

# THE DIAMOND TIMES

ISSUE 2 | FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

## MANY HANDS SERVING THE LORD

### ENCOURAGING CANCER PATIENTS

Busy workers gathered to make and write encouragement cards for Phil's Friends, an organization that distributes kits for cancer patients to bring hope. A total of 1100 cards were made during the event!

### MODERN-DAY QUILTING BEE

The quilting corner of servant activities was a modern quilting bee. Ladies getting together to meet, talk, and connect. "My great-grandmother would have been proud. She was in LWML and did the quilting. This is all new to me," said Cheryl Schutz, Rocky Mountain District.

### SCHOOL AND PERSONAL CARE KITS

Willing workers began arriving before the doors opened. By 9 a.m. 110 school kits had been assembled. "Children need to have good school supplies to help them learn," said one worker. YWRs and first-timers shared their joy. "I came to seek help on restarting our LWML circle."

### GIFTS FROM THE HEART

"We have been so blessed!" said Linda Fees, Gifts from the Heart Coordinator. As of Wednesday evening, \$6,700 in gift cards have been received and numerous boxes have been already been taken to Caren Net

for saving babies. Hurry and take your gifts to Room #113 Zia Lounge on the Main Level, East Building by noon today.

### 80+ YOUNG WOMEN REPS!

How many young faces have you seen at convention? There are 81 Young Woman Representatives here in Albuquerque! They've been busy already, making witness bracelets for MOST Ministries as their servant activity and exploring the LWML website to see the resources available for their societies. Visit their booth to have your picture taken, and see how we are connecting the different generations.

### MARKING THE ROAD TO SALVATION

Bible-marking facilitates an inmate's journey from a path of darkness to one of light through Christ Jesus. Volunteers underlined Bible Passages and put stickers on the pages to guide readers to various verses.

### BRINGING LIGHT TO A DARK WORLD

Volunteers helped put together Bible pages and calendars. With more than 3,500 volunteers across the country, they produce 55,000 Braille Bibles a year and distribute them to the blind community worldwide. They even produce the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* in Braille!

## NOURISHED AND EQUIPPED AT OPENING WORSHIP



President Patti Ross declared this 37th Biennial Convention open as thousands gathered Thursday night for Divine Worship. "All Hail the Power of Jesus'

Name" rang throughout the convention hall as the Ecclesiastical procession began. The LWML processional cross, commissioned in 1991, a Jubilee Gift for the convention in Cleveland, Ohio, was carried by Phillip Jaseph.

Worshippers were nourished and equipped as they listened to God's Word and participated in the Lord's Supper. The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, served as Proclaimer.

The evening music was both familiar, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," and new, "Though All Our Life is Like a Scroll," the winner of the LCMS Reformation Hymn competition written by The Rev. Dr. Wilfred L. Karsten. Accompanying the 257-member choir for "A New Song," Christine Wallace played the viola.

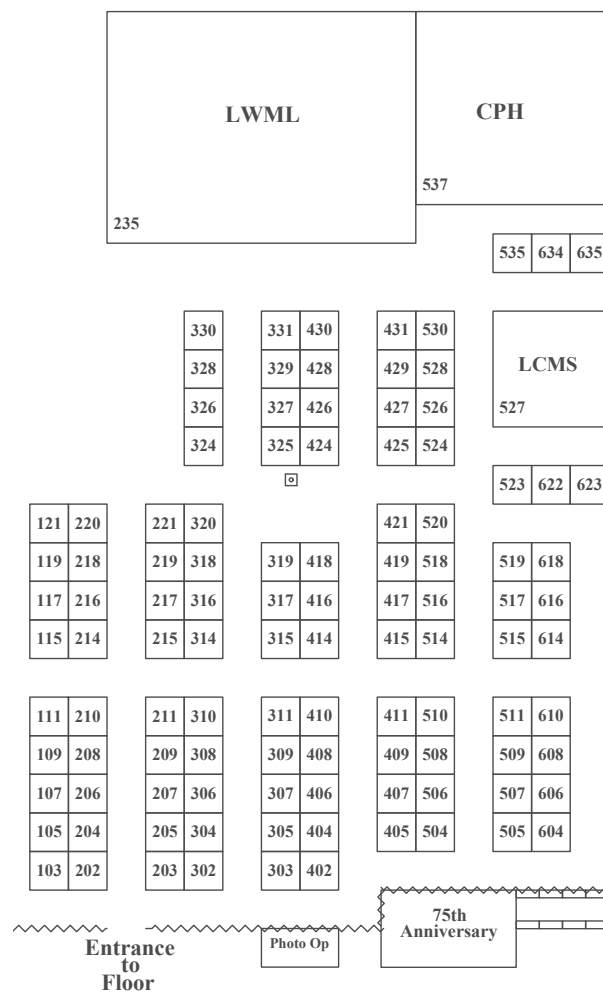


**HAVE YOU PRAYED TODAY?** Jesus is waiting to hear from you. In Colossians 4:2 Paul tells us *Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving*. What a privilege we have — to take all our needs, desires, praises, and thanksgivings to our wonderful Savior.

# EXHIBIT LOCATOR

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# THE ABOVE ALL EXHIBIT HALL!

## MAKE A GOAL!

The Structure Committee invites you to visit our exhibit and play "football." You may reach the goal for a "touchdown!" It's a fun learning experience, taking you through the process of getting approval for proposed amendments to district bylaws. We'd love to have you come and make the goal! Make the (Football) GOAL and get a Tootsie Roll!!

## SOLVE THE PLEDGE PUZZLE

Visit the HOPE Committee exhibit where you can see plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11b). Bring your group and solve the "Pledge Puzzle." Win a hope diamond candy ring. HOPE is for everyone!

## PHOTO OP WITH MISS LEADING!

Zone delegates, please stop by the Leader Development Committee exhibit and ask for your free "Zone Resources Packet" featuring three fresh-off-the-press helps for your zones. Also, don't miss the photo opportunity with Miss Leading, a convention must while in Albuquerque.



## ARE YOU LWML'S BIGGEST FAN?

Calling all LWML fans! Visit the Information Technology & Graphics exhibit and connect with other fans. Explore all the ways you can connect with the LWML and win a prize! You could even win a purple fan for these hot New Mexico days.

## FIESTA MARKET HAPPENINGS

- Stop by the colorful Fiesta Market LWML Store to check out the new products including the Dazzle Bear, Donna Pyle's new Bible study on Peter, and the butterfly scarf.
- Past Presidents will sign *Radiant Reflections* today and tomorrow from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Convention first-timers can stop by the LWML store for a free gift.
- Making a haul? Check out the LWML/CPH Ordering Kiosk to see how you can score free shipping!

## THE HEAT IS ON: MISSION WALK

More than 1,100 walkers were decked out in their sea-green shirts circling like a refreshing wave inside the convention center because the temperatures outside hit 100 degrees. Over \$36,000 has already been raised.

## FRIDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Join us for the Fiesta Mariachi tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. It promises to be an evening of fun with the Mariachi San Pablo musicians who spread the Gospel ... Mariachi style! Since their beginning in 2001, they have traveled to 17 different states as well as into Mexico. Their repertoire includes traditional and contemporary, secular and sacred – all Mariachi-style! Anyone with a badge is welcome to attend, including Host Committee members.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Bright pink prayer request forms are available in the Grace Place Prayer Chapel and at Information Booths. Pastors will lift up your requests every two hours Friday and Saturday starting at 9:30 a.m.

## CONVENTION SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

Forgot to purchase a Convention Polo Shirt? We still have some! Visit the shirt sale table in the registration area.

## ORDER YOUR MANNA CD

Representatives of Manna Recording & Duplication, Inc. will again record and produce CDs of major presenters. Look for their booth in the lobby area near registration to order. Take home your favorite speakers on CD.



## THEN AND NOW

Years ago, it was called "a uniform collection device." Do you know what that was? Wait for it ... today it's called a Mite Box.



## COMING IN TOMORROW'S ISSUE: THE NEW LWML LOGO!

# FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTIONS

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RECEPTION

Join the Lutheran World Relief staff Friday between 8:45 and 11 p.m. for light refreshments and great conversation at this special reception in YOUR honor! We want to say thank you for your partnership in the ministry we do together. We look forward to seeing you in the Coral Ballroom, Salon III at the DoubleTree.

## MOST MINISTRIES RECEPTION

Please join MOST Ministries for a reception directly after the Fiesta Mariachi on Friday evening! We will have light snacks and fellowship from 8:45 to 11 p.m., hear a bit about the future of the ministry, and have Gayle Sommerfeld's new book *Beyond Sight*

available for purchase. Our new executive director, Dr. Tim Frusti, staff member Sarah DePriest, and MOST Ministries team leaders will be available to answer any questions about becoming involved in short-term missions. See you in the Coral Ballroom, Salon I at the DoubleTree!

## PETAL PUSHER RECEPTION

Reunite with your friends who have served as Petal Pushers in preparing the Lutheran Hour Float and other floats for the Rose Bowl Parade. Join us on Friday night at 8:45 p.m. to enjoy food and fellowship in the Coral Ballroom, Salon II at the DoubleTree.

# HEART TO HEART SISTERS COMMISSIONED



Since its beginning 16 years ago, more than 200 women have gone through the Heart to Heart Sister program. Many of those have also gone onto become Heart to Heart Sister district leaders. This year the South Dakota District will welcome their first Heart to Heart Sister!

The Heart to Heart Sister program allows women an opportunity to know they belong. Languages and backgrounds often isolate, yet we are one in Christ. While attending a national LWML convention, many of the Heart to Heart Sisters see mission grants and their impact.

No matter the country — China, Columbia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Mexico, or Thailand — the smiles and joy of being Heart to Heart Sisters was evident.

The 2017 Heart to Heart Sisters each received their pin and a rebozo, a long scarf woven in Mexico, during their commissioning. The translator for one of the sisters also received a pin and rebozo.

Melissa Salomón talked about the wall of crepe paper flowers at their booth in the exhibit hall. “It shows God’s diversity and how beautiful it is when put together. Each is unique. It’s a picture of Heart to Heart sisters.”

Check out the Heart to Heart Sister booth and make a crepe paper flower. Add your flower to the wall and be part of the Heart to Heart Sister community. Look for your Heart to Heart Sisters identified by their beautiful purple rebozos. They will also be introduced to the convention Saturday afternoon.

## MORE THAN 100 DONATE BLOOD

“Jesus gave every drop of His blood for us; we should give a pint when possible,” said Berniece Stulc, Montana District, Blood Drive Director. Selena Robinson with the United Blood Services of Albuquerque, shared her thanks for the 106 registered blood donors. “This is making a positive impact. The entire state of New Mexico goes through a lot of traumas during the summer, so there is a huge need for blood,” she said.

## SOMEONE NEEDS TO COUNT!

Before it goes out to missions, the money that’s coming in needs to be counted! Behind closed doors and in quiet spaces, volunteers are busy doing just that. The Rev. Ross Shaver, Host Committee Pastoral Counselor, opened the counter-training session with 2 Corinthians 9:7. *God loves a cheerful giver.* He reminded the counters that it is a blessing to be doing this service.

## TEE-UP 4 MITES



The Fourth Tee-Up 4 Mites Golf Outing was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at the Arroyo Del Oso Golf Course, Albuquerque. Teeing off at 8 a.m. to beat the heat, 48 golfers led by past LWML Presidents

Gloria Edwards and Linda Reiser enjoyed the golf followed by a BBQ lunch and awards. Pastor Groeling of Christ Lutheran Church, Albuquerque delivered the opening prayer, including prayers for a hole in one! Three generations of the Ballas family enjoyed the outing together, this being the third Tee-Up 4 Mites that the elder Reverend Ballas has played.

Past LWML Presidents Gloria Edwards and Linda Reiser were very happy to see the many sponsorships received this year in support of our mission goal.

First Place team honors were awarded to Frank Bean, Robert Bean, Carlos Brugh, and Warren Ellis. Second place team was Jennifer Haak, Jason Haak, Brian Coey and Shawn Coey; third place team was Bill Vering, Matt Helge, John Van Dyke, and Mark Von Soosten. The most fun team award went to Pastor Neil Groeling, Ron McBrayer, Wayne Muenster, and Bob Dragan.

Additional awards included the women’s closest to the pin (Julie Keck), men’s closest to the pin (Carlos Brugh and Brian Coey), women’s longest drive (Jill Kaiser), and the men’s longest drive (Shak Banihashemi).

Concordia Publishing House was the Grand Sponsor. Lutheran Hour Ministries sponsored the player gifts. Numerous other sponsors also supported this event, including 54 hole sponsors.

## FIRST TO REGISTER

The excitement of going to convention starts when you get the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* in the mail. So who were the eager ones to submit their registrations first? Heidi and Lois Baumert, sisters from Iowa East, get that distinction! Who came the farthest? Look for an LWMLer from Hawaii or Alaska.

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