



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 1-15, 2020
GivingTuesday!
(see page 5 for details)



December 3, 2020
District Virtual Event
(See page 6 for details)



December 15, 2020
Newsletter submission
deadline

Utah-Idaho District Mission Statement

The mission of the Utah-Idaho District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to develop and maintain a mission consciousness among the women of the district and to assist them in using their gifts to the glory of the Triune God.

www.utahidaholwml.org

U & I Together

DECEMBER 2020



Joy because of the End

by Pastor Pay

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Romans 3:3-5).

Any readers out there? I love a good book - especially if it has a good ending. The hero in the story goes through hardship after hardship, but we keep on reading anxious to see how it will turn out. Evil forces rise up and seem unbeatable, but we keep on reading anxious for justice. Finally, when it seems like there is no hope the hero pulls through and snatches victory from certain defeat. What joy! What vindication! The battles fought, the pain endured are worth it because the victory is so sweet! Life has its hardships, it has its battles, sin and death seem so unbeatable. They certainly did when Jesus laid lifeless in a tomb. But we know the end. Jesus rose and won victory and he brings us to share in the victory. One day it will be realized and what joy will be ours! In the meantime, keep reading, keep going. We know how the story ends, so let us face our hardships with courage, hope, and even joy! .

A Letter from Lois

Dear Friends,

During the past several weeks, we have reflected on our blessings and given thanks to God for them. *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Did you catch the phrase, “give thanks in all circumstances”?

How, may I ask, can we give thanks for the pandemic we’re experiencing? Well, you may have thought of some blessings that you have experienced during this time. I’ll tell you about how it is creating something positive in my life.

My ambition and energy levels don’t always see “eye to eye.” Under normal circumstances, I am constantly on the go, filling my time with all sorts of activities, some that are necessary and some not so much. You get the idea! My energy cannot keep up with the demands I impose upon myself.

The discipline I lack in keeping my energy and ambition levels in balance have been accomplished by the pandemic restrictions. The slower pace has brought this blessing of peace and calm to me, along with more time to focus on God’s Word and His promises to me. *Be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10a).

During this Advent season, may our Heavenly Father calm your hearts as He surrounds you with His love. *Silent Night, Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright.*

Merry Christmas to all!
Lois



BOOK REVIEW: Before We Were Yours, by Lisa Wingate

Lisa Wingate writes inspirational novels while weaving history into the story. *Before We Were Yours* tells of five siblings who were wrenched from their shantyboat on the Mississippi River and taken to an “orphanage.” The story is based on one of America’s most notorious real-life scandals of kidnapping and selling poor children to wealthy families – moving them from “poverty to privilege.” Ultimately the tale is uplifting as it reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

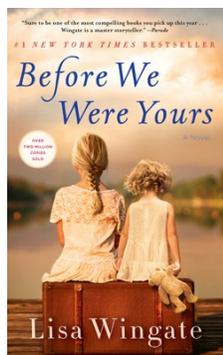


photo: rdbooks.org

Young Women Representatives (YWRs)

It's time to search for YWR(s) to attend the LWML convention in Lexington. By now the Group Presidents have received a letter explaining all the details. The Executive Committee will select a YWR and an alternate from the Central Zone. If an additional YWR is to be sent to the convention, she will be selected from the district at large. [Click here](#) for the YWR Application and the Guidelines.





photo: *Lutheran Braille Workers*

Your Mites at Work: Bringing Light to Those Living in Darkness \$2,000 - Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc.

The goal of this grant is to provide free Braille, specialized large print, and audio Christian materials and Bibles to individuals and churches and to bring the knowledge of salvation found in Jesus to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. LBW is the only Lutheran ministry intentionally serving this population. The funds will be used for supplies for LBW's Ministry Production Center in Idaho Falls which has been operating since 1985.



Mission Grant Thank You Notes

Supporting Our Clients: The Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Women's and Children's Alliance

Our heartfelt thank you to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Utah-Idaho District for having our CEO, Bea Black, speak at their virtual convention on August 15.

www.wcaboise.org

HELP Love GROW

This is a good time to consider an IRA rollover to HELP the Gifts of LOVE to GROW. Your donation will support our LWML's Gifts of Love ministry – the free, professional service that helps LWML women and their families return God's blessings that will make an eternal impact through charitable planning. Your year-end gift will be



Returning God's Blessings

D O U B L E D because of a matching gift made by a generous donor.

Read more information about this at lwml.org/pledge or contact Lois Anderson at utahidaholwml@gmail.com.



LWML Individual Membership

Are you interested in LWML but don't have a small group? Perhaps you live in an outlying area. Or perhaps your small group disbanded. You can still be a part of our District membership and we want to include you in our District's membership total. Please download and complete this LWML Individual Membership form **HERE**. Then email it to President Lois at utahidaholwml@gmail.com. Individual members have the same rights and privileges as women who are members of a group. Your membership is important to the District.

Tips for collecting Mites during Covid-19

(image and article from www.lwml.org)

- Have individual Mite Boxes available for those in your congregation to take home and fill. Set the medium Mite Box in a visible location at church so individuals may drop off their mite offerings.
- Drive-thru: Set a window of time for individuals to drive to church to drop off their mite offerings. They never need to leave their car, as someone will be there ready to take the mite offerings through the car window.
- Promote collecting mite offerings through use of the Mite Challenge Calendar.

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/mite-challenge-calendar>



Poor Me

by Sandy Hardies
MOST Ministries Team
Leader and Board Member

Maybe you are feeling those words these days like I am. It seems that since March, so many things have changed in my life. There have been no MOST teams to lead (I was to lead three teams to Guatemala, Sri Lanka and Ghana along with others who were supposed to be on the teams). There has not been our monthly volunteering at the MOST Mission Center. In addition, there have been no in-person Board of Directors meetings at the office. And those are just the things that involve MOST Ministries. There have been no in-person Bible studies, LWML meetings, choir rehearsals, church meetings, etc. So maybe some of you have been feeling "poor me" like myself.

You would think that Job must have said those words too when so many terrible things happened to him all at once, but actually Job 1:21 has him saying, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." And then later on in Job 19:25, he proclaims, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth." He proclaims the positive in the midst of the negative.

Then I start to reflect on all those countries where our MOST teams were supposed to go to bring physical help, but more importantly to bring the gospel message to share with their church congregations and their surrounding community.



They are still waiting to have us come and the "goers" are still waiting to go. So we all need to keep praying and studying God's Word and being an encourager for

those around us. That gives us the hope that God has all of this in His hand. This verse is at the bottom of all my emails and we all together need to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6).



Most Certainly True

By Dr. Nancy Almodovar,
Faith Lutheran, Mountain Home

I have been working recently on a new project on the Apostles' Creed and I love that Martin Luther, at the end of each explanation of the three parts, ends with "This is most certainly true." We live in an era where "Fake News" is said by those on the left and right and social media has begun to mark posts with warnings about its veracity. Imagine my shock when I posted a verse from the Bible and it was warned as having "fake news." It sometimes seems we cannot trust anything coming through the media. So, isn't it wonderful that we can trust God's Holy Word and the message that Jesus died, was buried and rose again for the forgiveness of our sins. We can trust that He says He washed us in the waters of baptism and feeds us through both Word and Sacrament. In a world where not much seems to be trustworthy, we Christians have a message for

the world that is "most certainly true" and we need to tell them. Now is the time to share with neighbors, friends, family and co-workers the only news that is true, the Gospel and Jesus Christ who is the One we can trust with our life and eternity.



Welcome the newest member of the Utah-Idaho District communications team.

Have you noticed the new attention to the District Facebook page? We are grateful to welcome Alecia Prien Rasmussen to the communications team. Alecia is our Facebook facilitator. Yes, she is Sherrie Prien's delightful daughter! Alecia will be managing our postings and announcements for the district. If you have an opportunity, please say a note of hello or thanks via the Facebook page! If you are not following the LWML Utah-Idaho Facebook page, you can like us on the website www.utahidahlwml.org or on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/utahidahlwml>.

*LWML
Utah-Idaho
District
Advent Mission
Gift
December 1-15,
2020*



*The LWML Utah-Idaho District
is sponsoring a "Giving Tuesday" event
December 1-15, 2020.*

*This is a special giving opportunity to
support our District Mission Grants.*

*Ladies may donate through their
LWML group or by mailing checks to the
LWML Utah-Idaho District*

Financial Secretary:

Kathy Carlson

221 Red Rock Trail

Kimberly, ID 83341

*Please note on your check
"Advent Mission Gift"*



LWML UTAH-IDAHO DISTRICT
2020-2022 BIENNIUM
VIRTUAL EVENTS

Thursday, December 3, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship from 6:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.
Hebrews 10:23-24*

AN EVENING OF ZOOM CHAT

Your LWML Utah-Idaho District officers invite you to join them for an evening of fellowship and prayer.

Mary Smith will lead us in Bible Study on Trust.

An icebreaker with Sherrie Prien,

Icebreaker supplies: 1 cracker broken/cut in half,
schmear favorite spread (e.g. butter, peanut butter,
nutella, or jam) on 1/2 of cracker.

Mission Insight with Jeannie Barrette

Special introduction:

Dr. Nancy Almodovar, Mountain Home, ID

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88190513980?pwd=aE85Q3N3YU9HNklFdzhjSlJGaklldz09>