

The Beacon

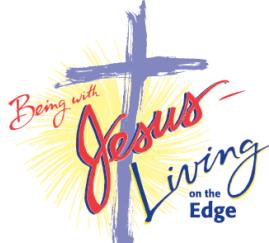
SUMMER/FALL 2011

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

Beacon@LWML-NED.org

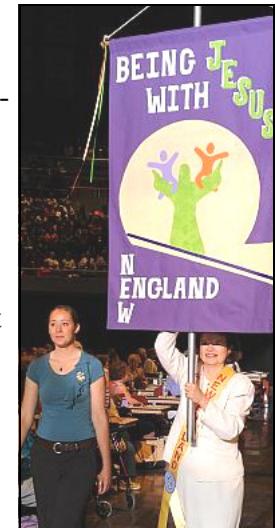
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"For we cannot help speaking about what we have heard and seen" Acts 4:20

Thank you all for the privilege of representing each of you again at the national convention in Peoria this year. It was such an honor to carry the banner representing the New England District and the women that are so special to God and me. National Conventions are always mountain top experiences and a fantastic way to be with Lutheran women and men from around the country. It is also a great geography refresher as you talk to people from all over our great nation and hear their stories.

At the convention in Peoria we were challenged to "Live on the Edge with Jesus". We must get out of our safe comfortable daily routine and become women who live on that scary edge doing things that God calls us to do. What is God calling YOU to do today that feels scary? Don't worry, He will equip you and hold you tight as you walk on that edge with Him. How exciting! So pray about what edge Jesus has prepared for you and "Do whatever HE tells you" John 2:5



YWR Jen Seder and Pres. Lynn in banner procession.

I would encourage you all to experience a national convention. You will never forget it! You will have an awesome opportunity in 2013 when the convention will be close by in Pittsburgh. The great thing is that we are part of a six-District Coalition that is responsible for hosting the next convention. This is going to be a lot of fun with many opportunities to serve the Lord and live on the edge. I should know the theme and possibly the logo for the 2013 convention by the retreat on October 28-29 so come for the "reveal"!

Get "warmed up" for the national convention by attending the District convention in April of 2012 ! The theme is "Come". It promises to be a chance to refresh and renew yourself at Jesus' feet! Soooooo..... plan to "COME"!

Lynn Batchelder, President@LWML-NED.org



New England's Delegation:

Front row (l-r):

Jr. Counselor Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Joyce Sauca-Northern Zone,
Sherry Dickinson -Eastern Zone

Back row (l-r):

YWR Jennifer Seder
President Lynn Batchelder
Gail Smuda-Mid Valley Zone
Dorothy Weise-Koinonia Zone

**Yummy
retreat!**





PASTOR HAZZARD'S THOUGHTS ON PEORIA: The Peoria convention was wonderful! I met "Barnababes" (daughters of encouragement) from all across the country; the fellowship is truly remarkable. I was able to reconnect with old friends who serve around the nation and the world. The worship services and Bible studies were deep, encouraging, and uplifting. By God's grace, I stayed awake through some pretty dry debates during discussion of bylaw revisions. I am excited about what the Lord is doing through the LWML. And I am excited that the NED-LWML will be playing a very active role in hosting the next convention in Pittsburgh. I hope that each of you prayerfully considers attending the next national convention; you won't be disappointed!

Pastor Hazzard distributes communion at the convention's opening worship service.

**2013 TEAM
PITTSBURGH**
Atlantic
Eastern
English
New England
New Jersey
SELC
Six-District
coalition to plan the
2013 LWML
convention in
Pittsburgh, PA

DOROTHY WEISE SHARES THE EXCITEMENT! Over 200 people from the six Districts attended a planning reception led by Maureen Consiglio, the 2013 Host Committee Chairman, giving attendees from the six Districts the chance to meet one another and be introduced to the 2013 convention Coordinators and Chairmen. The following four were appointed from the New England District: **Lynn Batchelder** - Creative Enhancement Coordinator, **Leslie Colligan** - Chairman Decorations, **Gail Clayton** - Chairman Activities, and **Dorothy Weise** - Chairman Ushers.

With much enthusiasm the group rehearsed a skit presented to the entire Convention on Saturday afternoon as an invitation to the 2013 convention. The 2013 Convention Coalition was well represented as the group overflowed the stage!



Hundreds of volunteers will be needed to work on the 2013 Convention. Whatever your gifts and talents, there is a job for you! *[information on volunteering to follow]*

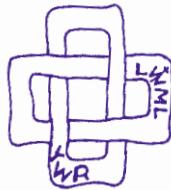
The 2013 Convention was well publicized in Peoria. There was a booth in the Display area where information on Pittsburgh was handed out as were seed packets with "Pittsburgh says...FORGET ME NOT!" Members of all six Districts in attendance wore black, three-corner scarves with 2013 embossed in gold made by Maureen Consiglio and pins that said, "Pitts 2013." Both attracted a lot of attention, and many women from all over the U.S. said, "See you in Pittsburgh!" The LWML-NED Board hopes to, "See all of YOU in Pittsburgh" as well!

As a first-timer to a National LWML Convention, everything was new, exciting and over-the-top. As I prepared to hear Miss America 2009, Katie Stam speak on Saturday night, I have to admit I had some preconceived notions about what she would be like to listen to. I did believe she would be pretty and well spoken, but I certainly was not prepared to listen and laugh, but cry as well. In other words, she blew me away! I cried tears of Joy, Hope and Renewal along with Katie that night. She challenged each of us to live with conviction—live for and like Jesus. As she says: "The reward will ALWAYS outweigh the risk".



Joyce Sauca, LWML-NED Northern Zone Delegate





JENNIFER SEDER, NEW ENGLAND'S YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE, REFLECTS ON THE PEORIA CONVENTION

An hour after I arrived in Peoria I already found myself volunteering in a room where bags of toiletries, quilts, and undergarment donations were being collected. That first night I witnessed the power of the LWML organization as box after box was filled to the brim with donations of these essential items for those in need. ...

The next morning I worked at the YWR booth, which consisted of soliciting for fellow LWML women to sign a small piece of reflective material that was intentionally made to look like a broken piece of glass. This piece was then placed on a flat cross to represent that we are all broken, but in Christ we are made whole. I was fortunate enough to work at the booth with some fabulous YWRs from Montana. I hit it off right away with these ladies and spent the whole afternoon with them. At this point, I realized the reason I got along so well with them was because of our common unity in Christ. ...

The highlight of Thursday night was the worship service, where 4500 gathered to sing praises to the Lord, and where the air was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit ... worshipping with 4500 left me with a sense of awe and confidence that surely we were in God's house that night.

After worship service, the YWRs had a meeting and the discussion that evening always came back to one apparent problem the LWML is facing: how to fix the age gap ... The solution lies within prayer first and foremost, and it also lies within the action that we can take to call younger women to get involved.

On Saturday, I was fortunate enough to walk next to the Uganda flag in the flags from around the world procession. The LWML helped sponsor my mission trip to Uganda last year, so I was honored to represent a country that I hold so dear to my heart. ...

In closing on Sunday, we learned which applicants would receive the 2011-2013 LWML grants. Watching 20 deserving organizations receive impressively large mission grants, which I'm sure is an answer to their prayers, was awe-inspiring. These organizations will be able to touch countless lives in the name of Jesus Christ. This convention did help me grow by "witnessing the kind support of Lutheran women for mission work." And, it made me realize even further that this world needs the LWML.

Editor: *Beacon* space constraints allowed for only excerpts from Jennifer's report on the Peoria convention. Her full report may be found on pages 9-10 of the [on-line version](#) of the **Beacon**.



President Lynn presents Jen with her YWR pin.



Jen (r) shares smiles with her new friend, another YWR from Montana.



Jen and President Lynn with the NED banner.



Jen (r) and another YWR prepare for the mission march.





Donna (center) with two YWR workers at the Gifts from the Heart workroom.

GIFTS FROM THE HEART — OVERFLOWING LOVE!

Reported by Donna Gruel, LWML Human Care Chairman

Someone had shared the thought that this wasn't Jesus' first convention and that He had things in control. Wow, did these special words come back to reassure me during the Gifts from the Heart collection. Our assigned room was about 18 feet by 30, not very big for boxes, tables, workers and all those gifts.

As the three days progressed until we sent off the items, God was truly in control. Arnie, the Orphan Grain Train truck-driver, would take out a loaded dolly, and the workers would fill another one with quilts. What a blessing the men of the host committee were - they always had a smile on their faces no matter how tired they were.



Joyce Sauca lends a hand.

Women of all ages (teens, young women, first timers and seasoned LWML'ers) volunteered to count and pack items; it was a fun room to be in -- lots of hard work but also lots of laughter and making new friends.

One of the greatest gifts for me was seeing the reactions when the ministries came on Saturday morning to transport their items - they all had to get bigger vehicles or an extra truck to transport the boxes and bags. While waiting on the loading dock one of the men from a local ministry looked at a box of face cloths and said "Boy, do we need them, we have been cutting up towels to use." As we were refilling the dollies as they were emptied, more and more towel sets came in. What an awesome God we serve that He just kept on blessing this ministry in a very personal way. Final total of items was well over 30,000!!

I always look forward to attending an LWML convention because I know I will be rejuvenated through Christ to continue serving the Lord.



Bible study leader Dr. Reed Lessing emphasized how life-changing it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit through the means of Grace: baptism, holy communion and Bible study. My heart began to fill with the Holy Spirit when I entered the convention hall; seeing the crowds of women and catching up with old friends. My heart overflowed during opening worship: singing and praising God with my sisters and brothers in Christ. The Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus's inspiring sermon

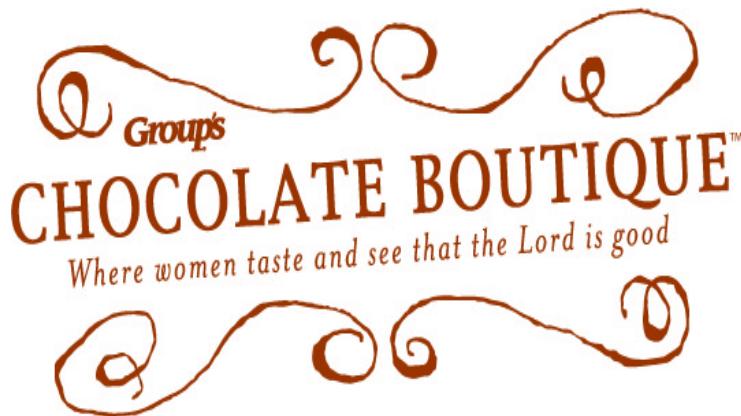
encouraged us to live on the edge spreading the message of the Savior.

LCMS president Rev. Matthew Harrison said that LWML is the strongest force for outreach of the Gospel in the world. Dr. David Birner, Associate Executive Director of LCMS World Mission declared, "The impact LCMS World Mission has had during the past 70 years has, in large part, been brought about by the LWML." By the Grace of God, LWML will continue supporting missions throughout the world.

I returned home thankful for the experience and rejuvenated through Christ to serve the Lord with gladness.

Gail Smuda, Mid-Valley Zone President/Delegate





Women's Retreat October 28-29

Join us for our fall retreat on Friday, October 28 and Saturday, October 29, at the Holiday Inn (formerly Crowne Plaza) in Enfield, Connecticut.

Our theme this year is a "Chocolate Boutique". We hope you'll join us as we connect the extravagance of chocolate with the extravagance of God's love and grace. You'll grow closer to friends, deepen your relationship with Jesus, and be lavished with love. Together we'll enjoy meaningful devotions, chocolate-y activities, and lots of sweet fun.

Registration opens at 4:30 PM on Friday with dinner on your own. The program begins Friday evening at 7:00 PM and ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday afternoon. The early-bird cost is only \$40 before September 27th and \$45 after that date. Registration includes Saturday lunch.

Is this your first retreat? There is a first-timer's coupon on the registration form for \$5 off the fee.

Registration forms are available with the August issue of "Pass It On", on the website (www.lwml-ned.org), and included in this Beacon mailing. Feel free to contact Barb Giger at 508-947-8813 if you have questions.

The Christian Life Committee is working up plans for a great retreat and looking forward to seeing you in October.

Barb Giger (Vice President – Christian Life) with Nancy Fischer and Chris Anop

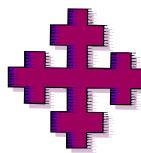
RETREAT INGATHERING

For the retreat ingathering, you are asked to bring men's underwear briefs, adult incontinence wear and/or socks for the Veterans Home in Holyoke MA.

Don't forget to bring back your filled purple pockets that were made at last year's retreat and your Mite tubes! (See August Pass-It-On for details). Two exciting ways to advance our mission goal!

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





I am reading a fascinating book, *God Gave the Increase: Encouraging stories of God at work through LWML mites*, a newly published work I commend to anyone excited by what God is doing in this world. As I read the book, I was surprised by how many of the people mentioned that I know personally, and whom I count as friends and former friends. I turn a page and I say to myself, "I know him," "I know her." I have a great deal of respect for cross-cultural missionaries, who, with Abram, are called to "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1 ESV). I have a tendency to venerate foreign missionaries as the "rock stars" of the church; and yet, they should not be placed on a pedestal. No human, other than Jesus, should be placed on a pedestal. They are just like you and me, sinners undeservedly redeemed by a Savior who loves them. Missionaries are regular people. They sort of remind me of Jesus' disciples, whose quirks and failings we read about throughout the New Testament. One of our current missionaries had a tendency to enjoy adult beverages a little too much. Another current missionary had a stubborn streak. One of our current missionaries used to sell foam fingers at Busch Stadium during seminary. They are regular people.

They would each agree that they are far from perfect people who are eternally grateful of Jesus' forgiveness. My point is this: If God can use imperfect human beings in the foreign mission field, he can certainly use you in the domestic mission field. The mission field is our workplace, the senior center, the athletic field, our kid's schools, the beauty salon, and anywhere else we happen to find ourselves. It can be argued that the sense of the Great Commission is "as you are going, make disciples of all nations..." As you go about your daily life, you are Christ's ambassador. As you navigate the mission field, you are Jesus' woman at the right place and the right time to do His will. May His kingdom come!



2012 LWML NED Convention

Theme: *COME* ... an invitation, a promise, a prayer

When: April 27-28, 2012

Where: Marriott Inn — Trumbull, Connecticut



The registration fee for the 2012 District Convention has been set! The "early-bird" cost is \$125 before April 6, 2012 (after which the cost will be \$140). In addition to covering the convention activities, the registration includes three meals: Friday evening banquet (choice of chicken, salmon or pork), full breakfast buffet, and a buffet lunch.

Helping us with the biblical perspective of our theme "COME" will be Pastor Walter Harper of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danbury, CT who will serve as the Bible study leader.

More exciting plans are in the works! Watch for the coming details.



Memorials and Gifts

A sincere thank you to the individuals and groups who have made donations or gifts in memory of loved ones.



GIFTS TO THE LWML NED Scholarship (Investment) Fund (as of July 1, 2011)

- † LWML Trinity Lutheran Church (Stamford, CT) in memory of Gladys Bosch
- † Sally Sienkiewicz in memory of Emilie Samplatsky (friend)
- † Darlene Nukis in memory of Roger Winsor
- † Barbara Taylor in memory of Eleanor Desrocher (mother)
- † Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid - Wallingford, CT in memory of our departed Ladies Aid members
- † Pastor and Donna Gruel in memory of Nanny and Pa Burkhardt
- † Janice and Richard Mathieu in celebration of Nancy Fischer's birthday

GIFTS TO THE 2010-2012 LWML NED MISSION GRANTS (as of July 1, 2011)

- † Sally Sienkiewicz in memory of Emilie Samplatsky (friend)
- † Darlene Nukis in memory of Roger Winsor
- † Gail Milke in memory of Olive Milke
- † Elizabeth Gorneau in memory of Pauline E. Springer (mother)
- † Gail Milke in memory of Robert E. Begin (husband of Jeanette Begin)
- † Pastor and Mrs. Phil Alexander in honor to our Lord for His many Blessings
- † Pastor and Donna Gruel in memory of Nanny and Pa Burkhardt

MITES NEEDED FOR MISSION GOAL

! Our mission goal needs you! Currently, we have raised \$29,194.39 (55%) toward our biennium mission goal of \$53,075. We have only 7 months to fund the remaining 12 projects that were voted on at the 2010 convention. That means we need almost \$3,200 in each of the final months to cover the goal. Prayerfully consider responding to this critical need. !

This issue of the Beacon also has a special form and envelope that you can use to make an individual gift to either the Scholarship Fund or toward the 2010-2012 District Mission Goal. Send all donations (large or small) along with your remittance forms to:

Donna Gruel, Treasurer
1457 Province Lake Road, Effingham, NH 03882

Around the

z-z-zones!

Mt. Laurel Zone



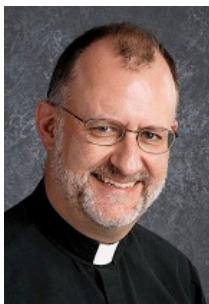
In early spring the LWML group of Christ Lutheran, Niantic, CT assembled 13 Easter baskets for our shut-ins. Items in the baskets included: ribbon crosses made by our group, Portals of Prayer, chocolate praying hands, and various Easter candies. A palm cross was attached to the outside.

Workers, from left to right, are: Louise McIlhenney, Sandy Clarke, Beverly Lombardo, Sherlene Skov, Chris Wood, Betty Hansen, Barbara Lis, Virginia Card, Jane Denison, Deborah Sherwood, and Helen Younger.



Koinonia Zone

The theme for the Zone's Spring Gathering was "REFORMATION, it's not just for October!" We welcomed Pastor Walter Harper, of Immanuel-Danbury, CT who brought us to the early



Church, reminding us of how we maintain salvation in Christ through faith and grace alone; our sacraments of baptism and communion; the offices of deacons/ deaconesses and pastors, and the cheerful support of congregations. We traveled through important dates in the Middle Ages when decay of church practice was gradual and uneven and when many faithful people led various reforms.

Moving on to how the Church is doing today, Pastor Harper led discussions on our current situation in the light of biblical references. The good news about the LCMS is its focus on the spiritual disciplines of Bible, catechism and liturgy. As we commit to word and prayer, we produce results that are the natural consequences of people being led by God. In this way, the Reformation is always on-going.

Gail Milke, KoinoniaZone@LWML-NED.org

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Calling all people who have a heart for Jesus and want to grow as they "Serve the Lord with Gladness" through the LWML. This is an awesome opportunity to be on the "edge" with Jesus ... maybe even out of your comfort zone. The edge is where He grows us most!

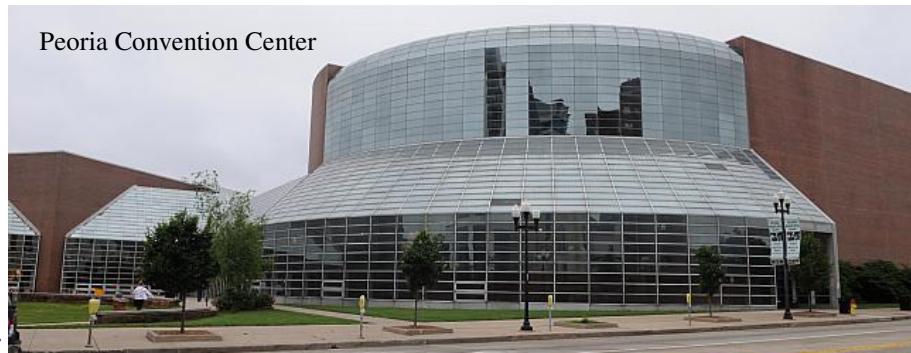
We need to fill the following positions on the District Board of Directors:

President, Secretary, Vice President of Human Care, Vice President of Servant Resources, Pastoral Counselor, and Nominating Committee.

Pray about how the Lord would use you in one of these positions.



Jennifer Seder
LWML NED YWR
2011 LWML Convention
Peoria, IL



An hour after I arrived in Peoria I already found myself volunteering in a room where bags of toiletries, quilts, and undergarment donations were being collected. That first night I witnessed the power of the LWML organization as box after box was filled to the brim with donations of these essential items for those in need. Later, I learned that an entire semi was filled to the max with these gifts and another semi would be brought in to collect the overflow. In the article I wrote before leaving for the convention, one of my aspirations was that I was “looking forward to... growing in the faith through witnessing the kind support of Lutheran women for mission work.” To my surprise this was accomplished on the first night in Peoria.

The next morning (Thursday), I worked at the YWR booth, which consisted of soliciting for fellow LWML women to sign a small piece of reflective material that was intentionally made to look like a broken piece of glass. This piece was then placed on a flat cross to represent that we are all broken, but in Christ we are made whole. I was fortunate enough to work at the booth with some fabulous YWRs from Montana. I hit it off right away with these ladies, and spent the whole afternoon with them. At this point, I realized the reason I got along so well with them was because of our common unity in Christ. Coming from an area of Connecticut that is only 4% Christian, I have not had many chances to experience a lot of fast and deep connections like I did in Illinois. This was truly a blessing and a day that I will always be thankful for.

The highlight of Thursday night was the worship service, where 4500 gathered to sing praises to the Lord, and where the air was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit. You could feel it in every breath, and in every united note and word spoken. I felt the company of Heaven and the Holy Spirit’s presence in us all. Coming from a small congregation where less than 100 worship together on most Sundays, worshipping with 4500 left me with a sense of awe and confidence that surely we were in God’s house that night.

After worship service, the YWRs had a meeting and the discussion that evening always came back to one apparent problem the LWML is facing: how to fix the age gap. There are many older women, but not many younger women waiting in line to take their place. The power of the LWML is awesome and apparent in the fundraising goal of 1.8 million next year. How do we keep this goal high and this amazing organization from dwindling in the near future? The solution lies within prayer first and foremost, and it also lies within the action that we can take to call younger women to get involved. Some YWRs shared how their church groups appealed to different ages, which included timing meetings in the evening hours when more people are available, and incorporating events that appeal to younger ages. During the convention many would ask how I became the NED YWR this year, and my heart would sink a little because I knew that I was the only applicant. Many times I feel like the only young Lutheran woman in New England. So how do we

gain more young people into the church and into LWML? As Pastor Ken Klaus explained during Thursday's sermon, "living on the edge" in today's society *is* the act of speaking about Jesus publicly. The LWML is a powerful organization, but it is only powerful because of everyone's small contributions. The Lutheran Church can grow in New England, I do believe, if everyone lives on the edge - if everyone talks about Jesus as often as he enters our minds. Most of my friends are not Christian, but when they come to me seeking advice about their problems my response every time is "pray about it." I am not the best at finding the right words, but I pray that the Lord will give them to me. Speak about Jesus without fear of offending those around you. This is one challenge that we face today, and if it is overcome we can only grow in faith and in number.

On Saturday, I was fortunate enough to walk next to the Uganda flag in the flags from around the world procession. The LWML helped sponsor my mission trip to Uganda last year, so I was honored to represent a country that I hold so dear to my heart. I have been to Uganda twice in the past two years, and these are the people that taught me how to "pray about it." When there is no medical care to turn to, or technology to solve every problem one is left to turn first to the Lord. So often Americans think they have the answer and forget that it is the Lord that makes everything possible. Uganda is a third world country, but it is definitely not a sad country because it is a Christian nation and everything is brought to the Lord in prayer. It is here I learned how to pray boldly and specifically, and thus my relationship with Jesus has grown exponentially. I walked tall and smiled sincerely when representing Uganda because this is where my love for Jesus began, and I will be forever grateful.



In closing on Sunday, we learned which applicants would receive the 2011-2013 LWML grants. Watching 20 deserving organizations receive impressively large mission grants, which I'm sure is an answer to their prayers, was awe-inspiring. These organizations will be able to touch countless lives in the name of Jesus Christ. This convention did help me grow by "witnessing the kind support of Lutheran women for mission work." And, it made me realize even further that this world needs the LWML.



Joe Collier helps fill backpacks with items for cancer patients used by an organization named Phil's Friends, which is a Christ-centered cancer support organization.



Lynn, Joyce, Gail: "Phone home!"



Pastor Hazzard and Joyce Sauca enthusiastically join in the convention sing-along.

