



*I was out backyard burning yesterday, leaning on my stir stick, hose at hand, and listening to the birds. And suddenly what met my eyes was, for me, a long-time Central Oregonian, remarkably 2-3 month EARLY signs of Spring! Blooming blue vinca, iris & daffodil and lilies several inches high, and squinting, I saw, three fourths of my 14-18 yr. old trees budding green...inexorable signs of New Life. I Peter, Ch. I, v. 3-5 and 6-9, figuratively reminds us of our New Life in Christ, and sustainability in suffering by JOY & HOPE. Change.... is inevitable!*

YOUR MARCH ~2016 HUG IN A MUG.....Good Misty Misty Moisty March Morning to my Sisters in Christ. Home now, two weeks flat in bed from "the bug," I have had untold time to reflect on our emboldening, exciting, Spring Board of Director's 2-day Meeting in Eugene, Messiah Lutheran hosting us. Just when I thought I could not possibly get quite SO EXCITED about yet another CON>>VEN>>TION... I REALLY, REALLY AM!! **Perhaps** it was the pep talk about our In-Gathering from Gayle Wolfe and Karen Young, demonstrating the T-SHIRT DIAPER sewing stretch ahead of us?? { My mathematical mind went to X sisters times 5 Zip Loc Bags x 6 diapers/per bag = that's only 350 women willing to clean, cut, zig-zag their way thru an afternoon at the sewing machine AND: **WOW**, we could have, upwards of **1,750** Bags of compassionate gifting of **10,500 DIAPERS!!!** (*That's only 40 willing women per Zone, ladies.*) I went right out to Goodwill Industries, bought my first six T-Shirts, got them cut and am ready to Zig 'n Zag..... for the GRACE RACE. **Perhaps** I am excited by the Nominees and women willing to put their names up for the Slate and breathe new life into to Executive Board. **Perhaps** I am pleased for Rev. Wesley Beck that he has two strong candidates with prior Zone Counselorship experience and a love for the Ministry and Mission Goals of our Organization, willing to come on Board and be our much revered Jr. Counselor as we Serve the Lord with Gladness. **Perhaps** I am just so proud of the District's commitment to our Mite Goals and satisfying this 2014-2016 Biennium, where, in just four weeks we will undoubtedly fund our last Gospel Outreach Projects, with great *JOY*, all this despite economic downturns and apocalyptic disasters across our Nation that called for additional, Synodical demands for attention elsewhere on our limited resources. Praise to the widows for every single Mighty Mite!©

I am unquestionably grateful for the detailed organization brought about by the **Myrtlewood and Emerald Zone** women, a mighty army unto themselves, such that we may look with great anticipation to a fine Convention, June 3-5 at the Eugene Hilton. Kudos to each and every woman assigned multitudinous jobs, her committees working for her...many eager willing hands will make light the load so we may all sit back and enjoy one another, raise voices, and take in the Bible studies and music and inspirational guest speakers.

Since we hear this time and again, it's time to recruit new guests and first-timers, Delegates, and Young Women...at your upcoming **Spring Flings**, light the fires for enthusiasm, enlist friends to come, recruit women to that "*T-Shirt Diaper Challenge*" of mine!

AND REMEMBER, IF CHANGE IS INEVITABLE...as we take on a new Board, Install New Officers, dedicate the In-Gathering, rejoice in our very being and sustained health and Faith, the j-o-b ahead of all you women leaders is to **Engage, Encourage, Equip & Enjoy** serving the Lord who gives us New Life .....such that "*..we may run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus.*" *Hebrews 12:1c~2a*

*Yours in Christ, Pat Reck, Leader Development Chairman*