

## 2020 SEPTEMBER

**HUG~in~a~MUG** Proverbs 31: 10-31  
{the familiar Epilogue of Women of noble character} v. 31 **"Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own work bring praise in the gates."** **KJV.**

The Spirit gave me two words when I stared at these colorful pages...**Tapestry** and **Kaleidoscope**. I see these collages of color and smiling faces of the Servant Women of Oregon, and it gives me pure **JOY**. Kaleidoscope comes from Greek, the word "*kali/os*," meaning beautiful. These are my friends over four decades, some, and they are beautiful to my eyes. And here we stand in the coming Fall, woven of a fabric, a sisterhood ~ tapestry, producing a design, our plan, Mission Outreach goals, ministry around the world, all knit with energy, focus, eyes on outcome and success, buoyed up by the Holy Spirit...and v. 30 "*women who fear the Lord, not vain, are worthy to be praised.*" Honor comes through humility and the fear of the Lord; she is the personification of wisdom. This is one strong team, holding things together in her own "village," working behind the scenes now, despite enormous roadblocks. We keep the faith that our District will stay strong, and we pray for each other.



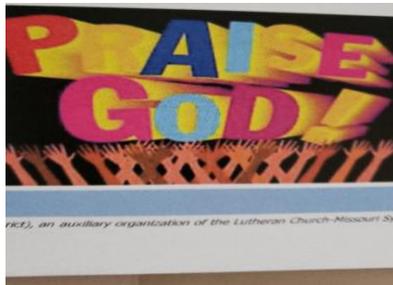
We congratulate our new President, Carol Reis, taking the helm in the most challenging decade we have ever known. We give dear Carmen our utmost gratitude for four exciting and ground-breaking years ever...events written on the back of our eyelids, full of her grace, soft voice, and compassion for us all.



Greetings ladies of the ODLWML! I give you today "*my optical kaleidoscope*," from the pages of our **Summer Leaguer**, thanks to the craft of one talented Char Kroemer, ZOOM Mistress of Ceremonies, when we met July 2, via virtuality! We had not seen each other since Spring Board in Cottage Grove, and it was so good to see nearly 45 persons "chime in."



**Many hands on deck July 2:** Counselor Rev. Ted Will; beloved Rev. Gary Krumdick; NWLCMS Dist. Pres., Paul Linneman; Carmen, and National Vice Pres. of Organizational Resources, Marie Chow. ☺



As our PRASIE GODS FOR ALL OUR HANDS poster says:  
*We are an auxiliary organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and so proud of it.*

Amid the ash fall gravity of the pandemic, as of this week, it has been 28 weeks, 196 sad and heart-breaking days, nearly six months of witnessing cancelled Society and Circles,, Bible studies, our Convention, Spring and now Fall rallies, and Board meetings where our hearts and souls now sing: "ON WITH BUSINESS," moving to the big screens of virtual communication and connecting once more, "LINKing ," as we say in Leader Development, and staying linked, please.

***For a brief moment....***

Let's revisit Proverbs again for a few minutes. I ended up taking key words from verses 10-31. I pulled out the word structure of each one. I was struck by the verb-action at the heart of this book; Luther called it "the book of good works." BUT so many jump out as oft quoted or memorized along our Lutheran life. Everyone has a favorite, am sure. Proverbs is more practical than theological. And this month we all need to be practical.

Why, I was exhausted when I read through the 21 verses and amazed at the responsibility attributed to the women of the house. Have you found in these quarantined circumstances, you see things that have been left undone, and are suddenly annoyed by little things to the point of doing it? Plenty of down time to do, huh? That cupboard that needs hinges fixed or fascia wiped clean to a shine? The need to Shark the floors 3x more weekly, just because you are rewarded with the cleanliness.

Proverbs tells us: we rise early, we feed the household; we shop/plan & purchase; tend gardens and vineyards; we borrow and build strength, tasks once beyond us; weave/mend & spindle; give to poor & needy; burn candles late; spin/mend/and clothe loved ones to each season; make, sell & deliver; remain cloaked in honor such that: children call us blessed, worthy of praise, excel others gone before us, and fear the Lord, worthy to be praised.

***"Give her the fruit of her hands; and let her own work bring praise in the gates." KJV.***

Leaders of this District, the Tapestry of the Kaleidoscope, are not women in their humility and wisdom to seek reward praise, however. They just keep on keeping on. I feel the real touchstone of these next several months must be uplifting the District-wide Sisterhood. And going back to the Five C's: Commitment, CONNECTION\*, Compassion, Consistency, and Competency.

To that end, Leader Development begs you to do your homework now.... the teacher in me, winsome at knowing my classroom days were officially retired mid March, I have a simple virtual school ASSIGNMENT:

1. Pick a happy face or 2 out of the Kaleidoscope: phone her and have a chat, send a card, swap a meal.
2. Please enhance your e-mail box to include any and all housebound women ({young, old, silver, gold} of your church; build a prayer chain, and urge each to reach one, to simply hit ➡ FORWARD ANY AND ALL ITEMS COME DOWN FROM DISTRICT or NTL. or NWDLCMS... **so we stay connected; it is a good and healthy feeling for all.**

***And now, may God richly bless and keep you all; cover you with angels of mercy & health, and in the Word.***

*Yours, heartfelt, and grateful, Pat Reck  
 Committee Chairman, Leader Development. 09/03/2020*