



# ACCENT

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
English District  
VOL. LIV, No. 57  
SUMMER 2015



**FREELY  
SOWING,  
SERVING  
& SHARING**  
-Galatians 5:13

*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.*  
Galatians 5:13

**P**lanning for the LWML English District 37th Biennial Convention in the spring of 2016 is in full swing. The Philadelphia Zone is busy and excited getting ready for all of you to join us next year. The date is April 22-24, 2016, and it will be held at the Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport (Free shuttle to and from the airport).

Speakers have been lined up, along with servant events on and off the convention site, the in-gathering, our Bible study leader, music, and much more has been planned. And you can't come to Philadelphia without tours of the Liberty Bell and Constitution Center.

We have a dedicated crew of women working to make this convention, God pleasing, exciting, and the BEST ever!!!!

Mark your calendars NOW! and plan to join us!

**LWML English District 37th Biennial Convention 2016  
Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport  
9000 Bartram Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19153**

## Confessions of a Newbie LWMLer

**M**y first introduction to the LWML was when I saw a society meeting notice seven months ago in my weekly church bulletin. Although I'm not completely new to the LCMS, I did not grow up in the church and had no idea that an organization like the LWML even existed. Despite my lack of knowledge, I decided to attend the meeting since it was explained as being for all women of the church. That first meeting was eye opening in that I gained my first glimpse into the power and reach of the LWML, but it can't even hold a candle to walking into my first LWML National Convention as the English District Young Women's Representative (YWR).

I genuinely had no idea what to expect when one of my zone officers approached me soon after that first meeting about applying to become the YWR. As far as I could tell, the LWML was mostly the older women in the church collecting money and donating it to various groups in our community. Within the first minute of walking into the Iowa Events Center, I knew that every perception and assumption I had was wrong and promptly tossed them out the window. Right then and there I knew I was overwhelmed and out of my league, which doesn't happen to me very often. In my daily life, I am a high school English teacher and single mom. I've learned how to power through anything and everything thrown at me, but for the first time I couldn't do it, so I found a quiet corner, put my ear-buds in, and sat down to escape into my world of music and prayer.

As I was sitting there praying and meditating, trying to get my bearings in the chaos, my dad (an LCMS pastor) texted me. In that moment, I knew that God was at work in my life and heart because without knowing what was going on, my dad was able to address all of my fears and concerns with advice and reminders of his and God's love for me. Within five minutes, I realized that God had brought me to this place for very specific reasons, some of which I'm still not sure I know.

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## “We Are All LWML Farmers!”

Jan Simmons, English District President  
janlwml@yahoo.com

It was an honor and blessing to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, as your LWML English District President. I thank all the women of the LWML English District for giving me the opportunity to represent our district as a delegate. It was my first time as a delegate at a national convention, which made it even more rewarding. Patty Ross was voted in as our new LWML national president and we voted on 19 mission grant recipients and several bylaws changes. Of course, the best parts of convention were the church services, Bible study, and mission speakers.

At the LWML Board of Directors meeting, a mission goal of \$2 million was adopted, **HOW WONDERFUL!** The convention site of Lexington, Kentucky, was also selected for the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention in 2021.

The convention was based on the verse, *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). And our theme was: Bountiful! Sow + Nourish + Reap. This theme was very close to my heart. By now, most of you are aware that I live on a farm, and our family income is dependent upon what we grow and sell in fresh produce, so I can greatly relate to this theme. In farming, the thing you depend on the most for a good harvest is what you have no control over, and that is the weather. The weather this year has been extremely harmful to our crops due to all the rain (it is a shame we cannot share it with all you going through a drought!). It is difficult to get the crops sown, becoming diseased from being too wet, and it is hard to harvest with all the mud. I asked my husband, Scott, how he continues to persevere, and he always says, “You can’t be a farmer and worry about the weather, just trust in God to get you through.” On the farm, we sow the seed, nourish the plants with fertilizer, and then harvest what we can, depending on God to give us a good crop. As women of the LWML, we must do the same; SOW the seed through sharing God’s Word and good works, and NOURISH through Bible study and Christian fellowship. Then like the farmer who depends on God to bring in the crop, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can REAP the harvest of bringing the unreached to Christ. Like a farmer we know it is not easy, and sometimes our efforts are not as successful as we had hoped. However, if the seed is planted through sharing the Gospel and even a partial harvest of new believers is achieved; the work is a success. So please continue to study God’s word, enjoy Christian fellowship, and support our missions with prayers and mites.



We need to continue to reach out to mission opportunities in our community through good works and witnessing to all our brothers and sisters who do not know Christ, by sharing the grace our Lord has given to us.

Have a Blessed Summer!

P.S. I told Scott there are much better farmers in Iowa than Pennsylvania. Look at the size of that corn!►

### LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE 2015 DES MOINES CONVENTION OFFERINGS

CONVENTION OFFERING #1 – 2015-2017 Mission Goal

CONVENTION OFFERING #2 – Discovering Disabilities – Including ALL of God’s Children Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) Farmington Hills, Michigan

CONVENTION OFFERING #3 – Cabins for Christ’s Children Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado Springs, Colorado

CONVENTION OFFERING #4 – Family of God Mission – Detroit, Michigan Family of God Mission, a mission plant of the Michigan District in Southwest Detroit

## “Spreading the Gospel through Mites”

Ruthann McGowan, Treasurer

ruthannmcgowan@hotmail.com



By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

The convention in Des Moines was a true working convention for the District Treasurers. We were given the opportunity to visit with other district officers and learn how things are being done at the LWML National office.

Throughout the convention there was a feeling of Christian women loving each other and working toward the same goal of spreading the gospel through mites. And, strategizing on how to stretch our mites so we can do more and more work for Jesus.

We learned of new ways to give our mites since sometimes we forget because we are so busy or we missed a meeting. Watch for those opportunities in the near future. To begin with we have set aside Sunday, August 23, 2015 as an extra mite giving opportunity in our societies and congregations. Hand out Mite Boxes ahead of time and collect them on the 23rd. Ask your pastor if you can put something in the bulletin about our **Summer Mite Sunday** and tell the congregation about our mission grants paid and unpaid.

We were so blessed to have met our last LWML National mission goal that the LWML adopted a new mission goal of \$2 million for the 2015-2017 biennium. This goal will fund 19 mission grants as we all respond with our mites in the next two years. Watch for all the mission grants this money was voted to support, and pray for each of them.

It is so important to love our fellow Christian sisters, especially in our local congregations, so others will know that we are His disciples. Thanks to all the society and zone treasurers who give of their time and talents. God bless your local missions and the LWML as we work to spread the gospel all over the world.▶

## 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**

## Summer Mite Sunday, August 23, 2015

With many of our LWML societies not meeting in the summer our mite giving drops off. In lieu of that our executive board decided to add a **Summer Mite Sunday** to our schedule. This gives us the opportunity to raise our mite giving and pay another mission grant before the start of Fall.

Make plans with your LWML sisters to hand out Mite Boxes to your congregation in advance, and ask to have them returned on the 23rd. Also, ask your pastor if you can put a blurb in your church bulletin about our mission grants, those paid and unpaid.

- ◆ *Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day.*
- ◆ *Say thank you with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted.*
- ◆ *Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day.*

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

## “God Does Indeed Hear Our Prayers!”

Rev. Vernon Schindler, Senior Pastoral Counselor  
gracepointsahuarita@cox.net



What did you do this summer?" someone may ask you.

So what were your plans? Did you go on a vacation to some place that is an old favorite? Or perhaps to some place you haven't gone before. Maybe you visited family and friends; or enjoyed the company of all your sisters (and brothers) at the LWML convention in Des Moines, IA.

Well, I thought I knew what I was doing this summer. The plans included stopping to visit with friends on the way to celebrate my mother-in law's 104<sup>th</sup> birthday (Yes, she turned 104), attending the English District LCMS District convention in Ann Arbor, MI, and of course, attending the LWML convention. However, I ended up not doing any of those things. Instead, I spent the summer undergoing an aortic valve replacement (this is the third valve I have been given) and then recuperating.

While those were not my plans, the Lord blessed me through the surgery and the recovery. I witnessed countless miracles of His grace both in the diagnosis and then in the medical procedure. The first miracle was the doctor who initially diagnosed my problem, followed by the surgeon who for 9½ hours performed the surgery with all the complications I had. The Lord always seemed to send someone, especially pastors from my circuit, coming to minister just at the time I needed it most.

While I thank God for the medical staff whom God used for my healing, I praise the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, who granted healing. With King David I say, "O Lord my God I called to you for help and you healed me" Psalm 30:2. More than that I echo the words of King Hezekiah and say, "He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases" (Is. 38:16b). Yes, even though my plans were changed, God granted me many proofs again of His faithfulness; and so I praise and thank Him.

God has blessed me through all of you and your many prayers for my healing. God does indeed hear our prayers. Thank you for praying.

Whatever your plans for this summer were, I pray you have been as blessed as I have been. ►

**ACCENT Deadline: October 15, 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

## Mustard Seed

### DEVOTION

## What Would We Do Without Friends?

*Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. Proverbs 27:9 (NIV)*

Many smells are pleasing to the senses: freshly-baked bread, newly-mown grass, coffee brewing early in the morning, lilacs in the spring. Aromatherapy oils and lotions have a calming effect and help us to relax.

Proverbs 27:9 compares the aroma of perfume to the sweet advice of a good friend - a friend with whom we can share anything. One who listens and loves us enough to give sound advice.

That's the kind of friend God instructs us to be: one who nurtures lasting friendships with love and prayers and gives God-pleasing advice, a friend whose presence is as sweet as the aroma of lilacs in the spring.

*Love must be sincere. Be devoted to one another in love (Romans 12:9a, 10a NIV).*

**A Point to Ponder:** Have I remembered to thank my friends for their sound advice?

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.

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League 36th Biennial Convention Iowa Events Center – Des Moines, Iowa

If you were not able to attend the convention you can now view all the highlights by going to



[www.LWML.org](http://www.LWML.org)  
and click on  
Highlights of the  
Convention.

## “Bountiful! Sow+Nourish+Reap”

Darlene Keca, Vice-president of Organizational Resources  
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## “Going Into Unchartered Waters!”

Pat Gilde, Vice-President Christian Live/Human Care  
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The dictionary definition for the theme of this the 36<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention;

**Sow:** to scatter (seed) over land, earth, etc. for growth.

**Nourish:** to strengthen or promote.

**Reap:** to gather or take.

Through various presenters, mission speakers and Bible study these actions were addressed in a multitude of ways. Building upon the fact that the one who sows may not be the one that nourishes, and the one who nourishes may not be the one who reaps.

Our closing worship service reflected on Psalm 126. This Psalm very easily sums up our lives as workers in God’s harvest field. We go out with the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ (seed); we are blessed by God to be His instruments to sow this seed; we are blessed to nourish and water it, sometimes even with our tears; the Lord blesses our work in His name as He provides the harvest; and the commendations at the end, as he says to us; “*Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.*” (Matthew 25:23)

Let’s go forth Freely, Sowing, Serving & Sharing. ►

## Going Into Unchartered Waters

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10

Can you remember back when you were first introduced to the LWML? You may have been a little awestruck at your first national convention, seeing all those unfamiliar faces, asking to be a delegate and not knowing exactly what you were supposed to do. You traveled through that few days and came home with a new outlook on where you may fit in the LWML and excited to take on new responsibilities.

We now have new LWML leaders, some going into unchartered waters but all of them being excited to take on their responsibilities. We also have a new Bishop of our English District. This takes great dedication on their part and they do it not only to serve us but to serve our Lord above all. We have a responsibility in all this and that is to work for them and help support them.

Pay it forward: **MITE SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2015** - make it the biggest and best ever. This is our way to serve others. Publicize this at your church and be sure you have enough mite boxes to be given out on that Sunday. We are “Freely sowing, serving and sharing.” ►

## Confessions of a Newbee LWML

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Once I was able to refocus on my purpose and God’s plan for me, I went in to my first service event – marking Bibles for distribution, especially in the prison system. Prison and inner-city ministry hold special places in my heart so I was grateful to be able to contribute to the work being done with the Bibles as well as my second service event – Gifts from the Heart. It was absolutely overwhelming to see the generosity shown by the conference attendees and their churches. So many young people’s lives will truly be forever impacted due to the supplies the LWML was able to gather and distribute.

My awe with the generosity and strength of the LWML continued throughout the rest of the weekend. From seeing thousands of people worshipping the Lord and praising his name in the opening worship service, to spending time with the incredible women of the LWML English District, to seeing the fruits of the missions grants, each experience and moment wove together to give me a renewed sense of purpose in the church and with my faith.

I truly had NO IDEA just how much the LWML does throughout the world, and seeing the impact and power of the grants and the other women sharing the experience renewed my sense of hope for our world and for the dwindling Christian church throughout the world. As a young woman, I know that it will be up to my peers and me to continue the work that has been going on for many years and after being able to experience this convention first hand, even when I felt the most overwhelmed, I know that I finally found my calling in the LCMS.

I could go into detail about the convention ad nauseam, but I couldn’t do the experience justice as it was one of the most powerful and humbling times of my life. God was truly at work throughout the weekend, even in the formal meetings and discussions, and so many people were, and will continue to be, enriched by the messages given and seeds that were planted in our hearts.

Jennifer Potter

Young Woman Representative

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Tucson, Arizona



## “Postcards from Iowa”

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



*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)*

### **Day #1**

**A**rriived in Iowa via Honda Odyssey after family road trip from Arizona. Daughters exclaimed when getting out of vehicle, “What’s this?” in reference to the very thick, humid air that greeted us. Really happy to arrive in Waterloo, my birthplace, to spend a few days with my mom and sisters. Grateful for the sowing of the Word that my parents did in bringing me to Holy Baptism and the nourishment received at Grace Lutheran Church and Immanuel Lutheran School.

### **Convention Day #1**

Attended special preconvention session for District Vice Presidents of Gospel Outreach lead by LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach Shelley Moeller. Gained MANY insights into this office from VP Moeller, synodical speakers and fellow District VPs. Already reaping the harvest of renewed zeal for service during my term.

### **Convention Evening #1**

Reaped bountiful blessings from the rich nourishment of life giving Word and Sacrament in the opening service.

### **Convention Day #2**

Voted. Studied God’s Word. Voted. Visited with sisters in Christ old and new. Voted.

### **Convention Day #2 Extra**

Received word during the convention assembly of the Supreme Court’s decision in favor of same sex marriage. Blessed by the pastoral leadership offered during this announcement, the wise counsel to us and above all the collective prayers over this news. Paused to reflect on the sowing of seed in our United States and the great need that exists for the nourishment of soul that comes only from our Triune God.

### **Convention Day #3**

Rejoiced over the bountiful \$2,000,000 mission goal for the 2015-2017 biennium and the announcement of the mission grants to be funded. Laughed heartily during the evening’s festivities both at the convention center and at our English District late night gathering.

### **Convention Day #4**

Celebrated a most wonderful convention, full of bountiful mercies, the sowing of God’s rich Word, and nourishment in that Word. Reaped knowledge, friendship, mentorship, inspiration, motivation, laughter and joy.

### **Convention Wrap Up**

See you in Philadelphia in 2016! And in Salt Lake City in 2017!►

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**Everything that is done in the world  
is done in hope.**

*Martin Luther*

### **PRAYER**

*Jesus, Star of Hope, enable us to share your Word with others in fresh and exciting ways,  
the way you first came to Bethlehem. Amen.*

*Rich Bimler*