



# ACCENT

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On Lutheran Women's Missionary League

English District

FALL/WINTER 2014-15



This summer we look forward to the 36th Biennial LWML Convention June 25-28, 2015, at the Iowa Events Center, in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is:

***Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap***

The convention theme is based on the following Scripture passage: *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work* ([2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV](#)).

Women from across the nation will converge on Des Moines in June and we hope you plan to join them. Start now to plan your trip and invite someone from your church that has never attended a national LWML convention. Promise them a wonderful time of spiritual growth, hands on servant events, singing, praising God, laughing, meeting new friends, hearing mission speakers, and communing with thousands of your sisters and brothers in Christ. The convention is a very special event that will fill your heart with the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and a feeling of wonder and AWE!!!!

**The Convention Goal:** Through Christ's bountiful love and blessings of Word and Sacraments, I am equipped by the Holy Spirit to work in my Father's harvest field.

Go to [www.LWML.org](http://www.LWML.org) for more information or watch for registration materials in the *Quarterly*. We hope to see you in Des Moines.

## 365 Days of Thanksgiving

**W**hen you think about Thanksgiving do you think about a one day event? That's how many people celebrate Thanksgiving; one day set aside each year to give thanks. As Christians, we know better. Throughout scripture we continually read about giving thanks to God. *Give thanks to Him and bless His Name.* Psalm 100:4b Each and every day should be a day of thanksgiving and thanks-living.

Sure I know, it's easier said than done. How many of us work at a job that is full of stress? There's so many sick people in our churches, homes, towns, and world. With the scare of Ebola, so many sick children, and that horrible word cancer, how can we be thankful?

My husband and I ran in to an old friend that had been fired from his job. He told us when he was fired he was shocked, he had no idea it was coming. He didn't know what he was going to do with three sons in college and no way to support his family. But when we ran in to him he was smiling and cheerful. He told us, yes, it was shocking, his heart hurt, his family hurt, he was desperate and ashamed, how could this have happened after so many years working for this company? Yup, bad things happen to good people. But that's not the end of the story. He told us he had a new job. It's the same work he was doing before, but at a new place. He travels a little further but he likes his job and he's relaxed and happy there. He said, "Getting fired was a blessing. Who would have known?" He didn't know it would turn into a blessing, and so often we don't know that either. *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!* Psalm 107:11

When we find it hard to give thanks all we need to do is look up, straight up 365 days a year, and thank our Lord and Savior Jesus for our salvation.

*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.*  
2 Corinthians 9:15

Thanksgiving produces Thanks-living 365 days a year!!

Cherie F. Voorhees, Editor

## **“It Is Good to Give Thanks!”**

*Jan Simmons, English District President*  
*janlwml@yahoo.com*



**T**he theme of this ACCENT is Thanksgiving. The most important gift I am thankful for is the gift of His Son, Jesus, who suffered, died and rose again so that we might receive eternal life.

It is also important for me to mention how thankful I am for my family, especially my mother who is celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this November. Although she doesn't know what day it is or what she had for dinner five minutes previously, she knows all her children, grandchildren, and that Jesus is her Savior. And of course, I thank God for the bountiful harvest on my family farm, and that we have the resources to efficiently produce food. God has blessed me with so many Sisters in Christ through the LWML; women, who are not only dear friends, but share His Word and His Work through missions, service and fellowship. I have been given the opportunity to serve as your LWML English District President. I am very thankful for the LWML, and the chance to serve the Lord through this organization along with the women and men who also serve.

We had our first Executive Committee meeting via Skype this past September. It's been a great blessing that we have the technology to be thousands of miles apart and still be together via the internet. This allows us to do the work required of the Executive Committee and be economical at the same time. One of the items we addressed at our meeting was choosing the theme for the 2016 LWML English District Convention in Philadelphia. The theme selected is, ***“Freely, Sowing, Serving & Sharing!”*** based on Galatians 5:13 NIV.

***You my brothers and sisters, were called to be free.***

***But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love.***

Unlike so many other Christians around the world, I thank God that I live in a country where I am free to worship. And because of this freedom we have LWML, and we can freely share our mission with other women.

LWML has a new initiative called the “Time is Now” to help refocus on our basic common core values: being in God's Word, missions, service and fellowship. The LWML is encouraging all women to go to the website [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and sign up for “***2-Minute Tuesday.***” You will receive an email with tips, insights, and wisdom every other Tuesday to share the good news about Jesus Christ, and the LWML. What a wonderful way to say thank you for our religious freedom and then be able to share it with others.

I want to close in saying that I am thankful to God for all of you, my Sisters in Christ. And, for all that we can accomplish together through the LWML, especially our missions and service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night. Psalm 92:1-2▶***

### **ACCENT Emailed??**

Would you like to receive your copy of the ACCENT through email instead of a hard copy mailed via the US Postal Service? If you want to be added to the email list please let me know by sending an email to [voorheescf14@gmail.com](mailto:voorheescf14@gmail.com) with your wishes. With the rising cost of mailing the ACCENT we are sending out more copies of the ACCENT via email, and it's in living color! Also, once our LWML English District website is fixed it will be available there as well.

If you wish to continue receiving the ACCENT as you do now, that's perfectly fine too. If you have an ACCENT subscription you will automatically receive it three times a year through your church LWML via the US Postal Service.

*Cherie F. Voorhees, ACCENT Editor*

## “Praise God, our First & Second Mission Grants have been PAID!”

Ruthann McGowan, *Treasurer*  
ruthannmcgowan@hotmail.com



**W**e are entering the time of year when we rejoice in the coming of our Savior Jesus. With Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching and as the season gets hectic and commercialized, take time to reflect on Jesus who is the “Reason for the Season”, and give thanks!

Good news; the Executive Board has given approval to pay our first and second mission grants: #1 - **New Campus Ministries at the University of Toledo & University of Pennsylvania.** #2 - **Ablaze Mission and Ministry Center, Taking Jesus to the Streets.** Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



The Executive Board would like to thank the St. Paul’s, St. Clair Shores LWML for their gift, in Memory of *Helene Redmond*. It will be used to bring Christ’s message to the world through the LWML.

This is a good time to remind everyone of the Memorial option to the English District LWML. If you would like to make a donation in honor of and/or in memory of a family member or friend send it to me. This can be done throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who has changed their records and are now sending mites to me at Ruthann McGowan, LWML English District Treasurer, 55 West Oro Valley Drive, Oro Valley AZ 85737. My phone number is 520-297-4686 or 520-360-7851 if you have any questions.

As Lutheran Women in Mission we are called to use our gifts in service to God. The Lord has called you to use your gifts to spread the Good News of Jesus throughout the world. You may not know the time or place, and it might happen without your knowledge, so pray for His guidance to be ready and willing to, “Serve the Lord with Gladness”, whenever and wherever He has need of you.

As the holidays approach and things get hectic focus on the many blessings you have received, and the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus.▶

**ACCENT Deadline: February 1, 2015.** Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618 or FAX to: 609.896.0341 or send me an attachment through e-mail at: voorheescf14@gmail.com

## Our Mission Goal for the 2014-2016 biennium \$15,000

1. **New Campus Ministries at the University of Toledo & University of Pennsylvania—\$2,000 PAID**
2. **Taking Jesus to the Streets and Sidewalk Sunday School—\$2,000 PAID**
3. **Ministry to African Immigrants, Bethany Lutheran Church, Trenton, NJ—\$2,000**
4. **Fund the Development and Training of Ethnic Women Leaders, LWML Heart to Heart Sisters English District—\$3,000**
5. **Operation Barnabas, Catalina Chapter Tucson, Arizona—\$3,000**
6. **Sanctus Lutheran Ministries, new mission start, Woodstock-Hickory Flats, Canton, Georgia—\$2,000**
7. **Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church for LMS Compassion Center, York, PA—\$1,000**

*In Everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God  
in Christ Jesus for you.*

I Thessalonians 5:18

### Young Woman Representatives (YWR) Wanted

If you know of a YWR that would like to attend the national LWML convention in Des Moines, Iowa next June 2015, please contact Lenore Gerlach for information, and an application. Lenore can be reached at [lenoregerlach@gmail.com](mailto:lenoregerlach@gmail.com) or call 609-751-2547.

## “Thankful in Abundance!”

Rev. Steve Patton, Sr. Pastoral Junior Counselor  
gracepointsahuarita@cox.net



**Philippians 4:6** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

**W**hat do you have to be thankful for? Before you answer, spend a minute thinking about those things that are challenging you right now, maybe causing you to become anxious. Two verses before, Paul writes to the brothers and sisters in the faith at Philippi encouraging them to rejoice always. Not just rejoice, do not be anxious about anything. This is a difficult task.

Just as in Paul's day, we people of faith probably have a few things that are causing at least a little anxiety. So how can we move from anxiety to rejoicing? In a word, it is thanksgiving.

***Talk with  
God,  
not just to  
Him.***

God's faithful word here exhorts us to prayer and supplication. Talk *with* God, not just *to* Him. Come with humble confidence that the faith you have been given to come in prayer, also gives you access to our gracious God who hears us and will answer us according to His divine goodness and mercy. For the gifts of faith and prayer alone we can be thankful. We can also be thankful for the things that make us anxious, because these occasions bring us to pray, and to discover our dependence upon Christ, whose blood gives us access to our Heavenly Father.

So what is God challenging you with right now? What are you anxious about? What would happen if you thanked God for this challenge in your life today, recognizing that you have the opportunity to draw close to God and learn to trust Him with a relationship, a health concern, a financial matter or whatever it may be. In our anxiety, we have the opportunity to see God at work. Sometimes God resolves our worries quickly. Many times however, God asks us to trust Him for a resolution that is not what we want or expect, or which comes only after much waiting.

As a father of two young children, I don't have too many nights when I cannot fall asleep quickly. But when I find

myself lying in bed worrying about something and it just won't resolve itself quickly, I turn my thoughts and prayers to things that God has given, for which I am thankful. Through the years of this practice, I am learning (like the Apostle) to be thankful in abundance and in need, knowing that true abundance comes from the Lord. Thanks be to God. †▶

***That my glory may sing your praise  
and not be silent. O Lord my God,  
I will give thanks to you forever!*** Psalm 30:12

## Mustard Seed

### DEVOTION

The Bible tells us that God created everything in heaven and on earth. That includes us! But we are not like trees, rivers or stars. We love and laugh, care and sigh. We nurture others and have a need to be nurtured by them.

*...you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand ([Isaiah 64:8](#)). For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb ([Psalm 139:13](#)).*

Unbelievably, no two of us are exactly alike. God created us just to be us! What does He want in return? He wants us to call Him Father because He likes having us in His family.

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children ([Romans 8:16](#)).*

This is a Mustard Seed Devotion. You can receive daily Mustard Seed devotions in your email everyday by going to [www.LWML.org](http://www.LWML.org) and sign up. Lutheran women of all ages, stages of life, races, locations and cultures find guidance, encouragement and inspiration from these daily devotions.

## “We Do Have Much to be Thankful For!”

Darlene Keca, Vice-president of Organizational Resources  
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## “A Year’s Worth of Gratitude!”

Pat Gilde, Vice-President Christian Live/Human Care  
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While recently looking through a catalog, one page in particular stood out. It was showing a typical thanksgiving dinner setting: turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and cranberries. The heading read “May you always have much to be thankful for”. As members of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League we could reply; “We do have much to be thankful for”.

Consider the 2015 convention theme “Bountiful! Sow – Nourish – Reap and one of the primary targets: Nurturing Faith in Christ - We are committed to helping every woman find personal opportunities in her daily life and in her congregation to be nurtured in faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to discover her unique gifts and value in God’s family.

This may sound a little strange, but as we count our blessings during this Thanksgiving season we should also be thankful for our bylaws. Over the years they have served as the guidelines for the LWML districts, zones, and societies. Take the time to look over your current zone and society bylaws to see if they should be revised. If you need guidance please contact me.

As we gather with family and friends over the upcoming holiday season may God guide us to sow the seed of His word, help us to nourish those in need, and pray that those individuals will reap the blessings of knowing Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

We ‘definitely’ do have much to be thankful for!►

Praise God! 60 sisters and brothers in Christ attended the LWML English & Eastern Districts Combined Fall Rally hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church in Trenton, NJ. Our theme: “Matters of the Heart” based on Exodus 34:6.



Turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and seeing our family all together again...Oh, My! What a blessing.

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17 (NIV)*

There are those whose lives are less fortunate, who may not know where to go to find a good meal on Thanksgiving or any other day; those who may not have family to visit or a place to call home. Please give food to your church’s food bank or a place in your area that serves the poor. Do not limit yourself to giving one season of the year, as hunger knows no particular day.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)*

Celebrate each day as a day of thanksgiving for all He has given you, and pray giving thanks for our ability to help others. Do not wait for this one day of the year to bundle a years’ worth of gratitude into just one special prayer package.

Share your blessings with everyone you meet...Oh, My!►

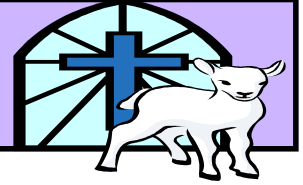


Many women attended the **LWML English District Greater Detroit Zone 2014 FALL RALLY at Angelica Lutheran Church in Allen Park, MI** . They were treated to a very special morning dedicated to supporting MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term).



## “A Far Greater Feast”

Diana Honebrink, Vice-President of Gospel Outreach  
knirbenoh@juno.com



Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday,” proclaimed my 13 year old daughter recently. “Really?” I happily inquired. She then went on to describe how she liked our tradition of hosting friends and family on that November Thursday each year. I thought about her comments for awhile and had to admit that I was pleased to hear that she values a day full of Honebrink traditions: going to church; preparing the Thanksgiving tables (Yes, both a kids' table and a grownup's table!); painting feathers for the cardboard turkey that we will gather around for a group picture lovingly snapped by our dear neighbor each year; eating the delicious food prepared by the generous hands of our loving guests; enjoying the laughter that resounds throughout the day; taking our post dinner walk through the neighborhood with our loved ones, scattered in small groups anticipating the dessert that awaits them at the finish line; playing “Apples to Apples” late into the evening while some of the guys sneak out to catch the newest action film of the season.

As I gratefully reflect on the joyous traditions of Thanksgiving and my teenaged daughter's declaration of Thanksgiving as her favorite holiday, I can do nothing but thank God for the bountiful grace and blessing He has brought to us by way of family and friends. To be sure, there is great joy in the feasting at Thanksgiving yet it is a finite celebration, lasting for a few short hours once every 365 days. And so I am compelled to long for the greater joy, indeed the greatest joy, of an infinite feast, “The marriage feast of the Lamb.” This is the feast that we joyously await, and of which we receive a foretaste when we feast on Christ's Body and Blood at His Table. Lutheran Service Book 631 beautifully and poetically speaks of this far greater feasting:

*Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face; Here would I touch and handle things unseen;  
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace, And all my weariness upon Thee lean.*

*Here would I feed upon the bread of God, here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;  
Here would I lay aside each earthly load, here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.*

*This is the hour of banquet and of song; This is the heav'nly table spread for me;  
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.*

*I have no help but Thine; nor do I need Another arm but Thine to lean upon.  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed; My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.*

*Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness; Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;  
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace: Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.*

*Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear; The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;  
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here; Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.*

*Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.*

Amen and Amen! Thanks be to God! ►

