

# ACCENT

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
English District  
VOL. LIV, NO. 61  
SUMMER 2016

With the LWML English District 37th Biennial Convention behind us, and the work of the Lord in front of us, we have much to be thankful for!!

We are thankful our convention was a success. We are thankful for all our brothers and sisters that attended. We are thankful for our mission speakers, and proclaimer. We are thankful for our LWML leaders. We are thankful for the support of our families and church. And, we are especially thankful for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He died for us and rose from the dead giving us Christian freedom from sin, death and the devil. He paid the price for our sins! And we as Lutheran Women in Mission have responded to God's love by reaching out in love and service to others. This was very evident throughout the convention. We are very thankful for the opportunity!!

As we continue to work together please remember to pray for your LWML brothers and sisters; as there is still much work to be done.



*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

**LWML SUNDAY IS QUICKLY APPROACHING**

Traditionally LWML Sunday is observed the first Sunday of October, however, it can be celebrated at any time. Materials are available from the LWML website: [LWML.org](http://LWML.org). All resources are available as FREE downloads, and can be ordered by calling the LWML Office at (800) 252-5965.

This year the theme is based on Psalm 66:5 and John 1:35-51 **"Come and See!"**

Please place your orders early to ensure availability.

Also, don't forget to hand out Mite Boxes to your congregation on LWML Sunday, along with a list of our Mission Grants for this biennium.



## “Convention Blessings!”

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



As President of the LWML English District it is hard to describe how I felt presiding over my first convention. Of course, I was extremely nervous, not knowing what to expect, and anyone who was there will tell you, emotional. For all involved it was a tremendous amount of work, and at the time we were preparing, it involved a lot of prayers for guidance so that the convention would be a blessing for all those attending and to the Glory of God.

Our goal at convention was: *“I will find encouragement in God’s Word to freely sow, serve, and share the love of Christ.”* Reverend Ryan Peterson, our Bible Study Leader, through his dynamic teaching of the Word and based on 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*, was instrumental in helping us achieve our goal. Through his message we were encouraged to graciously live out our theme, **“Freely Sowing, Serving and Sharing”**.

Bishop Hardy presented us with encouraging words based on our English District LCMS theme, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. The word was also **“Freely Sowing”** through the Friday Festival Worship Service with communion, Saturday Praise Gathering, and Sunday Worship Service. And, a mite goal of \$16,000 was set to help sow the Word to six new mission projects.

Then there was the **“Freely Serving”** through servant events benefiting Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM). Women participated in hands on work at Shepherd of the City, made notes of encouragement to be used by PLM, and scarves were knit for PLM and the Orphan Grain Train. Many hands put together Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train with the supplies you sent from your societies.

Then there was the **“Freely Sharing”**. We saw a lot of that at convention. Mission Speakers, Rev. Adam Degroot from PLM, Rev Nathan Esala and his wife Sarah, from Lutheran Bible Translators, and Rob Hall from OGT, all shared their missions with the women during the convention and in small group interest sessions.

The sharing of Christian fellowship among the women was wonderful, especially the Young Women Representatives (YWRs): Patricia Quaye, Ann Boriack, and Mary Ngugi, who shared their talents and devotions with the convention body. Patricia had her youth group of young ladies present a dance interpretation at our Sunday morning worship service. Also, Teta Deah our Heart to Heart Sister was a delight to get to know.

There was a sharing of excitement welcoming four new societies to our LWML English District. At our Saturday banquet there was plenty of good food, and the entertainment was wonderful. Most of all there was the love of Jesus that was experienced and shared by all who attended. My only disappointment is that more women did not attend, giving them the ability to experience the JOY and celebration of God’s Word with their sisters in Christ.

My request to you is to start planning for the 2018 LWML English District 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Bishop Hardy suggested asking your congregations to set aside the LWML equalization fee of \$200, in their yearly budget. This covers travel expenses for one delegate. And, to help cover other delegate expenses, plan fund raisers for housing, registration and meals. We want all societies represented at convention to vote on officers, mission grants, bylaw changes, and especially to experience the Christian fellowship we share. We want everyone to take back this experience to their societies so our LWML English District can continue to be a vibrant organization **“Freely Sowing, Serving and Sharing”**.

It is written in Hebrews 10:24-25a: *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.* What a great way to stir up one another on towards love and good works than through an LWML convention!

Thank you to everyone who attended, prayed, and worked so hard to make our LWML English District 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Philadelphia the wonderful success it was, and will continue to be, a blessing and to the Glory of God. ►

## “Mites at Work Freely Sowing, Serving & Sharing”

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

## “Ladies of the LWML”

*Ruth Crowl, Vice-president of  
Christian Life/Human Care  
recrowl@comcast.net*

**T**he convention theme, **Freely Sowing, Serving & Sharing**, came to life at the convention *among* us and now is allowed to continue *through* us in the \$16,000 in mites that we are blessed to bestow on the six mission grants chosen by the voting members. It is an overwhelming honor that we, the LWML English District, by our freely **sowing, serving** and **sharing** enable these missions to **sow, serve** and **share** the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. In this and the coming *Accents*, I would like to profile the **sowing, serving, and sharing** done by each of our mission grant recipients, providing you with updates and prayer opportunities along the way.

Our first mission grant, to have been paid by the time you are reading this, is Gospel Hands Vacation Bible School. The seed was first **sown** for this grant in 1944 when a resolution was passed at the Synodical convention to raise funds to establish an east coast school for the deaf. Out of this fundraising effort the charitable, non-profit corporation, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf was born. Today, as a Recognized **Service Organization (RSO)** of the LCMS, Lutheran Friends for the Deaf develops and disseminates resources for deaf ministry, congregations, and training for religious interpreters in the United States and internationally in Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya and Vietnam.

As recorded in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, the Lord worked through the apostles to ensure that the crowds were hearing the Good News of Christ Jesus in their own language. The Gospel Hands VBS project includes curriculum and activities that will be **shared** in congregations enabling dozens of Deaf children to hear God’s Word in their own language, American Sign Language. Thanks be to God for the blessing of \$2,000 to be used by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf to **sow, serve, and share** the saving gospel of Jesus Christ with His Deaf children through Gospel Hands VBS. ►

**T**he English District 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Philadelphia was fantastic. The committee did a great job and I applaud all the women and men that helped. The accommodations at the hotel were perfect; great choice by the committee. I have to give a special mention to Phil Voorhees, Cherie's husband. Cherie was the convention chairman. Every convention, every Rally, he is the go-to person and works as hard as the women. Thank you Phil.

The convention in-gathering for Orphan Grain Train was overwhelming; again the women of LWML came through big time. Rev. Ryan Peterson, our Bible Study Leader, was exceptionally spiritual and spoke to us in layman's terms. Rev. Adam DeGroot, Missionary Pastor for Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM) was most interesting. We heard about the fight against gangs, drugs, weapons, hate, and the unsafe neighborhoods they work in all the time. We learned so much from him about the need of the people to learn about our Lord Jesus Christ, His love, and His forgiveness. Please keep PLM in your prayers.

Our Pastors work so hard throughout our nation and the world. In the 1940's the LWML women were raising mites for missionaries in New Guinea; now in 2016 we have missionaries throughout the world. Yes, the LWML has a mission, to spread the Word of God by using our time and talents, letting all nations, and individuals, know about God and His saving Grace.

It’s so important to attend our LWML conventions. We get to see firsthand where our mites are going and how they are being used. We meet missionaries and have the opportunity to speak to them personally, learning how they are giving of their time, talents, and their lives, including the lives of their families, to spread the Word of God. ►

### **God’s THRee ANSWeRS To PRaYeR.**

- 1. YES.**
- 2. NOT YET.**
- 3. I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER IN MIND.**

**ACCENT Deadline: October 15, 2016.** 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

## “Preparing for the Harvest”

Rev. Steve Patton, SR Pastoral Counselor  
gracepointsahuarita@cox.net



**A**nd (Jesus) said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” (Mark 4:26-29)

Many of you will read this devotion in the middle of summer. But already the many farmers in our country are beginning to make plans for harvest. Even before the seed sprouts and bright green shoots appear, a farmer knows that the harvest is coming and it must be gathered and processed in a relatively short period of time. [Disclaimer: I’m a city boy and everything I needed to know about agriculture I learned from the Bible.]

In this missional parable, Jesus is teaching His disciples that there will be seasons in kingdom work. The farmer first scatters seed. That’s it, the upfront work is done.

### For Everything a Season

“Go to sleep now farmer, rise again. Night and day. The seed will sprout and grow on its own, though you don’t know how. The earth is at work: the blade, the ear, the FULL grain...It is finished!”

Christians are called to be farmers. We scatter seeds of the good news about Jesus through our mission work together, through our individual church ministries, through our worship together and in our individual lives. We sleep and rise, always finding rest in our God who has commanded us to do it. It’s a season, both long and short, as we recognize that harvesting souls is not as simple as harvesting plants. Yet still we rest and find that we can trust God with the hard and important work of kingdom growth. Even if it seems like watching grass grow at times, we know that God is at work, though we know not how.

“You have had your season of rest now farmer. Get to work, immediately. Do not wait. Do not tarry. Put the sickle in. The harvest has come!”

We also know the harvest is coming and it comes. When it comes to you be ready. When one of the people you have planted a relationship with comes to you with a question, a physical need, or a spiritual issue, be ready to ask, “Where has God prepared the harvest in this person

today?” I say be ready, because oftentimes the harvest comes at inconvenient and messy times, like at a child’s recital or in the middle of a meeting. Take the time to watch for the harvest as it comes and respond in a prayerful and intentional way. Then give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and for the growth in those to whom we witness and in ourselves.

Thanks and praise to God through Jesus Christ, who includes us in His harvest, as both the fruit and farmer...yes, even city boys.▶



## **Our Mission Goal for the 2016-2018 biennium \$16,000**

1. **Gospel Hands VBS - \$2,000 (PAID)**  
**Lutheran Friends of the Deaf,  
Mill Neck, New York**
2. **Catechisms for Sudan & Sudanese  
Immigrants - \$3,000**  
**Lutheran Heritage Foundation,  
Macomb, Michigan**
3. **Operation Barnabas Committee - \$2,000**  
**Calvary Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg,  
Pennsylvania**
4. **It’s All About the Kids - \$3,000**  
**Lutheran Special Education Ministries,  
Farmington Hills, Michigan**
5. **Missionary Work of Deaconess  
Rachel Powell - \$3000**  
**Dominican Republic**
6. **Grace Community Meals - \$3,000**  
**Grace Lutheran Church, Wyoming, Michigan**

## “Generosity!”

Sue Fleischmann, District Treasurer  
susan.fleischmann@mercer.com



**E**ach of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

The Merriam-Webster dictionary shows the Simple Definition of *generous* as follows:

- freely giving or sharing money and other valuable things;
- providing more than the amount that is needed or normal; abundant or ample;
- showing kindness and concern for others.

We also need to add another definition to generous... Freely, Sowing, Serving & Sharing.

During the 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA, District President Dr. Jamison Hardy implored us to “love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no better way to describe the generosity of our LWML women for missions. The three offerings at convention generated the following income:

- **First Offering \$1,172** – 2016-2018 Mission Grant (included a generous \$200 check from our LWML Eastern District sisters in Christ)
- **Second Offering \$1,191** - Orphan Grain Train (thank you letter attached to this publication)
- **Third Offering \$917** - Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries
- **Convention Mite Box \$39.11**

Your LWML English District Executive Committee has voted to increase mission grants from \$15,000 to \$16,000 for the 2016-2018 biennium. Because of the generosity of our Lutheran women in mission, we were able to complete the first mission grant of \$2,000 for Lutheran Friends of the Deaf. The Executive Committee continues to research ways to be more financially responsible. At the Board of Directors’ meeting on April 21, unanimous approval was given to go paperless (green) for the *Accent*, beginning with the summer 2016 subscription. An electronic copy will be provided, and copies can then be made and distributed to the zone and non-zone local societies. The \$1,120 already collected for

the *Accent* will be considered mites and credited under each zone or non-zone respectively. If you are currently not receiving an email copy of the *Accent*, please contact Cherie Voorhees [voorheescf14@gmail.com](mailto:voorheescf14@gmail.com) with your email information. This is yet another way to love our neighbor as ourselves in the quest to increase mite giving and allowing for completion of more mission grants.

### ~Memorials~

Alfredine (Freddie) Margaret Pitner, mother of our *Accent* Editor Cherie Voorhees  
Lillie Rust, Trinity Villa Park of the Chicago Zone  
Willie B. Wong, West Newton, NJ

During this summer season, please collect and send in your mites as our LWML English District continues to generously serve the Lord by Freely, Sowing, Serving and Sharing!►

### ***A THANK YOU Letter from Orphan Grain Train***

*Dear Ladies of the English District LWML:*

Thank you very much for the contribution of \$1,191.00 to the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train. Also, the Hygiene Kits which you so lovingly prepared at your convention in Philadelphia will be enthusiastically received and used by those less fortunate. It is only through people such as you that we are able to help those in need both internationally and domestically.

In December we sent a 40ft. container of clothing and medical equipment to Pastor Eisaks of the Pampalia Lutheran Church in Latvia to be distributed to the needy in that area. Then in January a 40ft. container of clothing, medical equipment, and food was sent to Ricardo and Georgiana of the Lutheran Hour Ministries in Nicaragua. Ricardo and Georgiana manage a mission outreach in that area and are a blessing to those in need both physically and spiritually.

We are now involved in gathering clothing, medicines, medical equipment and food to be sent in conjunction with another organization, to a refugee camp in Greece. These items will be distributed to the needy in the refugee camp by a qualified person from Thessalonica, Greece.

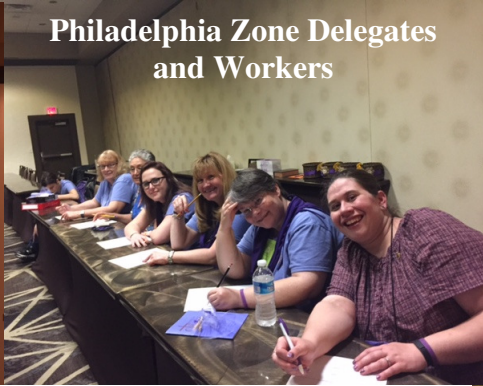
We thank you again for your most gracious contribution. May the Good Lord continue to be with you in your service to Him.

Manager, Mid Atlantic Branch, Orphan Grain Train  
In His Service, *Cliff Kraft*

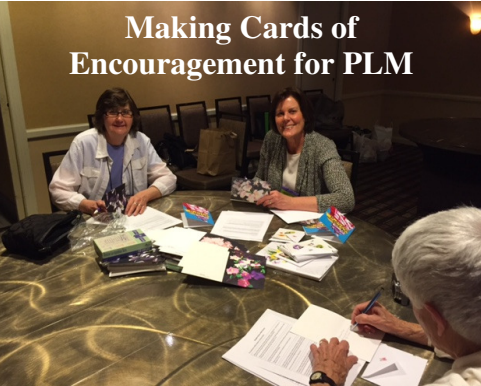
# Gifts from the Heart Ingathering & Convention Happenings!



**Our Convention Stage**



**Philadelphia Zone Delegates and Workers**



**Making Cards of Encouragement for PLM**



**Pinning of YWR's**



**Faithful Workers**



**On the Road to the LWML National Convention**



**Liberty Stretch**



**Praise Dancers**



**Learning to Knit**



**Fellowship with our LWML Sisters and Brothers**



**Orphan Grain Train Servant Event Goodies**



**Hospitality Room Rest**