

Equip  
Encourage  
Share Jesus

*The  
Messenger*

The mission of LWML North Dakota is to equip and encourage all women to share the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ.

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018**

**"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2**

## LWML 38th Biennial Convention

Mobile, AL

June 20-23, 2019

The 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the LWML will be held in Mobile, Alabama on Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2019. The theme is "In Praise to the Lord" based on 1 Chronicles 16:23-24a which reads: Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.

The LWML North Dakota district will be sending 6 delegates, 2 young woman representatives, the junior pastoral counselor and the district president. Have you ever been to Alabama? This would be a great time to go! You can take in the sights and attend a national convention – an experience you will not soon forget. There are usually around 4000 attendees at national conventions. Worshiping with fellow Lutherans in this setting is a truly uplifting time. More information is on the LWML website: [lwml.org](http://lwml.org). The winter Quarterly will have registration and hotel information and more.



**Save the date! June 20-23, 2019!**

**Mobile, Alabama! LWML convention! Be there!**

# LWML ND DISTRICT PRESIDENT



## "The Falling Leaves..."

"The falling leaves drift by my window..."

Yes, the leaves are beginning to fall. As we begin to experience cooler days and nights, the leaves will quickly start their color change and will then fall. As I have mentioned before, I do love the season of autumn. Some people look at it as the precursor of winter, which it is. But the changing seasons remind us that our God ordered the seasons when He created our world. This is how He wants it to be. We might like to have summer year round, but not a year long winter. So, everything is in order and at the right time.

This time of the year is usually when things start happening again. School begins, Bible classes at church resume after the summertime hiatus, Sunday School and Confirmation start up. Our calendars begin to fill up fast.

Our LWML District Retreat has already happened last month. (I hope that you were able to attend the retreat in Carrington). October is the month most of our zones hold their fall rallies. And, of course, before we know it the holidays are coming at us. The free time of summer becomes the ordered days of fall.

For our God also, things happen in a timely and ordered manner. Paul writes in Galatians 4: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." God certainly deserves our utmost praise for choosing just the right time to send Jesus to us. God also gives us the gift of time. I pray that you are using your time the best way you can. Also that God is the top priority in using your time. Take as many opportunities as you can to give God the glory He deserves – worship, Bible studies, personal devotions etc. LWML provides many opportunities for worship and Bible study.

Here are a couple of dates to remember: LWML Convention will be held in Mobile Alabama on June 20-23, 2019. The theme is "In Praise to the Lord" from 1 Chronicles 16:23-24a. There is nothing like a national LWML convention to uplift and strengthen your faith in our God.

The LWML ND District convention will take place in Fargo in June of 2020. Dates and place have not been finalized yet but will be soon. Look for more information in future Messengers. The theme will be "Great Is the Lord" from Psalm 145:1-3.

God's continued blessings in this beautiful season of autumn!

*For the harvests of the Spirit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit,  
Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us,  
Thanks be to God.*

LSB 527, vs. 1

*President Valerie*

## LWML ND DISTRICT PRAYER CHAIN

President Valerie sent out these prayer requests she received via email, for August 2018—September 2018:

- † Continued prayers for the doctors to find the right treatment for Allison, daughter of Paulette Huber, suffering from depression and anxiety.
- † Prayers for President Valerie Biberdorf and her family as her father, Richard Hyde, was called home to heaven.
- † Prayers for Aron Klemz, son of Ruth Klemz, looking for a new job.
- † Prayers for Dorothy Kaler, mother of Beth (Fortier) Heller, hospitalized with kidney failure.
- † Prayers for Pastor Dave Suelzle, his wife, the medical team and Grace Lutheran in Fargo during his absence as he undergoes a spinal surgery in in Rochester, MN.
- † Prayers Jonathan Krenz, son of Bonnie Krenz, and his family as the hurricane approaches. He is in the navy with all ships ordered to sea, leaving his wife home alone with their 2 young children at Virginia Beach, which is thankfully not in the direct path of the hurricane. Please pray for all those who will face this disaster.

If you would like to be on the District prayer chain email list, email President Valerie at [president@ndlwml.org](mailto:president@ndlwml.org) and ask her to add your email to the list.



From Your *Financial Secretary*,



Did you know you have new giving options available to assist in promoting MITES throughout the District and World? Below you will find two programs the ND LWML has recently enrolled in. We are also looking into LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) Joyful Response but additional paperwork and setting up of accounts is required, so there will be a delay.

In the past months the ND LWML has received funds via Amazon Smile and through Thrivent Choice Dollars. The amounts do not have to be astronomical – remembering when we pool our Mighty Mites together, monumental work gets done.

I recently came across the following directions for setting up giving through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Amazon Smile. Please take a moment to read through these and get set up – or contact your Thrivent agent to assist you with the Thrivent Choice process. Or find a techy person who can do this in the blinking of an eye. For both funding procedures – you can give to many different charitable organizations --- **BUT, OF COURSE, we recommend ND LWML.**

So, go ahead and give this a try!

## Thrivent for Lutherans ~ How to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Online:

- 1) Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**.
- 2) Click on “**log in**” at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and Password. (If you haven’t registered on Thrivent.com, click on “**register now**” to register for full access.)
- 3) Look for your designated Choice Dollars on the right side of the screen.
- 4) Click on “**Direct Choice Dollars**” in the Thrivent Choice box on your MyThrivent page.
- 5) Search the catalog of organizations to find the organization you want to select,
- 6) Click on “**Direct Choice Dollars Now**” to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit that organization.

By Phone:

- 1) Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, day, “**Thrivent Choice.**”
- 2) When prompted, say, “**Choice Dollars**”
- 3) Say or enter your Social Security number.
- 4) **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **press 2** to hear the Thrivent Choice program terms and conditions.
- 5) A representative will then work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

## About AmazonSmile

### What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

### How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

### Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

### Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

### How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every

eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

### Can I change my charity?

Yes, you can change your charity any time. Your AmazonSmile purchases after the change count towards your newly selected charity. To change your charity, sign in to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account."

### What charities can I choose from?

You can choose from over one million eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations.

### What if my selected charity does not register to participate in the AmazonSmile program or becomes ineligible?

If your selected charity does not register to participate, becomes ineligible, or requests to be removed from the program, you will have a chance to select a different charity to receive the accrued donations that have not yet been disbursed to your charity. If you do not select a different charity, the accrued donations will be distributed to other organizations receiving donations.

### If I represent a charitable organization, how can I learn more about registering my organization for AmazonSmile?

Go to [org.amazon.com](https://org.amazon.com) to learn how to register your organization to receive donations.

### How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

### Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

Give these options a try. Get started today.  
Let's grow those Mighty Mites together!

In Christ,  
Audrey O'Brien, Financial Secretary



The following trivia questions were asked at the LWML ND Convention in June in Minot. If you weren't there, see how many you can correctly answer! The answers will be in the next edition of *The Messenger*.

1. The origin of LWML began at a conference in Chicago in (month) \_\_\_\_\_ of (year) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. North Dakota was with what other state at first? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can you name the first North Dakota President? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many District Presidents have we had so far? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name one of the first Mission Projects our District had. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where was the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LWML celebrated at Convention? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Has a Convention ever been cancelled? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Only one Convention has been held out of the United States. Where? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was the other names of 'The Messenger' called? \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name a current District LWML Counselor. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What year was the new name Mission Messenger adopted? \_\_\_\_\_
12. When was the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in October designated as LWML Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What was the 50<sup>th</sup> LWML Anniversary Book called? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What years were new LWML logos adopted? \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
15. As of the 2017 Nat'l Convention how many Countries have received Mission Grants? \_\_\_\_\_
16. How many Nat'l Presidents from ND? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you name them? \_\_\_\_\_
17. As of the Summer Quarterly how many of Nat'l Mission Grants have been paid in full? \_\_\_\_\_
18. How many of our 2016-2018 Mission Grants have been paid? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Can you name other editors in the past of the 'Mission Messenger'? \_\_\_\_\_
20. What is the focus of the Summer Quarterly just received? \_\_\_\_\_



## Fall Retreat Recap

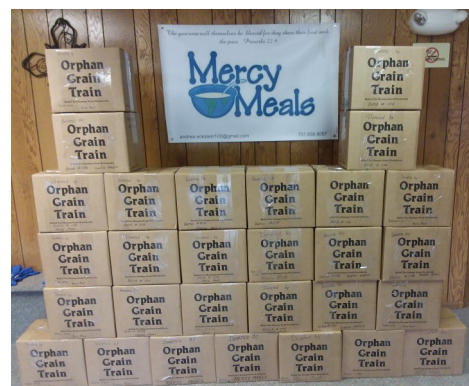
Forty women from across the District met together at the Chieftain Inn and Conference Center in Carrington, September 14-16, for the annual LWML Retreat. Friday evening activities included snacks and a beverage (soda) bar operated by district officers of the LWML. A social time with games and other mixers followed and the evening concluded with devotions led by immediate past VP of Christian Life, Mary Harvala.

Saturday morning began with a breakfast buffet followed by devotions and a Bible study. Deaconess Amy Rast, Associate Director of Deaconess Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne Indiana, spoke under the theme: "Vocation Bible School." Deaconess Rast shared how we as Christian women, with multiple vocations, in today's world can use each of these vocations in service to our Lord and Savior. She used the words of Apostle Paul in Titus 2:11-14 as her theme verses. With sessions concluded, the women traveled to Grace Lutheran Church, it was there they measured, weighed, bagged, sealed and readied for shipment 4,500 Mercy Meals to be shipped overseas. Another bonus of this activity is working side by side with Sisters In Christ to accomplish so much more than you can do on your own. Joining together our work and Mighty Mites can bring joy and the Love of Christ to so many whose bodies are hungry for nourishment and whose souls are hungry to hear "The Word".

The evening activities included a delicious banquet, the ever popular no-talent variety show including the talents of our young women emcee sisters and an appearance by Katie Luther, and an evening devotion.

The retreat concluded Sunday morning with worship at Grace Lutheran in Carrington.

A financial ingathering went to Mercy Meals and \$162.45 was collected for Mites. All had an enjoyable faith strengthening weekend.



July 18, 2018

Jacob Swenson  
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My Sisters in Christ,

I write this letter to you with a mixture of sadness and joy. I am tendering my resignation as your senior pastoral counselor and humbly ask for your peaceful release. The reason is that I have accepted the call to serve at St. John's and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Fairbank and Jesup, Iowa. Therefore, I will not be able to be with you here in this district as one of your counselors.

Though I am sad to be leaving this position, I am also joyful for the blessing you all have been to me. When you elected me in Jamestown, I had only been a pastor for a few years, yet you had faith in me. Through your prayers and encouragement, I believe I have grown and been strengthened in my service to you and Christ's Church. I've greatly enjoyed being with you, attending board meetings, district conventions, and zone gatherings. I even got to attend the national gathering and assist with the communion distribution in Albuquerque - thanks to your generosity. I also value the honor and challenge of writing the zone Bible studies these last two years.

In Minot you elected Pastor Aaron Hambleton as your new junior pastoral counselor. I know that he will do wonderfully in this capacity and that you will be a blessing to him, just as you have been to me.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Jacob Swenson



## Assembly of Leaders

It has been the pattern of the LWML to host a leadership training event every four years. This year's Assembly of Leaders, under the theme "Follow the Leader", will be an effort to present practical leadership ideas, inspiration and hands-on activities which will help district leaders to communicate with women and men in their zones and congregations and share the enthusiasm they have for the valuable work of the LWML.

The 2018 LWML Assembly of Leaders will be held on November 7-10, 2018 at the Airport Hilton in St. Louis. Each district is invited to send four participants. Attending from North Dakota are: District President Valerie Biberdorf, VP of Servant Resources Sara Eclipse, 2017 Young Woman Representative Ali Arndt, and Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Aaron Hambleton. Part of the responsibility of attending this training event is to bring the information back and share it with our district, zones and congregations. How will we do this? As soon as we know, we will share it with you all! Look for upcoming ideas!

Please keep these four individuals from our district in your prayers as we travel to St. Louis in November. Also pray for all the other districts coming and all of the presenters during the training event. *What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:9)*



LWML ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS 2018



## VP of Mission Grants ~ BONNIE KRENZ



Due to my error the total Mission Grant budget was wrong number in my article in the last Messenger. It was set at \$76,750 for the 2018 biennium. The \$750 was selected as part of the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LWML. Please make the correction where ever it has been recorded. I hope that you cut the book mark from the last Messenger and finding it a useful tool. The first of the grants will be paid in November so check the web page for the most current update of payment.



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission

Giving Tuesday 2018  
**Making a Difference  
in a Changing World**



**You** are being offered a wonderful opportunity to reach others with the saving Word of Jesus. Of the 7.6 billion people living on earth, 31% claim to follow the Christian faith. This means two out of three people do not know Jesus!

Our LWML Mission Grants are reaching out to a world in need of the Gospel.

On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, **Giving Tuesday**, November 27, you may donate toward the 2017–2019 LWML Mission Goal by using LWML Facebook, or at this website, [lwml.org/givingtuesday](http://lwml.org/givingtuesday). Your **donation will be doubled** on that day, thanks to the commitment of two generous donors.

Please pray and share this with everyone. Give others, in your congregations, the opportunity to share in this mission, by placing offerings in your large Mite Boxes and donate them online on Giving Tuesday.

(If you are unable to donate online, you may send your contributions to the LWML office at 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105.)

*and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1: 8b).*



## Bylaws Committee ~ BONNIE KRENZ

The bylaws approved at convention have been sent to National LWML and approved. They are now available on the web page.

The major change in the bylaws define an individual member and establish their rights within the District LWML. An individual member has a voice at a zone meeting but has no voice as a delegate at the District conference. They can be elected to the Board of Directors. However, the bylaws state that an elected member of the Board of Directors must have been a society, unit, or zone officer. The only place an individual member can hold one of these offices would be at the zone level. Zones please check your bylaws and determine if your bylaws allow an individual member to hold an office. It is up to each zone if they wish to allow individual members to hold an office. If anyone has a question, please feel free to contact Bonnie Krenz.

## *VP of Christian Life ~ BETTY MARSCHNER*



Dear LWML Sisters:

As I am penning these words, we are transitioning from a hot Summer to the cool and colorful Fall season. Leaves are taking on that characteristic bright color we associate before the dull-est season of all comes around. Animals are sporting evidence of winter fuzzy coats beginning to grow and some little animals are busy storing acorns and other food for their winter larder. Farmers are still harvesting and will be for a time as yet but all around you see change.

Life is chock full of transitions and changes. In our life times we change from a baby to toddler, then to being a school child, a young adult, a parent and grandparent. As our seasons of weather change in this area of four distinct seasons, so does our life change. In fact all of life revolves around change or transition.

Being able to adjust to change is necessary if we hope to navigate through life.

As your new VP of Christian Life I will bring change as well. No two people see and do things exactly alike.

I see change as a needful thing in our organization and I hope with the help of our Lord and many LWML Sisters in prayer that we can effect a change that will bring new life and energy into our group.

A little about me in case you have not heard of me before you picked up this newsletter...

I am a farmer/rancher's wife in central N.D. I have lived here since a child. My husband David and I raised a family of three children two of which were considered Special Needs children. Paula, our oldest lives and works in State Government in Bismarck. Our second child, Brian is one I write often about. He had a hemorrhagic stroke a year ago and resides as a 44 yr. old in a nursing home in Minot. Our third, Scott is married and farms and ranches with us and his wife teaches at MSU in Minot and is a physical therapist. They have two children Lisa, three years and Connor is 10 months.

Along with occasionally baby sitting the two grands, I have recently embarked on my life time ambition. I love to write and you may have noticed some of my articles and Bible studies appearing in our LWML Quarterly. Writing personal things as well as even writing the Bible studies is a daunting task. It takes much prayer to do this as in doing so it leaves one very vulnerable to criticism and much doubt on a personal front which is often Satan discouraging us from reaching out with the Gospel message this world so needs.

I am very much strong on Bible study and as a group I do know we have many resources available if you would like to use resources for your group for study. Try organizing a neighborhood study and invite neighbors outside of our LCMS to come. I have attended a neighborhood one for years and though I am not always in favor of their material as they are mostly of the Baptist faith we have done several of ours as well and have been blessed by doing them.

I can not emphasize enough how important Bible study is to the growth of our faith. You can not grow in faith without being in the Word. Make it a point to be in attendance whether you have an LWML Bible study or if a study is offered on a regular basis on Sundays or week nights. Your life will be blessed by doing so.

In closing allow me to use the words of Malachi 3:6 "For I the Lord do not change." The Lord assures us in this passage that He never changes. He continues to condemn sin, but He also extends mercy on us forever. What a comfort in this rapidly changing world. We have a Savior Who is One we can count on to stay the same through countless generations.

Blessings to you in this season of change.  
Betty Marschner





## Christ's Care for Children—one of our Mission Grant projects paid in the last biennium and also a Mission Grant project for this biennium.



In August, the students from all “6” Project-24 locations (YES I said 6!) gathered together at the newest Project-24 location, Nyambiri, for the building dedication and the Bi-Annual Catechetical Club Competition. I am forwarding the latest newsletter (August) that tells more about it. With Nyambiri up and running, we now have 190 students in the program, attending school and most importantly, learning about the love and mercy of Jesus every day! I am also including a picture of all the students with the director of Project-24/Christ's Care for Children: Kenya, John Kissinger in the center!



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**We're on the Web!**  
ndlwml.org



# DISTRICT DATES

- ◆ LWML ND District BOD Meeting:  
Carrington ~ November 3, 2018
- ◆ Eastern Zone Fall Rally @ St. John's,  
Hillsboro ~ November 10, 2018









The LWML North Dakota District is now on Facebook! Click the "Like" button at the top of the page to become a fan, stay current on news and upcoming events, and share Christian fellowship right from your desk. ([www.facebook.com/ND.LWML](http://www.facebook.com/ND.LWML))

## LWML ND District Mission Grants 2018-2020 Biennium

MISSION GRANT	AMOUNT BUDGETED	AMOUNT PAID	BALANCE
ND District Full-Time Church Worker Scholarships	\$35,000.00	-0-	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
Orphan Grain Train—ND Branch	\$7,500.00	-0-	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
Christ's Care for Children: Kenya	\$7,500.00	-0-	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
Mercy Meals through Orphan Grain Train	\$5,000.00	-0-	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Operation Barnabas	\$3,000.00	-0-	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
St. Andrews Mission Society Bus Project	\$2,500.00	-0-	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
Main Street Living	\$10,000.00	-0-	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	\$5,000.00	-0-	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Martin Luther School Scholarship Fund (partial funded)	\$625.00	-0-	<b>\$625.00</b>
Immanuel Lutheran Church Child Care Center (partial funded)	\$625.00	-0-	<b>\$625.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$76,750.00</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$76,750.00</b>

# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 President Valerie Biberdorf Remember her with a special prayers
3 ND District Full-Time Church Worker Scholarships Pray for this project this month .	4 Wear Brown Shoe Day. Add an extra coin to your Mite Box for each pair of brown shoes you own	5 St. Martin Anamoose Pray for these sisters in Christ.	6 Mitten Tree Day Take a pair of mittens to a local giving tree.	7 If your Christmas Tree is up add two coins if not add one coin to your mite box	8 National Brownie Day Visit a shut in with a treat. Add an extra coin or two for your health	
						
10 Zion Binford Pray for these sisters in Christ	11 Peace Barney Pray for these sisters in Christ	12 Poinsettia Day Thank God for flowers and an extra coin in your mite box	13 Ice Cream Day What is your favorite flavor. If it has chocolate add two extra coins to your mite box.	14 Add a coin for each Christmas card you have received	15 Trinity Tolley Pray for these sisters in Christ	
						
17 Holy Cross Lidgerwood Pray for these sisters in Christ	18 Bake Cookies Day started your Christmas baking add one coin if not two coins to the mite box.	19 If you have mailed all your Christmas cards add two coins if not add three coins to the mite	20 Go Caroling Day Sing Christmas carols as you go about your work today.	21 Winter Solstice If there is snow on the ground add two coins if not add three coins to the mite box.	22 Concordia Beulah Pray for these sisters in Christ	
						
24 Christmas Eve Begin your celebration of the Lord's birth		26 Thank you note Day Take time to write at least one Thank you note today.	27 Cut Out Snowflakes Day If it snows today add three coins to the mite box.	28 St Paul Beach Pray for these sisters in Christ	29 Jr Counselor Rev Aaron Hambleton Remember him with a special prayers	
30 Thank God for the blessings He gave this past year. Add to the mite box as blessed.	31 New Year's Eve Ask God to bless our country in the New Year.			