

YOUR MID-AUGUST 2017 HUG-IN-A MUG from Pat Reck☺

THE TIME IS *now*

Mid-August Greetings, Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ!

We have ALL had a tune pop into our heads, and not been able to get rid of it, yes??

Well, I was sitting, crashed and burned and bummed in my pj's this past Thursday, grieving on a foggy scale of 1-10, the loss of my eldest child, Robyn, some three weeks ago. And for no reason at all, I began humming first and then singing *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, loud and strong! Out of nowhere!! I made it through the first verse, without a stumble. And then, sure that I had a Lutheran Hymnal in the house, began frantically searching for it! Not to be found, I grabbed my study Bible and scanned the **Concordance** for the word "Faithfulness." I was, by now, desperate for *some words of comfort!*...

I fingered down a full eighteen choices under "**faithfulness**" and chose: **Jeremiah 31:3**... quite by chance, reading the chapter subtitle : THE LORD WILL TURN MOURNING TO JOY! At that moment, I knew the Lord had sent my singing heart to this balm. There was no chance, that morning! It is a lengthy chapter, but repeats over and over again in vivid pictures of a stumbling way....always, in that great Promise we live under...

" I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you." In my reading, I felt calm of my anguished days come over me like warm rain or soft arms....I was refreshed, although I stayed down and rested the day. And the tune has been with me now for three days. It's probably my theme song for duration of my task now, to ride out the unnatural chore of outliving your offspring. I have only to say, through good days and bad on this new, unguided path: I could not do it...*without His Unending Faithfulness.*

To that end, I take authors' license today, in this **HUG**, to simply thank you, my huge faith family, for the amazing outpouring of condolence cards giving me such strength and comfort as I re-read them from my basketful, over 80, and the messages, calls, and kindnesses of memorials you have poured out. You are Gods' army reminding me the love and support is all around me in prayer warriors. I am truly grateful

Keeping me going and having something to look forward to, then.....I am excitedly planning now, with Carol & Karen as your Leader Development Team, to work in league with President Carmen & Lisa Ballard on some precious time set aside at the **upcoming District Retreat, Sept. 29 ~Oct. 1**. We will welcome your nine Zone Presidents to a roundtable format, as **we generate the momentum from Albuquerque, going into this, our 76th year of LWML.**

His faithfulness will allow us to Engage, Encourage, Equip and Enjoy our sisters in Christ. **AND** We will welcome to the group **three NEW ZP's**: Betsy Ablott, Interstate; Barbara Campbell, Myrtlewood; and Carolyn Nelson, Southern Zone. That's really exciting!!

SO: Tell me you are registered for the Retreat, " **ABOVE ALL ELSE**", at Macleay Ctre. by Aug. 31
Tell me you are bringing a friend?? and Tell me I shall see you there??

Love & Grateful for your prayers,

☺ Pat