



# The Beacon

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

SUMMER/FALL 2009

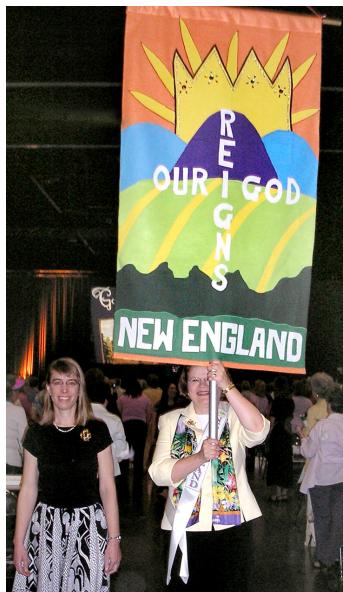
Carol Sokofski, Editor

Beacon@LWML-NED.org



Thank you for allowing me to represent the New England District as your president at the 33<sup>rd</sup> LWML biennial national convention in Portland, Oregon. What a privilege and emotional experience to proudly carry the

New England banner for all of you on Friday morning!



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Standing shoulder to shoulder with 39 other LWML district presidents from all around the country was awesome. We were led by our president, Jan Wendorf as we walked into the convention center to the musical strains of "Lift High the Cross" and "Onward Christian Soldier". WOW! I am humbled and thrilled to be part of the long line of sisters who have gone before me and the sisters that will follow as we all walk in Jesus' footsteps on the path HE calls us to follow.

One of the theme verses from Isaiah 52:7a is one of my favorites " How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who brings good news..." As we lift the banner and cross of Jesus proudly and walk in Jesus' footsteps, may we continue to look to the hills knowing OUR GOD REIGNS!!!!

Lynn Batchelder  
[President@LWML-NED.org](mailto:President@LWML-NED.org)

## New England's Delegation:

Front row (l-r): President Lynn Batchelder, YWR Sage Browne, Jr. Counselor Pastor Jonathan Liebich

Back row (l-r): Nancy Fischer-Mid Valley Zone, Kathy Schnitger-Northern Zone, Mary Ruening-Eastern Zone, Delberta Novicki-Mt. Laurel Zone



note the new district ID buttons





Views from the Mountaintop: reflections on the 2009 LWML Convention in Portland, Oregon from the perspective of a Young Woman Representative.  
I want to share a few special places that I journeyed to and through during the course of my time in Portland. They are important to me because of the events that occurred there and for the people I met.

**Sage Browne**



New Englanders are all smiles!  
Joe and Leslie Colligan, Erica  
Wainwright and Joan Forrester

#### **Snapshot #2 Rooms B-118-119**

My first official responsibility was to work the early morning shift at the Gifts of the Heart booth. I was instructed on how to account for and package the zip-lock bags containing art and health kits, children's socks and t-shirts, and teddy bears. One thing I have come to see is that Lutheran Women in Mission are generous beyond belief

#### **Snapshot #1 The Oregon Convention Center**

After an extremely long journey to Portland, I was relieved when I finally set foot inside this building, whose glass spires reminded me of twin steeples. The OCC felt like a place of refuge for this weary traveler. It would be here that the Lutheran Women's Missionary League would focus inwardly on celebrating its 67-year history while, at the same time, focus outwardly on embracing the world and its physical and spiritual needs. This place was certainly holy ground from June 25-28, 2009.

#### **Snapshot #3 Closing Comments**

Being able to attend the LWML convention in Portland with 3,309 others was quite an amazing and memorable experience. Capturing my thoughts and feelings succinctly is difficult. Despite my sore shoulders (from carrying that heavy purple bag!), my head was lifted high to the hills, and I indeed saw that God reigns!

Just as when God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and declared the place where he was standing holy ground, all of these spaces and places were sacred to me because God was there reigning over all of the proceedings and blessing our gatherings of 2, 3, and 3,000 with His presence.

Life is funny. Just attend one of Jan Struck's talks, and you will agree. Saturday's luncheon with Jan was full of chuckles and laughter. She shared more of her life experiences in a way only she can, which left you feeling everything is ok -- life happens, and the Lord leads us through it all. Jan ended her talk answering questions for the audience of approximately 250 attendees (most attended luncheon ever). The last question was, "How is your cat?" She retold her story and had us laughing once again.



Anna Bisson, Women's Guild President, Waterville, Maine





Dear Friends in Christ,

Look to the Hills...God Reigns! Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go to Portland and experience the LWML National Convention. I came home renewed and refreshed after enjoying the beauty of God's creation in the Pacific Northwest, gathering for worship with over 3300 brothers and sisters in Christ, seeing the love of God at work in His servants' hearts, reconnecting with friends I hadn't seen in years, and laughing a lot too. The opening night of the convention we had a wonderful worship service with the

Lord's Supper. I was blessed to help with the distribution.



If I can leave you with one thing from the convention it is this: Look to the hills...God reigns! Every time I looked at Mt. Hood the refrain of the hymn played through my mind, "How great thou art!" But it is a different mountain that reminds me every day that

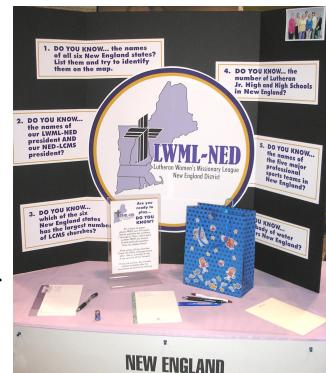
our God reigns. That mountain is Mt. Calvary, where Christ reigned from the cross. His glorious reign in love from the cross makes all the difference for us! Look to THE HILL, and point others to it as well.

Peace under Christ's reign,  
Rev. Jonathan Liebich,  
[JrCounselor@LWML-NED.org](mailto:JrCounselor@LWML-NED.org)



Leslie and Joe Colligan discuss an article from *The Hilltop Proclaimer*, the convention's daily newsletter.

**EVERGREEN PARK** encompassed 62 exhibits, 2 stores and 40 district displays along with their banners, awesome works of craftsmanship reflecting the convention theme. Oh where do I start?.. It goes from "A" - Alaska Mission for Christ down to "W" - Women's Leadership Institute. I am overwhelmed, but decide just to walk around - oh, there's Pastor Schumacher and Cindy at the Deaf Mission display. There's Gail Smuda working at the LWML Gospel Outreach & MAG display; so I stop and say hi. This area really gives you a flavor of what is happening in the LCMS, LWML and in the 40 districts. Of course, I did find time to do some shopping at the CPH and the LWML Stores.



New England's Evergreen Park display -- attractive and challenging!

Donna Gruel,  
[PublicRelations@LWML-NED.org](mailto:PublicRelations@LWML-NED.org)



On Friday night Heidi Floyd spoke about her experiences with breast cancer. She was first diagnosed when she was pregnant with her son. She began each day by having a conversation with Jesus – some humorous, some touching, yet these conversations provided her with the guidance she needed to make the best decisions for herself and her family. Her faith guided her through the decision making process and enabled her to have a healthy baby despite the doctor's recommendation to terminate her pregnancy. She is an inspiration to myself and others and a clear example of how one's faith can give the courage to face life's challenges.

Ellen Long





Dr. Mary Hilgendorf, Bible study leader, is a very vibrant woman who made the Bible study a wonderful experience. She made you think and understand how it was to be a woman chosen by God to do his work by comparing how things were in Bible times and how it applies to our lives today. We heard about multi-tasker Deborah in her position of influence; we saw that with her prophetic gift from God, Deborah served as peacemaker. We were asked to climb into Naomi's and Ruth's hearts -- "What do you see there?" Dr. Hilgendorf encouraged us to look at Naomi's story with new eyes and to take a young woman to coffee to connect. "It only takes a minute, and Jesus becomes the center of the conversation." Part of the National LWML convention theme was "Our God Reigns", and this Bible study fit in just wonderfully. It was a pleasure to attend this LWML convention and learn more about the Bible. May God bless each and every one of you.

Irene Cyr, Zion Lutheran Church, Manchester, CT

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**\$1,825,000!**

Yes, that is the new 2009-2011 LWML Mission Goal voted upon at the Convention in Portland! I was amazed that the goal was again raised—\$125,000 over last biennium; however, with the Lord's help we will "Look to the Hills" and reach that goal! "God Reigns."

Initially, of 83 proposals submitted to the LWML Board for consideration; 28 were on the ballot. How can one choose? They are all so worthy! I was pleased to see that the delegates chose "Human Care & Pastoral Ministries Developed in Latvia & Lithuania" for \$87,500. Family friends from those two countries have shared stories emphasizing the need for continued mission outreach in that area of the world. Praise the Lord! The first mission grant, "Defray Costs of Shipping Quilts by Lutheran World Relief," for \$80,000 has already been funded since two offerings at the convention were designated toward the new mission goal.



A very moving moment came when the 2009-2011 Mission Grants were announced and everyone stood and spontaneously joined in singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Doris Brossy

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I hit a figural "speed bump" in Portland. Prior to convention as Ken and I returned from viewing Multnomah Falls, I fell resulting in bruises, bleeding and a cracked kneecap. What a challenge to carry out my responsibilities at convention in a wheelchair! I took charge of the Scrapbooking booth in the exhibit hall, just as I had planned to do. The only problem was, I would be doing everything sitting down. So with the help of the Almighty and the good husband that He gave me, I was able to do almost everything in the booth that I had planned to do.

As for sitting with the New England delegates, God had it all arranged that we would be seated at the end of the row, and my left leg would be well protected by keeping it under the table. Everything worked out just fine.

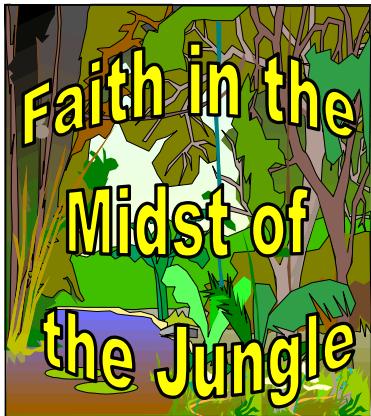
I am so thankful to our good and gracious God for protecting me from a real tragedy. God didn't want me to stop doing His plan, He just said, "SLOW DOWN!"



A guest at the scrapbooking booth receives advice from Nancy Fischer.

Nancy Fischer, [ChristianLife@LWML-NED.org](mailto:ChristianLife@LWML-NED.org)





# Women's Retreat November 6-7

Join us for our fall retreat the weekend of November 6-7, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Enfield, Conn. Our keynote speaker will be Elaine Bickel who has based her topic on Hebrews 11:1 -- "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." The program begins Friday evening at 7:00 PM and ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday afternoon.

Elaine Bickel is a well-known, inspirational and frequently humorous speaker. As an author of devotions and articles, she has been published in the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, Guideposts, and a variety of other publications. The weekend promises to be fun and exciting for everyone so we hope you will plan to join us. (You can read more about Elaine on her web site at [www.elainebickel.com](http://www.elainebickel.com))

Registration opens at 4:30 PM on Friday with dinner on your own. The early-bird cost is only \$40 before September 26th, and there is a first-timer's coupon on the registration form which is available at [www.lwml-ned.org](http://www.lwml-ned.org). If you are part of the LWML-NED e-list, you should have received a registration form and flyer with the August issue of "Pass It On". If you are not currently on our e-list, simply go to our Web site and sign up. In addition to the monthly publication "Pass It On" you will also receive important notices from national and district as well as attachments such as registration forms, order forms, flyers and more... best of all, it's FREE!!

## SOCKS FOR RETREAT

As the In-gathering for this year's Fall Retreat we are collecting socks for the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Please bring new tube socks, regular socks, or work socks. Larger sizes are best; white or colored are fine.



The Soldiers' Home was established in 1952 and is a multi-faceted healthcare . It provides limited hospital services and long-term care. Its Mission is to provide, with honor and dignity, the highest quality of personal healthcare services to Massachusetts veterans. The Soldiers' Home also offers various denominational church services (including Lutheran) to meet the spiritual needs of the veterans who live there (currently 265 men and 19 women.)

Cindy Zattich, Vice-President of Human Care  
[HumanCare@LWML-NED.org](mailto:HumanCare@LWML-NED.org)

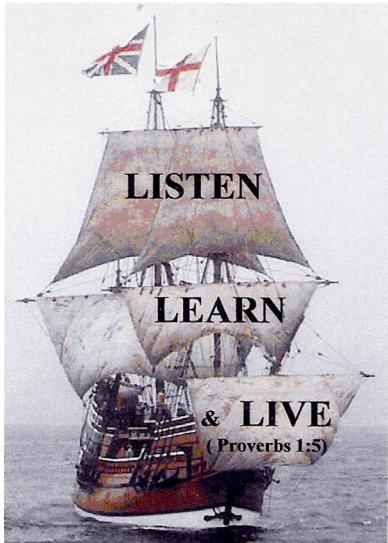


## PURPLE POCKETS, PLEASE COME HOME!!

Don't forget to bring back your filled purple pockets that were made at last year's retreat. What an exciting way to advance our mites mission goal!



# Looking ahead ...



*“Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance.”*

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO JOIN US FOR*

## **“Listen, Learn, and Live”**

**2010 LWML-NED CONVENTION**

April 30-May 1, 2010

Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor

**LISTEN...** *to God through His Word and music, to ourselves through our bodies and thoughts and feelings, and to others*

**LEARN...** *more about God and His Will for our lives; more about our relationship to Him and to others; more about LWML.*

**LIVE...** *lives that are pleasing to God, that reflect our love for Jesus, and that are healthy and wholesome.*

Details of the convention will soon be posted at [www.lwml-ned.org](http://www.lwml-ned.org) and distributed at the fall rallies.

## **What is the big deal about 2013?**

In approximately 1400 days the New England District will be part of a “coalition” who will be hosting the national LWML convention in Pittsburgh!!!! WOW !!!! The coalition will be a group of six districts including the Atlantic, Eastern, English, New England, New Jersey and SELC. We need a lot of us in Peoria in 2011 for the next national convention so we can invite our LWML sisters from around the country to “our” convention! How exciting!



Pittsburgh Skyline

In the meantime we need to be fundraising for pre-convention expenses. Each district is expected to raise \$3000. You will hear more about fundraising efforts in the near future. Joyce Sauca from Lynnfield, MA will be coordinating a recycling effort with the other five districts. Look for more news soon! Also start thinking how YOU would like to be involved in Pittsburgh. It will be a wonderful experience!

President Lynn



## An Invitation to Serve ...

**Do you like to plan an event or party?**

Consider "Christian Life" and use your talents planning the annual retreat.

**Are you detail oriented?**

Consider "Gospel Outreach" and coordinate our mission grants and scholarships.

**Do you like to work with figures and budgets?**

Consider "Treasurer" and use your special talents to provide this much-needed support.

**Can you find your way through a maze?**

Consider "Nominating" as bringing your gift for communicating to the fore.

Your talents put into action enable our New England LWML to continue in the work of the Lord as we

**Serve the Lord with Gladness**

If you wish to answer the call for any of these offices, please contact the Nominating Committee.

Gail Milke or Nancy Lutz,  
Nominations@LWML-NED.org

## Dates to Remember

September 12, 2009:  
Meeting of the Entire Board

September 26, 2009:  
Northern Zone Rally

October 10, 2009:  
Koinonia Rally

November 6-7, 2009: Retreat  
Executive Committee  
meets Friday night

February 27, 2010:  
Meeting of the Entire Board

April 30-May 1, 2010:  
District Convention

Around the

# Z-Z-Zones!

The Koinonia Zone will hold its Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 10th at Trinity Lutheran Church , Stamford CT where its pastor, Rev. Jack Breznen will present the Bible study:

**THE LOST CHAPTER OF THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**  
(and the missing ending)

In past years Pastor Breznen has led our LWML Zone in studies of Creation and Evolution, The Great Flood, and Angelology (including angels in hymnody and liturgy). These past Bible study presentations have been exceptional, so you won't want to miss this look at the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke through the cultural understanding of the people to whom our Savior was teaching. Those who have not yet experienced Pastor Breznen's Bible teaching, are in for a treat! Plan to come for an uplifting study!

Registration begins at 10:00 AM with the program at 10:30.

Gail Milke, KoinoniaZone@LWML-NED.org



# Scholarships Awarded!

The following students have been awarded scholarships for the next school year:

Student	Home Church	Vocation	School
Corina E. Batson	Waterville, ME	Teacher	Concordia, Seward, NE
Arthur J. Drehman	Acton, MA	Pastor	Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN
James Driskell	Raynham, MA	Pastor	Concordia, St. Louis, MO
Michael T. Fieberkorn	Bedford, MA	Pastor	Concordia, St. Louis, MO
Jacob W. Schumacher	Terryville, CT	Teacher	Concordia University, Chicago, IL
Jonathan V. Williams	Bangor, ME	Pastor	Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN
Nathan T. Wollenberg	Terryville, CT	Pastor	Concordia, St. Louis, MO

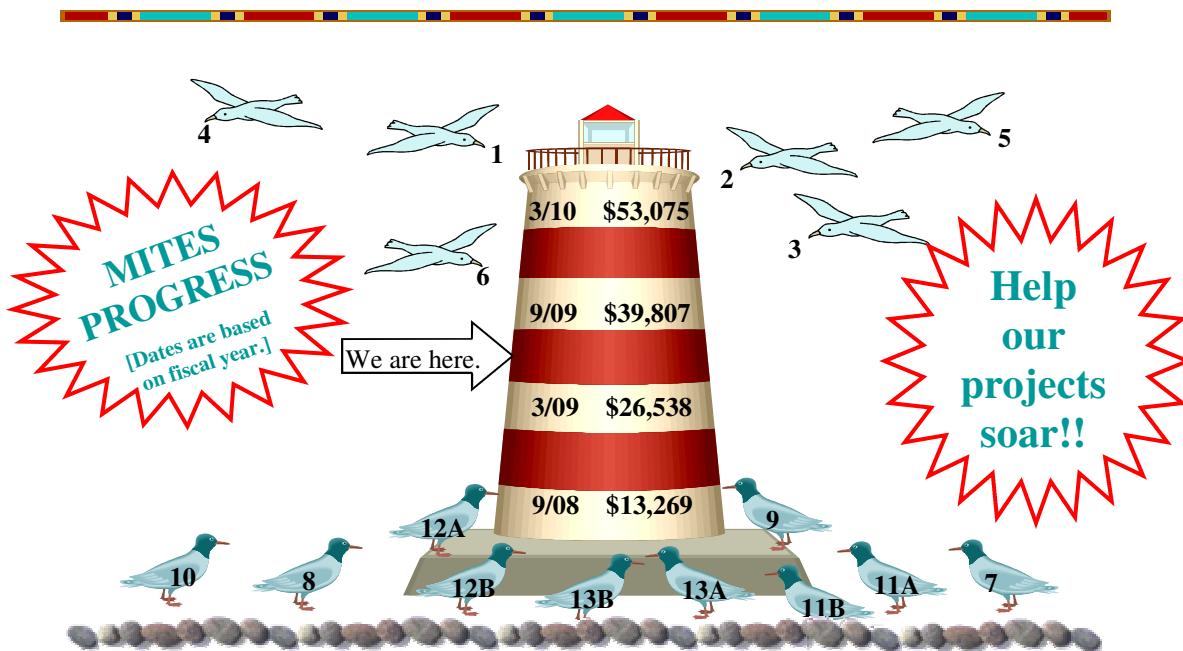
Please pray for each of our students as they begin their new academic year.

During the summer, we also awarded MOST scholarships to: Jon Rossman, Acton, MA for his work in the Boston area, Rev. and Mrs. Christopher Hazzard, Westfield, MA for their trip to Brazil, and to Barb Giger, Raynham, MA for her trip to Alaska.

Please contact me if you or your group is interested in having one of these individuals come and speak at a gathering.

There is still time to submit a mission grant proposal. The deadline is September 30, 2009. Go to [lwml-ned.org](http://lwml-ned.org) for the application.

Janice Mathieu, Vice President of Gospel Outreach  
[GospelOutreach@LWML-NED.org](mailto:GospelOutreach@LWML-NED.org)



A complete list of mite projects may be found on [www.LWML-NED.org](http://www.LWML-NED.org)

