



ACCENT

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On Lutheran Women's Missionary League
English District

Spring 2009



33rd Biennial LWML Convention June 25-28, 2009 Portland, Oregon

Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV) *I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Isaiah 52:7 (NIV) *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

March 2009 - LOOK! Look for those forms! Registration for the 2009 LWML convention and hotel reservations opened March 2. Send those forms from the Winter 2008 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* in as soon as possible to receive your first choice, or register online. Only three months to go! Did you know our song leader for the convention will be Dina Vendetti, an energetic and exciting Lutheran school principal and teacher, who also led us in song in Sioux Falls? Or that you might be *Struck with Laughter* by Jan Struck, the humorous interrupter?

LWML has contracted with Plans and Action of Portland to provide day tours on Wednesday and Thursday prior to convention and Monday afterwards. Come early or stay late to visit some of the sights around Portland from the mountains, to the seashore, to the rivers and much more! The complete tour brochure with registration form is available at www.lwml.org.

Join us! The place to be is Portland, June 25-28, where we will *Look to the Hills...God Reigns!*

English District Convention April 2010 LOGO DESIGNS

The theme for our upcoming English District Convention to be held in Detroit, MI. in 2010 is:

"Beautiful Feet for the Journey,"
based on Nahum 1:15a, NKJ version.

"Behold on the mountains the feet of Him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace."

We are looking for a logo design. If you are good at drawing, graphics and ideas please submit your design to the District.

The District executive board will peruse all designs submitted at a meeting at the National convention in Portland this summer.

Let's put on our thinking caps, do some brain storming and submit a logo design. It would be wonderful if we received a design from each Zone.

All designs can be sent to Connie Johnson via e-mail (connieandbruce@msn.com) or mailed to: 815 8th Ave. SE, Forest Lake, MN 55025. ►

ACCENT Deadline: June 1, 2009. Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Rd. Trenton, NJ 08618 or Fax to: 609.896.0341 or send me an attachment through e-mail: voorhees@rider.edu

Visit our English District LWML web site for the latest news at:
www.englishdistrictlwml.org

“33rd Biennial LWML Convention—Look to the Hills...God Reigns!”

Connie Johnson, President
connieandbruce@msn.com



The last weekend of January, I was privileged to attend the national LWML board meeting in Portland as your representative. The preparations are underway to welcome all LWML women and men from across the nation to Portland, Oregon June 25-28, 2009. The convention hall is large and beautiful. We have adequate space for district caucuses, district photos and unlimited attendance. All attendees can be housed in two hotels. The program is packed with exciting speakers and events.

Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, President of the Northwest District LCMS is the worship designer and proclaimer for the Thursday evening opening Communion service.

The Bible Study Leader is Dr. Mary Hilgendorf. She serves as the Director of the Women’s Leadership Institute and Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Ruth Koch, a mental health educator and National Certified Counselor, will be the Keynote speaker. Our Inspirational Speaker will be Heidi Floyd, Development Ambassador for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer.

There will be information from the mission fields, here and abroad, great music, a chance to participate in a convention choir, a mission walk, servant events, and a chance to share gifts from the Heart. You may find more information on the LWML web site, www.lwml.org, or in the 2008 winter edition of the Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly. Registration opened March 2nd. I hope to see many of you in Portland for the experience of a lifetime!

I am asking all of you to pray for and support the mite goals chosen by you through your convention delegates, both on the district and national level. The national LWML was over \$400,000 short of our 2007-2009 biennial mite goal at the end of January. As of March 10th we needed \$95,351.46. We thank our gracious God for these offerings. Please continue to pray that we may reach this mite goal. Send all funds as soon as possible so that our district treasurer can pass them on to the national LWML, postmarked by March 31, 2009. Your district has paid two of its mission grants, with four more to go by the spring of 2010. We are all aware that these are difficult times. Pray that with God’s guidance, the national and district LWML may fulfill the promises we have made to those chosen to be mission grant recipients.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6▶



When we love God, we love what God loves and in response to His love we serve others. We serve others in our own unique way, because the gifts that we have been given, are the very ways God wishes us to serve Him and other.

The **ACCENT** is going online!

Would you like to receive the **ACCENT** via your email?

We will continue to send the **ACCENT** out through the US Postal Service but for those of you who would like your subscription emailed, JUST LET US KNOW!!

Send the following email message to voorhees@rider.edu

Subject line: **ACCENT** EMAILED
I would like the **ACCENT** emailed to me:

Name: _____
Zone: _____
Church: _____
Current subscriber? Yes / No

Communication through the **ACCENT** is very important to our District especially since we are spread out across the country. We want to give everyone easy access to information and conversation and this is another way to accomplish that goal.

Cherie F. Voorhees, Editor

“For God So Loved the World”

Pat Gilde, Vice President Gospel Outreach
Patglt@aol.com



I received an email the other day with the subject line "Urgent appeal for a charitable cause." I always hesitate opening these messages because they are not always for charity. If Jesus had email, what do you suppose his subject line would be? How about "Urgent Appeal for Salvation."

He would state His promise clearly and simply. "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.*" (Mark 16:16)

He would give His admonition: "*Go and preach the good news to all creation.*" (Mark 16:15)

He would state His love for us. "*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son.*" (John 3:16)

That is the email that I would open, read and trust in its veracity.

I am pleased to say that we have been able to pay our second mission grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Sierra Leone Evangelism Outreach. However, there are people depending upon us for funds to further their work in the mission field. We cannot let them down. We voted for funding of \$15,000 for this mission work and you may call this a "faith budget." We have faith that our sisters in the LWML will step forward and give a little extra in their mite boxes to see that our work is done. This is my urgent appeal for a charitable cause.

Soon the Easter Season will be here. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." God loves us. He will provide for us. Let us show His love to others through our faith and gifts to support His work.

I wish you all a very blessed Easter Season in Him who loves us all. ►

A Worthwhile Day

I count that day as wisely spent
In which I do some good
For someone who is far away
Or share my neighborhood.

I long to be of usefulness
In little ways and large
Without a selfish motive
And without the slightest charge.

Author Unknown

Our Mission Goal for the 2008-2010 biennium is \$15,000

1. **Amigas Ministry, Brazil, - \$3,000.00 PAID**
2. **Sierra Leone Evangelism Outreach
- \$2,500.00 PAID**
3. **India School Project - \$3,000.00**
4. **Asian Indian Outreach, Pennsauken, NJ
- \$3,000.00**
5. **Gambia Church Planting and Land
Purchase, - \$2,000.00**
6. **Uptown Ministry Substance Abuse Program,
Chicago, IL - \$1,500.00**

Love is not just a feeling you have
for a person; it's an action
you practice for as long as you live.

Mission Grant Proposals

In January each Zone received guidelines for submitting English District LWML mission grant proposals.

Encourage your LWML members to submit grant proposals. Mission grants become reality when one LWML member or a LWML Society, learning of a mission need, makes an effort to do something about it by submitting a grant proposal.

The deadline for proposals is May 15, 2009.

“God’s Hands at Work Through the LWML”

Sarah Reinstadtler, Vice President Human Care - sreinst8@verizon.net



On a gray, cold wintry day, as I wait at Sam’s Club for my car to get its tires rotated, I browsed the magazine and book section. I came across the spring and summer patio and garden magazines when I felt like I had struck gold! I settled down in the furniture department in a comfy recliner and began to daydream about springtime and the beauty of the season that I so desperately longed for. The thoughts of how I could bring a place of peace and tranquility for myself, family and friends through the colors, smells and restfulness became invigorating. An hour passed by, as I relished in these thoughts, and then I was brought back to reality after reading the steps it takes to achieve this beautiful place of peace and tranquility!

I thank God daily that I have been blessed with a home located high on a hill which offers a fantastic view of scenery thirty-five miles in two directions. But, with this blessing comes the burden of cultivating and maintaining the steep grade of land. Everything must be carried uphill: dirt, mulch, plants, water. My daydream became less and less appealing. Then I asked myself, “Do I want to put that much work into this project and then maintain it day after day and week after week for two seasons?” “Is the beauty, peace and tranquility, not just for myself but for others, worth all the effort?” Age is a factor. Finances are tight. And, it will take a lot of sweat and hard work.

Isn’t that the way we are as followers of Christ? We want the “peace that passes all understanding” and the tranquility of knowing that we are children of the most high God. We have the promise of eternal life! But, do we want to put forth the time to read the Bible, to show kindness, compassion, love and mercy to fellow believers and non believers? Do we want to forgive one another day after day and week after week?

The greatest gift ever, and we don’t have to do any work to receive this gift, is eternal life! The peace and salvation is ours by the blood shed for us on the cross, by Jesus Christ. The gray and gloomy days of Lent and Good Friday will soon be over. The glorious beauty of the resurrection will be here for us each and every day. Not for just one season, but for eternity. As LWML women, we desire to share the Good News with others by our mites, prayers, actions and work not because we “have to”, but because we want others to know God’s love. They, too, may have the “peace that passes all understanding” and the joy of salvation through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. ►

“Short Term Mission Opportunities”

Shirley Holle, Short Term Mission Coordinator - shirleyh@longrealty.com



In our winter ACCENT I outlined an opportunity to experience the work of a missionary on short term mission trips. The National LWML Board of Directors issued a challenge to the LWML’s 40 districts to each send two short-term mission teams into the mission field by March 2010 in support of our missionaries and partner churches. The English District is seeking women for a short term mission trips to Hong Kong or other parts of Southeast Asia, Cambodia, Indonesia or Thailand. I have listed the mission opportunities for Asia along with their dates and number of team members requested. If you would like to be part of this mission team contact me, Shirley Holle at shirleyh@longrealty.com or call me at 520.229.1685. Please specify which country you are interested in along with which month is best. We are considering the months from October 2009 through March 2010. Don’t miss this opportunity. If enough women (and husbands) sign up we can send two teams. Remember you are responsible for your expenses.

Hong Kong -- The Hong Kong Synod is seeking native English speakers to help the children in their schools improve their verbal English skills. 80% of students in the Hong Kong Synod schools have no relationship with Christ. Using scripture to teach English provides an opportunity for the school to reach more of the students with the Gospel. October 09 – March 10, 8-12 team members

Indonesia -- LWML teams can visit our LCMS work in the tsunami stricken area of Aceh Province, possibly leading education workshops for teachers. They could also provide English conversation for students; lead youth activities; or give basic computer and Internet training. Open dates, 4-15 team members

Cambodia -- LCMS missionaries have requested groups of LCMS women to work with women leaders across Cambodia. Groups will lead and participate with Cambodian Christian women in various workshop and retreat settings. Ideas include a Sunday school workshop, women’s retreat, and drama ministry workshop. Open dates, 6-10 team members.

Macau/Jiangmen PRC -- The missionaries have requested LWML teams to come and help prepare outreach events to invite the community into the church and English Center. In this way, teams help connect participants with the long-term missionaries serving to further the message of the Gospel. Open dates, 8-12 team members. ►

“Speed Bump? Jump Start!”

Jan Simmons, Vice President *Servant Resources* - simmfarm@comcast.net



After Christmas and before Spring I often have trouble getting motivated. I work a lot of hours for my job April through November. Then I am busy preparing for Christmas and the Holidays. It just seems by January 15th I am out of steam. I just do the minimum needed to keep up with the wash, cooking and cleaning. Finally when the weather breaks and it's almost time for me to go back to work I get inspired to start taking on winter projects and spring cleaning. Of course by this time it is too late to get everything I want to accomplish done before I go back to work. So another winter goes by and I am once again behind.

I think it is easy to do this same process with the LWML. When it is Christmas or Easter we are eager to come up with projects for mission work or Bible Study. If it is a District Convention year, especially if it involves your Zone, we are enthusiastic about the LWML and all the we can do for convention and missions. But do you fall into the same off convention slump as I do in the winter?

When I was watching the Super Bowl I had an inspirational reminder. I saw a sea of golden towels, cheering on the hometown team, just as our LWML convention goers did in Pittsburgh. They waved their terrific towels enthusiastic about God's work through mission speakers, or God's Word through bible study. Not only was I excited that my hometown team, the Steelers, won (sorry Arizona Zone) but that I needed to get back that enthusiast feeling I felt at the District Convention. Some ways we can all achieve that enthusiasm again is by checking out devotional material like the new devotion LWML book "Hear My Voice O Lord", based on the Psalms. Spice up your LWML meetings with a collection of LWML resources at your fingertips with the new LWML program help CD. Most important, consider going to the National Convention June 25th-28th in Portland, Oregon. "Look to the Hills, God Reigns". You will experience enough inspiration through mission speakers and Bible study to last for many months to come.

Let us keep up our LWML work for our Lord no matter what you need to do for inspiration. We can keep the verse that is partial basis for the national theme in mind. "I lift my eyes to the hill – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 NIV ►

“The Great Love Story”

Corrine Compton, Vice President *Christian Life* - toniccc@yahoo.com



I John 3:1 (NIV) *How Great is the Love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*

February is often associated with Valentine's Day and expressions of love and affection with each other. But this year, it is also the beginning of our Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday being on the 25th. A time to reflect on God's love, the gift of his son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Of all the love stories we could hear, read or see—none can compare to God's Love given to us. How amazing is this Love! We can't purchase it from a card shop, candy store, book store nor from another person—not even for the love of money, prestige, honor, or rank. The wonderful thing is that God's Love is ours—the Great Love of our life surrounds us. It is freely given to us as His children.

How do we show God our love? Jesus Christ says in the book of Matthew (Matt:22:37-39) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is "Love others as much as you love yourself". In I John 3: 11, 16, 18 We should love one another, This is how we know love, Christ laid down his life for us...Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions in truth.

As God's love glows like the sun, we should want to be like the rays of the sun beaming out for all to see and feel the glow of love. Our LWML missions outreach sends rays of love and hope throughout the world.

This Lenten season let us share even more of this Great Love Story with everyone we meet—♪“And they know we are Christians by our Love by our Love, yes they know we are Christians by our Love”♪♪►

“Praise The Lord!”

Elsiena Velazquez, Treasurer
elsienavelazquez@juno.com



We have entered a new year and were able to pay our second project, Sierra Leone Evangelism Outreach. I hope that we will be able to keep up with our Mission Projects goals even though the economy outlook isn't very good. I have found that when we place **missions first** on our budget list, the Lord has found ways to help us meet all of our other goals in some way. Even though the government is thinking of eliminating the penny, we all know that pennies saved eventually add up to dollars. If we trust in God and put those pennies into our Mite boxes, we will be able to pay all of our projects in time for the Detroit Convention.

It is also time to get our *Quarterly* and *Accent* subscriptions in so any quantity changes can be made right away. Invoices went out in January. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support in both of these areas. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at (520) 731-9475.

Elsiena Velazquez—2121 S. Pantano Road #326
Tucson, AZ 85701—520-731-9475 ►

“Look to the Hill(s)...God Reigns”

Rev. Dr. Keith Johnson, Senior Counselor

Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV) *I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Look to the Hills...God Reigns” is the theme for the 33rd Biennial LWML Convention in Portland, OR this June. The publicity is out in the Winter 2008 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* with an invitation to join thousands gathering for the convention in Portland. Convention attendees are given opportunities to worship God the Maker of all things and share the Good News of Jesus in everyday situations.

Many feel satisfaction and peace when looking at the mountains. The mountains remind us of the majesty and grandeur of the Almighty God. In their strength we are reminded of the great strength of God who made those mountains. After all, who can move the mountains and overthrow God? He who made the mountains and the worlds around us “will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber” (verse 3).

I reflect back to our family travels from the Midwest to California in anticipation of going through the Rocky Mountains. After a day's journey, we wondered when will we get to the mountains! Little did we know but we would be amidst the mountains for many days. The majesty of the mountains reminds me of the

awesome God who made the mountains made me. The Lord is my refuge and strength. The burning sun will not scorch me, and the moon shall not spy on me and condemn me (verses 5-6). Although the thoughts of past sins want to haunt me, and though the worries of life try to drag me down, the Lord promises to keep me from all harm, to watch over my whole life (verses 7-8).

Even though we are full of sin and evil thoughts we look to the mountains—particularly to the one mountain on which the Son of God poured out His blood, suffered and died: Calvary. He went through the valley of death and arose again to assure us of life, hope and victory. He sacrificed His life on that mountain so that we might know forgiveness and the joy of being renewed in a close relationship with the heavenly Father.

May God continue to reign in your life and lead you into many avenues of service where His peace and power will touch others. Being secure in Jesus, our keeper and fortress, may we step out in faith to declare His praise and serve others. ►

Mite Sundays—Idea—

One Sunday each month your society can put out a large Mite Box to be filled by your congregation. Post information and put a blurb in your worship service bulletin about a national or district Mite Grant. Encourage everyone to join the LWML in spreading the Gospel around the world through Mites!



Jesus tells us that when we give to others what is within ourselves, we are also giving alms. “Inner things” such as our talents, laughter, compassion, assistance and friendship. All of us, from children to adults, can give alms because we can give from what we have.

Giving from the heart makes everything else right!