



*Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel (Luke 2: 29~32 NIV).*

Dear Brothers & Sisters of the faith, heartfelt greetings, as we turn our eyes to a new year, and this ancient prayer of Simeon as his revelation, a promise given, plays out in the temple. I cannot sing the "Nunc Dimittis"\* without tears and almost choking up. They are so powerful, from a man of great faith, and a capsule promise to the Clans and Nations of all the Earth, brought forth in an 8-day old child.

If seeing is believing, *that age old saying*, then we step out believing without seeing, in the flesh of His son, in words, in water, in bread, and wine. So, as we close out our heart-warming Advent season, where between Christmas Eve Friday, Christmas Day Saturday, and a Sunday worship, it was a 3-day weekend, full of song, prayer, Sacraments and JOY! Our eyes are on Easter already! But wait, please...

Luke goes on in verse 49 with the first "red letter" words spoken by the boy Jesus, as a twelve-year-old, found in the temple: **"Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"** He was aware of his unique relationship to God. And we are commissioned to be about His work: what a privilege to serve, witness, and be about the **JOY**. And we celebrate **our** unique relationship to God.

Minutes ago, I went on our website to see how our lofty Mission Goal of \$97, 020 was going. We picked up \$14,500 + in December ladies, so team: I KNOW WE CAN DO THIS! We need \$27,000 to reach our goal in the next 3 months, some ninety exact days away. The math teacher in me kicked into overdrive as I reached for my calculator. Let's see: 9 Zones @ 1,000 per Zone x 3 months = 27,000. Hmmm, now I need to find 20 friends who will commit to sending our treasured treasurer, Coleen G., \$50 each month now, OR reach out to all my Society ladies and ask them to find 40 women who will commit to \$25 each month... It is sounding more real and reasonable every minute, isn't it?

Let's all make it a "priority delivery," fellow LWML'ers, to phone-a-friend and get the ball rolling. We all have member "sisters." For me, I shall simply not send as much to my credit cards, and peel out \$50 to the cause. I hit my nearby Staples red "EASY" button for a giggle. 😊 Why? Because we need to meet our Project Goal...and then celebrate come Convention 2022, June 24-26...what a great and miracle-giving God we have.

In the meantime, I solicit prayers for our Jan. 3 planning "Zoom" committee meeting, for our Spring Board meeting, Feb.4~5, hosted by Grace Lutheran in Eugene, featuring a Leaders Retreat session for all VP's and Zone Presidents.

And I close with recognizing this is the year **LWML turns 80!** And so do I, in two weeks...and I canNOT imagine my life, without this organization guiding me 57 of my 80 years, in my personal walk with God, laced with so many mini miracles. With great gratitude for your prayers and the penultimate calm they brought me, as I went through the outpatient procedure on my weary heart, to "get my rhythm back!" I have not stopped smiling and thanking Him since, each and every new day.

I close with borrowing the theme of our upcoming February Board meeting. We have a full plate and much excitement, and many new faces, serving the Lord with gladness!

*Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially the gift of speaking what God has revealed (I Corinthians 14:1 GW).*

*Yours in His service, Patricia Reck, Leader Development: January ~ 2022*

\* "Nunc Dimittis", *Song of Simeon, Lutheran Hymnal pg. 29*