



The Beacon

Summer/Fall 2012

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

Beacon@LWML-NED.org

WE ARE THE HANDS OF CHRIST

Every so often I am looking for something in the bottom of my pocketbook. Now, some of the things I find down there may have been down there for quite some time, and they may just tell a little about me. During my last venture down there I found my comb, a Band-Aid or two, a couple of hair elastics, and a few coins that hadn't, as yet, made it into my mite box. I also found my small mirror that says "the Face of LWML". That small mirror had me thinking – yes, we the women, all the women (young and mature), of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are the faces of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Our faces do represent this wonderful organization. BUT, more importantly, LWML is a wonderful organization because we are the hands of Christ.

Now, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Each and every day, I see Christ's hands at work throughout LWML:

- I see Gospel outreach. Pastors in mission.
- I see new ministries.
- I see women, and some men, collecting every bit of change they have to put it in a small mite box to spread the Gospel and to share His love and mercy.
- I see mission grants being written.
- I see women and men participating in a lifetime of mission work.
- I see people volunteering for short term mission trips.
- I see women making quilts and mercy kits.
- I see LWML prayer warriors, uplifting prayers for individual members, the church, the synod, the country, the world, His work to be accomplished.
- I see devotions and Bible studies that are written.
- I see prayer services.
- I see LWML-NED board members at work daily.

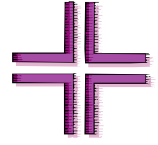


Hands of LWML NED Board members

There is so much happening in LWML. Have you seen Christ's hands at work? If you haven't seen all of the above, I encourage you to go to lwml.org and lwml-ned.org. Please get involved in your Zone Fall Gatherings and our LWML-NED Fall Retreat. Sign up to help at the 2013 national LWML convention in Pittsburgh. There is much work to be done. But I always see it being done joyfully! I see the servant hands of my fellow sisters in Christ.

Serving the Lord with Gladness!
Leslie Colligan
President@lwml-ned.org

COUNSELOR'S



CORNER



Dear Faithful Women of the LWML,

I can hardly believe that you chose me to be one of your pastoral counselors! I am honored and humbled, mostly because of all the amazing things that God accomplishes through your ministry year after year. Maybe you are like me, still in awe that God's power is so great that He can use people like us, weak and unassuming, to extend His Kingdom of grace. I look forward to working with you in the coming years and seeing the mighty hand of the Lord being extended through hard work and faithfulness. What makes being included in your work even more special is the way that the LWML has shaped my direction in life.

The first time I ever heard about the LWML was through my mom. She always had a mite box in the laundry room, meticulously inspecting our families' pockets for loose change. It was amazing to see how fast that little box would fill up, but even more amazing to find out how many millions of dollars were being raised each year to support missionaries, pastors and the ministries of the Church. I am grateful myself for the work of the LWML, who provided me with a scholarship to attend Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Now after all those years of aide from the LWML, I find myself in my first call as an associate pastor, working at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Danbury, Connecticut. I wouldn't be here in New England if it weren't for God's using you, the faithful women of the LWML, to support the work of the Church in so many ways.

God's richest blessings, Pastor Joel Cundiff
JrCounselor@lwml-ned.org

2014 Nominations

Priscilla and I will be looking for nominees to fill the following positions in 2014 and are open to suggestions:

- ✠ Treasurer
- ✠ Vice President-Christian Life
- ✠ Vice President-Communications
- ✠ Vice President-Gospel Outreach,
- ✠ Nominating Committee (3 people)
- ✠ Pastoral Counselor.

Please prayerfully consider where you can "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in the LWML-NED. If you have an LWML sister who has the gifts needed for one of these offices, please contact us as we are happy to accept your input.

Dorothy Weise and Priscilla Keurulainen
nominations@lwml-ned.org





Looking forward: Hope and a Future

Retreat
Registration
with lunch
\$40

New England District LWML Woman's Retreat
Friday & Saturday, October 26 & 27, 2012
Holiday Inn ~ Enfield, Connecticut

Hotel
Registration
with breakfast
\$95/room

STUDY FOCUS:

Looking Forward: Hope and a Future

Five women were named in the genealogy of Jesus. Why would the Scriptures highlight these women? Perhaps God wants to teach us that our life purpose and our future does not depend on our past—whether it was abusive, hurtful, ugly, shameful, or even humble and upright—but rather on His plan for each of us and our faith and willingness to follow Him. Let's discover together the hope and encouragement we can gain from God's work in the lives of these and other selected women in the Bible. Certainly He is at work in our lives too.

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope and a future.**”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

GUEST PRESENTER:

Diane Bahn of Cypress, Texas



Diane, amazed by God's grace, desires to help others awaken to a new awareness of God's presence and to a commitment to His purpose for their lives.

Biographical Information:

- Marriage and ministry partner with husband David, Senior Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Cypress, Texas (NW Houston).
- Loves her family of four sons, three daughters-in-law, six grandchildren.
- Graduate of Valparaiso University, post-graduate student at Concordia University-Chicago.
- Bible Study and discipleship huddle leader.
- Previously served several congregations as worship and music director.

Please bring your Bible.

For the retreat **ingathering** please bring gift cards from Wal-Mart to be given to seminary students.

Also welcome are empty ink cartridges, old cell phones, etc. to help with costs of the Pittsburgh Convention.

Holiday Inn, Enfield, CT

The price of each room has been set at \$95 and includes a hot breakfast. Phone 860-741-2211 for hotel reservations.

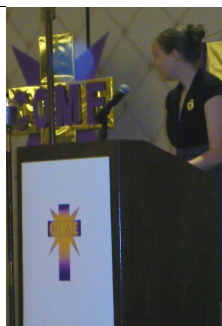


Remembering "COME", the 24th convention of the New England District LWML held at the Marriott Inn in Trumbull, Connecticut April 27-28, 2012

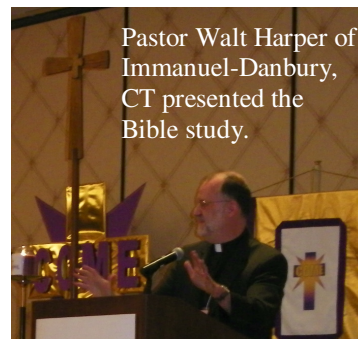


Beverly Anzini, Lillian Rushen and Sharon Dever (Registrar) along with Pauline Schneider (not pictured) greeted the attendees and registered 59 delegates, 10 pastors, and 49 guests for a total of 118 participants.

Jennifer Seder, Young Woman Rep, wowed the women with her report of the 2011 Peoria convention and her mission trip to Uganda



Pastor Walt Harper of Immanuel-Danbury, CT presented the Bible study.



Interest Sessions Informed and Challenged Us



Happy Tellers: Barb Lis, Donna Gruel, and Janice Mathieu are all smiles after counting the convention offerings.

Your generous results:

Offering #1 \$1,055

Offering #2 \$1,392.01



Joel Wardenburg (left) addressed the issue of tattoos and body piercing from a biblical perspective along with related health issues. Edie Norris (below) national LWML Public Relations Director spoke of the work of the LWML and each woman's role. Also presenting were Pastor Jack Breznen on Compassionate Caring and Pastor Tim Yeadon on Oneness in Christ.



Diapers abound! Your generosity resulted in our B-A-B-Y blocks overflowing with diapers for Birthright. Janet Greenwood, Birthright's representative, wrote to express her appreciation: "How can we adequately thank you and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for such incredible generosity? I estimated that you provided 54 boxes of an average count of 234 diapers, or 12,000 diapers! With an average value of \$50 per box, that would be equivalent to \$2,700, a tremendous gift to our mothers. Due to the volume of diapers, we decided to "share the wealth" with our sister organizations. [Malta House, Birthright of Norwalk and Danbury] I wanted to make sure the diapers were put to their intended purpose in a relatively short time, and did not want to "hoard" them. Thank you again for thinking of us, and for the generosity of your organization."





Nancy Fischer enjoys the memories.

In observance of the LWML's 70th birthday, many brought items from previous conventions to help with our walk down memory lane. At the banquet we celebrated with a joyous look at 1942 — including a song “sung” by the Andrew Sisters!



Seeing, Listening, Doing, Smiling



Here we are!



Audrey Paray, Edith Skoog



Priscilla Keurulainen and Brenda Bacon view the displays. A big THANK YOU to Brenda for arranging our Friday ice cream treat, a gift from LCEF.



Choir Rehearsal



Dorene Allis, Marie Meyer, Alma Sohle



Marie MacDermid hosts the Lutheran World Relief Quilt Display.



Nancy Lutz, Carol Sanger, Juanita Bok



We love to sing!



Dorothy Weise, Ruth Janssen, Ruth Sokofski

Convention remembrances continued on page 8

Financial News



Memorials and Gifts

2010-2012 LWML NED Mission Grant Memorials (since January 2012)
Carol Schoneman (Waterbury, VT) in loving memory of departed loved ones
Trinity Ladies Aid (Easthampton, MA) in loving memory of Dorothea Rockey

LWML NED Scholarship Fund (since January 2012)
Raynold and Elizabeth Gorneau in memory of Raymond Mathieu
LWML NED Board of Directors in memory of Carol Sokofski's father
LWML NED Board of Directors in memory of Barb Giger's mother
LWML NED Board in honor of President Lynn Batchelder (\$260)
Sale of Bibles (\$210)

Mites at Work

Redeemer in Gorham, ME received a Mission Grant from LWML NED in 2010-2012 to start a library .



[left] Children at Redeemer check out some of the new books.

[right] Erika Hamby reads one of the new books to her son Joshua.



Other News

☞ Former LWML NED President Lynn Batchelder brought greetings to the NED LCMS in June; and after she spoke, NED LCMS President James Keurulainen encouraged delegates and guests to support the work of the LWML women and to consider placing a donation in a large Mite Box he held up. There was \$71 in the box at the end of the convention which went to our Mission Goal. As of August 8 we have raised \$6418.05 toward our goal of \$55,000.

☞ “Joyful Response” is a free electronic mite giving opportunity for individuals of the LWML.

1. Pray about taking part in it and the amount you would like withdrawn and how often, and then
2. Fill out a simple form and send it to the New England District Treasurer along with a cancelled check

Once the money is withdrawn from your bank it is transferred into a special account we have at The Church Extension Fund for received electronic donations to mites.

If you have any questions you can send them to Donna Gruel our treasurer at treasurer@lwml-ned.org



Around the z-z-Zones!

Mid-Valley Zone



Gail Smuda presented a handmade quilt to Pastor Lantz along with a donation in support of the mission.

The women of the Mid-Valley Zone gathered at Zion in Manchester, CT to hear Rev. Paul Lantz and his wife, Rosangela, speak about their mission to Brazilians and college students living in the Boston area as missionary-at-large at First Lutheran in Boston. Approximately forty people are currently meeting twice a month at First Lutheran; and in the last year, there have been two baptisms, one confirmation, one marriage, and weekly Sunday School.

They also hold holiday parties with the English-speaking congregation at First Lutheran, organize leadership training and conduct an Emmaus Walk offsite. They continue to try to have their Brazilian group interact with the congregation at First Lutheran.

Their work with the college students uses Boston Campus Connections to reach out to campus students. Starting with four students at First Lutheran Church, they try to get the students involved with the activities at the church. Pastor Paul hosts a weekly dinner and devotion.

Following closing prayer, the gathering ended with a dinner prepared by the women of Zion's LWML.

Northern Zone

With "The Great Commission" as the theme, the Northern Zone held their spring gathering at Redeemer in Gorham, ME. Pastor Balfour led a challenging Bible study, "Go where?", encouraging us to further God's kingdom by our witness and example wherever our daily activities may place us.

Gifts from the Heart were toiletries, gift cards and jewelry for the women refugees who gather weekly at The Root Cellar in Portland, ME. After lunch, the ladies made several soft dolls from children's stockings with a loving message attached to be given to the young children at the Root Cellar.



Judy Huhn admires the sock dolls she taught the ladies to make for the children at the Portland Root Cellar.

Mt. Laurel Zone

Virginia Card and Jill Elwell write "thinking of you" notes to our shut-ins.



Sherlene Skov and Deborah Sherwood show off the Welcome Gifts for new members of Christ Lutheran-Niantic, CT — a gift from the LWML ladies. The gift contains a cookbook produced by the Youth Group, *Portals of Prayer*, a directory with a list of readings from the Bible for "emergencies", a ribbon cross Bible bookmark, and a "Mustard Seed".



LOVE GIFTS FOR PITTSBURGH SERVANT EVENTS



Each Host District is being asked to donate “love gifts” to be used to complete the Servant Activities at the national LWML Convention in Pittsburgh 2013. The finished products will be given to Pittsburgh area agencies. This is another way our New England District has an opportunity to assist in hosting the convention.

Listed below are the items that are requested from the **New England District**. We will be collecting these Love Gifts at the retreat on October 26th and 27th.

- ♥ 82 pieces of fleece (50” x 60” or 48” x 48”) solid color or print ready to be tied
- ♥ 20 backpacks (approx. 12” x 10”)
- ♥ 100 boxes of crayons (8 – 24 ct.)
- ♥ 500 Ziploc freezer bags (gallon size)
- ♥ 62 spiral notebooks (8 ½ x 11)
- ♥ assorted tea bags (need at least 500)
- ♥ 20 packets of card stock (8 ½ x 11) assorted colors, pack of 50



Monetary gifts will also be accepted. All items gathered will need to be shipped to Pittsburgh to be stored in the convention warehouse space by February 1, 2013.



Convention remembrances continued from page 5



President Lynn presents the 17 women attending a district convention for the first time. They are all smiles as they hold their first timers memento, a plaque recalling the LWML motto, “Serve the Lord With Gladness.



Peggy Wang, Vice President of the Northern Zone, invited everyone in the New England District to the 2014 Convention. The Northern Zone women, hostesses for the next district convention, wore yellow T-shirts that they had hand-decorated with the names of the four states in the Northern Zone. (*Can you name the four states? See below.*) The women of the North distributed yellow invitation flyers to everyone at convention. Watch for details of their plans in future issues of the Beacon and PIO.

Answer: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Northern Massachusetts

