

ACCENT

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League
English District
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Fall/Winter 2011



**LWML English District
35th Biennial Convention
Rejoice...Bloom...Shout For Joy!
Tucson, Arizona
April 20-22, 2012**

*"The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."
Isaiah 35:1-2a*

It is my great privilege as Arizona zone president to invite everyone to picturesque Tucson, Arizona, for the LWML English District 35th Biennial Convention, "Rejoice... Bloom...Shout for Joy!" An exciting weekend of servant events, worship, Bible study, fellowship and fun awaits you and your friends in the tranquil Sonoran Desert.

On my recent trip to the Holy Land I discovered that Tucson looks and feels a lot like Nazareth. My own neighborhood, in fact, is filled with olive trees and dry sandy soil. It is my hope that the Sunday sunrise service in the desert gives you a glimpse of the land that Jesus trod and that the entire convention experience is a vivid reminder of His closeness to you.

The convention committee has worked very hard to include value and amenities in your registration and meal plan fees. We want you to feel pampered during your stay so that you may share a time of relaxation, recreation and renewal with your Christian sisters.

We encourage you to make this a mini-vacation by taking advantage of our pre and post convention tours. Please note that the special hotel conference rate, including full breakfast buffet is available for three days prior to and three days following the convention.

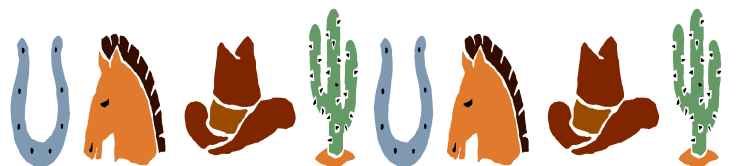
Our banquet on Saturday evening will highlight the culture of the Southwest. **We invite you to dress the part.** That means denim, bandanas, cowboy hats and boots; whatever you might have with a Southwestern look. Also, Sunday morning in the desert calls for this same type of wardrobe. If you don't want to pack your boots, wear them. You will look like a native when arriving at the airport. If you do pack them, they will hold a lot of items for the convention in-gathering.

Please prayerfully consider attending this weekend of rejoicing in the beautiful Sonoran Desert. Your Christian sisters from the Arizona Zone look forward to praising our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ with you! Please come and bring your friends!

"Rejoice...Bloom...Shout for Joy!"

*Ruthann McGowan
Arizona Zone President*

ACCENT Deadline: January 1, 2012. Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Road, Trenton, NJ 08618 or FAX to: 609.896.0341 or send me an attachment through e-mail: voorhees@rider.edu



“Intentional Giving!”

Shirley Holle, President
shirleyh@longrealty.com



Intentional – deliberately done. This is Webster’s definition. Intentional living is a popular phrase that is being used to describe how one is living their life.

An excellent example of intentional living is Jesus. He intentionally came to earth as a baby leaving behind the glories of heaven. He intentionally taught, healed and showed compassion to all people. He intentionally took time to pray. Jesus intentionally suffered and died on the cross so that we may have forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He intentionally did what his Father asked him to do.

We all do many things intentionally. We go to work and do what is asked of us on our jobs. We take care of our families by preparing meals, helping with homework, doing laundry and a myriad of other tasks. We intentionally go to church, sing in the choir, help with the Altar Guild and are involved in LWML.

Do we intentionally give mites? Is it deliberately done? I do a lot of transactions with my debit card and have few coins in my billfold. How can I give mites? I looked at the Mission Grant page at www.lwml.org and found the list of ideas for mite giving for the month of November. (Take time to look it up and print it out for yourself.) I totaled up that if I put in as LWML suggested it would be a minimum of about \$20. Putting just fifty cents a day into our mite box would be giving \$15 a month – just three five dollar bills. Are we intentionally giving mites??? Can we commit to a certain amount each month and write a check or put that amount in our mite box intentionally?

The widow gave all she had to the Lord as her offering. God wants our best and deserves our best because of all He has done for us. He shouldn’t get our leftovers. Ask God to show you what he wants you to do, and then ask him for the power and courage to do it - **intentionally**.

Each society should be checking out the Mission Grant site at www.lwml.org for information to share with your members and with your congregation. If people know where there money is going they will be more willing to give. Please use this valuable resource.▶

“Loose Change Adds UP!”

Susan Fleischmann, Treasurer
bfleischmann@verizon.net



According to the internet, thousands of dollars of loose change are left at security checkpoints from airline passengers who forget to retrieve coins from the small gray bins. It would be wonderful if we could put a large mite box in the vicinity of these checkpoints!

Thanks be to God from whom all blessings flow. We have paid three of our mission grants, but let’s not forget our remaining grants. Did you know that in 1930 receipts from 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6,651.31? That was a tremendous amount of money 81 years ago. How much loose change are we forgetting to place in our mite boxes? We have five months to collect \$6,000 to pay our three remaining mission grants. This may seem like a daunting task, but Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” *Matthew 19:26*.

Please pray for the work we can accomplish through our mites. Meeting our mission grants through mite giving helps to cultivate an attitude of gratitude both to God and to those whose lives we touch through service and thankfulness in Jesus name.

~Honorarium~
Helen Gienapp’s 90th Birthday

Please feel free to contact me by email or phone:
1425 Washington Road , Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-344-3691▶

“The Mite!”

Margaret Stuenkel, *Vice President Gospel Outreach*
rstuenkel@aol.com



Newsflash! We were just able to pay the Concordia Seminary Food Bank mission grant. We praise the Lord for that. We are halfway to our goal. Now we want to fund those Christian books for the children in Latvia, school uniforms for children in Kenya, and support the Let the Children Come-Let the Children Sing in Detroit, Michigan.

The Mite

Thud! - I dropped with a jolt into a box.
But as I fell, I heard a prayer, you see.
I was all alone—but not for long,
With more prayers, two others joined me.

But what good can three little coins do?
Can't do anything but sit and fritter.
At one time about sixty years ago,
It was enough to mail a first class letter!

Two more cents arrived with prayers the next day.
Now added up we were equal to a nickel.
Long ago it could've bought a cup of coffee.
Or, if you wanted, a cherry popsicle.

As the days and weeks went by, one by one,
More coins and prayers appeared, but still so few!
We were pennies focused on a special mission.
But for our small numbers, what could we do?

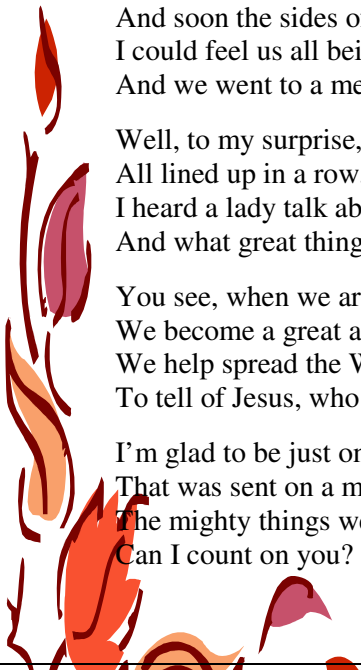
The weight of the money on me was great,
And soon the sides of the box did swell.
I could feel us all being lifted up,
And we went to a meeting at LWML.

Well, to my surprise, there were others,
All lined up in a row, one by one.
I heard a lady talk about Mighty Mites,
And what great things could be done!

You see, when we are all added together,
We become a great and mighty sum.
We help spread the Word of God,
To tell of Jesus, who died for everyone.

I'm glad to be just one of the mites,
That was sent on a mission with prayer.
The mighty things we will do for Christ.
Can I count on you? I'll be there!▶

by Joy Ambuehl



Our Mission Goal for the 2010-2012 biennium is \$15,000

1. **Trinity/Hope (Feed Lutheran Children in Haiti) - \$3,000—PAID.**
2. **Bible Translation at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria - \$3,000-PAID.**
3. **Concordia Seminary Food Bank—\$3,000. PAID**
4. Children's Books for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia—\$3,000.
5. Uniforms for Nakuru School, Kenya—\$2,400.
6. Let the Children Come—Let the Children Sing, Detroit, MI.—\$600.

EQUALIZATION FOR THE ENGLISH DISTRICT CONVENTION IN TUCSON, ARIZONA April 20-22, 2012

If you haven't started planning to attend the English District convention in Tucson, AZ in April of 2012, now is the time!! And it's time to send in your Equalization payment for your delegates!!

The Executive Committee raised the amount of Equalization to \$200 per delegate to cover the increased expenses of travelling.

Equalization helps get our delegates to the convention by paying transportation expenses. Each zone and society is responsible for sending delegates and this fund helps pay their way if they have paid into the fund. *Each zone is entitled to one delegate and societies two delegates.* We must all participate for the Equalization Fund to work properly. Those delegates who live close to the convention site and have minimal transportation expenses must pay the \$200 per delegate, to help defray the cost of those far away. *That's what makes it equal! Please send you equalization to me by March 31, 2012!*

Please start sending in your Equalization payments now. Remit to: **Elsiena Velazuquez, 2121 S. Pantano Rd. #326, Tucson, Arizona 85710.** You can also contact me at elsienavelazuquez@juno.com or by calling 520-731-9475.▶

Thanks Living produces Thanks Giving!!

“Money FAST Anyone?”

Sarah Reinstadtler, Vice President Human Care
srein8@verizon.net

Wedding plans are in full swing for my precious daughter Ashley’s wedding in December. It’s a lot of my time, money and a learning experience dealing with this big day.

Last May I decided to go on a MONEY FAST until the wedding. I decided I wasn’t going to spend money on anything that wasn’t a true need unless it had to do with the wedding or household expenses! If I hadn’t gone on this money FAST I never would have known how foolish and wasteful I truly am with my money. I found out that I buy so many things without stopping to think, do I really need this, or do I really need one more piece of clothing, books, DVDs, magazines?

Throughout the FAST I thought about our LWML mites and missions often, especially during my devotion time. Every cent, every mite really does count. It has made me appreciate the gifts the Lord gives us daily and how foolishly we spend our money like the foolish servant in the parables. God expects MORE from His children.

When my FAST is over I will change my spending habits. Actually, I already have! Jeff and I want to be better stewards with our money. This has been a very good lesson for me and my family. We want to spend our money wisely and to give back to the Lord through time, talents and mites for all He has given to us.

I know many others are on a Money FAST daily due to the economy and I will keep you in my prayers to stay strong and lean on our Provider, Jesus Christ, to get us through.

As we continue to plan my daughter’s wedding, and as I continue to FAST, I know Jesus is right by my side guiding me, teaching me, loving me and holding me up as the wedding day approaches.

Thank you Lord for teaching me something new everyday!

Let us all remember to keep our MISSIONS and Mites in our prayers and hearts for 2011-2012 grants.▶

“Mite Giving!”

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

Life’s struggles can become formidable. The Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML) mite giving can bring a sigh of relief to so many of God’s children that are suffering and in need.

Every penny, nickel, dime, quarter that we give to our LWML mite boxes multiplies ten thousand fold. We become a part of a magnificent and mighty outreach that touches the lives of so many people, at home and abroad.

Your mite donations reaches farther than most can imagine. With LWML your “mighty” coins becomes a blessed encouragement and help to so many that need the support of LWML Mites!

Lord Bless these offerings that they may help those who give, as well as, those who receive. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ.▶

Rejoice...Bloom...Shout for Joy! Servant Events

Prayer Walk led by Reverends Buckman, Pacey and Roegner. Teams of 8 will be trained on-site before traveling to the University of Arizona campus or a nearby campus neighborhood. Participants will then walk, offering to pray for people that they meet. Participation limited to 24.

Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB). Participants will assemble toiletries into a shower caddy for use by ASDB students. A plastic tag with Bible verse will be attached to each caddy.

Prison Outreach. Participants will sort yarn by color, then wrap yarn with a paper that includes a Bible verse. Prayer shawl knitting instructions will be attached to each package. These packages will later be given to prison inmates who will knit items for distribution to shelters.

Family First Pregnancy Care Center and Family Diaper Bank. Participants will sort and wrap in-gathering layette items inserting a mommy’s prayer card in each bundle. These will be given to Family First for distribution to mothers in need.

Rejoice...Bloom...Shout for Joy! Sunrise Service

All convention participants will board the bus early Sunday morning for travel to Saguaro National Park West (disability accessible). The creative power of God will be clearly evident to all in the beauty and majesty of the Sonoran Desert. A sunrise service will take place followed by time to quietly walk the desert paths and reflect on the majesty of the Triune God in whom we are free to Rejoice....Bloom....Shout for Joy!

“A Challenge for YOU!”

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

“Nickel and Dimed to Death.”

Pastor Tim Holzerland, Pastoral Counselor
pastortim91@yahoo.com

Mites and bylaws don't seem to mix, I thought while contemplating what to write about in my Accent article. Then I suddenly had a great idea. I thought of a way to get societies to look at their bylaws and raise mites at the same time. Here are a couple of challenges for all LWML women. I'm suggesting everyone put a dime in their mite box for the number of years it has been since they have read their society bylaws and a quarter for every year since they read their zone bylaws. You say your society does not have bylaws; well that is an automatic dollar donation and two for a zone. If you are the zone or society without bylaws it is time to contact me and I will send you guidelines to get started.

Also, have you taken the time to look at our LWML English District bylaws? They have been newly updated and on our website www.englishdistictlwml.org. I think one cent in the mite box for every day that goes by that you do not click on that website and checkout our bylaws is in order. If you are not computer accessible I will send you a copy.

One last thing, have your society or zone bylaws been recently updated? Many changes have occurred in the LWML in the past ten years and it is important that our society and zones keep up with national. I think a dime is appropriate for the number of years it has been since your zone or society has updated its bylaws.

Try these suggestions for your zones and societies and use this unique way to see if we can't increase mite giving and get our grants paid and at the same time, encourage members to review bylaws. You may be surprised at what you discover!►

Rejoice...Bloom...Shout for Joy! In-Gathering

The convention in-gathering will provide layette items to benefit **Family First Pregnancy Care Center, and Family Diaper Bank** in Oracle, Arizona, and yarn suitable for hats, scarves and prayer shawls to benefit **Prison Outreach**. The majority of items requested are soft and lightweight so will fit easily into the extra spaces in your luggage.

Receiving Blankets—Onesies
Footed sleepers—
Lightweight NightGowns—Knit hats
Booties—Sweaters
Socks—Undershirts
Burp Cloths—Bibs
Hooded towels—Pacifiers



I'm "nickel and dimed to death" and I'm grateful for it.

The term, "nickel and dimed" became popular during the era of the 5 and dime stores in the early 20th Century. "Nickel and dimed" usually means pretty and small-time things that have a sizeable effect.

When we give to our congregations, the LWML and other charities we may often silently think, "I'm being nickel and dimed to death." We **give**, however, because "God loved the world that He **gave** His one and only Son." (John 3:16). We may rarely hear how our nickels and dimes make a difference in the lives of those who receive the funds. When you put some coins in your mite box I hope you remember and share my story.

One of the missions for the LWML English District is Concordia Seminary Food Bank in St. Louis, Missouri. My wife and I will never forget how the Food Bank helped me to continue my study at the Seminary and receive my first call.

I spent my entire time studying for the ministry and my wife, Kim, was a legal secretary in downtown St. Louis. There was one pay period where we had significant auto repairs, a dental bill, and books I needed to purchase for my classes. The check book was down to less than \$20.00 with 10 days to go until the next paycheck.

I remember literally praying "give us this day our daily bread." The next day there was a basket at the door of our apartment with the words, "From the Seminary Food Bank." There was enough food in the basket to last us until Kim received her next paycheck. I went back to my studies confident of God's mercy, in Jesus Christ. I returned my attention to learning the Word of God in order to share the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ with my future congregation.

If you ask your pastor I can imagine he may have a similar story to tell about how the Lord Jesus provides for us through the offerings of other Christians.

Where does the money go? The nickels and dimes of the Lord go to provide the material, manpower, and resources to ensure that Christ's life-changing Word reaches the audience He desires in the world. So when I feel I'm being "nickel and dimed to death" I remember Christ's mercy, your generosity and I'm grateful.►

When you open your heart
You open your mind!!

Conference Hotel Information
Holiday Inn & Suites Tucson Airport North
4550 S. Palo Verde Boulevard, Tucson, AZ 85714
Phone: 520.746.1161 Fax: 520.741.1170

Enjoy the quiet comforts of this full-service, resort-style hotel. The Atrium Lobby features a soothing waterfall, setting a lovely, calming tone. A 24-hour heated pool, hot tub in the Oasis Courtyard, free shuttle service within a 5-mile radius, free parking, fitness center & free WiFi create the perfect mix of amenities for convention participants.

Conference rates are in effective for April 16-24, 2011.
These rates are available until March 29, 2012 only:

Two Double Beds - Single/Double Occupancy	\$89.00
Two Double Beds - Triple Occupancy	\$99.00
Two Double Beds - Quad Occupancy	\$109.00
King Bed - Casita Suite w/Sofa Bed in extra room	\$109.00

Rates include a full buffet breakfast for up to 4 people per room.
They do not include taxes. The current tax rate is 13.4%.

The preferred method of hotel registration is via **holidayinn.com**.

Enter: Tucson Intl Airport, AZ, United States.

Enter: dates and other information as prompted.

Choose: Best Available as Rate Preference.

Click: Find a Hotel.

Scroll Down and **Choose:** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Tucson Airport - North.

Click on Select Hotel.

This will take you to the Hotel Page. **Click** inside Group Code Box. **Enter:** LWM.

Click on Modify Search and the convention rates of \$89 and \$109 appear.

From there, book your room.

If you are unable to register via the website, contact Holiday Inn Reservations at 1.800.315.2621.

Visit **www.visittucson.org** for information on local attractions such as:

Kartchner Caverns***

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum***

Trail Dust Town

San Xavier Mission***

Pima Air & Space Museum

Sabino Canyon

Old Tucson Studios***

Titan Missile Museum

Tohono Chul Park

Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory

De Grazia Gallery in the Sun

The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures***

*(***Denotes conference tour offering.)*

Convention packets will be sent out to all congregations.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORMS.