

# ACCENT

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
English District

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Summer 2014

## “Life Giving Water Forever” The LWML English District 36th Biennial Convention

After two years of planning the convention is over but the sites and sounds will linger FOREVER!

One hundred and six sisters and brothers in Christ attended the convention in Countryside, Illinois. They participated in the festival worship service, servant events, Bible study, voting on mission grants, attended interest luncheons with mission speakers, and so much more. New friends and old friends were found, new mission grants and officers were chosen, and life giving water forever was shared glorifying the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Among the many new faces at convention were three District Young Woman Representatives (YWR's) — Celia Qian, Arizona, Allison Love, Arizona and Jessica King, Illinois. Their love for their Lord was obvious, and their enthusiasm for missions was contagious. We look forward to working with these young women as they use their gifts to help build the kingdom of God.

The convention delegates elected three new officers to the LWML Executive Board: District President Jan Simmons, Pittsburgh Zone, Treasurer, Ruthann McGowen, Arizona Zone, and Vice-President of Gospel Outreach Diana Honebrink, Arizona Zone. Also, they elected to the Nomination Committee: Chairman Renae Korenchan, Greater Chicago Zone, Janet Stechholz Greater Detroit Zone, and Sara Neagley Philadelphia Zone.

Seven new mission grants were chosen by the delegates totaling \$15,000 for the 2014-2016 biennium. The grants are listed on page three of this ACCENT.

With the convention behind us and keeping the convention goal in front of us, we pray that all those who attended will go forward glorifying the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will continue to drink deeply from his Word, and will share His overflowing love with all those we meet, FOREVER!



*He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.”*  
**Revelation 21:6**

### Jesus Loves Me This I Know

(A few new verses just for the LWML)

*Jesus loves me this I know, Lutheran women say it's so.  
He compels us love to share, in our homes and everywhere.*

*Jesus guides us through each day, He will show us all the way.  
Reaching sheep that have been lost, His precious blood has paid the cost.*

*Jesus shows us how to live, teaching all of us to give.  
Of our time and talents true, let His loving light shine through.*

*Jesus loves me, this I know, though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim, still He bids me trust in Him.*

*All my love to Him I'll give, every day for Him to live.  
He's the water, life He brings, now I will forever sing*

*Yes Jesus loves me, yes Jesus love me,  
Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

## “A Look Back and to the Future!”

Jan Simmons, English District President  
janlwml@yahoo.com



**I**t was in the late 80's that a group of five young women from my church decided to attend our first LWML English District Convention. It was in Chicago too, and I remember it very well. The festival service was so uplifting with hundreds of women worshipping together, communing together, and praising God with song. The next day was just as amazing with Bible study, mission speakers, and voting on missions and executive committee officers. We were overwhelmed with the joy and enthusiasm of the women around us in the work they did for our Lord through the LWML. The other thing that impressed us was how we were treated. We were the youngest ones present and newcomers to the LWML, but the women made sure we were welcome, going out of their way to make us feel comfortable; sitting with us at dinner, and pointing us in the right direction for meals, meetings, and servant events. Back then I would never have imagined that I would be leading the LWML English District as their president.

While at our recent convention in Chicago, I felt the same things I did at that first convention, an amazing worship service, Bible study, and mission speakers. We had election of officers, voted on mission grants, and comedic interruptions from the executive committee board. Unlike my first Chicago convention, where there were only a few first timers, when asked to stand the first timers were almost a third of the rooms attendance. There were just as many women present who at one time had been a Young Woman Representative and many of them are now participating at various levels in the LWML English District. As LWML English District President I want this to continue, but we need to keep encouraging all women to get involved, not just young women but women of all ages and nationalities. Kristi Roegner is our LWML English District Leader in the Heart to Heart Sister's program and is here to help us incorporate ideas to encourage all ethnicities to become part of our LWML English District. Hopefully, in Philadelphia not only will we see a lot of new faces of all ages, but also a diverse group of women praising God with worship, Bible study and song.

In the next biennium we need to look toward increasing our mission project goal. The LWML English District has had the same mission grant goal since the 90's, \$15,000. I know the economy had some bad times in those years, but we need to try to increase our mite giving and continue to be conservative in our spending for board meetings and conventions so we can afford to give more to mission grants and raise our mission goal. We need to encourage all women to seek out missions in the LCMS that we can support with our mites. LWML would only be LWL without our MISSIONS. You have one year to write a mission grant proposal for the missions you support in your zone. Our new Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Diana HoneBrink, M.D., or any of her committee members, will be glad to assist you with your proposal.

Hopefully, as LWML English District women in this next biennium, we can have a passion to fulfill these visions. *May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans (Psalm 20:4)*. We can open our arms to women of all ages and ethnicities in the LWML, increase our mission goals, and continue to seek out and support missions of the LCMS.

I was very happy to be back in Chicago where I started my LWML journey so many years ago, and where I will continue this journey as your LWML English District President. ►

### Servant Events at Convention

**Feed My Starving Children:** 1,022 meals were prepared to ship to several missions and human service agencies.

**Phil's Friends:** Several care packages were created for Phil's Friends and 40 school bags with supplies for Christ the King Lutheran School.



## “Say YES if Asked!”

Ruthann McGowan, Treasurer

ruthannmcgowan@hotmail.com



**W**OW! You could really feel love in the atmosphere of the 2014 convention! I am sure all of you have been praying for your English District officers since that time. Your retired President Shirley is not totally retired, and we thank her for taking on working with the Convention Guideline Task Force. Her help will make the work of treasurer a little easier and we thank her for that. Your new President Jan has been working very hard to fill her appointed committees and work with the executive committee. Please help her by volunteering if you are available or by saying yes if asked.

As your new treasurer I am so thankful for these women who love the Lord and want to serve. I am also very thankful for all the women of our church. Jesus says in John 15:9 “*As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*” It is so important to listen to Jesus and show love to those around us but it isn’t so easy to do. My prayer is for the English District LWML to remain in His love. We can do this with the help of God. May he be with us and bless us, especially in the next four years.

I would like to remind all the treasurers to send their mite money to me at the following address: Ruthann McGowan, 55 West Oro Valley Drive, Oro Valley AZ 85737. Should you want to deliver them in person during the winter months you are welcome to do that also! My phone number is 520-297-4686 or 520-360-7851. Serve the Lord with Gladness!▶

### Convention Offerings

The three offerings collected are designated to:

1. The English District 2014-16 Mission Goal - \$895.
2. Adult Christian Day Care, Elmhurst, IL - \$702.79
3. St. Matthew’s Soup Kitchen, Chicago, IL - \$673.

**ACCENT Deadline: October 15, 2014.** 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: voorhees@rider.edu

## Our Mission Goal for the 2012-2014 biennium \$15,000 PAID!

1. Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland, Ohio - \$3,000—PAID
2. Campus Mission at the University of Arizona in Tucson - \$3,000—PAID
3. D.O.C.K. Ministry, The Discipling of Christ’s Kids, Wyoming, Michigan - \$3,000- PAID
4. Nepali Refugee Ministry in Lancaster, Pennsylvania —\$3,000 - PAID
5. Lutheran High School Library Project in Pittsburgh, PA—\$3,000. PAID

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

1. New Campus Ministries at the University of Toledo & University of Pennsylvania—\$2,000
2. Taking Jesus to the Streets and Sidewalk Sunday School—\$2,000
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

## “Newness of Spirit!”

Darlene Keca, Vice President Organizational Resources  
d.keca@sbcglobal.net

Praise the Lord for the renewal of “Life Giving Water Forever”. Although I’ve had the privilege of attending many conventions, I’m always amazed at the newness of spirit for the LWML after the experience. The convention goal was: I will come to worship God as He connects with me through Word and Sacraments, enabling me to go and serve others. Thank you ladies and gentlemen of the Chicago Zone for your hard work and dedication to make this convention meet its goals.

The Sunday morning worship service, “Hearts Burning Within” was enhanced by the children from Christ the King Lutheran School of Chicago playing their violins for both “The Lord’s Prayer” and “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”. Also, this school was the recipient of 40 school bags with supplies assembled as a servant event.

There were three proposed by-law amendments that the convention body voted on. The changes will be made in the following areas:

- **ARTICLE VIII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS—Section 9**
- **ARTICLE X-ADMINISTRATION Section 1**
- **ARTICLE XIX-EMERGENCY ACTION**

These mainly refer to additional forms of communication with regard to internet conference, electronic internet conferencing, and electronic messaging. The revised by-laws will be posted on our website [englishdistrictlwml.org](http://englishdistrictlwml.org).

You may have noticed a new name above as your Vice-President of Organization Resources. I received the appointment from President Jan and was installed along with the newly elected officers at convention. If my name looks a little familiar that is because I’ve had the privilege of serving on the district level as your treasurer (1998-2002) and secretary (2002-2006), and I look forward to serving you again with a newness of spirit for the LWML!▶

## “His Love Endures Forever!”

Rev. Dr. Vernon L. Schindler, Sr. Pastoral Counselor  
belvaschin@aol.com

The 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League English District is now history; but how good it is to know that Jesus continues to promise, “*It is done! To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.*” (Revelation 21:6 ESV). So even though the convention is now weeks old, we continue to celebrate the LIFE GIVING WATER FOREVER.”

In Psalm 136, the Psalmist ends each verse with the same refrain, “His love endures forever.” Twenty six times that refrain is repeated. When reading this Psalm in church, half verse by half verse, the congregation says nothing but “His love endures forever.” No matter what we may experience in our lives, God’s steadfast love endures forever. On the cross, our sin that separated us from God, was paid for. It is done. Through His Word, the Holy Spirit, has worked the faith in us. So even though everything around us changes, God’s steadfast love does not. So in the next biennium, and for as long as He gives us life, let us: *Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever.* (Psalm 136:26 NIV).

I, personally, would like to take this opportunity to again thank Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner for his four years as our district counselor – to thank him for his wisdom, guidance, and friendship to all of us. I also pray that the Lord would continue to use him mightily in our LWML on the national level.▶





## “A Jesus? Did I Hear That Correctly?”

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

## “Show Me Your Ways, Lord!”

Pat Gilde, Vice President Christian Life/Human Care  
patglt@verizon.net

**G**reetings to you in the Name of Jesus Christ our risen and ascended Lord. I am humbled to be the new English District LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach. As I think about this role, I can't help but focus on the Gospel -- Christ crucified for the forgiveness of the sins of the whole world. It is this absolute, life-giving truth of the Gospel that the LWML is collectively sharing in our many mission projects and that we are each individually blessed to share as Christian women in our varying vocations.

In one of my vocations, that of pediatrician, I experienced a beautiful illustration of this focus on Christ crucified. I happened to overhear my medical assistant administering a vision test to a preschooler. To accomplish this in a pre-reader, a picture chart is used. I could easily imagine the medical assistant patiently pointing to the pictures, as I heard the little boy's voice declare, “a cup...a star... a circle... a Jesus.” A Jesus? Did I hear that correctly? What had she pointed to that could possibly have caused him to see Jesus in my eye chart and to declare it so matter-of-factly? I soon discovered that the plus sign, two evenly crossed lines, in his mind were a cross, and not just any cross, but the cross of Christ. Oh the simplicity of it all. A four year old sees the cross and declares, “Jesus”.

We too have seen the cross and are compelled to declare Jesus! Jesus to our families! Jesus to our friends! Jesus to the cashier! Jesus to the neighbor! Jesus to the softball coach! Jesus through our mites! Jesus through our prayers for the ongoing mission grants of the LWML!

Thanks be to God for His gift of the Holy Spirit, who draws our eyes to the cross, relentlessly, repeatedly and reassuringly sharpening our focus on Christ!▶

**God doesn't call the qualified,  
He qualifies the called.**

“Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day.” (Psalm 25:4-5 NIV)

**W**elcome, I will be there to help you along your journey! These are the words we should be saying to our new leaders. Build them up to know they can accomplish all tasks set before them. And, give them your prayers of thankfulness that they have taken on the great responsibility of supporting missions and encouraging growth of the LWML. Pray for their relationship with God that through this they will be great spiritual leaders for all of us.▶



Young Woman Representatives

Celia Qian

Allison Love

Jessica King

**www.LWML.org**

The official website of the  
Lutheran Women's Missionary League -  
The LWML has many resources  
available for your use!

**Bible Studies**

**Devotions**

**Developing Leaders**

**Help for Your Organization (HOPE)**

**Heart to Heart Sisters**

**Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Magazine**

**Meetings, Bylaws, and More**

**Ministries - Skits**

**Young Women Representatives**

**Mustard Seed Devotions**

**Donations on Line...**

*The website is a wealth of information. Don't miss out!  
Go to: [www.LWML.org](http://www.LWML.org)*



# The LWML English District 36th Biennial Convention Highlights



Festival Worship Proclaimer and Bible Study Leader, Rev. Fred Gerlach, and Bishop Stechholz



Prayer time with Pastor Schlinder and newly elected officers.



Fun with Friends!!!!



Registration



Megan Birney, Mission Speaker Family Life Ministry, Hong Kong



Convention Skit Fun!



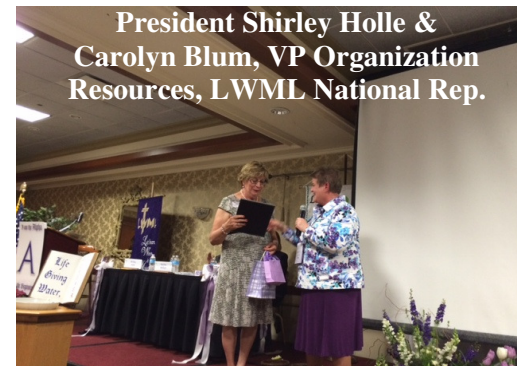
Friends Forever!



Christ the King Lutheran School Violinists—Sunday Worship



Offering for Missions



President Shirley Holle & Carolyn Blum, VP Organization Resources, LWML National Rep.