburg with Prayer Ministry, and President Bonnie Karch who showed us how to make cards during our craft time. Also on the committee were Chenette Cole, VP Christian Life and Susan Shiller, Site Travel Coordinator. Thank you to all who attended, you helped to make this event both fun and meaningful! It was indeed my pleasure to serve as the 2017 Retreat Chairman.

*Barbara Carter*



***Did you miss it? Don't miss the Retreat in 2019!***

# WOMEN OF THE WORD

## Expressions from the Endowment Fund Chair

Peace in the Lord Jesus from the LWML Endowment Fund Committee.



The Endowment Fund Committee receives special gifts and bequests and uses them for leadership development among women of the PSD LWML. We encourage donations to the LCMS Foundation, promote the Special Gift Fund and select recipients for scholarships.

We sent out applications for scholarships for the PSD LWML Retreat to be held in Ontario, California February 3-5, 2017 in September and received 14 scholarship applications. After the committee reviewed these applications for scholarships and the funds available, we were able to award scholarships to all 14 applicants. Praise the Lord! This was partially due to the \$25,000.00 that was given to PSD LWML from the sale of Luther Land of the West and specifically designated for scholarships. We will be working on setting up guidelines in the future for a scholarship to the national LWML convention.

I started volunteering in the PSD LWML at the 2000 convention in Ontario as Properties Chairman. I then served as Assistant to the President for 4 years, Financial Secretary for 4 years, Vice President of Christian Life for 4 years, and then as President for 4 years. I now have been appointed as Special Gift Fund Chairman for 2 years. Thank you for your support during my years of service, I look forward to seeing what these next years will hold.

*Karen Duprey, Endowment Funds Chairman*



**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES** Deadline for the Summer 2017 WOW is May 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 Heridia
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 church was established in 1839 and still holds a monthly service in German?
2. When are Lutheran Women's Quarterly subscriptions due?
3. How many scholarship applications were received for the 2017 LWML retreat?
4. What are the types of grants available?
5. When is the deadline for both types of grants?
6. What is the theme for the 2017 National LWML Convention in Albuquerque?

