

The Eastern District

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML



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Happy New Year to all of you!

A New Year is a time of renewal. To look at where you have been and what you hope to accomplish in the New Year.

So much has gone on in my life since my last article. I officially retired on August 15, 2006. It has been great to plan my own schedule and to spend time on the things I love the most, especially the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. I have attended the Niagara and Genesee Zone Fall rallies sharing the



Sail into the Future
Sisters Acting In Love

information about the "Sisters Acting In Love" (SAIL) program. It is great to meet the ladies of the zones that I serve with. If you have an event planned, be sure and invite me. I have a lot of time to travel and love to share the message of the LWML.

Our board meeting was held in September at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. I shared the vision of the SAIL program. Each officer was given a boat to remind them that we are all part of the crew keeping the boat afloat. We all signed each others boat as a reminder that we are all needed to accomplish the work. Teamwork is very important in any situation. Working with others on the same task is better than trying to do it alone. Remember – all the ladies of the Eastern District are part of this program too!

There are many opportunities to serve in the New Year:

Workshops, Joy shops, and Rallies

- * Attend an event and invite a friend
- * Mentoring someone about what LWML means to you.

2007 national convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 21 – 24

Witness the sharing, caring, and love of the LWML through:

- * Servant Events
- * Bible Study
- * Greeting friends both old and new
- * Mighty Mites in action as we determine which projects will be selected
- * And many other events!

Annual LWML Fall Retreat at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, September 21-23

Our speaker will be Jan Struck, a humorist with a Christian Message. Details will be coming out in the future.

Individual Society Events and meetings

Officer opportunities in the district

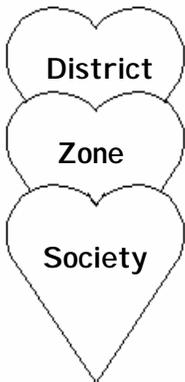
Need for co-chairman for the following:

- * Mission Grants Committee
- * Human Care committee
- * Leader Development committee
- * Structure Committee

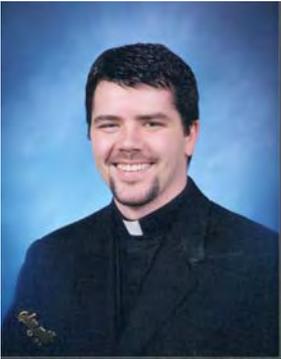
If you are interested, please contact me at Darlene248@aol.com or call 585-288-5568.

There are many ways to Serve the Lord with Gladness – come join us! You won't regret it.

In His Service,
Darlene Byrns
President, Eastern District LWML



Together
Serving
the Lord
with
Gladness



The Christian Family The Rev. Evan P. Gaertner

This time of year we all seem to find our focus on our families. Neither the family nor struggles in a family are a new concept. Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus fled to Egypt to escape the murderous rage of King Herod after being visited by the Wise Men. The Holy Spirit watched over the Holy Family as they made this journey and called them back to Nazareth when it was safe. The rage and anger of Herod was not going to be able to defeat the purposes of God. In fact, this journey to Egypt fulfilled the Old Testament promise, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

At the baptism of Jesus we find a fuller picture of the family of Jesus. Immediately after Jesus was baptized a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Jesus is the only begotten son of the Almighty Father. At Jesus' baptism the household of God, all three persons of the Holy Trinity were visible.

The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and Jesus' baptism point to the intersection of our participation in our physical families and in the family of God. In both God is at work fulfilling his plans for us. God is at work in your family, physically and spiritually, but this is not always clearly visible. St. John the Evangelist wrote, "*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is*" (1 John 3:2).

When a mother gives birth and that newborn baby is placed into her arms, a relationship of love and care is born. Likewise when in the water's of baptism God places his name upon you, a relationship of love and care is born.

I know the struggle we find in witnessing; that our families do not always live up to our expectations. We also struggle with what we expect from our congregations and what we actually witness happening day to day. Living in this tension can create a lot of stress. I wonder how stressful it was for Joseph and Mary to experience the visit of the Wise Men and then quickly pack up and leave for Egypt? How contrary to what they expected was that journey! Yet we know the Spirit was at work.

There are moments in our lives when we do not see clearly how God could be at work. I am sure we all want to give our children and friends the keys to a life of meaning and fullness, but you know thriving in this world is not going to be easy. But no matter how challenging the world around us may be or how difficult it can be to see sin raise its ugly head in our congregations, the meaning and fullness of life is found in the love of God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to LINK your physical families with your family of God. Whether it is home devotions, singing together in the same pew, or kneeling together at the communion rail, trust that you are a part of a family built on the foundation of the love of Jesus.



The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

Welcome

**WELCOME NEW
ZONE PRESIDENTS**

We welcome the following newly elected Zone Presidents into the Eastern District LWML:

- Fern Suckow—Buffalo Zone
- Cathly Ippolito—Genesee Zone
- Cathy Kabell—Pittsburgh Zone

- Thank you to the outgoing Presidents for your time and efforts
- Joan Fritsch—Buffalo Zone
 - Rebecca Bessell—Genesee Zone
 - Waneta Lingenfelter—Pittsburgh Zone

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| March 9-10, 2007 | Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting
Pinnacle Lutheran Church
Rochester, NY |
| June 21-24, 2007 | LWML Convention
Sioux Falls, South Dakota |
| Sept. 21-23, 2007 | Fall Retreat
Camp Pioneer
Hamburg, NY |
| June 6-8, 2008 | 2008 District Convention
Rochester, NY |

MISSION GRANT NEWS

As we begin a new year, we look back at what has passed and then look ahead at what is to come. Looking back we recall the Eastern District Convention held in June in Lockport, New York. Here we approved a mission goal of \$22,800 and selected five grants to support with our mites. Now it is time to look ahead.

First, we need to remain faithful in the giving of our mites. Let us do this prayerfully, asking God to bless our offerings to do His work.

As surprising as it may seem, we also need to look ahead to 2008. Proposals for mission grants to be voted on in 2008 will need to be written and submitted by this fall. Now is the time to look for potential projects. Do you see a way to share the love of Christ with others in your community through a mission project? Speak with your pastor, your society, and members of your congregation to identify areas where LWML might be able to provide funding for a mission project. Start planning now so that we may continue to serve the Lord with gladness.

In His service,
Jackie Blank
Mission Grants chair



GRANT #1 PAID

\$5,000 has been paid to LCMS World Mission for Kyrgystan Mentoring Church Leadership. This grant will be used for resources in preparing Pastoral candidates to share Jesus with those who don't know Him in the Kyrgystan area. This was Grant #1 approved at the 2006 Eastern District Convention for the 2006-2008 biennium. Your generous Mite donations have made it possible to pay this grant. Please continue to give generously to Mites so we will be able to fund all our grants in this biennium.

**FROM THE GENESSEE ZONE
MITES FOR MISSIONS**

The LWML group at St. John, Hamlin, NY decided to try something new this year. We put Mite boxes in every Sunday bulletin with a challenge for all to put their change in the box for the next three weeks. Each week we included a little information about how our Mites further mission work here and abroad. On LWML Sunday we had everyone bring their Mites forward during the service. The children were also included in this and received their Mite boxes in Sunday School. To date we have received \$575.08! It was a wonderful response and we definitely will try this again next year.

**REMINDER TO ZONE AND
SOCIETY PRESIDENTS:
NATIONAL LWML WILL WANT STATISTICS!**

Shortly after the new year begins, National LWML will be requesting statistics from the various districts for the 2007 National LWML Convention Manual. Back in March 2005 a memo was sent to zone presidents reminding you that zone presidents are responsible for keeping track of the number of zone events during July 2005-2007 (rallies, seminars, workshops, prayer services, zone retreats, servant events, etc.). In addition, society presidents will need to provide you with the total number of women involved in their local activities and number of active LWML members. Naturally there will have to be some estimating of events through June 2007, but please begin compiling these figures now so they'll be ready when you are contacted for them. If you are a new zone or society president and have no idea what this is about, it's not too late to begin gathering this information – just didn't want you to be surprised when you're officially asked to supply the figures from your zone/society! Kathi Rickus, VP Communications

For Your Information

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding the reconfiguration of the District Circuits and how that effects the LWML Zones. Even if your church has been moved to a new circuit, the LWML Zones remain the same, so keep meeting in your Zones as you always have

We need YOU

NEEDED: We are still in need of a Retreat Theme and a Zone to host the 2007 retreat, September 21-23 at Camp Pioneer. We also need retreat coordinators. The speaker has already been planned. If there anyone who would be willing to help with this, please contact Darlene Byrns at Darlene245@aol.com



Former Eastern District President Claire Carlson and Karen Blackmon from the Buffalo Zone, holding up the quilt which Karen put together from the quilt squares made at the Eastern District LWML Retreat at Camp Pioneer September 14-16,2006.

ATTENTION: LWML SOCIETY PRESIDENTS AND INDIVIDUAL LWML MEMBERS

Please cooperate and complete form below as indicated for the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscriptions beginning with the Summer 2007 issue – **deadline for orders: April 1, 2007.** Return a form even if your order is not changing!!

**Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League
LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY ORDER FORM
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008**

Please complete form and return by April 1, 2007 to:

Mrs. Katharine Rickus, ED LWML VP Communications, 250 Rogers Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150-5273 or
E-mail: RICK4219@aol.com (be sure to put LWML in subject line!)

Name of LWML Society (or Women's Group if combined) _____
(or Individual Member's name if not affiliated with a Society: _____)

Congregation _____
(name) (city)

Mailing Address for Quarterlies: _____
(Street address)

(City, State and Zip Code)

of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscriptions ordered for Fiscal year 2007-2008: _____

The cost of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and publication expenses for the *ED LWML LINK* newsletter* for 2007-08 is

\$5.50 each subscription for orders of 10 or more, or
\$7.00 each subscription for orders of 1-9 copies.

Note: National LWML increased the cost of the Quarterlies in the Spring of 2007, thus the increase of 50 cents over last year's cost.

Payment is encouraged within the first few months of fiscal year 2007-2008. Send payment to your Zone Treasurer and indicate on check "For Quarterlies 2007-08. Return this completed Order Blank to Kathi Rickus.

Ordered by: _____
(Signature)

Telephone # _____

* The subscription rates above include funds to help defray the cost of the ED LWML LINK newsletter, one copy of which is sent to Society Presidents. Payment enables more Mite Box offerings to be available to fund mission grants. Copies are also provided the ED LWML Board of Directors, congregations without active societies and some National LWML personnel. Society Presidents are encouraged to share the news in the LINK with their society members by making copies or gleaning information for church newsletters/ bulletins.



32ND BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Have you marked your calendars for June 21-23, 2007? That's when the 32nd LWML Biennial Convention will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. That is where the Lutheran Women in Mission will gather to **ROCK!** and learn to **Rest On Christ the King**. Dr. Mary Manz Simon, best-selling author and well-known speaker, is the Bible study leader, who will share with us her insight of God's Word. We are also privileged to have as our keynote speaker, Terry Kieschnick, who is first lady of the LCMS, wife of LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick. Terry has a heart for all women who serve the Lord with gladness! Be there to hear her encourage us, as we learn to truly "**ROCK!** and learn to **Rest On Christ the King**".

Detailed information, including all registration forms and order forms, along with the schedule and the details of the presenters is available in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, which you should have received at your church. Information is also available on the LWML website at www.lwml.org. Registration is open starting March 1st.

Tour information will be sent separately to your LWML District President. You won't want to miss the Corn Palace and the Black Hills, which are great for family fun or a busload of convention goers. See www.lwml.org for more details.

Come:

- * Rejoice in the security found in God's Word and love
- * Celebrate the oneness found in Jesus, our King
- * Confidently and boldly share the Gospel message
- * Be led and guided by the Lord to personal avenues of service

"In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me." (Psalm 31:1-3)

FIRE AT CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES, CABOT, PENNSYLVANIA

As many of you have probably heard, there was a fire at Concordia Lutheran Ministries in Cabot, Pennsylvania that destroyed the Haven 1 apartment building. Thanks be to God that all residents, rescue workers and volunteers were kept safe and no one was injured. Many of the residents are now in the new Lund expansion (an assisted living facility) at the present time. The residents don't know at what time there will be a new apartment building where they can each return to the "comforts" of their own shower, kitchen, etc. Below is a list of the LWML ladies who were living in Haven 1 at the time of the fire.

Peg Schelein 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #251 Cabot, PA 16023

Eleanor Schwalm 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #356 Cabot, PA 16023

Dorothy Blankenbuehler 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #351 Cabot, PA 16023

Jean Hauer 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #200 Cabot, PA 16023

June Scarpino 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #001 Cabot, PA 16023

Henrietta Maurhoff 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #355 Cabot, PA 16023

Arlene Beckman 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #117 Cabot, PA 16023

Ruth Goerss 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #301 Cabot, PA 16023

Anne Pfeifer 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #220 Cabot, PA 16023



The Board of Directors of the Eastern District LWML voted to contribute \$50 to each of the above-named ladies taken from in-kind donations to help support them in this most difficult time. Please continue to lift these ladies and the Concordia Home in your prayers as they try to rebuild their lives.

Executive Committee:

- President** **Darlene Byrns**
1712 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14610-2319
585-288-5568
Darlene248@aol.com
- Vice President Communication** **Katherine Rickus**
250 Rogers Avenue
Tonawanda, NY 14150
716-695-2959
Rick4219@aol.com
- Vice President Gospel Outreach/ Servant Resources** **Rebecca Bessell**
7048 Benedict Beach Road
Hamlin, NY 14464
585-964-7844
rlb54@rochester.rr.com
- Vice-President Christian Life/Human Care** **Waneta Lingenfelter**
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Philipsburg, PA 16866
814-342-2715
Kenwan@adelphia.net
- Recording Secretary** **Patricia Clark**
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315-762-5654
patsyclark@twcmv.rr.com
- Financial Secretary** **Donna Coleman**
542 Burritt Road
Hilton, NY 14468-9705
585-392-7491
MC92DC@aol.com
- Treasurer** **Kathy Pavelock**
8200 State Route 13
Blossvale, NY 13308
315-245-1590
kmpavelock@aol.com
- Pastoral Counselor** **Rev. Arthur Litke**
108 Arden Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116-1697
412-486-5962 (home)
412-486-5777 (church)
jstaupitz@msn.com
- Pastoral Counselor** **Rev. Evan Gaertner**
736 Cayuga Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
716-283-1843 (church)
TheRevEv@yahoo.com

Appointed By the President:

- Parliamentarian** **Gretchen Putzman**
148 Heather Hill
West Seneca, NY 14224
716-674-8859
- 2008 Convention Liaison** **Barbara Williams**
6132 Prospect Street
Newfane, NY 14108-1313
716-778-8824
Brwcpa421@aol.com
- Planner** **Karen Devan**
6438 Lake Shore S.
Canastota, NY 13032
315-762-4222
DPDevan@aol.com

Appointed By the Executive Committee:

- Editor** **Beverly Wicher**
150 Unionvale Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-634-5898
bevajw@adelphia.net
- Public Relations Director** **Martha McGlynn**
932 Bartram Avenue
Collingdale, PA 19023
610-586-3589
marthamurphy@verizon.net
- Archivist/Historian** **Linda Bahr**
7638 Gifford Road
Rome, NY 13440
315-339-1979
lbahr@twcny.rr.com
- Stamps for Missions Coordinators**
- Deaconess Nancy Lingenfelter** **Trudy Sallach**
102 Timber Road 5465 Patton Street
Morrisdale, PA 16858-8730 Erie, PA 16510
814-345-5779 814-866-7662
f-lingenfelter@juno.com

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

Beverly Wicher
150 Unionvale Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
E-mail: bevajw@adelphia.net

The next deadline is March 1, 2006

The Link is published four times each year.
Deadlines to submit articles:
March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

TOGETHER IN PRAYER



Don't forget to join your National LWML Sisters "Together in Prayer Every Monday at Noon". Pray for our National LWML, Our Districts, Our Zones, Our Societies and our "Mites" and Mission Grants that they may be used to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the World. Each month there is a specific prayer emphasis listed on the National LWML Website at www.lwml.org and also in the LWML E-News.

MMV—Mission—Ministry Vision program is available in our Eastern District. We have two consultants who have been trained to encourage and assist women's groups in reaching out to others by:

- * Defining their purpose and sharpening mission focus
- * Exploring various organizational structures
- * Helping to plan effective, spiritually motivated programs
- * Assisting in developing local leaders

If you would like one of these MMV Consultants to come in and work with your LWML groups, contact one of them today; they would love to help you.

Claire Carlson (Buffalo) 716 649-4678
e-mail Patchtroop546@aol.com or
Jacqui Green (Philadelphia) 215 473-1421
e-mail jacqui2@verizon.net

Be a Good Steward and Help Us Share "The Link"

IMPORTANT!!!! It appears that some contact people are still not receiving their copy of the Link. This is our only form of communication and it is very important that it is shared with the appropriate people. "The Link" is currently mailed to all members of the Board of Directors of the Eastern District LWML (which includes each Zone President) and to either the Society President or Representative that each society has designated and of which we have been informed. In most cases these are mailed to the church address with the name of the person to receive it on the envelope, unless we have been asked specifically to mail it to the contact person's home address. In some cases, where it has been requested by the congregation, the Pastor or church secretary is the person to receive this communication.

Special note to all: If you find this mailing to be in your hands, you are a very important person in our distribution of "The Link". **This may not be intended to be your personal copy.** Currently, we do not plan to distribute "The Link" to individual e-mail addresses.

Attention: Society Presidents

Either copy this issue for your society members, or post it at church, or glean items from it to submit articles for your congregation's bulletin/newsletter and, above all, remember to inform your members at society meetings.

LWML Eastern District – from the Editor

If you find yourself to be the recipient of this issue of "The Link" and it should be directed to someone else or you would like to provide a different mailing address, please inform me of the following:

Replace with this name and mail to:

Name: _____

District/Church: _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

State, City, Zip Code: _____

Remove the following name:

Name: _____

District/Church: _____

Position/Title: _____

Address: _____

State, City, Zip Code: _____

Return to:

Beverly Wicher
 LWML Eastern District – Editor
 150 Unionvale Road
 Cheektowaga, New York 14225
 Or e-mail: bevajw@adelphia.net
 Please indicate: LWML Link-Address Change on the subject line

Attention: Society Presidents
Need to decrease (or increase) Quarterlies?
Take note of April 1, 2007 deadline!!!!

Decreases in Lutheran Woman's Quarterly subscriptions can be made only once a year, and the deadline is April 1, 2007 to contact VP of Communications Katharine Rickus of any such changes for 2007-08. Note: Increases and changes of address can be made anytime during the year. You can reach Kathi by mail: 250 Rogers Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150 or e-mail: RICK4219@aol.com. (Be sure to put LWML in the subject line!)

Societies are reminded to help defray the cost of the Quarterlies and ED LWML LINK newsletter expenses by sending contributions to their respective zone treasurers, who will, in turn, send them to the ED LWML Financial Secretary. If you have not covered your Quarterlies for the current fiscal year (April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007), please do so as soon as possible! Special thanks to all those societies who have covered their Quarterly subscription costs to date!

Did you know? National LWML increased the cost of the Quarterly beginning with the Spring 2006 issue. Therefore, the rates for the new fiscal year for the Eastern District LWML (April 1, 2007-March 31, 2008) will be as follows: \$7.00 per subscription for 1-9 copies to same address; \$5.50 per subscription for 10 or more copies to same address. These figures include the cost of the Quarterly plus a \$1.50 contribution towards the cost of the ED LWML LINK newsletter, one copy of which is sent to Society presidents in care of the congregation unless the president has requested the LINK editor to mail it directly to her home.

IMPORTANT FACT: These donations will enable the District to use your mite box offerings more effectively for mission grants; otherwise the Quarterly and LINK expenses must come from Mite Box receipts!

P.S. Just a reminder – please also notify Kathi Rickus of any changes in zone or society officers for the ED LWML Directory so it can be kept up-to-date!

Congratulations to Pastor Sound, former Pastoral Counselor, who has been elected Pastoral Counselor of the Cheasapeake District

Bev Wicher
Eastern District LWML Editor
150 Unionvale Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
E-mail Bevajw@adelphia.net

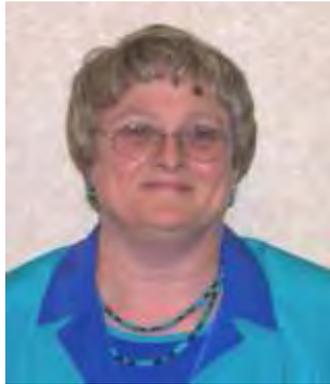
The Eastern District

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML



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"Greetings to all,

I attended the LWML Board of Directors meeting in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in January. It was a cold weekend when we made our plans to ROCK at the 32nd Biennial LWML convention on Thursday, June 21 through Sunday, June 24, 2007. We toured the facilities and saw the areas where everything will take place. I know you will enjoy everything that is being planned.



*Sail into the Future
Sisters Acting In Love*

Here is some information to make your convention enjoyable.

- * Servant events begin at 9 am on Thursday, June 21. If you arrive on Wednesday, you will be able to join in.
- * The Sioux Falls airport is not very large. It has limited number of airlines. Make your reservation soon. You may have to leave on Monday.
- * The meal package is recommended. There aren't any restaurants within walking distance. There are food concessions available in the convention center. Most hotels offer breakfast.
- * The convention arena is stadium seating. The delegates will be on the main floor and guests in the bleachers. There is an elevator for handicapped access to the stadium seating. If you use a walker or cane, you may not be able to sing in the choir. The choir will sit on the opposite side from the elevator.
- * You will need to purchase a shuttle pass in order to get transportation to the convention center. They will not be sold at the hotels. It is on the registration form.
- * Follow the instruction carefully for the "Gifts From The Heart" located in the Winter Quarterly.

We will not be able to have a District caucus due to space limitations. I have reviewed the information with the Board of Directors in March. Please contact your Zone President. Delegates will be receiving the information from national LWML.

There will be no official district pictures taken at the convention. I will try and set up some place outside to take a picture.

I will have Eastern District Identification badges available for sale at the convention; they will cost \$2..

I encourage anyone who is attending the convention to contact me at: Darlene Byrns, 1712 Blossom Rd, Rochester, NY 14610, or email: Darlene248@aol.com or call: 585-288-5568 so I will know who will be attending.

Safe travel as we meet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on June 21 – June 24.

**Your Sister in Christ,
Darlene Byrns
President, Eastern District LWML**

I can do anything through Him who strengthens me" Phil. 4:13



*Together
Serving
the Lord
with
Gladness*

COUNSELOR'S

AN UNBALANCED EXCHANGE

"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

During these days of Lent we meditate on the sufferings and death of our Lord and Savior, as well as on our sin and unworthiness, which made His suffering and death necessary for our salvation. We say this all the time and we adopt a less-than-festive mood during these days to reinforce the fact that sin and death are very serious matters. Some people consider our solemn (and perhaps at times somber) demeanor during this season to be morbid and unhealthy.

I beg to differ. What we are mourning during these Lenten days is not the suffering and death of our Savior. His suffering and death are something for us to celebrate--which we will do with great joy at Easter. In fact, that's what the resurrection of Jesus really is: a celebration of God's acceptance of the sacrifice made by Christ for the sin of the world.

I'm not so sure that we give enough attention to and show enough appreciation for what actually happened when Jesus took upon Himself the task of reconciling lost sinners to their just and holy God. It was an exchange that took place. Jesus took something from us and He gave us something of His in return.

We can't really say that it is a fair exchange. What Jesus took from us is our sin and the guilt that goes with it. He took it all upon Himself--all the sin and guilt of all people for all time--and endured the just punishment of God for that sin. In exchange for that He gives us His perfect righteousness--righteousness with which we are clothed for the day of judgment. As a result of this, the perfect Son of God--the Innocent One--cries out from the cross: *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)*, while we--the guilty ones--are accepted by God as His "beloved [children], with whom He is well pleased" (*Matthew 3:17*).

This is Good News--too good for us to keep to ourselves! Scripture tells us that *"in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19)*. The proper response to the unfathomable love God has shown toward us in His Son is to share that love with others by telling them who Jesus is and what He has done for us and for them.

May The Lord bless our Lenten discipline and instill in us a fervent desire to seize every opportunity that He places before us to share the Good News of His grace with others, so that more of those for whom Christ suffered and died may hear and believe and be brought into His kingdom of grace.

Pastor Art Litke

Senior Pastoral Counselor

NOMINATIONS WANTED

The Board of Directors approved the following Nominating Committee at their meeting March 9-10.

Rebecca Bessell, Committee Chair (Genesee Zone)

rb54@rochester.rr.com

Susan Bell (Philadelphia Zone) susanbell557@comcast.net

Bev Wicher (Buffalo Zone) Bevajw@adelphia.net

Nominations are being sought for candidates for the following offices:

Vice President of Communications;
Recording Secretary,
Financial Secretary
Counselor.

The term of office will begin June 2008 and run for four years.

Any society member or society may submit a nomination to the Nominating Committee. Nomination and Consent Forms and the descriptions of the duties of office may be obtained from Rebecca Bessell, committee chair, who can be reached at 7048 Benedict Beach Rd., Hamlin, NY 14464 (585 964-7844 OR via e-mail (see above) or from any of the committee members. Nominations must be in by **October 15, 2007**.

Eastern District LWML 2006-2008 Mission Grants		
		--- Mission Grant Goal
Supplies for "God With Us" senior lunches, Immanuel Women's Society, Braddock, PA	\$3,800	\$22,800
Fund "Healing and Hope" that serves children and families in the community, Burgundy, LA	\$5,000	*\$19,000
Purchase food for daily noon meal to 125 Lutheran School Children in Haiti, Trinity/HOPE, Gallatin, TN	\$4,000	*
Seed money for Papyrus Respite Ministry Program, Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Eden, NY	\$5,000	\$10,000
Kyrgystan Mentoring Church Leadership, which trains pastoral candidates, LCMS World Mission, St. Louis, MO	\$5,000	\$5,000 PAID

*Grants 3 and 4 will be funded at the same time because they received the same number of votes.

MISSION GRANT NEWS

Today I am excited to share a thank you with you. It comes from John Hall, President of Trinity/HOPE in Lebanon, Tennessee, Paul M. Touloute, Pastor of College Le Lutherien des Cayes, Haiti and the students as they anticipate receiving the money to provide a daily meal for 125 children who attend the Lutheran School there. These beautiful little children at the school will be nourished due to your generosity in giving Mites.

Following is the letter written by the students:

To: Lutheran Women's Missionary League

From: The Students of College Le Lutherien

Object: Thanks

Dear responsables,

We, the students of College Le Lutherien des Cayes, are honored to greet you in the precious name of our Lord and divine Master Jesus Christ.

How are you doing, dear benefactors? We are well under the powerful hands/wings of God. We thank you for your generosity towards us. Your work is not vain in the Lord. We pray that God give you health and long life so that you continue helping the poor throughout the world, and more specifically, the students at College Le Lutherien des Cayes.

We hope that you continue this praiseworthy ministry.

May God keep and protect you until He establishes His sovereign Kingdom.

Please receive our thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

In the letter from John Hall:

...this nutritious meal is literally a lifeline. It in many ways is also a spiritual lifeline because of the witness you provide of the great truth of Christ's love. These children ... often come to belief in Christ by the scores. We estimate that as many as 90-95% of the children in our schools are believers. This is truly remarkable since only about 35% of the general population is Christian. God bless you for your blessing these children.

Please give generously to Mites so that this grant along with all the grants approved for the 2006-2008 Biennium can be fully funded. As you continue to place mites in you Mite box, pray for these children and for God's blessing on all we do as we serve Him through LWML.

In His service,
Jackie Blank
Mission Grants
Chair


Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2



Your Money At Work

St. Peter Lutheran Church, 4169 Church Rd., Lockport, N.Y. submitted a grant request to LWML for a Sunday School Fair as a community mission outreach. As presented in the proposal, children and adults of the congregation would be able to invite friends, neighbors, nonmembers and newcomers to experience Sunday School through a fair. The children would be involved in different activity areas (craft, game, music) that would all be related to a particular Bible story. We received notification in February 2006 that we would be receiving the Saturday collection from the LWML Convention to hold the Fair.

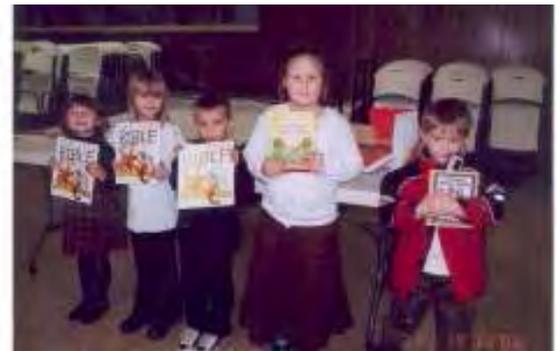
On June 18, 2006, Janice Voelker presented the Sunday School with a check for \$737.00 from the LWML Eastern District 2006 Convention.

On September 24, 2006, Rally Day, we held a Fun and Faith Activity Sunday. Forty-nine children participated in learning how to be Fishers of Men. The invitations the children created that day were used to invite a friend to the Sunday School Fair.

The theme of our Sunday School Fair, held Nov. 19, 2006 was "Giving Thanks". The children helped tell the Bible story by portraying the ten lepers. The children also enjoyed creating a Thanksgiving craft, frosting a horn of plenty cookie and eating it (YUM) and singing a song and playing a game about what they were thankful for. At the end of the Fair a fellowship reception was held. We welcomed seven children as guests to our

Fair. Each of these children received a Bible storybook and an invitation card to return to Sunday School on a regular basis. Several of our regular Sunday School children received "Fishers of Men" certificates for bringing a new child to Sunday School.

The Fair would not have been possible without the funding from the LWML grant. We thank them very much for supporting our outreach project.



Children who received Bible Storybook at the St. Peter Sunday School Fair

Mission Grant Request Forms Now Available

The Mission Grant Request Forms for the 2008-2010 Biennium were distributed to the Zone Presidents at the March Board of Directors Meeting. **The deadline for grant requests is October 15.** So be thinking now what mission outreach may be in need of funding. If you are in need of forms contact your Zone President or Jackie Blank, Mission Grants Chair.

News From the Anthracite Zone:

The Women of Faith, Herndon, PA held a baby shower for the Lifeline Pregnancy Center of Millersburg, PA. This was held January 21 in conjunction with Sanctity of Life Sunday.

The guest speaker was Bev Baker, the Executive Director of Lifeline Center of Millersburg. We at Faith are "Sisters Acting In love"...as we Sail Into the Future.



Virginia Schrawder, Speaker Bev Baker, Brit-tany, Amber Schrawder, Sherry Chatburn, Caroline Keiter, Faye Lahr, Shirley Miller

Spring Zone Events Are Coming:

Anthracite Zone—Check with your Zone officers for details

Buffalo Zone—Spring Workshop, May 5, 9:00, St. Paul, Batavia, MMV Presentation by MMV Consultant Claire Carlson. Bring a bag lunch, dessert and beverages will be provided.

Central NY North—Spring Rally is April 21, 2007 at Trinity Utica. 9:30 am Bible study led by Pastor Mokry from Trinity Utica. Lunch will be provided by the girls from Trinity, Utica. A business meeting will be held and we will end the day by assembling kits for the national convention "gifts from the heart" campaign.

Central NY South—Check with your Zone officers for details

Genesee Zone—Spring Workshop/Brunch on Saturday, May 5, 2007 from 9 am -12:00 pm at Trinity, Spencerport. The title is "What Do Kids and Veggies Have in Common? Outreach!" Please join us for fellowship, food and Bible Study. We will collect canned veggies for the Spencerport Food Cupboard. \$5.00 registration collected at the door. Please RSVP by April 30, 2007 to Linda Behrens, 585-594-1340. -request childcare or an interpreter for the deaf with RSVP.

Niagara Zone—Spring Gathering St. Peter /North Ridge (Lockport) NY—Saturday, April 28, 2007, 10:00-2:00 Program: MMV presentation—Claire Carlson; Mission Grant Update; Craft demo for homebound folks; Ingathering of items for Buffalo Lutheran Employment Services (BLES) Emergency Pantry; Plans for hosting Fall Women's Retreat—Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Sept. 21-23, 2007; Potluck Luncheon; National LWML Prayer Service

Pittsburgh Zone—Our Joy Shop is being held on April 21st. The Theme is Biblical Charity and Martin Luther.

Phildadelphia Zone—Sat. April 28th at Hope Lutheran Church in Levittown, PA, beginning at 9:30 AM. The guest speaker will be our own Darlene Brynes, speaking on S.A.I.L. in the Future (Sisters Acting In Love). The Rev. Charles St. Onge, our Zone Pastoral Counselor from St. Mark's in Ripley Park, PA will lead the morning Bible study.



How is your society doing?

As we serve the Lord through the LWML are we actually serving as best we can? If not maybe it is time for a revival within your group.

Across our entire organization; members, societies, zones and districts are being assisted in their ministry through **Mission-Ministry Vision** consultants (MMV). The consultants are Lutheran Women in Mission who are professionally trained to ENCOURAGE and assist women's groups in reaching out to others by: Defining their purpose and sharpening mission focus; Exploring various organizational structures; Helping to plan effective, spiritually motivated programs; and Assisting in developing local leaders.

MMV consultants are passionate about the mission of the LWML and the faith journey of its members. Thus they are ready to take you through the MMV process. The process can be brief or extensive as your needs require. Elements of the process may include: group dynamics, interviews, leadership training, conflict resolution, visioning, change assessment, etc. It can be customized according to where you are in your ministry and where you want to be. All of this will combine to create an experience that is meaningful, spiritually focused and fun.

So why not take a good look at your group and assess your need for an MMV consultation.

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. Phillipians 2:13

We have two MMVs in the Eastern district, Claire Carlson (patchtroop546@aol.com) and Jacqui Green (jacquig2@verizon.net). Claire and Jacqui want to hear from you, they want to visit you, and they want to share their resources with you. So don't hesitate contact either MMV and schedule a consultation for your society or a presentation for your zone. Do it today as you serve the Lord

Upcoming Events

June 21-24, 2007	LWML Convention Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Sept. 21-23, 2007	Fall Retreat Camp Pioneer Angola, NY
October 15, 2007	Deadline for Grant Requests Deadline for Nominations
June 6-8, 2008	2008 District Convention Rochester, NY

Reasons to ROCK in Sioux Falls, South Dakota—June 21-24,2007

Need more reasons to attend the 2007 LWML convention? Well, there's Prairie Park, the finest collection of exhibits especially for LWMLers west of — or, for that matter, east of — the Mississippi! And then there is Erin Bode, a classical jazz singer and an LCMS woman, who will entertain us Saturday night. On Friday night we will celebrate with entertainment extraordinaire for the LWML's 65th Anniversary. Here are more **ROCK**-solid reasons to come to Sioux Falls to **ROCK! Rest On Christ the King:**

- Rejoice in the security found in God's Word and love
- Celebrate the oneness found in Jesus, our King
- Confidently and boldly share the Gospel message
- Be led and guided by the Lord to personal avenues of service

Come join this activity-filled and action-packed weekend, complete with worship, Bible study and fellowship with other sisters and brothers in Christ. This is a can't-miss event, so we'll see you June 21-24 in Sioux Falls! Registration begins March 1, 2007. Plan now for a tour of the Black Hills and the Spearfish Passion Play June 25-27. Tour registration deadline is April 20. Find out more at <http://www.lwml.org/conventions/lutheran-women-in-mission-conventions.htm>

2007 LWML CONVENTION OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES**Thursday, June 21****Offering #1 – LWML Mission Goal 2007-2009****Friday, June 22****Offering #2 – 65th Anniversary Celebration of the LWML**

Recognizing the blessings of LWML's auxiliary partnership with the mission and ministry of the LCMS for 65 years, this offering will be divided as follows:

30% for the LWML Endowment

70% for LCMS World Mission to fund Missionary Children's Education

**LWML ENDOWMENT**

Unrestricted dividends and interest earned on investments are set aside for LWML ministries, upon Board of Directors majority approval at the January LWML Board of Directors meeting.

MISSIONARY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

When missionaries are called to serve in foreign mission fields, their families are also called to go and serve. Many of these families have school-age children who need to be educated so they can come back to an American-style school for college or continuing education. This often means that they need special schools overseas or volunteer teachers from America to teach them on their mission field. Your support will provide tuition, school curricula, and American-style education to missionary children around the world. This will give missionary children around the world a quality education and prepare them for re-entry into our American school system.

Saturday, June 23**Offering #3 – Seminary student aid**

To be divided equally between Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. This offering is in thankfulness for the pastors who have faithfully served the LWML as counselors at all levels of our organization.

Sunday, June 24**Offering #4 – Continued funding for the Heart-to-Heart program**

In support of the LWML goal, "Oneness in Christ is strengthened through intentionally teaming with our LCMS sisters of varied ethnic, cultural, generational and organizational backgrounds," we plan to continue the Heart-to-Heart program. Funding will be used for future gatherings at LWML conventions and other efforts to provide opportunities for all our diverse sisters to join the LWML in mission focus, fellowship and service.

TEENS ROCK IN SIOUX FALLS!!

- Are you going to Sioux Falls?
- Are you between the ages of 11-17?

Do you like "hanging out" with the girls?



If you answered "YES," we want to see you at the Friends Into Serving Him Teen "Hangout" on Saturday, June 23. Teens will make new friends from across the country while participating in wild and crazy fun activities! Service, spiritual growth and leadership are the focus of this awesome time together. Mark your calendar and plan to "ROCK! Rest on Christ the King" in Sioux Falls. Watch for more details in the convention newspaper.

Congratulations to our Eastern District YWR Representative For the Sioux Falls National Convention

Sisters in Christ it is time to celebrate! Your reaching out to the younger women in our congregations has been successful. Congratulations to our chosen young woman representative for the National Convention in Sioux Falls, SD, Jennifer Schendel.

How grateful we are to have you represent the Eastern District at the National Convention in Sioux Falls South Dakota. So who is Jennifer? Well many of you may remember her familiar face from our last Eastern District convention in Lockport, NY. Jennifer was the Young Woman Rep for Central NY South Zone.

Jennifer's passion is teaching children. She teaches at a Lutheran school in Western New York, where she herself graduated from. She feels grateful to not only teach academics but the Love of the Lord as well. Jennifer uses her talent in craft and singing, as well as incorporating a lot of fun to teach the word to the children. Jennifer's love of teaching does not stop in the school setting. She participates in helping guide the youth group at her church as well.



Jennifer Schendel

What a wonderful asset Jennifer is to the LWML. She serves not only the Lord but the community as well. What Jennifer hopes to gain from going to the National Convention is more knowledge and ideas to share within her community, church and the LWML.

Well, we are surely counting on you Jennifer to bring back not only an experience of a lifetime but ideas and a better understanding of how the women of LWML can reach out to more young women. We truly look forward to hearing about your experience in the future.

I would also like to take this time and thank the others who applied to go to the National Convention. We hope that if not this year, someday you will have the opportunity to attend a National Convention.

Please remember that our Eastern District Convention is fast approaching June 6-8, 2008 in Rochester, NY. We will be in need of Young Women Reps from all nine districts and we encourage you to apply.

May God be with you Jennifer and all those sisters in Christ who will be traveling to Sioux Falls, SD. May you all have the experience of a lifetime and Rest On Christ the King.

Submitted by Beth Scholl
Leadership Development

Eastern District Delegates to Sioux Falls Convention June 21-14, 2007



Following are the 2007 Eastern District Delegates to the Sioux Falls Convention

Zone	Delegate	Alternate
Anthraccite	Judy Grimm	Sharlene Palaima
Buffalo	Fern Suckow	Joan Fritsch
Cattaraugus-Allegany	Robin Swanson	
Central NY North	Bianca Brink	Mary Ouderkirk
Central NY South	Marti Clark	Ruth Mueller
Genesee	Kathy Ippolito	
Niagara	Barb Williams	Dottie Stagers
Philadelphia	Elnora Norwood	Jacquie Greene
Pittsburgh	Diane Olmstead	Meredith Schwalm
	Bernice Laley	
Counselor	Rev. Evan Gaertner	



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

**EASTERN DISTRICT
LWML CONVENTION**

JUNE 6-8, 2008

**RIT Inn and Conference Center
Rochester, NY**



Theme: Linked Together In Christ
Ephesians 4:16

From Him . . . the whole body grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work



Limited-Time Gifting Opportunity to the LWML

LWML has a wonderful opportunity for receiving extraordinary gifts (up to \$100,000) with the recent passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Many charities have worked hard for years to get this bill passed.

Basically, this opportunity means that IRA holders who are 70 1/2 and older can now use IRAs to make gifts to LWML without paying the income tax. (However, the donor receives no income tax deduction) This counts toward the donor's required minimum distribution.

The time period for completing these gifts is 2007 only. Special care is needed for making these gifts, so please seek a financial professional for advice or call Pat Bilow, Gift Planning Counselor, LWML Gift Planning Services, at 888/482-8425 for more details.

**CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR NOW
FOR FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT,
SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2007!**



Jan Struck from Appleton, Wisconsin, has been invited to share her humorous insight at the Fall Women's Retreat to be held at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Angola, NY, September 21-23, 2007. Those who have heard Jan at recent National LWML events are enthusiastic about her coming to Pioneer, and you are encouraged to come to Camp this Fall for a good time in the Lord. "The Lord celebrates YOU" is the chosen theme and the verse supporting Jan's presentations is from Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV): "The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Jan Struck Niagara Zone has been asked to host the retreat at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center this Fall and Coordinator Kathi Rickus requests your prayers for the zone volunteers and their planning for the retreat that it will be a time of rest, relaxation and renewal for those in attendance. The retreat registration form and information about camperships can be found elsewhere in this issue of the LINK. Please publicize information about the retreat in your church newsletter and bulletins and make copies of the registration form for those interested.

LWML Retreat Campership—Application

Four full-time camperships are being offered for the Fall 2007 retreat to first-time attendees or for those individuals having financial need. If you have received a campership in the past you are no longer eligible. The value of the campership is the full cost of the retreat at the full-time registration fee. If you desire a campership and need only consideration for part-time status, please indicate that in your application. An impartial committee will select from those eligible campers who submit a timely application. Notification will take place after the deadline date. Don't delay, act now!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Zone _____ Church _____

LWML Member? Yes No

Please write a brief narrative (50-100 words) on why you would like to attend the LWML Retreat.

Attach your written statement to this application and mail by **August 1, 2007** to:

Mrs. Darlene Byrns
1712 Blossom Rd.
Rochester, NY 14610

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our website at
www.east-dist-lwml.org

The Link is now available on the website, check it out along with Mission Grant updates and all the latest Eastern District LWML News..



There are many exciting upcoming events and Camp Pioneer, including Family Work Weekend May 25-28, Lutherhostel, October 14-18 and many others. For more information contact Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center or check out their website www.pioneercamp.org.

**Don't forget to join your LWML Sisters every
Monday at noon in prayer**

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

2007 LWML Fall Retreat
Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc.
REGISTRATION FORM
“The Lord Celebrates YOU”
Jan Struck, Speaker
September 21-23, 2007

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ (For Registration Committee Use)
 Home Church _____ Eastern District LWML Zone _____

REGISTRATION RATES:

Full-time - includes registration, 2 nights lodging, 6 meals and linens		\$124.00 _____
Part-time – 1 night’s lodging at \$34.50	Circle one: Friday	Saturday \$ 34.50 _____
Registration Fee.....	# days _____	x \$4.00= _____
Day use fee not staying overnight	# days _____	x \$5.00= _____
Meals required (part time only):	Friday Dinner	\$ 10.00 _____
	Saturday Breakfast	\$ 6.00 _____
	Saturday Lunch	\$ 8.50 _____
	Saturday Dinner	\$ 10.00 _____
	Sunday Breakfast	\$ 6.00 _____
	Sunday Lunch	\$ 8.50 _____
	Friday Registration 3:00 pm	
	Fri. Dinner 6:00 pm	
	Fri Program 7:00 pm	
	Sat. Registration 8:30 am	
	Sat Program 9:00 am	
Special housing preference (see below)	Add: additional amount	\$ _____
	TOTAL TO BE PAID	\$ _____
	Payment enclosed*	\$ _____
	Balance due, if any	\$ _____

.....
***Note: A deposit of \$20.00 will hold your place. All requests served on a first-come, first-served basis. Any balance due must be paid or postmarked by September 1, 2007 or a late fee will be charged. (late fee: \$15.00 for full-time registration; \$5.00 for part-time)**

HOUSING PREFERENCE: (All cabins have shower facilities)

Non-Refurbished Cabins

- _____ Schroeter Circle 1-8 (each cabin – 20 bunks, shower)
- _____ Founders Court (Cabins 17-28) (2 twin beds, 2 occupants required)
- _____ Family Court P, Q, R, S (2 bunks) T (2 bunks, 1 single) (Cabin T is handicapped accessible)

Refurbished Cabins (Extra \$25 for weekend; this amount can be split evenly among occupants)

- _____ Refurbished Founders Court 1-4 (queen size bed, futon)
- _____ Refurbished Founders Court 5-8 (1 queen, 1 bunk)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court A (1 double, 1 bunk bed)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court B, C (queen size bed, 2 bunks, 6 occupants)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court J, L, N (one double)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court K, M, O (2 bunks, sleeps 4)

Woodland Cottage (Extra \$100 for the weekend per cottage; this amount can be split evenly among occupants)

- _____ Woodland Cottage 1 & 2 – New cottages with 1 double and 2 bunks

OTHER PREFERENCES: Roommate _____ Church or Group _____
SPECIAL NEEDS: ___ Wheelchair ___ Lower Bunk ___ Hearing Impaired ___ Dietary (specify) _____
 ___ Other _____

Make checks payable (in U.S. funds only) to LWML Eastern District 2007 Retreat
Please include a business size self-addressed stamped envelope with your deposit and registration form.

Send your completed registration form to:
Barb Williams, 6132 Prospect Street, Newfane, NY 14108
Email: brwcpa421@aol.com

***If you must cancel, a \$20.00 non-refundable service charge per person will be made.
 ***Cancellation for medical reasons will be reviewed based upon a written letter of notification to the district president. A refund, less the non-refundable deposit, will be made.
 ***A \$15.00 charge will be assessed on all checks returned by the bank.

Executive Committee

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Pittsburgh Zone

Charlotte Nist, 1 Harvest Dr., Cranberry Township, PA 16066 724-776-2036
charlottenist@zoominternet.net

Eastern District LWML Board Meeting

29 men and women came together March 9 & 10 at Pinnacle Lutheran Church. President Darlene Byrns talked about our commitment to work together as one united body to accomplish the work our Lord has for us here on Earth. In case you didn't know, her motto for us is: SAIL (Sisters Acting In Love).

We were happy to be meeting and greeting old friends and introducing new ones. We have several new members on our BOD as a result of recent District & Zone elections and some Executive appointments. It is always wonderful to welcome new LWMLer's.

Plans for the Sioux Falls, SD 2007 National Convention were discussed. Many from our Eastern District are planning to attend and President Byrns had a lot of information to help them have a great experience.

Our Retreat at Camp Pioneer September 21-23, 2007 will be exciting with our special guest speaker Jan Struck. Many other interesting events are being considered as well. Hopefully, you are making a special effort to attend this year. Sign up early!

Many plans for the 2008 Eastern District Convention are being made for you! It will be held in Rochester. Genesee & Central NY North Zones are working hard together to make your time an unforgettable one!

One very important issue discussed is our Mite giving. As you know, the ONLY source of income for the work of the LWML for projects both locally and at National level is your donations to the "Mighty Mite"! All Zone treasurers are encouraged to mail their mites in as often as possible. We strive to pay the projects you voted for at the last Eastern District Convention as soon as possible so that they may continue their ministry.

I would like to close by saying how much I appreciate all your prayers, cards and good vibes I feel as I am getting close to finishing my radiation therapy. God bless you and God bless our LWML.

Pat Clark, Recording Secretary

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Thank you to all of you who continue to save stamps for missions. We have a few reminders—

- * All stamps (not stamped envelopes—can be saved)
- * Leave plenty of envelope around stamps when saving them for us. Do not trim them too closely. We will gladly trim them.
- * Remember—one pound of stamps is equivalent to one Bible, provided by the Canadian Bible Society.

So far this year we have supplied 55 pounds of stamps for missions.

God bless you, one and all, for being a blessing to others by participating in "Stamps for Missions"



THANK YOU to everyone, especially the members of the Eastern District Executive Board, who remembered me with prayers, concerns, support and special get well cards during my "hip replacement ordeal" in March. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. Recovery is going well and hopefully by early Summer I will "be back to normal!" May all our endeavors be blessed by the Lord as "we serve Him with gladness!"

Thanks again. In Him,

Deaconess Nancy Lingenfelter
St. John's, Munson, PA

Bev Wicher
Eastern District LWML Editor
150 Unionvale Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
E-mail Bevajw@adelphia.net

**Be a Good Steward and Help Us Share
"The Link"**

Society Presidents and LWML Representatives: If you are a society President or LWML contact person for your church, you are a very important person in our distribution of "The Link". This is not intended to be just your personal copy. You have been designated as our contact for your church. Either copy this issue for your society members, post it at church, or glean items from it to submit articles for your congregation's bulletin/newsletter and, above all, remember to inform your members at society meetings. **This is our only form of communication and we are counting on you to get the information out. If you feel your copy should be sent to a different address, please inform the Editor so she can update her records. Thank you for your help.**

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

Beverly Wicher
150 Unionvale Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
E-mail: bevajw@adelphia.net

The next deadline is June 1, 2006

The Link is published four times each year.

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

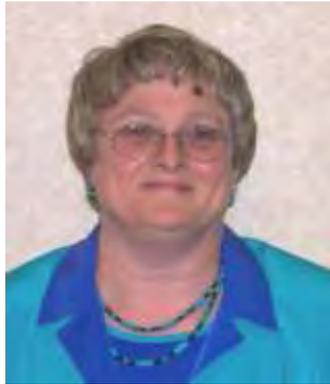
The Eastern District

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML



I N K



Greetings to my Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's hard to believe that it is almost a year since I was elected President. It has been an uplifting and rewarding year.

I introduced the Sail – Sisters Acting in Love initiative for the next 4 years shortly after my election. How have you been **SAIL**ing your boat? Have you reached out to the lady in the pew, supported mission opportunities, prayed with a friend when they



Sail into the Future
Sisters Acting In Love

needed you to be there? How about the cake you made for the neighbor when she moved into her new home? Did you invite new people to join the LWML meetings? Are you ready to take on an office that needs to be filled even if you have never done that before? It takes a lot of love and prayer to step out in **LOVE** with others.

I have been **SAIL**ing this year through many opportunities that came my way.

I brought greetings to 3 zones. In the fall 2007, I spoke at the Niagara and Genesee Zone. In May, I traveled to Pittsburgh for the day to bring greetings to the Pittsburgh Zone. I was able to talk to some of the Cabot ladies. They were very grateful for the gift the Eastern District sent for Christmas. They have received many gifts to help them move on after the fire. Henrietta Maurhof talked about the new clothes she was able to buy. She had lost everything and misses the pictures the most. Eleanor Schwalm lost some of her belongings and has been able to replace them. She shared a story about an Eastern District banner, which was made for a national LWML convention. It was hanging on the door of her apartment and was spared from the fire. The firemen saw it hanging, singed but not burned as they looked down the hallway.

I attended a funeral for Elaine Grotke, long time LWML member and a special friend of mine. She was one of the many mentors that I have had along the way. Condolences were sent through Waneta Lingenfelter at Ruth Holquist's funeral. Ruth served as President of the Eastern District 1986 – 1990.

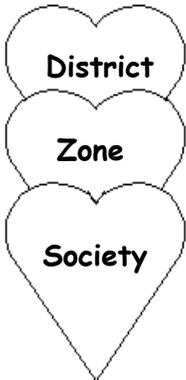
Prayer requests were sent to the Board of Directors to inform them of the need as I was made aware of them. This is one of the ways all of you can make a difference in someone's life when they ask you to pray for them.

I look forward to doing more **SAIL**ing in the coming years. Please join me on the cruise, you won't regret it.

The LWML convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota is a few weeks away. There will be many opportunities to share my cruise with others. I will share them in the next LINK article.

You are blessing sent from Heaven above, a huggable reminder of God's unfailing love. 'God is Love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in Him'? 1 John 4:16

In His Service,
Darlene Byrns
President, Eastern District LWML



Together
Serving
the Lord
with
Gladness

"I can do anything through Him who strengthens me" Phil. 4:13



I am looking forward to going to the national LWML convention this summer in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. My wife and I figured how to include the convention into visits to family in the Midwest. It will be good to gather with women from around the country around the theme of ROCK, Resting on Christ the King. I also anticipate some discussion with other counselors that have traveled to the convention because I still feel a little out of place as a man in an organization of women. I don't view my role as one of overseer. When joining together with so many women in mission for Christ, I find myself with an opportunity to discover the various gifts that the Holy Spirit has blessed different people with. We are one body, with many members, and Christ as our head. But still I wonder what is my role in this body of Christ and especially as counselor to the Eastern District of the LWML?

The question of my role in the LWML, in a formal manner, was answered by a description of responsibilities handed to me at the last board meeting. But I also know that my placement into the position of junior counselor has informal responsibilities that I will not find answered on a piece of paper or through introspection. I must look outside of myself to God's Word. I must seek out the counsel of others. I must listen to the words of encouragement that another may give to me and look to the examples of others.

Recently when talking to a woman about her vocation, she really wondered what God had in mind for her. I suggested it would be nice if I could just hold her hand and see everything and tell her all that God has planned for her. But truthfully the discernment of God's purpose for our lives will not be determined by a palm reading or something like a horoscope. We have been invited to trust in God's Word. We have gifts and responsibilities at home, church, and society. We are not all the same but to all of us the Spirit has given gifts to serve Him and our neighbor.

Sometimes though we see a need and try to fit our round plug into that square hole. For a little while we are able to contribute, but after some time the wear and tear of the poor fit leads towards exhaustion. Instead of identifying the poor fit, we sometimes seek to blame others or become over critical of ourselves because things did not go well.

I encourage you to remember daily that you are a child of God. Not everyday will you know how God is using you, but trust that every day God will use you.

NOMINATIONS WANTED

The Board of Directors approved the following Nominating Committee at their meeting March 9-10.

Rebecca Bessell, Committee Chair (Genesee Zone)
rb54@rochester.rr.com

Susan Bell (Philadelphia Zone) susanbell557@comcast.net

Bev Wicher (Buffalo Zone) Bevajw@roadrunner.com

Nominations are being sought for candidates for the following offices:

Vice President of Communications;
 Recording Secretary,
 Financial Secretary
 Counselor.

The term of office will begin June 2008 and run for four years.

Any society member or society may submit a nomination to the Nominating Committee. Nomination and Consent Forms and the descriptions of the duties of office may be obtained from Rebecca Bessell, committee chair, who can be reached at 7048 Benedict Beach Rd., Hamlin, NY 14464 (585 964-7844 OR via e-mail (see above) or from any of the committee members. Nominations must be in by **October 15, 2007**.



In Memoriam



Ruth Holquist, Eastern District President from 1986-1990, received her Crown of Glory on Saturday, May 19, in Titusville, PA, Area Hospital following an extended illness. She is survived by her husband John, a daughter Karen Holquist and a son Ken, Cheryl and grandson Nathan. Cards can be sent to John and Karen at:
 949 Holiday Run Road
 Oil City, PA

Elaine Grotke, former Eastern District Treasurer and Secretary to President, received her crown of Glory on March 19, 2007 in East Aurora, NY. She is survived by her daughters, Diane Eismann and Nancy Putzman and son Richard Grotke. Cards can be sent to:

Richard Grotke
 11 Esther Drive
 East Aurora, NY 14052

Mission Grants



GRANT #2 PAID

\$5,000 has been paid to Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center as seed money for their Papyrus Respite Ministry program. This was Grant #2 approved at the 2006 Eastern District Convention for the 2006-2008 biennium. Your generous Mite donations have made it possible to pay this grant. The next two grants need to be paid at the same time since there was a tie vote for these grants. We will have to wait until we have received \$9,000. Please continue to give generously to Mites so we will be able to fund all our grants in this biennium.

WANTED: MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS

Individual LWML members, societies or zones are encouraged to submit mission grant proposals for consideration at the June 2008 Eastern District convention to be held in Rochester, NY, June 6-8, 2008. Forms are available from zone presidents or by contacting Mission Grants Chairman:

Jacqueline Blank
6830 E Bethany-LeRoy Rd.
Stafford, NY 14143
(585) 768-6114
jblank@flmtgif.org



Deadline for submission of the proposals will be **October 15, 2007**.

We encourage all to submit proposals. Contact your Pastor or other groups within your church with a mission focus for what they are planning that might benefit from a Mission Grant. We look for proposals from within our District first, so be searching for those ideas; there is much mission work going on throughout our District that we can help support. Helpful information on finding appropriate projects for support from Mite box offerings is included with the application form.

News From Around the Zones

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA ZONE

On April 28th, Hope Lutheran Church in Levittown, PA hosted a Spring Rally for the Philadelphia Zone LWML. Chair Donna Sinacori and her Committee did a wonderful job and there were over 50 LWML'ers in attendance. The Rev. William Carney, Pastor of Hope Lutheran, led the Opening Devotional with Word and songs, followed by a Bible study by The Rev. Charles St. Onge, Zone Pastoral Counselor. A delicious lunch was followed by a very interesting talk and power point presentation given by Kristi Boettcher, a member of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA. In the fall of 2005 and again 2006, Kristi, a registered nurse, traveled to India and Sri Lanka to minister to those in need, especially those in the areas ravaged by the tsunami in Sri Lanka.

In other news, our zone delegate at the National LWML Convention this summer will be Elnora Elwood, of St. Phillip's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, PA. We pray for safe travel for her and the delegates attending. Our Fall LWML Rally will be co-joined with our English District Sisters In Christ on October 13, 2007 with the society from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ridley Park, PA, hosting. All are welcomed to attend.

FROM THE ANTHRACITE ZONE



On Saturday May 5, 2007 the Anthracite Zone held its annual Spring Workshop at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Mt. Pocono from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The theme of the Workshop, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" was based on:

- Matthew 5:9 "Blessed sons of God"
- James 3:18 "Sew harvest of righteousness"
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 "All for the glory of God"
- Matthew 5:7 "Remove plank from your own eye"
- Galatians 6:1 "Restore gently, watch for sin"
- Matthew 5:24 "Reconcile the offer your gift"

The workshop was led by Jean Schultz of Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, PA and Rev. Erickson of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Workshop was attended by 49 women representing 8 of the 11 churches in the Anthracite Zone. We learned about the slippery slope of conflict, escape responses, attack responses, the Gospel-the Key to Peace and Peacemaking responses. We learned that there are biblical ways to settle differences in all aspects of our lives, work, home and church. Knowing the responsibility to serve as peacemaker---An ambassador of reconciliation

Eastern District LWML 2006-2008 Mission Grants		
Supplies for "God With Us" senior lunches, Immanuel Women's Society, Braddock, PA	\$3,800	--- Mission Grant Goal \$22,800
Fund "Healing and Hope" that serves children and families in the community, Burgundy, LA	\$5,000	
Purchase food for daily noon meal to 125 Lutheran School Children in Haiti, Trinity/HOPE, Gallatin, TN	\$4,000	
Seed money for Papyrus Respite Ministry Program, Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Eden, NY	\$5,000	
Kyrgystan Mentoring Church Leadership, which trains pastoral candidates, LCMS World Mission, St. Louis, MO	\$5,000	\$10,000
		\$5,000 PAID

*Grants 3 and 4 will be funded at the same time because they

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

MORE ZONE NEWS:

GENESEE ZONE

A thank you was recently received from Monroe Community Hospital to the Living Circle LWML at Concordia Lutheran Church in Brockport, NY for the 700 birthday cards with scripture which were sent for the residents of the hospital. The residents really appreciate the cards and for some it is the only card they ever receive.

An article appeared recently in the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle highlighting the work of the ladies of Concordia Lutheran Church in Brockport who made 26 quilts for an orphanage in Haiti. The ladies meet each Monday and call their quilts "Care Quilts". They have also donated quilts to—among other organizations—The Arc of Orleans County the Orleans County Social Services in New Orleans. They have made 67 quilts since they started and still continue doing so, "Serving their Lord With Gladness".



2008 EASTERN DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!
JUNE 6-8, 2008

**RIT Inn and Conference Center
 Rochester, NY**



Linked Together In Christ
Ephesians 4:16

From Him...the whole body grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work

CONVENTION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

Plans are underway for the upcoming 32nd Biennial Eastern District LWML Convention to be held on June 6-8, 2008 at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, Rochester, New York. Together the Genesee and Central New York North Zones will host the convention with the theme "**Linked Together in Christ**" based on Ephesians 4:16. "*From Him...the whole body grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.*" The Steering committee consists of Chair-Rebecca Bessell, Co-chair-Karen Devan, Secretary-Donna Coleman, Treasurer-Jean Leverenz, Counselor-Rev. Brian Smith and District Liaison-Barb Williams.



Barb Williams, Karen Devan,
 Rebecca Bessell, Rev. Brian Smith

**It is not to early to start working
 on your zone banners around this
 theme.**



Jean Leverenz, Rebecca Bessell, Karen
 Devan, Rev. Smith, Donna Coleman

SAVE THE DATE

**LADIES - CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR NOW
PLAN TO ATTEND THE FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 21-23, 2007 AT PIONEER CAMP**



Jan Struck from Appleton, Wisconsin, has been invited to share her humorous insight at the Fall Women's Retreat to be held September 21-23, 2007 at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Angola, NY. Those who have heard Jan at recent National Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) events are enthusiastic about her coming to Pioneer. We thank the Lutheran Church Extension Fund for providing funds to help with the transportation and honorarium expenses for this dynamic speaker.

"The Lord Celebrates YOU" is the chosen theme and the verse supporting Jan's three presentations is from Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV): *"The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing."*

Niagara LWML Zone is hosting the retreat and several members are busy working on arrangements so it will be an especially memorable one. Attendees will be encouraged to donate "mites" toward the current Eastern District LWML grants in lieu of a "Gifts from the Heart" ingathering. Those attending are also asked to bring a snack to share for Friday and Saturday evening refreshments. Any unopened snacks will be given to a local food pantry.

Saturday afternoon optional interest sessions will include one entitled "Tea at Three with Thee" and will offer those attending a time for tea and cookies along with a devotion and other activities. Another option will allow for a private time of meditation with devotional material prepared by Pastor Evan Gaertner, ED LWML Counselor. There will also be entertainment on Saturday evening for everyone's enjoyment.

Special note to Society Presidents – please spread news about the Retreat in your church bulletin/newsletter and copy the registration form found elsewhere in the LINK so you can have it available for those interested in attending. We're counting on you to publicize this event which is open to all women.

HUMOROUS JAN STRUCK WILL BE RETREAT SPEAKER



Jan Struck's earliest memories revolve around her church home in Indianapolis, Indiana where she experienced her elementary education in a two-room, Lutheran school. Her strong, Christian background led her to Valparaiso University where she received her theater degree.

Jan's "Life Story" has included the blessing of mothering three children, teaching school, working in secretarial and administrative job positions, and experiencing single parenthood after divorce. Her most recent "surprises", from a loving and delightful Creator, have brought the joy of a second marriage and a combined family that totals six grown children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She is delighted to have been given a lifetime of bizarre experiences and an ability to see humor and irony in her journey.

With over 35 years of experience in teaching, motivating, and entertaining her audiences, Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and uses her sense of humor as she shares with fellow travelers and leaves them laughing.

After working for several years as a trainer/consultant in the field of healthcare technology, Jan has recently chosen to serve the Lord in full-time ministry as a popular speaker leading Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats, Jan's trust and faith in Christ is her reason to make a "joyful noise unto God"!!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2007—DON'T DELAY REGISTER EARLY



Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2

2007 LWML Fall Retreat
Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, Inc.
REGISTRATION FORM
“The Lord Celebrates YOU”
Jan Struck, Speaker
September 21-23, 2007

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ (For Registration Committee Use)
 Home Church _____ Eastern District LWML Zone _____

REGISTRATION RATES:

Full-time - includes registration, 2 nights lodging, 6 meals and linens		\$124.00 _____
Part-time - 1 night's lodging at \$34.50	Circle one: Friday	Saturday \$ 34.50 _____
Registration Fee.....	# days _____ x \$4.00=	_____
Day use fee not staying overnight	# days _____ x \$5.00=	_____
Meals required (part time only):	Friday Dinner	\$ 10.00 _____
	Saturday Breakfast	\$ 6.00 _____
	Saturday Lunch	\$ 8.50 _____
	Saturday Dinner	\$ 10.00 _____
	Sunday Breakfast	\$ 6.00 _____
	Sunday Lunch	\$ 8.50 _____
Special housing preference (see below)	Add: additional amount	\$ _____
	TOTAL TO BE PAID	\$ _____
	Payment enclosed*	\$ _____
	Balance due, if any	\$ _____

.....
***Note: A deposit of \$20.00 will hold your place. All requests served on a first-come, first-served basis. Any balance due must be paid or postmarked by September 1, 2007 or a late fee will be charged. (late fee: \$15.00 for full-time registration; \$5.00 for part-time)**

HOUSING PREFERENCE: (All cabins have shower facilities)

Non-Refurbished Cabins

- _____ Schroeter Circle 1-8 (each cabin – 20 bunks, shower)
- _____ Founders Court (Cabins 17-28) (2 twin beds, 2 occupants required)
- _____ Family Court P, Q, R, S (2 bunks) T (2 bunks, 1 single) (Cabin T is handicapped accessible)

Refurbished Cabins (Extra \$25 for weekend; this amount can be split evenly among occupants)

- _____ Refurbished Founders Court 1-4 (queen size bed, futon)
- _____ Refurbished Founders Court 5-8 (1 queen, 1 bunk)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court A (1 double, 1 bunk bed)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court B, C (queen size bed, 2 bunks, 6 occupants)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court J, L, N (one double)
- _____ Refurbished Family Court K, M, O (2 bunks, sleeps 4)

Woodland Cottage (Extra \$100 for the weekend per cottage; this amount can be split evenly among occupants)

- _____ Woodland Cottage 1 & 2 – New cottages with 1 double and 2 bunks

OTHER PREFERENCES: Roommate _____ Church or Group _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: _____ Wheelchair _____ Lower Bunk _____ Hearing Impaired _____ Dietary (specify) _____
 _____ Other _____

Make checks payable (in U.S. funds only) to LWML Eastern District 2007 Retreat
Please include a business size self-addressed stamped envelope with your deposit and registration form.

Send your completed registration form to:
Barb Williams, 6132 Prospect Street, Newfane, NY 14108
Email: brwcpa421@aol.com

***If you must cancel, a \$20.00 non-refundable service charge per person will be made.
 ***Cancellation for medical reasons will be reviewed based upon a written letter of notification to the district president. A refund, less the non-refundable deposit, will be made.
 ***A \$15.00 charge will be assessed on all checks returned by the bank.

LWML Retreat Campership—Application

Four full-time camperships are being offered for the Fall 2007 retreat to first-time attendees or for those individuals having financial need. If you have received a campership in the past you are no longer eligible. The value of the campership is the full cost of the retreat at the full-time registration fee. If you desire a campership and need only consideration for part-time status, please indicate that in your application. An impartial committee will select from those eligible campers who submit a timely application. Notification will take place after the deadline date. Don't delay, act now!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Zone _____ Church _____

LWML Member? Yes No

Please write a brief narrative (50-100 words) on why you would like to attend the LWML Retreat.

Attach your written statement to this application and mail by **August 1, 2007** to:

Mrs. Darlene Byrns
1712 Blossom Rd.
Rochester, NY 14610

All recipients names will be kept strictly confidential

*Just a
Reminder*

ZONE AND SOCIETY PRESIDENTS/SECRETARIES/TREASURERS:

Please be sure to notify ED LWML VP of Communications Kathi Rickus of any changes in officers (including addresses, phone number, e-mail, etc.) so the Eastern District Directory can be kept up-to-date as much as humanly possible. You can e-mail such changes to her at RICK4219@aol.com (put LWML in subject line) or mail them to 250 Rogers Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150. Also, notify Kathi of any need to increase your Quarterly subscriptions which can be made any time during the year. (Decreases can only be made once a year; next period will be during March 2008.)

ARE YOUR QUARTERLIES SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID UP?

If your society has not covered the cost of your Quarterly subscriptions for 2007-08, please try and do so before September 1. Payment is to be sent to Financial Secretary Donna Coleman, 542 Burritt Rd., Hilton, NY 14468-9705. Be sure to indicate on check "For Quarterlies." The subscription cost also includes funds to help with publication and mailing costs for the Eastern District LWML LINK newsletter, a copy of which is provided society presidents. We are counting on society presidents to share items from the LINK with their members and to inform the congregation of LWML news through church bulletins and newsletters. Please especially publicize information about our upcoming Fall Women's Retreat at Pioneer Camp, September 21-23. Information about the retreat can be found elsewhere in the LINK.



2007 LWML CONVENTION

More than 5,000 women and men, including many from the Eastern District, joined to ROCK! Rest On Christ the King at the 32nd Biennial LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota from June 21-24. Highlights included adopting a \$1.7 million mission goal, electing Jan Wendorf as the new LWML president and celebrating the 65th anniversary of LWML. More details will be coming in the next issue of the Link.

LWML SUNDAY 2007

The first Sunday in October is the day designated as LWML Sunday. The service is based on our convention theme "ROCK Rest On Christ The King", based on Psalm 31:1-5 "In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me." (Psalm 31:1-3)

The author of this year's service is Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, who is presently serving as President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He was speaker on The Lutheran Hour and hosted the television show On Main Street. The materials have been sent out to churches and LWML Representatives. This year there is also a CD available for purchase with the service, sermon outline, children's message and some other promotional material. **All materials need to be ordered by September 1, 2007.** If you have not received the materials call the LWML Office at 800-252-5965. Encourage your Pastor to work with you in having a great LWML Celebration. This is a great opportunity to highlight the wonderful work of the LWML to those who are not familiar with it.



Executive Committee

- President**
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 585-288-5568 Darlene248@aol.com
- Vice President Communication**
Katherine Rickus, 250 Rogers Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150
 716-695-2959 Rick4219@aol.com
- Vice President Gospel Outreach/ Servant Resources**
Rebecca Bessell, 7048 Benedict Beach Road, Hamlin, NY 14464
 585-964-7844 rb54@rochester.rr.com
- Vice-President Christian Life/Human Care**
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 814-342-2715 Kenwan@adelphia.net
- Recording Secretary**
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Donna Coleman, 542 Burritt Road, Hilton, NY 14468-9705
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- Treasurer**
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 315-245-1590 kmpavelock@aol.com
- Senior Pastoral Counselor**
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 412-486-5962 (home), 412-486-5777 (church) jstaupitz@msn.com
- Junior Pastoral Counselor**
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 716-283-1843 (church) TheRevEv@yahoo.com

Appointed by the President

- Parliamentarian**
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 716-674-8859
- 2008 Convention Liaison**
Barbara Williams, 6132 Prospect Street, Newfane, NY 14108-1313
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 814-345-5779 f-nlingenfelter@juno.com
- Trudy Sallach**, 5465 Patton Street, Erie, PA 16510
 814-866-7662

Appointed by Board of Directors

- Mission Advocacy & Grants Chair**
Jackie Blank, 6830 E. Bethany-Leroy Townline Rd., Stafford, NY 14143 585-768-6114 jblank@flmtqif.org
- Mission Advocacy & Grants Co-Chair**
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 610-384-6093 gasslein@aol.com
- Christian Life Chair**
Dana Smith, 8711 Lewis Pt. Rd., Canastota, NY 13032
 315-697-9450 Bd8711@aol.com
- Structure Chair**
Susan Bell, 814 Dover Court Pl., Downingtown, PA 19335
 610-518-0681 susanbell557@comcast.net
- Human Care Chairman**
Donna Tugend, RR 1, Box 139, Kingsley, PA 18826
 570-434-2278 fss2278@nep.net
- Leader Development Chair**
Beth Scholl, 1125 Vienna Rd., PO Box 459, Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
 315-762-1403 gbds2000@yahoo.com

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- Anthracite Zone**
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- Cattaraugus-Allegany Zone**
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- Pittsburgh Zone**
 Charlotte Nist, 1 Harvest Dr., Cranberry Township, PA 16066 724-776-2036
charlottenist@zoominternet.net



September 21	Board of Director's Meeting Camp Pioneer
Sept. 21-23, 2007	Fall Retreat Camp Pioneer
October 7, 2007	LWML Sunday
June 6-8, 2008	2008 District Convention Rochester, NY



EDITOR'S NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

Please note that the Editor has a new e-mail address.
The new address is Bevajw@roadrunner.com
 Please send all articles and information to me at that address. Thank you. Bev Wicher, Editor

E-Mail

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Thank you to all of you who continue to save stamps for missions. We have a few reminder—

- * All stamps (not stamped envelopes—can be saved
- * Leave plenty of envelop around stamps when saving them for us. Do not trim them too closely. We will gladly trim them.
- * Remember—one pound of stamps is equivalent to one Bible, provided by the Canadian Bible Society.

Stamps can be sent to Deaconess Nancy Lingenfelter or Trudy Sallach at the address to the left.

God bless you, one and all, for being a blessing to others by participating in "Stamps for Missions"





Next Deadline

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

Beverly Wicher
150 Unionvale Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

E-mail:
bevajw@roadrunner.com

The next deadline is September 1, 2007

The Link is published four times each year.
Deadlines to submit articles:
March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR ZONE AND SOCIETIES???

I know you all have great things going on in your Zones and Societies. Do you have special Mission Projects you are working on locally or across the globe. Do you have new ideas that bring your ladies together? Did you have a great rally or workshop? What are your ladies doing, how are you sharing the love of Christ with the world around you? Share with us. Send me a short description of what you are doing with pictures, if you have them. I know we are all "Serving the Lord With Gladness" in many different ways and it's always exciting to see how we are all working together to share the Gospel in our world. You can contact me at the above address or e-mail.

Bev Wicher, Editor

CHECK OUT OUR EASTERN DISTRICT WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out our website at
www.east-dist-lwml.org

The Link is now available on the website, check it out along with Mission Grant updates and all the latest Eastern District LWML News..



TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Don't forget to join your National LWML Sisters "Together in Prayer Every Monday at Noon". Pray for our National LWML, Our Districts, Our Zones, Our Societies and our "Mites" and Mission Grants that they may be used to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the World. Each month there is a specific prayer emphasis listed on the National LWML Website at www.lwml.org and also in the LWML E-News.

LWML Website—Don't forget to check out the LWML Website at www.lwml.org for all the latest LWML news and updates.

New Online Store Open For Business

The new online store is now open for business! Order items from the new catalog directly online with your Credit Card! There are many new items available for purchase, including three new Mustard Seeds: "Begin With God", "Living in Praise" and Walking with My Lord". Check it out.



Limited-Time Gifting Opportunity to the LWML

LWML has a wonderful opportunity for receiving extraordinary gifts (up to \$100,000) with the recent passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006. Many charities have worked hard for years to get this bill passed. Basically, this opportunity means that IRA holders who are 70 1/2 and older can now use IRAs to make gifts to LWML without paying the income tax. (However, the donor receives no income tax deduction) This counts toward the donor's required minimum distribution. The time period for completing these gifts is 2007 only. Special care is needed for making these gifts, so please seek a financial professional for advice or call Pat Bilow, Gift Planning Counselor, LWML Gift Planning Services, at 888/482-8425 for more details.

Be a Good Steward and Help Us Share "The Link"

Society Presidents and LWML Representatives: If you are a society President or LWML contact person for your church, you are a very important person in our distribution of "The Link". This is not intended to be just your personal copy. You have been designated as our contact for your church. Either copy this issue for your society members, post it at church, or glean items from it to submit articles for your congregation's bulletin/newsletter and, above all, remember to inform your members at society meetings. **This is our only form of communication and we are counting on you to get the information out. If you feel your copy should be sent to a different address, please inform the Editor so she can update her records. Thank you for your help.**

The Eastern District LWML

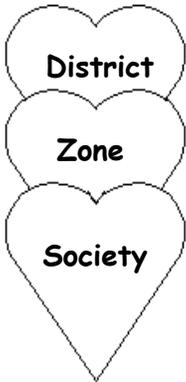


Sail into the Future
Sisters Acting In Love

Lutheran Women in Mission



I
N
K



Together
Serving
the Lord
with
Gladness



Dear Sisters in Christ,

WOW! I wish everyone could attend a national LWML convention. This was my 11th convention. Each one has it's special moments. We did a lot of ROCKing at Sioux Falls, South Dakota as we **Rested On Christ the King** from Psalm 31: 1-3 on June 21 – 24. There were over 5000 people at this convention. We all learned patience while waiting in long lines.

In the opening worship service, LCMS Third Vice President Dean Nadasdy "reminded us that our safe place is in the strong and tender hands of Christ. He cautioned us not to play it safe, but to become

bold and dangerous in our service to the Lord."

Delegates to the 32nd Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) adopted a record \$1.7 million mission goal for the 2007-09 biennium. It is the largest in the organization's 65-year history. The record mite goal is \$75,000 more than the LWML's previous goal for 2005-07. The funds raised by the organization's 250,000 members nationwide over the next two years will be used to support 18 mission grants to:

1. Train deaf-ministry leaders (\$50,000).
2. Provide portable medical clinics in Sudan, East Africa (\$70,000).
3. Build 10 Lutheran churches in India (\$100,000).
4. Support a female missionary to Muslim people in Guinea, Africa (\$100,000).
5. Help Lutheran Bible Translators, Aurora, Ill., provide transportation for missionaries (\$60,000).
6. Open eight new Lutheran Blind Mission Outreach Centers nationwide (\$40,000).
7. Provide education to Muslims in Bangladesh (\$75,000).
8. Support a "circuit rider" pastor in rural northwest South Dakota (\$65,000).
9. Support an inner-city children's ministry in Minneapolis-St. Paul (\$50,000).
10. Send a female human-care missionary to Africa (\$100,000).
11. Support a Christian family counseling center in St. Petersburg, Russia (\$36,000).
12. Expand mission work in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and Ethiopia, Africa (\$104,500).
13. Begin a Lutheran campus ministry at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. (\$95,000).
14. Expand internet streaming capabilities at KFYO-AM radio in St. Louis (\$50,000).
15. Support Concordia University, Austin, Texas, students preparing for child-welfare careers (\$80,000).
16. Assist Lutheran City Ministries in its outreach to homeless and addicted people in Detroit (\$49,000).
17. Support a soup kitchen at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Chicago (\$33,000).
18. Support a cross-cultural urban ministry in Ohio (\$32,500).

LWML **President Linda Reiser, in her final report** to the convention, asked "Has the LWML been successful?" Her answer ... "Yes, the LWML is strong, vibrant, relevant and successful because of God's great faithfulness to us!" She encouraged each LWML woman to have clarity of Christ-focused vision about her service through Gifts from the Heart, servant activities, pledge walks, offerings, mites and prayers for missions. "*The best is yet come. We can make a difference!*" stated President Linda as she urged each woman to find her "spot" as she witnesses about the Good News of Jesus Christ by starting a Teen LWML, encouraging women to learn more about the LWML, inviting an MMV consultant, sharing LWML products or considering a leadership role.

I hope that each of you at some time in your life, are able to go to a national convention. They are very inspiring and will change your life forever.

Darlene Byrns , President, Eastern District LWML

COUNSELOR'S

LOTS TO CELEBRATE

"There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" Luke 15:7 (ESV)

There are a number of celebrations that we enjoy during this time of the year, both within the Church and outside of it. Just a few weeks ago it was Labor Day--a holiday that everybody enjoys but whose history and meaning precious few are aware of. In the Church we have All Saints' Day and as Lutherans, of course, celebrate the Reformation. Thanksgiving is a holiday for everyone, even though most think of it more as a time for overeating and watching football than for giving thanks.

Celebration is the theme of this year's Fall Retreat as well "The Lord Celebrates You," based on Zephaniah 3:17: *"The Lord your God is in your midst, a Mighty One who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing."* The Lord does indeed celebrate us. In particular He celebrates what He does in us and through us. In

Christ He has taken away our sin by the shedding of His blood and replaced that sin with His own righteousness by His life of perfect obedience. By the power of His Holy Spirit He proclaims that Word of salvation to us in the Gospel (Word and Sacrament) and to others through our use of that Gospel and those means as we receive its strength for our own edification and share its life-giving power with others.

The Lord celebrates us so that we might celebrate Him. Our response to His grace in Christ is our celebration. The best way to thank someone for a gift is to put that gift to use in a manner that is consistent with the intentions of the giver. God's gift is the Gospel of His Son and all the blessings (forgiveness, New Life, the assurance of everlasting life) that come with it. His intention is that this gift be shared by all who are in need of it. We celebrate Him and His grace toward us by sharing the Good News with everyone--and in so doing we add to the celebration.

In His love and service, Pastor Art Litke.

LOOKING FOR WILLING SERVANTS *"Serve the Lord With Gladness"*—

that's our motto and that is what we do in the LWML. What a joy it is to serve our Lord and to use the gifts which he has so freely given us. We are asking you to look at the many gifts which God has given you and prayerfully consider how He can use you in the LWML. We are sometimes reluctant to take that step to try something new, but the rewards are more than you can imagine. We are seeking nominations for the following District offices:

Vice President of Communications—keeps mailing lists up to date, takes care of Quarterly orders, and maintaining membership records.

Recording Secretary—takes minutes at all meetings and makes sure all members have received copies; receives correspondence and reports at meetings.

Financial Secretary—Receives all zone receipts for mites, quarterlies, etc. and makes deposits and makes financial reports for Board meetings.

Counselor—Gives spiritual support to the Board, serves as an advisor to the Board at all meetings, helps with worship at retreats, and attends convention

The term of office will begin June 2008 and run for four years. All positions involve attending two Board meetings a year and attend the District Convention every other year.

Any society member or society may submit a nomination to the Nominating Committee. Nomination and Consent Forms and the detailed descriptions of the duties of office may be obtained from Rebecca Bessell, committee chair, who can be reached at 7048 Benedict Beach Rd., Hamlin, NY 14464 (585 964-7844) OR via e-mail rb54@rochester.rr.com

Nominations must be in by **October 15, 2007**. (If you are interested, but can't get your paperwork in by this date, please contact by the 15th to let us know of your interest).

Eastern District Nominating Committee—Rebecca Bessell, Committee Chair (Genesee Zone) rb54@rochester.rr.com; Susan Bell (Philadelphia Zone) susanbell557@comcast.net; Bev Wicher (Buffalo Zone) Bevajw@roadrunner.com

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

 **Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2**

2008 EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION*Ephesians 4:16*

From Him....the whole body grows and builds itself up in love as each part does its work.

The year of 2008 sounds so far away but it is just around the corner and time to save the date for the 2008 LWML Eastern District Convention that will be held in Rochester, NY. The convention committees looks forward to welcoming their sisters and brothers in Christ at the RIT Inn and Conference

Center. The hotel/conference center is equipped with excellent accommodations including an indoor-outdoor pool, and is down the road from a major shopping center. The hotel/conference center will fulfill your physical needs while the convention itself will fill the weekend's spiritual needs. Please plan on joining us as we come together in the body of Christ.

**RIT Inn & Conference Center****Save the date, June 6-8, 2008**

SOJOURNER HOUSE CONVENTION GIFTS FROM THE HEART

As we are beginning to focus on our upcoming Eastern District LWML Convention in June 2008 and being "Linked Together in Christ" I would ask that you might also begin to focus on being "Linked Together" with Sojourner House in Rochester, N.Y. This will be the recipient of our ingathering for the Convention.

Sojourner House is located in a former convent in Rochester's 19th Ward. It provides transitional housing for women in crisis who are committed to rebuilding their lives. Women and their children may live for up to six months at Sojourner House where shelter and basic needs are provided. A structured schedule, shared household responsibilities, family style dinners and enforced accountability

are all contributing factors to help these families form lasting habits to change their lives.

Our LWML Sisters have the opportunity to assist Sojourner House through our chosen convention ingathering. So let's start now ladies to make this another awesome ingathering.

Their current wish list:

journals and planners/calendars for women

New or gently used:

kitchen items (dishes, silverware, service cookware), linens, towels, blankets, comforters –all sizes.

New items:

pillows, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, tampons – all full size

backpacks, construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, notebooks, binders, pocket dictionaries, thesauruses.

God's richest blessings to you as we prepare for the 2008 Convention.

In His Love, Karen Devan—Convention Co-chairman and Ingathering Chairman

Mission Grants

The deadline of October 15, 2007 for submitting a mission grant application is rapidly approaching! You can help by reminding those in your church and zone that applications need to be completed and mailed now. If anyone still has questions or needs help please email me at jblank@flmtgif.org or call (585)768-6114 (home) or (585)739-0624 (cell).

A letter was sent to each zone president in July and to each pastor in August with information about the grant application and deadline. I have received a number of phone call and email requests for the mission grant application packet. All proposals will be reviewed by the Eastern District Board for Mission Services, the Synodical Mission Board, and the Eastern District LWML Executive Committee and Board of Directors. All eligible proposals will be placed on the ballot for vote at the Eastern District LWML Convention in June, 2008.

In His service, Jackie Blank, Mission Grants chair





2007 RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

Humorist Jan Struck, of Appleton, Wisconsin, was the featured speaker at the Fall Women's Retreat held at Pioneer Camp, September 21-23, 2007. "God Celebrates YOU" was the theme for the weekend with the following verse chosen to remind those present of God's care for them: *"The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with His love. He will rejoice over you with singing."* (Zephaniah 3:17 NIV)

A special thank you to the Eastern District Lutheran Church Extension Fund for providing funds to help cover the expenses of the speaker who came to the retreat highly recommended by those who have been entertained by her at National LWML events.

"Mission Moments" were featured throughout the retreat to encourage the women to support the current mission grants of the District. Niagara Zone LWML hosted the retreat and provided a "Tea at Three with Thee" as one of the optional activities offered on Saturday afternoon. A private meditation guide was also prepared by Rev. Evan Gaertner, LWML District Junior Counselor for those desiring quiet time with the Lord. Rev. Art Litke, LWML Senior District Counselor, led the Bible study and worship on Sunday morning.

The participants generously donated \$787.18 as a special "Gifts from the Heart" mission offering to the Eastern District LWML. In addition, everyone had been asked to bring a snack to share, and the ones not opened were given to the Inter-church Pantry of North Tonawanda, NY.

God certainly blessed the retreat with great weather, good fellowship and a great speaker.

Retreat Coordinator Kathi Rickus thanks all who helped make the retreat an enjoyable one for over 170 women (and a few good men) who were in attendance. A special thank you to Barbara Williams who handled the registration and housing and others in Niagara Zone who met during the year to organize the event: Marion Demmin, Linda Gerlach, Bea Hapeman, Lilo Dolinski, Jan Voelker, Dottie Staggers, and Marilyn Winter.

Help Us Keep Our Records Up To Date

DO YOU HAVE NEW ZONE OR SOCIETY OFFICERS?

NEED MORE QUARTERLIES?

CONSIDER SHARING NEWS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL LWML MEMBERSHIPS!

October is the month for elections in many of our zones and societies, and District VP of Communications Kathi Rickus will be waiting for reports of any changes.

Zone Level: If you have a change of officers, either the Zone President or Corresponding Secretary should forward the new information to Kathi Rickus as soon as possible. Please include names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. This will help in keeping the District directory as current as humanly possible!

Special note to Zone Presidents: Please let Kathi know also how the societies in your zone should be considered, namely whether they are "active" or in some cases "inactive" or perhaps even non-existent in some congregations.

One way to determine if a society is "active" is if they contribute mites on a regular basis to the zone treasurer. There are currently over 50 congregations within our District with no active LWML participation. Perhaps zone presidents could spread the word about Individual LWML memberships to these congregations. LWML catalogue has Individual Membership Guidelines available (Item 14345 in 2006-07 catalogue) which describes procedures for obtaining individual LWML membership.) Sometimes we lose LWML sisters who transfer to other congregations without societies, and perhaps there are women in some of these 50 or so congregations who would like to become a part of the LWML. Think about the opportunity to involve more women in LWML!

Society Level: If there has been a change in the President or LWML Representative in your congregation, please forward that information also.

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly – Any increases in subscriptions or changes in address of where the Quarterlies should be shipped should be sent to Kathi Rickus at any time. (Just a reminder, decreases in orders can only be made once a year with the next deadline of April 1, 2008.) Hopefully societies have been able to cover the cost of their 2007-08 subscriptions or will do so before March 2008.

Statistics for National: It's never too early to begin keeping track of the statistics that are required by National LWML. Society presidents need to be ready to report to their zone president in two years how many women are involved with their local LWML and Zone Presidents, in turn, need to report on number of zone activities for the biennium July 2007 through June 2009.

Send all information to: Mrs. Kathi Rickus
VP of Communications
250 Rogers Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150-5273
E-mail: RICK4219@aol.com (LWML in subject line, please)

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



Jacqueline Green

Jacqueline Green, with the **Heart to Heart program** -- designed to promote multicultural leadership in LWML -- challenged the women to work for the time when people will "not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their creed." "Let's get busy- If it is to be, it is up to me." Congratulations to Jacqui Green, Chairman, Christian Life Committee, national

The 600-plus delegates also elected a new president to lead the organization over the next four years, Janice Wendorf of Grafton, Wis. Wendorf, the 16th president of the LWML, asked for "prayers for the support of our organization and the support of all the individual officers that you have elected."



Also elected to four-year terms were:

- Sylvia Johnson of New Berlin, Wis., Vice President of Human Care.
- Eloise Kuhlmann of Amarillo, Texas, Vice President of Servant Resources..
- Helen Miller of Lake in the Hills, Ill., Treasurer.
- Rev. Michael J. Mattil of Sherman, Texas, Senior Pastoral Counselor.

Newly elected members of the Nominating Committee are Linda Arnold of Woodridge, Ill., who will serve as chairman; Martha Burke of Clemmons, N.C.; **Claire Carlson of Hamburg, N.Y.**; Judy Lessmann of Scottsboro, Ala.; and Marilyn McClure of Tucson, Ariz.



Nominating Committee



Marion Demmin

At the Saturday morning pledge walk, **Marion Demmin**, 79, of the Eastern District, earned cheers from fellow walkers as she made not one lap with her walker around the track, but four! Marion attended her first LWML convention in Ames, Iowa, in 1985 and has missed only one convention since. However, this is the first time that she has participated in the pledge walk. Way to go, Marion



From whence cometh the rocks?



Eastern District Photo

2007 Lutheran Women's Missionary League 32nd Biennial Convention
Rest On Christ the King – Psalm 31:1-3 NIV - Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Photo taken by Rev. John Sound

The rocks cometh from all over the country! Each district president was invited to bring a rock from her own area to fill up the cross on the stage, which was made by Decorations chairman Martha Smith's husband, ernon. The center rocks are from the districts, and the outer ones are from South Dakota. *But when is a rock not a rock?* When it is a coquina, a composite of shells. (Rocks are hard to come by in some states!) Can you spot the *non-rock rock*?

Reflections By Three First Time Convention Attendees

My 1st National LWML Convention—By Jennifer Schendel, YWR



Greetings from Tioga Center in the Central NY South Zone of the LWML Eastern District! I am a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Zion Lutheran School in Owego NY, Boy Scout, and photography addict from a small rural community. Previously, I had not really been involved in LWML until I was selected to be a Zone Young Women's Representative to our district convention and then a District YWR to the 2007 National Convention. Thank you, Eastern District, for this wonderful opportunity! I would like to take this time to share an overview of my exciting experience at convention.

I arrived in Sioux Falls, SD Wednesday evening and was able to register and relax before my busy convention activities started. On Thursday I began my day by helping to finish quilts during the King's Servant Activities. There were also women there finishing Baptismal banners and writing mission letters. The room was packed with eager volunteers. After quilting I worked the YWR & Leadership Development Booth where I met and was pinned by my District President, Darlene Burns. In the afternoon

I worked receiving and sorting donations for Gifts From the Heart and I gave blood at the Red Cross Bloodmobile. I ended my first day with a YWR dinner and the opening worship service. It was a very touching event to hear around 5000 people singing "Amazing Grace".

Friday through Sunday I spent the majority of my time in the convention center with Darlene and the other delegates from our district. I was honored to carry our banner in the processional with Darlene. Some of the highlights from the convention that I enjoyed were the bible studies led by Dr. Mary Manz Simon, hearing Mrs. Terry Kieschnick compare women to diamonds, learning that this is not my grandmother's LWML, and getting stuck on Struck (Jan Struck, that is). I also enjoyed my lunch with President Linda Reiser and the unconventional picture we took with her. Finally, I met many other YWRs that made my trip enjoyable and very memorable. Eastern District, thank you again for this wonderful opportunity...it was a trip of a lifetime!

MY FIRST NATIONAL LWML CONVENTION—By Karen Devan

Christmas 2006 – "Open it Mom – It's from all of us". I couldn't imagine what was in a little jewelry box and was so heavy. Anticipation was on all the faces of my family. So I opened the box and there was a rock. Another humorous Devan moment. Then I turned the rock over and I saw ROCK (Rest On Christ the King). Then I saw folded money under the rock. And then it hit me – not that I'm a slow learner or anything. My family was sending me to Sioux Falls, S.D. for the 2007 LWML Convention. I was too excited for words. I never dreamed I would be able to go to a convention – at least not in the near future. Money kept coming whenever there was a special occasion always earmarked for Sioux Falls. On Mother's Day I received the convention theme golf shirt. I was ready to go and the best part was that three other gals from our church were going also. Teri Devan my sister-in-law, Kathy Pavelock our LWML District Treasurer and Bianca Brinck our Zone President.

We decided that driving would be a more cost effective way to go. This not only gave us lots of new scenery to take in but we were able to visit with some wonderful friends from our church that had moved back to their home in Minnesota.

We arrived in Sioux Falls right on schedule and had time to check out the convention center, visit with President Darlene and other familiar Eastern District LWML faces and get ready for the opening worship service.

The worship, communion, the music, the speakers, the processions of banners, the humorous interludes, the entertainment, the displays, the ingathering (Gifts from the Heart), the Mission Pledge walk and the men and women in attendance were everything I imagined and more. Smiles everywhere, hugs galore, encouraging words, funny stories came from all around whether we were waiting in line or sitting in the bleachers. As a well known praise song says "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place", it proved to be so true in Sioux Falls.

I had the privilege of going to a luncheon with the LWML President Linda Riser. Her love for the Lord and dedication to LWML radiated in all that she said and did. What fun to have her remember attending our 2005 Eastern District Convention at Lockport and share some of those memories.

During some of our free time to visit the numerous displays I had the opportunity to speak with LCMS President Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick and his wife Terry. What a gracious and caring couple. It was truly an honor to have a few minutes with them.

The convention seemed to be over before it began and it was time to return home. The farewells were even joyous because we were all going home with memories that will last a lifetime, new friends that love LWML like we do, and a closer relationship with our Lord.

A stop by the Falls of Sioux Falls gave us a final chance to take some more pictures.





IMPRESSIONS OF A 1ST TIME CONVENTION ATTENDEE—By Kathy Ippolito, Genesee Zone President

I had the privilege of attending the 32nd LWML Biennial Convention as a delegate. I felt the presence of LWML right from the start. It was exciting meeting women in the airport who were also on their way. I arrived in Sioux Falls on Wednesday evening and immediately felt welcome. As we rode the hotel shuttle we noticed "Welcome LWML" on the signs of most hotels. **Thursday** morning I arrived at the convention center, there were 2 LWML flags flying outside. Inside was busy with registration for all the different events. There was time to browse through the many displays. Delegates attended an orientation session in the afternoon to understand voting procedures, the issues and the electronic voting. I met up with others from Eastern District and they recommended sitting in the balcony for the evening worship service. That was a great idea! The Arena was filled to capacity and some people were seated in an overflow area with a large screen TV. There were over 5000 people taking communion simultaneously throughout the arena! The Choir members were LWML attendees and the music was very uplifting. The Rev. Dr. Nadasdy gave the sermon on "A Safe Place" in Christ Psalm 31:1-3, which was the Bible verse of the convention. The offering for the service were designated for the 2007-2009 LWML mission goal. Very prominent in front of the stage each day was a cross made of stones brought by each district president. **Friday** began with President Linda Reiser carrying in the LWML Banner followed by District Presidents and YWR's carrying banners. Delegates were seated by District on the main level of the convention hall. There were welcomes and greetings and the first part of the Bible study by Dr. Mary Manz Simon on our desire for physical and emotional safety, understanding the times and culture and keeping our relationship with God "His will", not our will. LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick spoke of one mission, and one message and that people are united by God's love and the synod for that mission. Then there was the financial report that mite money collected in 2005-2007 totaled \$1,680,106 which exceeded the goal by \$55,106! The 553 delegates voted to adopt the mission goal of \$1.7 million for 2007-2009. The mission speaker was Jacqueline Green from the Heart to Heart Sisters movement to promote multicultural leadership in LWML. She spoke of her hope for a time when women "will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their creed". The 2nd convention offering was designated: 70% for LCMS Mission Education and 30% for the LWML Endowment fund. Reverend Khurram and Cynthia Khan were the 2nd Missionary speakers from POBLO-people of the book Lutheran outreach. They spoke of their ministry to the Muslims. I was able to attend Friday lunch with President Linda with other first time attendees and learned about her background, family, duties and activities for the 4 years of her term of office. She traveled more than 300 days and 131,000 miles in service to LWML. What an inspiration! The keynote speaker was Mrs. Terry Kieschnick who spoke of how important we all are to the church body. She compared us to diamonds with different shapes, cuts, and imperfections and that we can use our gifts in mission. The delegates selected Des Moines Iowa for the site of the 2015 convention. Mission grants were presented and the delegates approved 18 of the 25 presented. Dinner with others from Eastern District was very enjoyable. We enjoyed the talents of members from 6 districts in the Amazing LWML Rock Star Idol Reality Show. It was hosted by Jan Struck who will be the speaker at the Eastern District Fall Retreat Sept.21-23 at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center.

Saturday began with the Mission Pledge walk—a walk around the stadium behind the convention center. There were over 1000 walkers in the morning and 400-500 in the afternoon who raised more than \$75,000. (A picture of Marion Demmin from Eastern District was in the Sunday Rock Solid newsletter). The Saturday procession featured past LWML presidents, 70 YWR's and 148 children of attendees. The second part of the Bible Study reminded us that every Lutheran woman over 18 years of age is a member of LWML, we have a sure foundation, and we can rest on this, but should not sleep. God works through us serving as living stones. God gives us the power to use life experiences to give back, reach out, and use gifts that build up relationships. After the Bible study, President Linda Reiser gave her report on how successful LWML has been. The 3rd convention offering was for student financial aid-50% for Ft. Wayne Theological Seminary and 50% for St. Louis Seminary. We heard from Jack Kidwell, President of International Lutheran Layman's League. The nominating committee introduced the candidates. Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, Executive Director of LCMS World Mission, spoke and highlighted an LWML funded mission project from each decade since the 1940's reaching out with the Gospel of Jesus in Japan, Nigeria, the Dominican Republic, India, Hong Kong, Slovakia, Ghana, and Uganda. He introduced the Scheiwe Family who spoke of their work in Asia. Delegates voted on officers and Jan Wendorf was elected President. Claire Carlson from Eastern District was elected to the Nominating Committee. Congratulations Claire! We were invited to attend the next convention in Portland Oregon June 25-28, 2009. We took a group picture of everyone from Eastern District. That evening, Erin Bode shared her music and the story of the Themba Girls in South Africa.

Sunday included the mission speaker Rev. Ray Wilke from Orphan Grain Train, recognition of Heart to Heart Sisters, YWR's, LWML committees and personnel, introduction of the Executive committee, installation of officers, remarks from our new president, Jan Wendorf and a Service of Sending. The 4th offering was designated for continued funding for the Heart to Heart program. Photo highlights and a laser light show ended the convention. The convention was adjourned and everyone began their travels home.

There had been over 5000 in attendance, over 550 delegates, 70 YWR's, over 1500 first time attendees, 100 spouses, and 148 children, (91 teen girls who did things together on Saturday). LWML began inviting families in 2003. After registering, I had been receiving email updates about the convention, so I had an idea of what was going on. The Convention program book was full of information, and the daily newsletters were a great way to remember all that had gone on the day before. People who had attended before were also helpful. We sang each morning and afternoon led by Dina Vendetti. The meals were great. There were a few lines and waiting- mainly for the shuttles, but this was a way to talk to others and meet new people. When I began writing this, I thought I could give a brief overview of the convention, but once I started, I knew there was too much important information to share with all of you. June 6-8, 2008, the Eastern District LWML convention will be in Rochester, New York. I hope you can attend to experience the mission, focus and faith.

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Next Deadline

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The next deadline is December 1, 2007

The Link is published four times each year.

Deadlines to submit articles:
March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Don't forget to join your National LWML Sisters "Together in Prayer Every Monday at Noon". Pray for our National LWML, Our Districts, Our Zones, Our Societies and our "Mites" and Mission Grants that they may be used to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the World. Each month there is a specific prayer emphasis listed on the National LWML Website at www.lwml.org and also in the LWML E-News.

Serve the Lord With Gladness!

FROM THE ZONES

Niagara Zone Fall Rally

Saturday, October 20—10:30-2:00

St. Paul Lutheran Church

453 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda

Theme: "Missions: Here, There and Everywhere"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher, Pastor of

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Cheektowaga 1st VP of ED LCMS

Business portion to include elections of President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer

Buffalo Zone:

At Our Spring Workshop MMV Consultant Claire Carlson made a presentation on our vision for the future.

Fall Rally-October 7—lunch at 1—program at 2

Salem Lutheran Church

10 McClellan Circle, Buffalo NY

Speaker: Rev. Evan Gaertner, ED District Counselor

Topic: Lutheran Campus Ministries Peer Ministers

Brief business meetings and election of officers



Thank You From Camp Pioneer:

You have blessed us by your tremendous gift of \$5,000 to Pioneer Ministries for our Papyrus Respite Ministry Program. We will be using these funds for purchasing a resource library, training materials, and providing regional training for volunteers.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks. It is a blessing to receive such a gift to ensure the continuation of our ongoing ministry. Your gift will enable us to meet the needs of God's people today and tomorrow.

We truly appreciate the partnership we share in ministering to God's people at this place called Pioneer, a warm place in the Son!

Thank you for this special gift and for your continued partnership in Ministry.

**Linda L. Gage, Executive Director
Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center**



Thank you to Niagara, Cattaraugus-Allegany and Buffalo zones for having MMV workshops. Jacqui Green and I would be more than happy to come to speak at your zone or society event about

MMV.

Looking for some exciting ideas to share with your group or society, get a copy of the LWML catalog at 1-800-252-LWML or visit our website at www.lwml.org for terrific Bible studies, devotions and sketches, etc.

Claire Carlson, MMV Consultant



We wish to thank Melita Scharr from the Pittsburgh Zone for making our beautiful convention banner (pictured here).



Eastern District Banner
Made By Melita Schaar

Thank You from Waneta Lingenfelter for all your support after the death of her husband Ken. You are truly a blessing!

ATTENTION ZONE TREASURERS: Zone Treasurers no longer need to send money for "Travel Fund" to the District. This fund is no longer in existence. Please keep that money within your zone to help defray your delegates travel expenses

**Be a Good Steward and Help Us Share
"The Link"**

Society Presidents and LWML Representatives: If you are a society President or LWML contact person for your church, you are a very important person in our distribution of "The Link". This is not intended to be just your personal copy. You have been designated as our contact for your church. Either copy this issue for your society members, post it at church, or glean items from it to submit articles for your congregation's bulletin/newsletter and, above all, remember to inform your members at society meetings. **This is our only form of communication and we are counting on you to get the information out. If you feel your copy should be sent to a different address, please inform the Editor so she can update her records. Thank you for your help.**



Feb. 8-9, 2008

Executive Committee/
Board of Directors Meeting
RIT Inn & Conference Center
Rochester, NY

June 6-8, 2008

2008 District Convention
RIT Inn & Convention Center
Rochester, NY

Sept. 19-21, 2008

Fall Retreat
Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center
Angola, NY

The Link is now available in e-mail format. If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, please let me know and I will add you to my list of e-mail recipients.
Bev Wicher-Editor Bevajw@roadrunner.com

Our sympathies go out to Waneta Lingefelter, VP Christian Life/Human Care upon the sudden death of her husband Ken Lingefelter from an apparent heart attack this past August. They had just returned from their trip to the LWML Convention, a two week cruise to Alaska and the Synodical Convention in Houston. Our prayers go out to you Waneta. She can be reached at 103 Windsor St., Philipsburg, PA 16866 (814)342-2715 e-mail Kenwan@adelphia.net



Words from ED President Dr. John Brunner on the LWML Convention

Three things I noticed at the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls this past weekend.

1. These folks are so single-minded it is almost startling. Nothing gets discussed that is not directly related to missions and mobilizing the women of the LCMS to become involved in the support of mission. All the women there understand that such focus doesn't always get translated into the local societies, but that doesn't stop them from keeping that amazingly clear vision and purpose as their unique objective.
2. The LWML is committed to doing something about encouraging diversity and reaching a younger demographic among their membership. The Young Women Representatives is of long standing in LWML seeking to include and involve younger women and give them a voice. "Heart to Heart Sisters" [a special point of emphasis for the Eastern District's own Jacqui Green] is intentionally reaching out to women of African American, African Immigrant, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, Hmong descent, and those formerly of Islamic background who have converted to Christianity. They don't just hope that somehow they can make themselves attractive to these women, they are aggressively searching for ways to meet their needs and make them part of the body.
3. Leadership is always pushing the envelope. Leaders in the LWML recognize that they have the responsibility to be on the cutting edge and go places where the local societies or individual members might not be comfortable going. Spurred on by Mary Manz Simon's Bible Studies they began to refer to themselves over and over again as "Dangerous". That has to be a point of emphasis for the church. What we do - proclaiming the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ - is earth shattering, life changing, comfort ignoring, dangerous stuff. Our focus is not on what feels good or fits our life style. We are called to go and do what over the centuries has rankled status quo and ruffled feathers. To make their point the women [almost without blinking an eye] approved a \$1.7 million Mission Goal for the next biennium.

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