



The Beacon

SUMMER/FALL 2010

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

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From the President

“Let us walk in the light of the Lord” Isaiah 2:5b

I recently bought a card that went something like this: There is always light at the end of the tunnel, just pray it is not a train! Does your life ever feel that way?

During the ice storm of December 2008 we lost power for 2 weeks here in New Hampshire. There were lots of gloomy people without power, light, water and heat. When the sun went down, it was pitch black and difficult to function. Walking my long driveway to the house was a challenge. However, we praised God for candles, lanterns and the lights that we strapped to our heads. Light made all the difference!

In this world of darkness filled with pitch black sin and sorrow, all we need is God's light. His light pierces any darkness we find ourselves in and chases that darkness away. The light ALWAYS swallows up the darkness. So put God's Word into your head like we

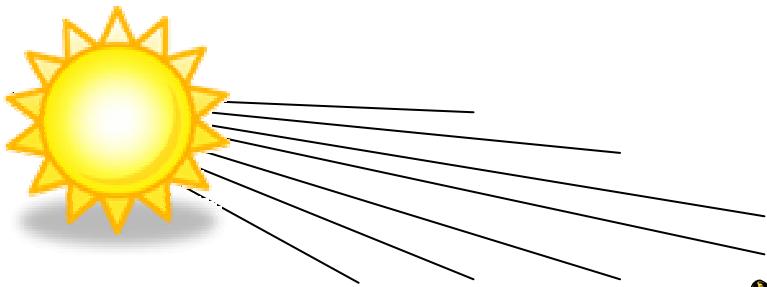
strapped lights to our heads, hold the flame of the Holy Spirit as you would hold a candle and trust God as he lights your path with his lantern which throws a peaceful glow to show us his way.

Please join me for the annual fall retreat on November 5-6. The theme will be “Walking in the Light” with guest speaker Phyllis Wallace.

In his peace,
Lynn Batchelder
LWML-NED President



Calling all Young Women...apply to be a YWR at the next convention.
See the web site for an application.



Walking



Your Invitation ...

Our Christian Life Committee is working up plans for a great retreat.
We are looking forward to seeing you in November.

Barb Giger, Vice President – Christian Life
Committee members: Nancy Fischer and Chris Anop

When and Where ...

Join us for our fall retreat the weekend of **November 5-6, 2010** at the Holiday Inn (formerly Crowne Plaza) in Enfield, Connecticut.

Schedule and Costs ...



The program begins Friday evening at 7:00 PM and ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday afternoon.

Registration opens at 4:30 PM on Friday with dinner on your own.

The early-bird cost is only \$40 before September 27th and \$45 thereafter. The registration fee includes Saturday lunch. **First-timers** -- be sure to use the coupon on the registration form for \$5 off the registration fee.

So easy to register ...

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 at www.LWML-NED.org and sign up or you can contact Barb Giger at 508-947-8813. If you receive the Beacon by mail, a copy of the registration form is included in each mailing package.



in the Light

“Let us walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2:5b)



Our Guest Speaker ...



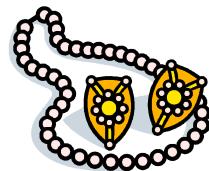
Our keynote speaker is **Phyllis Wallace** who is a wife, mother, author and former family counselor and educator. In 1991 she initiated the “Woman to Woman” program on WKFU-AM radio in St. Louis, MO. The show was picked up by Lutheran Hour Ministries in 1993 and was eventually syndicated to 400 stations.

Phyllis endorses the priceless value of humor in getting through life. Her upbeat, candidly refreshing enthusiasm for being a “Free Woman” comes through her stories, eliciting laughter and tears as she shares how the Truth sets us free. Phyllis contends, “It may take longer than you want to learn a lesson from life, but it never takes longer than you have!”

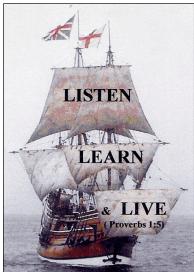
Retreat Ingathering : Dress for Success + Ink Cartridges

Please bring gently used handbags, shoes, jewelry and clothes for the workplace for “Dress for Success”, a mostly all-volunteer-run organization. The “Dress for Success” Hartford affiliate began in 1998 and has served more than 3,000 women. “Dress for Success” is a widely-known brand that signifies their message **“Suits to Self-Sufficiency.”** However, they are **much more than just suits.** Finding a job is only one step in a woman’s journey towards economic independence; remaining employed and building a rewarding career are equally important.

We continue to need **used ink cartridges and cell phones** to help defray costs for the 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, which our district will be working on with five other districts.

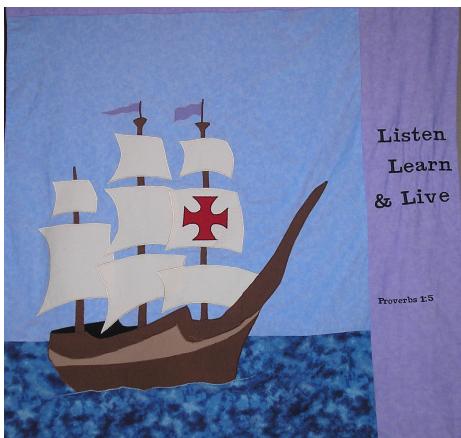


Don't Forget Your Filled Purple Pocket for Mites!



Highlights

*LWML New England District Convention
Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor
Plymouth, Massachusetts
April 30 - May 1, 2010*



The convention banner declared the theme, "Listen, Learn & Live" and served as a focal point for the 138 who attended.

A blue "sea" formed the base for the table centerpieces where a mite-box ship with sails bearing the theme words floated next to the 1620 Plymouth Rock.



Rev. Jeremy Pekari of Messiah Lutheran in Lynnfield, MA, presented the Bible study based on the convention theme verse, Prov. 1:5a.



Former district president Dorothy Weise lights the convention candle.



Young Woman Rep., Sage Browne Veino, enthusiastically shared her experiences at the 2009 National LWML Convention in Portland, OR.

A thank you note from the students of First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA, recipients of an LWML mission grant.



President Keurulainen not only brought greetings and words of encouragement, he also posed a challenge. Knowing we need to raise funds for the 2013 convention planning, he pledged to match gifts up to \$300. Leaguers came through with donations of \$713 bringing the total to \$1013. Thank you, Pastor K!

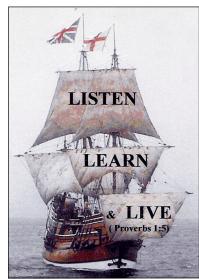




Delegates Erika Wainwright and Dottie Simonides vote for mission projects.



Ballots ready! Delegates Cathy Garrity, Betty Bodendorf and Doris Love hold their ballots high.



Keynote speaker, Heidi Floyd, who told her inspiring story of fighting breast cancer while pregnant, shares a hug with President Lynn.



Christian Life VPs -- retiring VP Delberta Novicki and newly elected VP Barbara Giger share a humorous moment with National LWML VP Patti Ross of Oklahoma.

Focus Forums

Matthew Beisch, Topsfield, MA, has a heart for missions shown in his topic "Globetrotting for Jesus".



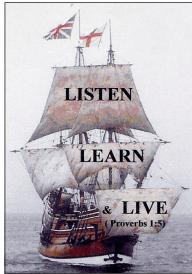
Susie Scheyder, Niantic, CT, guided us in making personal prayer books using God's Word as our prayers.



Patricia Bilow, LWML Gift Planning Counselor, spoke of "Women, Wealth & Wisdom".



Election results: (l-r) Jr. Counselor Christopher Hazzard, Pres. Lynn Batchelder, Treasurer Donna Gruel, VP-Communications Janice Mathieu, VP-Christian Life Barbara Giger, VP-Gospel Outreach Sharon Dever, Nominating -- Delberta Novicki (chairman) and Betsy Gorneau



Sylvia Finger and Evie Caprio were part of the troop who sang an invitation for all to come to the Koinonia Zone for the convention in 2012.

(See article below.)



We returned home, having shared in our Lord's holy supper.

“COME” -- 2012 LWML NED Convention Theme



“COME” is the theme chosen for the New England District convention to be held in the Spring of 2012. Although it is a one-word theme, the focus will be on three different meanings of the word: an invitation, a promise, and a prayer as noted by the Bible passages listed below.

The Koinonia Zone women are eagerly planning for your participation in our district's next convention, and look forward to sharing the exciting details as our planning progresses.

† An invitation

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [Matthew 11:28 KJV]

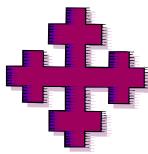
† A promise

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. [Revelation 3:20 KJV]

† A prayer

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20b KJV]





NEW LIFE

I delight in new life! My wife, Andrea, and I are expecting our fourth child in January. It is exciting to go with my wife to the obstetrician and hear the “wosh, wosh, wosh” of our baby’s heart beat as heard through the Doppler. Seeing our baby’s movement on the ultrasound leads one to glorify God for the gift of new life. Our new baby’s siblings reacted to the news of new life differently. Our oldest boy, who is eight, thought a bit, and commented that babies are expensive. (Later, he delighted in telling the news to his grandparents!) Our middle boy, who is six, was immediately happy that he could have a baby. Our three year old girl doesn’t seem to grasp the situation yet.

God delights in new physical life. Genesis tells us that when the world was created, it was “very good.” Luke 1:41-42 describes the encounter when the in utero John the Baptist meets the in utero Jesus, “And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” After his baptism, the voice comes from heaven, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).



God delights in new eternal life as well. Apart from Christ, we are dead in our trespasses. We deserve nothing but death. But your life is so precious to God that he gave his one and only Son over to death for you. We take hold of that gift in the waters of baptism. Saint Paul describes it in Romans 6, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

The LWML delights in new life. As God uses us to be conduits of new life, we can rejoice as a parent rejoices in a new child. As we see adults and children brought to the waters of baptism in our New England congregations, we can delight in new life. When people who have fallen away from the church for decades are brought back into regular worship through the witness of the LWML, we can delight in new life. When new congregations are birthed with the help of the LWML, we can delight in new life. My prayer: new life for New England.

I look forward to serving you for the next few years as Junior Pastoral Counselor. I anticipate that I will have much delight as God uses us together to proclaim Jesus!

Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Junior Counselor

News from the Treasurer



Mite offerings and any other funds should now be sent to the newly-elected **Treasurer, Donna Gruel at 1457 Province Lake Road, Effingham, NH 03882**. Remittance Forms for 2010 - 2012 can be downloaded or printed at www.LWML-NED.org under forms (there are now four to a page).

As of July 15, 2010:

- ✓ 2013 Coalition Fund need is \$3000, and we have \$1420.74
- ✓ 2010- 2012 Mission Goal \$53,075. We currently have \$4,481.09 toward that Goal.
 - \$2912.71 (65%) of that amount is designated for New England District Mission Grants,
 - \$1120.27 (25%) is designated for national LWML Mission goal, and
 - \$448.11 (10%) is designated for administration in our district.

Scholarship Fund

Our district has a Mutual Fund with Thrivent designated for scholarships. It has been the prayer of the Executive Board over the years that through special gifts we might eventually use the interest to support our Church Worker Scholarships. That would allow us to touch even more missions through our District Mission Grants. Since our 2010 convention, we have received a gift of \$50 for that special scholarship fund in thanksgiving for Nancy Fischer's birthday from Janice and Rich Mathieu.

Currently there is \$22,575.84 in the Memorial Scholarship Fund, and we are setting a goal of \$100,000. If you would like to designate a gift to this account in Memory/Thanksgiving, please mark that in the memo line of your check and send it off to Donna Gruel (see address above)..



Connect with the Executive Committee

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