



U & I Together

December 2023

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Dec. 15, 2023
Newsletter deadline



Apr. 26–28, 2024
District Convention
Logan, Utah



God is With Us

Pastor Triplet

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

Do you genuinely recognize that God is with you? The prophet Isaiah is pronouncing the future birth of Christ to come and save the world, but we must understand that God, the Holy Spirit, is always with us. Though Jesus is a true historical figure, He does not remain in history only. Jesus is present and active with us right now, in every moment and every circumstance. Pause and take the time to rejoice in the truth that we can proclaim that God is with us, Immanuel. May we find great joy and comfort in the reality and may we live in light of God being with us always.

LWML Mission Statement

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

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



Your Light Has Come

This is the season of Advent brunches, caroling, and Christmas parties. The houses are lit in brilliant displays of colors illuminating the long dark nights. The crisp air takes on a festive aura of glow as street lights echo the red and green decorations on every corner.

I love the light displays and get excited when I see them hung up around Thanksgiving time. They remind me that when we find ourselves in dark times, God sent His son to be our Light and Salvation. We do not need to live in darkness, only turn to the Light of the glory of God like our 2024 LWML district theme verse reminds us.

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you
(Isaiah 60:1)*

As you begin to fill your 2024 calendar, do not forget to add your zone events and the April district convention in Logan, Utah. The District Executive Board is planning an uplifting convention full of light and life for you.

Another 2024 opportunity is being offered by MOST Ministries for LWML women. There are available scholarships for:

- LWML Friends: Funds for 40 women - 20 LWML former MOST team members & 20 friends who have never served with MOST
- Ends of Earth: Funds for individuals serving in Africa, Asia or South America.
- Teachers to the World: Funds for Lutheran teachers, Sunday school teachers & preschool teachers when joining a VBS or children's ministry team.
- Send Me, Send Me: Funds for LWML Young Women Representatives (YWR) to serve on a MOST team.
- Shepherding the Sheep: Funds for a pastor and church members from MI to serve on a mission team together

These mission opportunities offer you a chance to spread more Light around the world. More information can be found at <https://mostministries.org>.

Do not forget as you decide to support your end-of-year charities, to fill your mite box or give online for LWML Mission Grants too. God's work is happening everywhere.

May the Light of the World bless all of your days,
Terri Bentley, President

U&I Together Changes!

We are continually adapting to new communication tools. The executive committee voted to change the format and delivery of the U&I Together. Mailchimp gives us the opportunity to communicate efficiently by email and enables us to deliver topical information.

You will receive a monthly email with a devotion and other timely information. Yes, we will still have the quarterly newsletter. Yes, ladies, we are going back to quarterly. As mentioned, we will be sending emails with information in an as-needed format.

What do you need to do? One, make sure you're signed up through the district website to receive emails. Check with your groups to make sure others are signed up! Watch for a January email with the new schedule and details!

Questions or more information, please contact Caryn Elliott, Vice President of Communication at lwml.carynellott@gmail.com.

Thrivent Grief Packages

Linda Larson

These packages are so well received by families! It is a wonderful ongoing ministry. They have a full sized beautiful blanket and a very meaningful devotion book to be given to parents who have lost a baby through miscarriage or stillbirth. They can be donated to a pregnancy care center such as Lifeline in Nampa or Treasure Valley PATH in Boise or given to a local hospital.

It is helpful to have a contact person in your congregation to receive and distribute the boxes. If you are a Thrivent member, you are able to receive one box a year for each person in the family who is a Thrivent participant.

To Order a Care Package

Log in at Thrivent.com with Username and Password



You'll receive a six digit security code to enter and then proceed

Click on [Membership Overview](#)

In Power of Membership box, click on [Explore Memberships and Benefits Suite](#)

Scroll down and click on [Support for grieving parents - Learn more](#)

[Order the care package](#) and complete the form with mailing instructions



Yellowstone Zone Update

Nan Mueller, Yellowstone Zone President

Happy Fall, Lutheran Women in Mission of Utah-Idaho. As quickly as the seasons have changed (and changed again), the activities of the Yellowstone Zone have been zipping by.

At Grace Pocatello, the ladies have been quite busy. Everything from helping hands at the Idaho Food Bank (both September and November) to a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast for the staff of Grace Lutheran schools. The Zone Event in September had a good turnout – with many items collected for the local Veterans' Home (puzzles to quilts, playing cards to CDs) and several went home with goodie boxes for Operation Christmas Child. They continue with a monthly Bible study for school moms and the Prayer Shawl ministry, along with making plans for supporting area seniors with Christmas gifts in the works for December.

Hope Lutheran in Idaho Falls has been active as well. They hosted their annual Craft and Bake Sale for the benefit of Corey Walsted

(to support his education as an SMP Pastor for Rigby's Crown of Thorns), Noah Oloff (in his freshman year of seminary in St. Louis), and for LCMS Disaster Relief (for the Maui Hawaii fire). Plans for December include serving for a soup supper one evening of the Advent devotions, along with continuing their monthly Bible study (with a bit of a meeting) and Ladies Lunch Out (which is enjoyed by many).

We want to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year.



*LWML Utah-Idaho District
Advent Mission Gift
December 1-15, 2023*

The LWML Utah-Idaho District is sponsoring a “Giving Tuesday” event December 1-15, 2023. This is a special giving opportunity to support our District Mission Grants.

3 WAYS TO DONATE:

1-Online at:

**[https://www.utahidaholwml.org/store/c3/
Online Giving Opportunities.html](https://www.utahidaholwml.org/store/c3/Online_Giving_Opportunities.html)**

2-Mail your check to:

**LWML Utah-Idaho District
Kathy Carlson
221 Red Rock Trail
Kimberly, ID 83341**

**3-Thru your local
LWML group**

**Please make note on
all checks
“Advent Mission Gift”**



December 2023

Mite Challenge Calendar



FILLED WITH GOOD THINGS: Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things (Psalm 107:8-9).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Advent begins. Start devotions. Donate 75¢	4 Decorate the Christmas tree. Donate 30¢	5 Make a new Christmas wreath. Donate 25¢	6 Learn the history of St. Nicholas. Donate 15¢	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Donate 80¢	8 Read Matthew 1, the genealogy of Jesus. Donate 60¢	9 Send Christmas cards/letters. Donate 10¢
10 Sing your favorite Christmas carol. Donate 40¢	11 Play Bingo at a nursing home. Donate 35¢	12 Wrap Christmas presents. Donate 20¢	13 Hot cocoa party with a friend. Donate 55¢	14 Read the Christmas story to a school class. Donate 40¢	15 Pray for all church workers. Donate 70¢	16 Christmas cookie baking day! Donate 25¢
17 Reflect on Sunday's Bible readings. Donate 30¢	18 Predict the first snowfall or already happened. Donate 50¢	19 Make and share your favorite soup. Donate 45¢	20 Pray for LWML leaders and committees. Donate 75¢	21 Winter Solstice. Sit by a lit Christmas tree. Donate 60¢	22 Offer to babysit for a church worker. Donate 20¢	23 Pray for missionaries. Donate 55¢
24 Christmas Eve, read Luke 2. Donate 80¢	25 Christmas Day, give thanks for the birth of our Savior. Donate 95¢	26 Boxing Day, learn about its history. Donate 10¢	27 Facetime with family far away. Donate 40¢	28 Exercise while listening to music. Donate 25¢	29 Find a new LWML devotion. Donate 15¢	30 Spend time with friends. Donate 35¢
31 Thank God for your 2023 blessings. Donate \$1						