

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League**

VOL. LV, NO. 3

English District

October 2019

## Open My Lips!



*O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.*

Psalm 51:15

### **LWML English District 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention** **April 24 - 26, 2020**

***The Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh/Southpointe***  
***1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317***

The Pittsburgh Zone is looking forward to greeting each and every one of you with a smile and LWML hug!

Festival Service will be held at Peace Lutheran Church,  
107 Carol Drive, McMurray, PA 15317

**Festival Preacher:** Bishop Rev. Dr. Jameson Hardy

**Bible Study Leader:** Rev. Dr. John Arthur Nunes

**Mission Speakers:**

**Rev. Eric R. Andrae**—*Lutheran Student Fellowship and International Student Ministry*

**Rev. Rodney A. Benkendorf**—*Lutheran Heritage Foundation*  
**Robert Ardner Jr.**—*Operation Barnabas*

### ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ **39<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL LWML ENGLISH DISTRICT CONVENTION COMING SOON!**

From April 24-26, 2020 Pittsburghers will be experiencing an influx of purple amidst their traditional black and gold as the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML English District Convention kicks off at the Hilton Garden Inn – Pittsburgh/Southpointe in Canonsburg, PA. Save the date and plan to attend as we strive for 120 in 2020! Invite women from your congregations to see what all the fuss is about as we work towards choosing mission grants, learning from Rev. Dr. John Arthur Nunes as he guides us in Bible Study, and hearing from our Mission Speakers: Rev. Eric Andrae from Lutheran Student Fellowship and International Student Ministry; Rev. Rodney Benkendorf from Lutheran Heritage Foundation; and Robert Ardner Jr. from Operation Barnabas as they share during our special interest luncheons. Many hands are needed as we serve the Lord through our Servant Events...we need yours as well!

And you definitely won't want to miss our Saturday Banquet Entertainment...Jan Struck! Many of you have enjoyed the delightful characters she's portrayed over the years at LWML Conventions – you don't want to miss her night of hilarity! Get your registration forms by going to our website <https://englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com> and check out the Convention Central section. You can print out all the forms as well as find all the information needed for your stay there.

***Pittsburgh wants Yinzes to be there!***

Cinda Souer,  
Webmaster

# LWML English District President

**Darlene Keca**

lwmldarlene@gmail.com

## Greetings,

It is fall rally time. After you have held your rally, please send an article along with pictures, if available, to the webmaster Cinda Souer at [lwml.ed.webservant@gmail.com](mailto:lwml.ed.webservant@gmail.com). It is wonderful to see what every zone is doing, and our website is a great place to share.

In September, the district executive committee met in Pittsburgh at the convention hotel for our first face-to-face meeting, not counting our Skype meetings, since April 2018. We were introduced to most of the Convention Committee Chairman. They are getting ready to welcome each one of you in April 2020. We toured the facility as a group. The hotel is fabulous and the staff went out of their way to make our stay enjoyable.

Over the last few years the LWML has given us the opportunity to attend various training sessions. Some were for Committee for Young Women, Boot Camp for Archivist/Historian, pre-convention seminars and Assembly of Leaders. Unfortunately, what we lack are the necessary funds to send individuals for this additional training. Please consider making individual, society and/or zone donations earmarked for our leadership fund. These can be sent to Carol Klein 1951 Camrose Ct. SW, Wyoming, MI 49519, just note in the memo area for leadership fund. For those of you that attended the pre-convention seminars, please share with others how beneficial those sessions were.

The information below was recently received from LWML. It seems this is the appropriate time to share it with you. Are friends encouraging you to consider running for a position at society, zone and/or district level? Or maybe you'd like to know more about various positions within the LWML where you could serve. Please refer to the article in this issue from the Nominating Committee; they are willing to answer your questions. Now is the time to prayerfully consider stepping out in faith.

## Stepping out of Our Comfort Zone

As leaders, it is easy to put ourselves in a box and default to our comfort zone. God has a plan for each of us to continue to move forward in carrying out His plan. Try these ideas to facilitate your personal growth and give you the courage to step out of that comfort zone.

- Take a step in faith by doing what God's nudging you towards. He has a plan for you.
  - Study your past successes. What happened? Who were you with? Why were you doing the activity? What was your planning process?
  - Clarify what is important. Prioritize things that need to be done first before moving on to future ideals.
  - Let go of the pressure to prove yourself. Be true to yourself, to others, and to God.
- Are you living in accordance with what you believe? What can you do tomorrow to better live for Jesus?

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11).*

Sincerely your sister in Christ,  
Darlene Keca



## Nominating Committee

### Susan Fleischmann

#### Nominations for LWML English District Executive Committee

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"*  
Mark 10:45

Do you have a servant's heart? The Bible has a great deal to say about servanthood, because the central theme of the Bible is the Servant of all—Jesus Christ. True leadership is servanthood, and the greatest leader of all time is Jesus Christ.

God has continued to richly bless the LWML English District with excellent leaders at all levels - district, zone and society - women committed to serving the Lord with their talents and their time. Your leadership matters and makes a difference. Thanks be to God for our faithful volunteers! Offices open for election at the April 2020 convention are Vice President Organizational Resources, Vice President Christian Life/Human Care, and Secretary. We will also vote on three candidates for the 2022 Nominating Committee. The job descriptions and nomination forms have been sent to all zone presidents and society officers. You may also contact any member of the nominating committee for this information or download from our website <https://englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com/forms.html>.

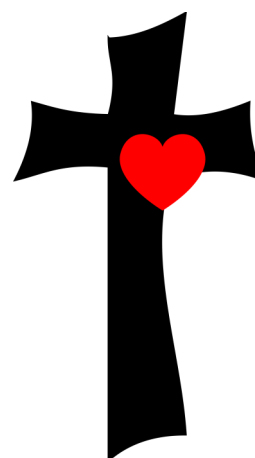
If you are uncertain about volunteering, we have all been there...I don't have the time, I don't have the qualifications, there are others more experienced than me. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. Don't let uncertainty keep you from an extremely rewarding experience. With the help of the Lord, you can serve on the LWML English District Executive Committee and be blessed in deeper relationships with your Sisters in Christ, develop comprehensive insights into LWML, and most importantly, serve our Redeemer and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Lord will give you strength and wisdom to serve Him as a woman in mission, just ask any current or prior member of the Executive Committee.

If you have a servant's heart and the commitment to serve, contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee or reach out to the many talented women in your zones and societies with unique gifts. Encourage and nominate them for one of the open positions. Each nominee must be an active member of her local society and must have served as a member of a zone executive committee or as an officer of a non-zone unit. Please pray with us seeking God's guidance to provide leaders for our district. Check out the LWML site "Who We Are" to affirm LWML's vision and focus <http://www.lwml.org/who-we-are>.

Serving the Lord with gladness,  
Nominating Committee:  
Sue Fleischmann  
[sueflwml@gmail.com](mailto:sueflwml@gmail.com)

Jan Simmons  
[janlwml@yahoo.com](mailto:janlwml@yahoo.com)

Becky Anderson  
[Anderson.becky1006@gmail.com](mailto:Anderson.becky1006@gmail.com)



## Senior Counselor

### Rev. Eric Carlson

The theme for the upcoming convention of the English District LWML is “*Open my lips!*” It is inspired by Psalm 51:15, “**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**” Psalm 51 is a psalm of David. It teaches us how serious sin is. It also teaches us about the mercy and grace of God as He forgives us. While David wrote this psalm about his own grievous sin with Bathsheba, it applies to us all.

The Psalm begins, “**Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love.**” The scriptures teach us that God is love. God loves us so much that “**while we were still sinners, Christ died for us**” (Romans 5:8). We all fall short of God’s standards (Romans 5:23). We sin against Him daily by breaking His commandments. As we see our sin, we cry out to God for mercy. We do not deserve it, but we ask for forgiveness because of God’s steadfast love, a love on display as Jesus suffered and died on the cross.

While we hurt other people with our sin, all sin is ultimately against God (Ps. 51:4). It is rebellion against Him that brings forth sin. As we pray with the psalmist, we take full responsibility for this. We confess that we are born with sin (v.5). God desires more than an outward change. He wants us to change inside (v.6). This is impossible for us to achieve on our own, so we pray for God to renew and restore us.

And the wonderful news is that as we cry out to God for mercy, as we appeal to Him based on His steadfast love, He answers our prayer! He cleanses us completely. Through the blood that Jesus shed, we are made clean. Our sin is washed away so that we are “**whiter than snow**” (v.7).

Through confession and forgiveness, God creates a clean heart within us. He renews our spirit (v.10). We are not cast away from His presence. He does not take His Holy Spirit from us (v.11). Instead, He restores the joy of salvation to us as we are forgiven. He even gives us a “**willing spirit,**” one that desires to follow His ways gladly (v.12).

The response to God’s steadfast love and forgiveness is praise. We witness to others. We tell them the Good News (v.13-14). The Lord opens our lips, and we give Him the glory (v.15). We deserve nothing from God, yet He gives us life and salvation. We approach Him

with confidence. We know that through the work of Jesus, we are forgiven. In thanks to God for His tender mercy, we pray: “**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**”

See you at convention next year!  
Pastor Eric Carlson

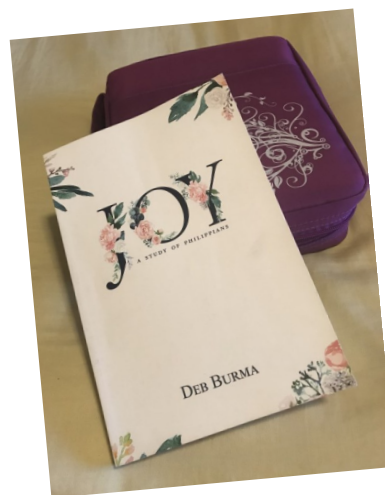
### JOY

The Bible study group I facilitate is studying the book **Joy** by Deb Burma. We have completed the first two weeks (only meeting twice a month). Comments from the women include—easy to follow, short sections for each day, the answers are in the back so we can see if our thinking is on the right track.

Our pastor has reviewed the book and is pleased with all of the references and extra insight they give to the reader through the Special Delivery side notes.

Though it is Paul writing to the Philippians it reads like God writing to us. Even with life’s troubles—including death — we can have joy if we see that it comes from Christ alone, from his grace and mercy to us. Deb leads us on that path with real examples and gives us action steps to share this joy with others. The discussion questions are thought provoking and lead us to think of how we can see things God’s way instead of our way.

Shirley Holle,  
Accent Editor





## VP of Gospel Outreach Gail Arndt

*Please pray for...*

### *MISSION GRANTS 2018—2020*

*Mission Goal: \$18,000*

*Liberty Line Rural Transportation*

*Ministry—\$3000 - PAID*

*Montcalm County, Michigan*

*Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog*

*Congregation—\$2055 - PAID*

*LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces*

*BOLDLY Declaring Y'shua as*

*Messiah in ISRAEL—\$3000 - PAID*

*The Apple of His Eye Mission Society*

*Positive Options Lakeshore*

*Pregnancy Center—\$2000 - PAID*

*Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*

*Food Bank—\$3000 - PAID*

*Family of God Reading Lab—\$2000*

*Family of God Lutheran Church*

*Southwest Detroit*

*From Cradle to College—Lutheran*

*Books for Immigrant Children &*

*Campus Ministries—\$2945*

*Lutheran Heritage Foundation*

### **Grant #6 Family of God Reading Lab \$2000**

Family of God is a mission congregation located in southwest Detroit. They serve the poor, disadvantaged, addicted and homeless in the neighborhood, helping them to learn to read. Many of the members have English as a second language or have had to attend poor schools and had poor family life. Four volunteers come weekly to have one on one mentoring and literacy training using the readings from the Lectionary. Students are then given a chance to practice during Sunday worship and mid-week services. The grant of \$2000 will be used for new equipment such as work stations, laptops (2), conference table, four chairs and a white board. In equipping the less fortunate with the ability to read, we are also giving them the life skills to get a job and understand the Gospel of Christ.

#### **Blessings**

**Gail Arndt**

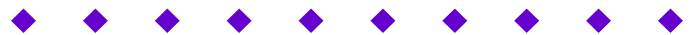
**VP of Gospel Outreach**



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ACCENT articles. Do you have a good Bible study you are currently doing? Send a review to pass along. Please send current news from your zone or society to:

Shirley Holle

Email: [cactuslwml@gmail.com](mailto:cactuslwml@gmail.com)



## Archivist Pat Zanta

### Hello from sunny Tucson, Arizona!

This summer, Marilyn McClure and I began sorting through boxes and tubs of LWML materials for our English District Archives. We were blessed to find many treasures, including some items dating back to the beginning of our District! Knowing that there are other archives for LWML materials, we are focusing on District keepsakes. These include convention handbooks, district board meeting minutes, information about district grant projects, and many photos! (We learned that having names on photos is so important. We are unsure who some of our pictured sisters in Christ are. We hope that we will be able to identify them by asking LWML members at future gatherings.)

Because our District is not a geographical one, we feel that it can be best for individual Zones to have Zone Archives. Marilyn and I have also been sorting through AZ Zone materials. We would welcome the opportunity to share ideas with other Zone Archivists!

May God bless our work of preserving information from past LWML years and serving Him with Gladness today and in the future!

Pat Zanta  
Tucson, AZ

## Equalization Elsiena Velazquez

### EQUALIZATION for Convention 2020

Even though that is Next Year, it is time to start planning for the Convention being held in Pittsburgh on April 24-26, 2020. The Equalization Account is set up to help our delegates from our Zones and Societies to attend the Convention. Each Society is allowed two delegates and one for each of the Zone Presidents. The only requirement to be reimbursed for their travel expense is to send \$200 (per delegate) to the Chairman of the Equalization Account before the Convention. Your payment deadline is March 31, 2020. Hopefully we will be able to continue to pay all of the travel expense of our delegates next year through this fund.

Looking forward to seeing many of my friends and hoping to make some new ones through the wonderful experiences of attending the District Convention.

Send your Equalization Remittance to:  
Elsiena Velazquez, Equalization Chairman  
2121 S. Pantano Rd. #326,  
Tucson, AZ 85710

If you have any questions: Call 520-241-5339 or email [velazquez36@yahoo.com](mailto:velazquez36@yahoo.com)

"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise."

### Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—How are your societies and zone appreciating your counselors??? Remember to always keep them in your prayers. *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5*



## EQUALIZATION INFORMATION AND FORM 2020

**EQUALIZATION**...is a method of endeavoring to equalize travel costs for LWML District convention delegates. In order to make the plan function it is necessary to have as near 100% participation as possible from all zones and individual societies in the English District. Even if a unit will not be sending a delegate to the convention (though you will miss a lot if you don't), you should still send in the amount set for equalization...that's what makes it EQUAL! **Each zone is entitled to send one delegate and societies two delegates to represent them at convention.**

**BECAUSE**...of the high cost of airfares, we are encouraging all zones and societies within a fair driving distance (300 miles) of Pittsburgh, to drive, and/or car-pooling when possible. All travel arrangements will be the responsibility of each delegate. The mileage allowance for a delegate driver is calculated using the current IRS mileage rate. Reimbursement can only be requested by the delegate driving; unless there are extenuating circumstances, which would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis. No other passengers will be entitled to compensation for travel. Maximum payment will not exceed the lowest available coach airfare. The equalization chairman will reimburse your mileage with documentation of the round trip using mapping software (MapQuest etc.)

**BECAUSE**...women's attendance at LWML conventions is really leadership training for local congregations, we encourage you to ask your congregation's finance committee to include funds for equalization in the convention and conference segment of their annual budgets.

**PARTICIPATION**...for the 2020 LWML English District 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. is \$200.00 per delegate, and zone president (\$400.00 total for the two delegates each society is entitled to send). We are encouraging all zones and societies to send in their payment as soon as possible. The deadline for the total payment is March 31, 2020.

Thank you for your cooperation in this joint stewardship effort.

Everyone sharing makes for a stronger LWML!

### LWML English District Executive Committee

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Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Zone President \_\_\_\_\_

LWML Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

**Indicate if payment is for:**

Society Delegate/s(1-2) \_\_\_\_\_ Zone President \_\_\_\_\_

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Remit completed form with payment to: Elsiene Velazquez, 2121 S. Pantano Road #326 Tucson, AZ 85710

Questions – contact Elsiene at: 520-241-5339 or [velazquez36@yahoo.com](mailto:velazquez36@yahoo.com)

Please make checks payable to: **LWMLD Equalization**