

LWML Pacific Southwest District

# WOMEN OF THE WORD

Fall 2022 Newsletter

## **President's Message: Hello PSD Women (and Men) in Mission!**

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.  
(1 Thess. 5:11)*

Tempe, AZ, was the place where we felt Treasured by God's Embrace this past June at our LWML District Convention. I hope you have shared your "You Are Treasured" shirts and your mirrors to help others understand they are also Treasured. We voted to approve 17 Gospel Outreach grants in the Pacific Southwest District. We also elected the following new officers:

- Denise Jackman, Treasurer
- Bonnie Karch, VP of Gospel Outreach
- JoAnne Sloan, VP of Organizational Resources
- Pastor Mike Hall, Junior Pastoral Counselor
- Nancy Heredia, Nominating Committee Chairman

Please pray for these ministries and these generous volunteers working for you in the LWML PSD.

We have two big events on our 2023 calendar to watch for: (1) The District Women's Retreat will be held in Ontario, CA February 3-5 – watch for the registration forms soon, and (2) the LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI, June 22-25, where we will "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations", based on *Psalm 33:12-13*:

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man.*

I just attended my nephew's wedding in downtown Milwaukee – about three blocks from the Wisconsin Center, where the convention will be held. Milwaukee has a lot of great experiences to offer. We had spectacular weather, so hope the same is true next summer.

*President's message continued*

We continue to meet on Zoom for Bible study on the third Monday of each month – I encourage you all to join us. A Bible study Entitled "Merciful Care" with Darlene Markle will be held on Monday, September 19. The Zoom invitation will come out later.



Click here for the leader guide.

**CLICK HERE** to get the Zoom invitations, messages, and handouts.

And speaking of the website – have you checked it out? It has a fresh, new look. Go to [psdlwml.org](https://psdlwml.org) where you can see upcoming events, connect with the District officers and Zone Presidents, and read what's new in the various departments, among other things. We would love to hear your feedback as we continue to update and tweak the information displayed.

Planning is underway for the 2024 District Convention. If you would like to volunteer for any of the committees, please contact Marian Fifi Locke or me through the website. We still need committee chairs to arrange all aspects of the convention, such as Registration, Worship, Hospitality, Heart to Heart Sisters, Pre-Convention Sessions, Exhibits, and Properties. We are working on the location (L.A./San Gabriel Valley area) and special speakers, so watch for those updates in the next WOW.

Mite offerings continue to be a vital way we help other organizations with their ministries, spreading the Gospel here and abroad. Send your Mite Offerings to Barb Virus, Financial Secretary, to help fund our district and national grants as we bless this very important work. From funds collected since the end of the biennium, we have been able to fund three of these new grants already! I've also had the pleasure of sponsoring one national grant for the current biennium and am involved in two more for the upcoming applications to be voted on in Milwaukee. Praise the Lord and continue to pray for these ministries.

I encourage you to stay in the Word, pray for each other, support your Mite Box, plan a servant or fellowship activity – and connect 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*

*LWML PSD District President*



**Nila Rodriguez, LWML PSD District President 2020 - 2024**

## Senior Pastoral Counselor's Message

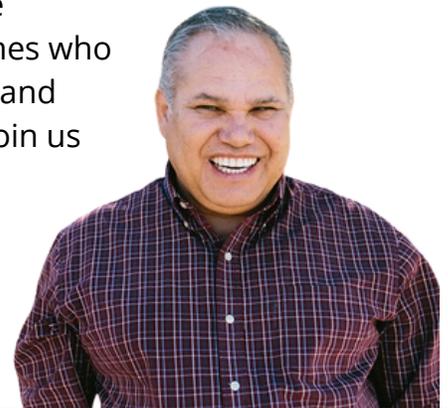
*Psalm 33: 1 Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.  
2 Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. 3 Sing to him a new song;  
play skillfully, and shout for joy.*

David is encouraging us to sing a new song. But, it is interesting that I, and probably you too, like the old songs we have been singing for years. This Bible verses from Psalm 33 remind me of the hymn written by Kate Hankey with music by William G. Fischer, "I Love to Tell the Story". One of the verses reads:

I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when in scenes of glory  
I sing the new, new song,  
'twill be the old, old story  
that I have loved so long.

I love this hymn, but this verse is my favorite. The old story of Jesus is new every day for us who are thirsty and hungry for God's love. Imagine if for us, who have heard this old song all our lives, the story of His sacrifice for us would sound like a new song every time we sing it or hear it. Now imagine how will sound to the lost, the ones who are wandering without love and peace in their hearts, who hunger and thirst in their souls. Let's make plans for those in need of Jesus to join us singing this old song, our story in Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Ramon Contreras*  
*Senior Pastoral Counselor*



**Pastor Ramon Contreras, Senior Pastoral Counselor 2020 - 2024**



Love *Lutheran Service Book*?  
Learn more about  
our Synod's  
Hymnal below!



## Junior Pastoral Counselor's Message

Hello, my name is Pastor Michael Hall, and I am the new LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor. It is an honor to be serving alongside all of the women in our district who work tirelessly to proclaim and support the message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Allow me to tell you a little about myself. This May I became the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and School in Lancaster, California. Before this, I was blessed to serve at Faith Lutheran Church in Vista, California, and prior to that at Trinity Lutheran in Exeter, California. I've been a pastor for 14 years, and during that time I served alongside the LWML in central California as a zone pastoral counselor. My favorite opportunities in ministry are seeing people go from times of difficulty or disconnection with God to renewal and strengthening of their faith, watching the Lord rebuild ministry in situations many were ready to write off, and the continual reminder that there is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ.

My wife Stephanie and I have been married 14 years and are blessed with 5 sons. Their names are Christian (10 although he would say almost 11!), Benjamin (9), Landon & Luke (5), and Aaron (4). Outside of church, I love rooting for the Angels, spending time with family, and watching the occasional rerun of *The Office*.

I look forward to moving into the future with all our LWML servants and getting to know each of you in our time of service together.

*Pastor Michael Hall*  
*Junior Pastoral Counselor*

*Pastor Tim Jenks' term as Pastoral Counselor has concluded, so Pastor Ramon is now the Senior Counselor for the next two years and Pastor Hall is the Junior Counselor for two years, then becomes the Senior for the following two years.*



**Pastor Michael Hall, Junior Pastoral Counselor 2022 - 2026**

**Encouragement:** The beginning of a new school year often signals the beginning of fall activities in our churches as well. This includes Bible studies, confirmation classes, and fall LWML activities. What a great opportunity to invite a new member of the congregation to a new or existing Bible study, provide a confirmation teen with an encouraging note, or look at a new time or way to conduct LWML activities. You can find a multitude of ways to invite women in your congregation to become involved with LWML by reading "Inviting Women to Become Involved." There are so many ways for women to be involved in proclaiming Christ, supporting mission, and serving others.

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.  
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)*



Michelle Jenks, Strategic Plan Facilitator LWML

## Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

### Upcoming Issues

Share your stories with us at [editor@lwml.org](mailto:editor@lwml.org).

**SPRING 2023: God's Chosen People**  
Celebrating our heritage as God's children.  
(Submit by Oct. 1, 2022)

theme:

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12-13).*

**SUMMER 2023: Proclaiming Christ**  
What does proclaiming Christ look like?  
(Submit by Jan. 1, 2023)

theme:

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! (Psalm 96:3).*





# 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
June 22-25, 2023

Now is the time to invite your friends to join you as you plan to attend. An LWML Convention Poster is available [here](#) to download, print, and post in your church. Use it as a way to begin the discussion of how you and your LWML friends can join with thousands of other Lutheran Women in Mission in Milwaukee as we “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.”

## Order Your Convention Shirt Now

The 2023 Convention Polo Shirt Order Form is available on the 2023 Convention webpage. The beautiful royal blue shirt was revealed at the January LWML Presidents Assembly meeting — now is your opportunity to order a shirt for yourself.

The Convention Programming Committee would be pleased if you would wear this shirt at upcoming zone and district gatherings — meetings, conventions, retreats, etc. Make the order form available to your members by including a link in your district communications or by having copies of the form available at upcoming events.



**CLICK HERE**

to order your convention shirt



(L to R): Tami Ulland, North Dakota District; Nancy Heredia — Chairman, Pacific Southwest District; Sylvia Bean, Rocky Mountain District

## LWML's Church Workers in Mission

The 2021-2023 Church Workers in Mission (CWIM) Committee's purpose statement reads: Engage all pastors and church workers and build relationships as we partner in spreading the Gospel; and provide LWML resources and support to involve and connect all LCMS rostered workers. The committee's goal is to offer helpful resources to the women of the LCMS to reach out and care for church workers in a variety of formats. It is important that church workers know they are appreciated, whether they are newly called church workers or have been serving for many years. The committee consists of three members: Nancy Heredia, Chairman, Pacific Southwest District; Sylvia Bean, Rocky Mountain District; and Tami Ulland, North Dakota District. They praise God for the dedication of LCMS church workers sharing His love with those around them. The committee supports and encourages local LWML groups to partner with pastors, deaconesses, Directors of Christian Education, teachers, and especially with newly called church workers.

There are many doctrinally reviewed resources on the LWML **Church Workers in Mission** webpage that will help to encourage church workers in the districts, zones, and congregations. The committee chose a Bible verse to guide their work — *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).

## Here Is Something You Can Share With Your Church Workers!

The LWML has resources for church workers to use in their vocations: Bible studies, devotions, service resources, retreat packages, sketches, and more!! The Church Workers in Mission brochure has been updated and can be found at [lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission](http://lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission). Download and share with your favorite church worker!



## October is Church Workers Appreciation Month

All church workers are vital in our Christian faith and life. We invite you to take the opportunity to express in various ways your thankfulness to your church workers in your districts, zones, and congregations this October.

Here are a few ideas you can use to express appreciation to your church workers:

- Pray for them.
- Frame their favorite Bible verse.
- Send a thank you note or postcard.
- Give them a gift basket with a special note thanking them for all they do.
- Send them home with a meal or buy them lunch.
- Offer to babysit while they have date night.
- Offer to help them with a special project.
- Record a video message of support, encouragement, and gratefulness for their service.
- Get some friends to sing them a song in person, or send it by email or put it on Facebook.

Check out our newest resource:

***Ideas to Encourage, Support and Care for Church Workers***



# DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

## A Message from Barb Virus, PSD LWML Endowment Chairman

Randy and Rachel recently purchased some furniture. The trouble is it had to be assembled. Randy dug right in, but he was having trouble figuring out how to get it together. Rachel confronted him, saying, "Did you look at the instructions? It frustrates me that you can't ever ask for help." Hopefully God's grace removed the offenses of that moment, but this story illustrates the fact that in life, we need help with things we can't do ourselves.

If your air conditioner breaks, you hire someone to fix it because you must be trained and licensed to work with the coolant. If you have a toothache, you don't use a pair of pliers to fix it yourself; you go to a dentist. One apprehension for people completing their estate plans is that they don't want to be required to schedule appointments with attorneys, financial advisors, or tax planners, nor pay the costs. But trying to put together estate plans without help is like Randy trying to build his furniture without instructions. The investment of time and dollars in estate work is worth it, making sure things are completed correctly.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can assist your interaction with these professionals. Your Gift Planning Counselor will never bill you for the time they work with you. You can work through the tough questions and highlight the work that needs to be done, so that when you appear in your professional's office, you are prepared and ready to be efficient and able to make decisions to move forward. To begin this process, contact your LWML Gift Planning Counselor, Linda Gage, at [Linda.Gage@lfnd.org](mailto:Linda.Gage@lfnd.org) or 800.741.4138. Also see [wmlgiftplan.org](http://wmlgiftplan.org).

Gifts of Love Ministry would like to thank **Bonnie Karch** and **Pat Beach Schutte** for their service to the Lord and LWML as Gift Planning Advocates. Bonnie and Pat have retired from this ministry and we pray God's richest blessings on them as they continue to serve the Lord with gladness.

Your Pacific Southwest Gift Planning Advocates recently attended an in-person training session in St. Louis and are eager to serve our LWML PSD zones and groups as speakers at your events. Contact:

Cheryl Keithly	<a href="mailto:ckeithly@keithlywilliams.com">ckeithly@keithlywilliams.com</a>	Phone: 928-726-2566 Cell: 928-581-9299
Linda Koch	<a href="mailto:lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com">lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com</a>	Phone: 858-271-6852 Cell: 858-414-4618
Barbara Virus	<a href="mailto:bvirus@juno.com">bvirus@juno.com</a>	Phone: 714-639-1970 Cell: 714-801-5252





Pacific Southwest District  
psdlwml.com



### 2022-2024 MISSION GRANTS

- |      |   |          |
|------|---|----------|
|      | 1. Whatever You Did for the Least of These, Orphan Grain Train, Surprise, AZ                                | \$10,000 |
|      | 2. Jesus Helping Hand; ESL Program for 1st Generation Korean Women, Bethany Mission Church, Westminster, CA | \$10,000 |
| PAID | 3. Women's Resource Medical Centers of Southern NV, Las Vegas, NV   | \$10,000 |
|      | 4. Standing in the Gap Scholarship, Mt Olive Lutheran Church and Preschool, Poway, CA                       | \$10,000 |
|      | 5. Providing Missionary Stories to Build Faith of Students in PSD Lutheran Schools, PSD LCMS, Irvine, CA    | \$ 2,839 |
| PAID | 6. An Educational Need, A Spiritual Opportunity, Yuma Lutheran Schools, Yuma, AZ                            | \$10,000 |
|      | 7. Victory Lutheran Church Resource Center, Chula Vista, CA   | \$10,000 |
|      | 8. Camperships for Arizona Lutheran Outdoor Ministry (ALOMA), Prescott, AZ                                  | \$10,000 |
|      | 9. Promise Multicultural Ministry, Promise Christian Church, Murrieta, CA                                   | \$10,000 |
|      | 10. Audio-Visual Equipment Upgrade, Trinity Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Santa Ana, CA                       | \$10,000 |
| PAID | 11. Prison Ministry Christianity Explored Program, Hawthorne, CA  | \$ 5,000 |
|      | 12. Participant Scholarships for Crisis Church Workers, Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Phoenix, AZ              | \$ 7,000 |
|      | 13. Zion Bags of Love, Zion Lutheran Church, Blythe, CA   | \$10,000 |
|      | 14. Fruit of the Vine Food Bank, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ontario, CA                                      | \$10,000 |
|      | 15. Reaching the Unreached with the Good News of Jesus Christ, Faith Lutheran Church Huntington Beach, CA   | \$10,000 |
|      | 16. Spanish Language Study Bibles for LCBM Bible Institute Students, San Diego, CA                          | \$ 9,000 |
|      | 17. Calling Mamas Out of the Darkness Over the Closed Gate, IV Life Center, Imperial, CA                    | \$10,000 |

# GIVING

## TUESDAYS

GIVING TUESDAYS – yes, Tuesdays! In LWML we have two Giving Tuesdays.

LWML is celebrating this event on September 13, 2022 – our own September to Remember. We are encouraging donations to the LWML Mission Goal. Donations will be matched, up to a total of \$10,000 in matching funds.

Mail donations labeled “September to Remember” (payable to LWML) to LWML, 801 Seminary Place, Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105

or

visit <https://www.lwml.org/givingtuesday> on September 13, 2022 to donate online.

LWML PSD will observe Giving Tuesday on November 29, 2022. Donations received will be applied to District Mission Grants. Last biennium, nearly \$7,000.00 was received for Giving Tuesday.

Mail donations labeled “Giving Tuesday” (payable to LWML Pacific Southwest District) to Barb Virus, LWML PSD Financial Secretary, 542 E Lomita Ave., Orange, CA 92867-6848 or give electronically using the Vanco Mobile App. See <https://www.psdlwml.org/donate-1>.

THANK YOU for your heartfelt mite donations! Your mite offerings have made an impact on countless lives, helping God’s servants share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Continue to pray for all mission grants, and please continue your cheerful mite donations!

bvirus@juno.com  
Phone: 714-639-1970  
Cell: 714-801-5252

God’s blessings and peace,

*Barb Virus*

*LWML PSD Financial Secretary*



Barb Virus, LWML PSD Financial Secretary 2021 - 2024

**Please make note of the address to send Mite Box offerings  
or request vouchers and mite boxes:**

**Barb Virus, 542 E. Lomita Ave., Orange, CA 92867-6848**



# Look of a Leader

## Who are the leaders in your zone?

**Vision** is looking ahead and being able to see the possibilities of where you and your organization could go. It is using a proactive approach to spring all your players into action to accomplish it.

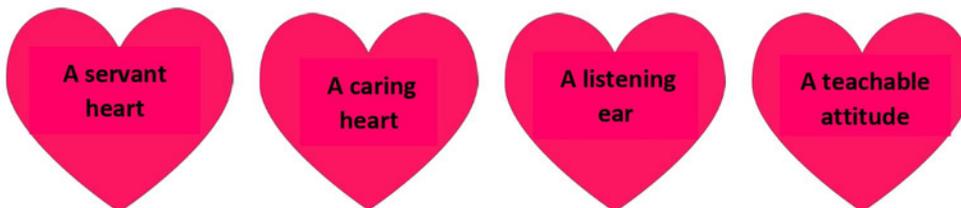
**Mission** – what you are doing today. **Vision** – what you'll be doing in the future.

**Passion** takes the vision into reality.

**Integrity** *The integrity of the upright guides them ... (Prov. 11:3 NIV).*

### Humility

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ... He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant (Phil. 2:5f NIV).*



**Courage** Be a risk taker. Try new ideas. Don't be afraid of failure.

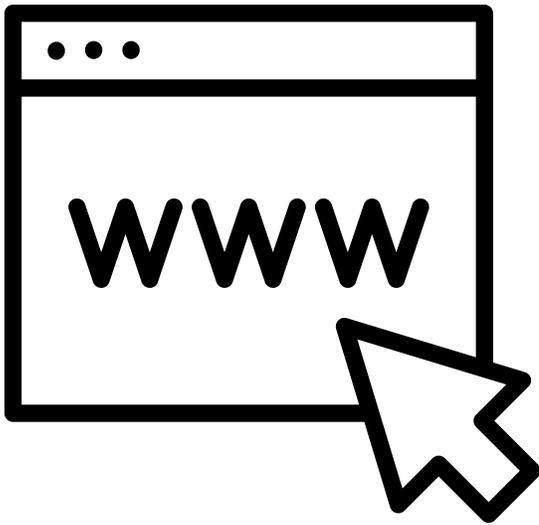
If you are interested in developing new leadership skills, consider a committee position. Fill out the **Personnel Resource Profile** form found at <https://www.psdlwml.org/resources>

The nominating committee will begin to receive nominations this fall for the following offices to be elected in 2024:

- President
- Vice President of Christian Life
- Vice President of Communication
- Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
- One Pastoral Counselor
- 5 Nominating Committee Members

### **2022-2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Nancy Heredia, Chairman  
Mary Coppenger  
Jackie Heddlesten  
Linda Merkle  
Nancy Pendleton



# PSD LWML

## CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

Did you know that the District website has a wealth of information and resources for your edification and use in your Zones?

Go to [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org) and see for yourself!



Susan Thomas, Vice President of the Communications Team, is always looking for people to join us.

If you want to help out with eBlast emails, YouTube, Facebook or the WOW (Women of the Word), let her know at [communications@psdlwml.org](mailto:communications@psdlwml.org).

A dark grey rectangular box with a white border. On the left side, there is text in a light blue font. On the right side, there is a circular blue sticker with white text and a white corner that is peeling away.

Join us in Ontario,  
California for our  
District Retreat  
February 3 - 5, 2023  
Watch for Future  
Announcements from  
Retreat Chairman  
Bonnie Karch

**SAVE  
• THE •  
DATE**



# ZONE NEWS & EVENTS



## WHAT'S YOUR 80?

1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

Celebrating 80 Years of LWML!

In thanksgiving for 80 years of the LWML, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 something. Women all over the country have been busy!

Click the link below to learn how your zone can participate!

Learn more

[READ ABOUT HOW LADIES IN OUR ZONES HAVE CELEBRATED THEIR 80  
AND BE INSPIRED TO CELEBRATE YOURS!](#)

**Zone 31/32 - Good Shepherd Lutheran in Kingman, Arizona** is alive and well. Our church is growing and so is LWML.

Over the last year, we welcomed our new full time Pastor with a special luncheon for his wife and a potluck reception for his family. He joined us by celebrating LWML Sunday in October.

So many fun celebrations followed: a Christmas party at the home of our president where we played games, sang songs, and studied the LWML #59952 "A Christian Reading on the Twelve Days of Christmas," a study based on corresponding Bible verses. We stuffed bags with homemade cookies from our annual fundraiser cookie sale for shut-ins.

We joined with our local Lutheran Women of the Evangelist Lutheran Church Christmas shoebox project.

*Good Shepherd Lutheran in Kingman, continued*

We passed out the LWML Bible study "How Mary prepared for the first Christmas".

We held our annual pie auction and corned beef cabbage dinner LWML fundraisers. We held a kitchen exchange party with Dishtowel Devotion, the LWML Bible study.

In May we held a Mother's Day tea where we kicked off our annual Advice and Aide Pregnancy Center baby bottle drive, held between Mother's Day and Father's Day. We collected over \$700.

We held a "one time special summer project" for the congregation to celebrate LWML's 80th anniversary by collecting 80+ items for local firehouses, police and DPS. Our ladies hand-delivered the items with a letter of thank you and invitation to Good Shepherd. Oh, what a welcome from our responders.

We attended LWML retreats, the Praise and Prayer rally, and conventions. We donated handmade prayer calendars as a district fundraiser.

We discovered and are using the responsive reading of the LWML pledge.

We were sad to have lost one of our own, Ruth Nelson, a beautiful LWML leader. We can only try to emulate her faithful service.

We are excited to be hostessing our first zone celebration Oct 15th, 2022 entitled "There is nothing Better in Life Than Working for Jesus". All are welcome!!! Fun, faith, food and fellowship.

submitted by Linda Mojonnier



**Zone 23/24 - St. James Lutheran Church in Imperial Beach** participated in the Imperial Beach Farmers Market on August 20, 2022. submitted by Geraldine Wood-Hermann



Bonnie & Ocie helping children enjoy their knitting project.



Joni's macramé



Gerri helping a customer



Girls enjoying their doll purchases

**Zone 21 Faith Lutheran Church in Vista, California** helped the Lutheran Border Concerns ministry in the month of July by collecting school items and donating school items in our own church supplies that were not being put to use. We were happy to pass on about eight big boxes of supplies to Pastor Ramon for use by children over the border. If your Zone is near the border, we encourage you to support Pastor Ramon's ministry in this easy and joyful way.

Lutheran Border Concerns contact information:

Address

3060 54th St.

San Diego, CA 92105

Phone

619-286-2445

Email

lbcmsd@gmail.com

submitted by Brenda Hood



## Women of the Word

Fall 2022

Women of the Word (WOW) is published quarterly.

Brenda Hood, Editor and Layout

Pastor Ramon Contreras, Doctrinal Review

Nila Rodriguez, Copy Reader

Kathy Baumhofer, Copy Reader

Send email news in Word or Google documents and pictures in jpeg to [wow@psdlwml.org](mailto:wow@psdlwml.org).

Winter submissions deadline is November 15, 2022.

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/psdlwml](http://www.facebook.com/psdlwml):

post pictures and make comments but remember not to tag photos.

*Soli Deo Gloria*