



The Beacon

Winter/Spring 2010

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

Beacon@LWML-NED.org

*"Let the wise listen and add to their learning
and let the discerning get guidance"
(Proverbs 1:5 NIV)*

This is the theme verse for our New England District Convention. It is taken from the prologue to Proverbs directing us in the way we should be reading and truly hearing God through the words Solomon wrote as he listened to God.

Often we close our ears and tune out the senseless chatter and noise of the world around us. Do we also close our ears to God? Do we hear but not listen? Do we even recognize His voice in our lives?

Listening is much more than hearing. Listening requires an action associated with hearing. When we listen, we pay attention to what we are hearing. We give thoughtful attention to what we hear. I am so grateful that my Lord listens to me whenever I call to him. He is always there to calm the seas and give me His peace.

As we walk into this new decade on the path the Lord has laid before us, may we learn to truly listen to our God every day. May we listen to our family and friends and help them to listen to Jesus also.

Please join me and your LWML sisters as we sit at Jesus feet and listen to Him at the New England District convention April 30th - May 1st in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

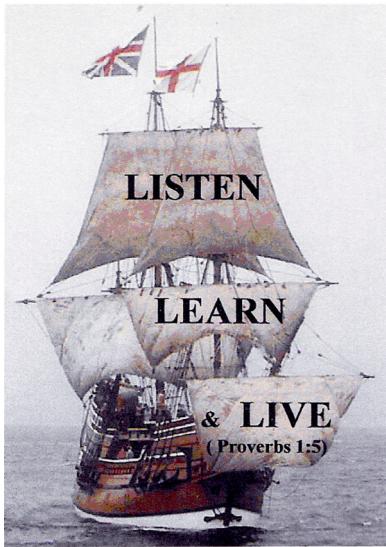
"The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!". Then Samuel said, "Speak for your servant is listening". (1 Samuel 3:10)

Lynn Batchelder
President@LWML-NED.org

MITES- We can do it!!!!
Calling all mites!



Mites need to reach Sharon Dever, treasurer, by March 30 !
We still need \$10,575.05 as of Feb 18, 2010 to make our 2008-2010 mite goal.
So dig deep, ladies; do a special offering or whatever it takes.
I know with God's help, we can do it!



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

“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 are posted at www.lwml-ned.org,

Please join the LWML Eastern Zone on our pilgrimage to Plymouth, MA for the 16th biennial convention! Invite a relative or friend to come along!

Look forward to an uplifting and rewarding weekend as you **"Listen... Learn.. Live"!**

Veteran attendees and our district leaders/heroes will greet you warmly. "First timers" and young women are especially welcome because YOU are our future. Your perception of LWML will definitely be changed as you meet people from our national organization, other zones, and societies. You might even meet an old friend, former classmate, colleague, or neighbor! Exciting!

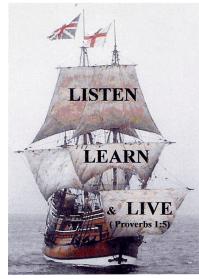
As you visit the display area, you will gain new insights and might even discover a passion for other social agencies and ministries that will have special exhibits. Concordia Publishing House and LWML vendors will offer items that will satisfy your knowledge, pleasure or gift needs.

Yes, there will be many opportunities for fun, fellowship and food. And you will experience the heart of the convention as it unfolds with the traditional banner procession and the convention candle lighting continuing until the ending communion worship service with our sisters in Christ.

Wonderful faith-living presenters will influence us to assess where we are on our life journey. Don't miss Heidi Floyd, a gifted story teller and cancer survivor, who will simply inspire you. Our national speaker, Patti Ross, an LWML guru will update us on the current national activities and will answer any question about LWML that you may have been too shy to ask!



The focus forum leaders have very diversified topics. Suzie Scheyder, a very creative and humorous woman will lead you in making your own book of Bible verses. Pat Bilow, a very respected estate planning professional, will focus on personal charitable plans. Matthew Beish will share mission opportunities as well as ideas for your own mission journey.



The business meeting is a must to attend. Pray for our delegates who vote for officers, mission grants, and by-law changes. Focus your attention on the amazing mission goals that were achieved with our mite box projects. The ingathering projects are just awesome: **Cell phones** turned into prepaid phone cards for our soldiers overseas and **books on audio tapes** and **CDs** for visually impaired people! Invite your congregation to give old or outdated cell phones, audio tapes and CDs.

So if you are at a point in your life where you need to be ministered to or you are able to minister to those in need, this convention is for you. It is a wonderful resource for strengthening faith and hope as well as for serving the Lord with gladness. I guarantee that you will remember this event for a long time to come. Save the date! Register NOW!

Carefully check the registration form on page 8 for specific directions, fees (including a \$10 discount for first timers), and deadlines for hotel and convention registration.

If you have questions, review the LWML website at www.ned-lwml.org or contact Leslie Colligan, at EasternZone@LWML-NED.org or by phone (781-329-3896).

Gospel Outreach

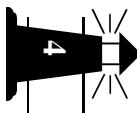
To the women of New England:

As you prepare to come to our 2010 NED Convention, I can only imagine that your growing excitement is matching my own. I look forward to seeing all of the women (and men) to share our love for the Lord together - in prayer, in praise, in songs, and yes, even in our business. Be sure to review the summary list of proposed mission grants on pages 4 and 5 that will be voted on at the convention (expanded descriptions are available on the NED website). Pray for God's guidance that He may show you which projects will be used for His glory in the next biennium.

As I prepare to hand over the job responsibilities to the next Vice President of Gospel Outreach, I look to the past and thank God for both the opportunity to serve you, the women of the LWML-NED, and for the chance to meet so many new people as I gathered applications for college scholarships, short term mission trips and mission grants. It has been an amazing four years. Thank you for all your prayers and encouragement during my time in office.

Your Sister in Christ,
Janice Mathieu
GospelOutreach@LWML-NED.org





PROPOSED MISSION PROJECTS FOR 2010 - 2012

<u>Mission Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Organization submitting proposal</u>	<u>Purpose of Project / Reason for Funding</u>
A Bibles for Bonda Parish, Kenya	\$1,000	St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mission and Education Committee, New Hartford, CT	To secure Bibles for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Bondo Parish, Kenya.
B Children's Ministry	\$3,000	ConnectingPoint Church, Acton, MA	To expand the successful Kid's Club in attracting unchurched children and young adults.
C Concordia College - NY ESL Program	\$2,000	Concordia College - NY, Bronxville, NY	To expand Concordia's English as a Second Language classes currently being conducted with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Yonkers, NY.
D Congregational Disaster Survival Kit (LCMS WR-HC)	\$1,200	LCMS World Relief and Human Care St. Louis, MO	To purchase nylon bags and devotional booklets that will be filled by congregations with the contents of disaster survival kits.
E Congregational Flood Relief Program (LCMS WR-HC)	\$900	LCMS World Relief and Human Care St. Louis, MO	To purchase 180 buckets that will be filled by local Orphan Grain Train groups and volunteers with a "flood-bucket" clean-up kit.
F Deaf Outreach and Leader Training	\$1,000	Lutheran Deaf Ministry, St. Louis, MO	To use technology to train and equip deaf leaders in reaching the over 98% of deaf people who do not believe in Jesus.
G Development of Curriculum for Reachout with God's Word to People with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities	\$500	Good Shepherd Auxiliary (of Bethesda Lutheran Communities - Oregon Unit) Tillmook, OR	To develop a much-needed, comprehensive religious life curriculum for congregations and community-based organizations to use in outreach in their neighborhoods to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
H Disability Awareness Sunday Materials for 2011	\$500	Bethesda Lutheran Communities Watertown, WI	To provide a Disability Awareness Packet to congregations on a yearly basis.
I Grace Place for NED church Workers	\$1,650	Grace Place Lutheran Retreats, St. Louis, MO	To provide New England district church workers an opportunity for a Grace Place experience, focused on preventative health strategies and integrated wellness, with training and resources presented at a retreat and reinforced through the one-year post-retreat online learning module.
J LCMS Campus Ministry Training Grant	\$1,800	LCMS Campus Ministry (LCMS World Mission National Affiliate) East Lansing, MI	To offset the cost of training leaders and student workers so that 10-12 new campus ministries can be established across the New England District.
K Library for All Ages	\$1,500	Lutheran Women's League of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Gorham, ME	To assist Redeemer with new age-appropriate books to children, women and all adults as an outreach to their friends and neighbors.

<u>Mission Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Organization submitting proposal</u>	<u>Purpose of Project / Reason for Funding</u>
L Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$1,000	Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI	To raise the necessary funds to sponsor the cost of translating, publishing, printing and distributing 2,000 copies of "A Summary of Christian Doctrine" for the new Concordia Lutheran Church in Asia, Thailand in the Thai language.
M Meditations for Members of the Military	\$1,000	Lutheran Tape Ministry Blue Springs, NE	To produce a Bible study devotional series on CD for men and women in the military and those that love them.
N Morning Star Mentoring Program (Ministry to Native American Girls and Young Women on the Olympic Peninsula)	\$1,500	Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots US Brookfield, WI	To develop a Morning Star Club (for girls aged 12 year and older) on the Makah Indian Reservation.
O Out of the Orphanage and into the Family of Christ - Dominican Republic	\$2,500	Bethesda Lutheran Communities Watertown, WI	The funds will help the formation and functioning of Lutheran group homes for orphaned children and youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Dominican Republic.
P Project Vietnam (Vietnam Daycare)	\$2,000	LCMS World Mission St. Louis, MO	To provide a safe place for Vietnamese children while their parents work in the fields.
Q Scholarships for New England District Students	\$7,000	LWML-New England District	This will provide scholarships to students from the New England District going to our synod's seminaries or colleges and universities to become future church workers.
R Short Term Mission Scholarships	\$5,000	LWML-New England District	This will provide scholarships to people from the New England District going on Short Term Mission Trips.
S Toddler Playground	\$1,000	Messiah Lutheran Preschool and Learning Center, Fitchburg, MA	This will build a playground for toddlers attending the Messiah Lutheran Preschool and Learning Center apart from the preschoolers.
T Training of a Nigerian Pastor	\$1,500	Lutheran Bible Translators Aurora, IL	To provide training of a Nigerian Pastor in Bible Translation at the Theological College of Nigeria for one year.
U Transportation for Deaconesses of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church	\$2,000	India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC)	To provide four two-wheel scooters to deaconesses in the IELC, our partner church in India.
V Tuition Assistance Fund	\$1,000	Immanuel Christian Preschool, Manchester, NH	To assist in establishing a tuition assistance fund to help preschool families who are struggling with tuition payments.
W Young Woman Representative & Junior Counselor to LWML Convention	\$2,500	LWML-New England District	This will provide the funds to send the LWML-NED Young Woman Representative and Junior Counselor to the national LWML convention.





When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and incense and of myrrh. (Matthew 2:10-11 NIV)

Hunkered down in my study here in Cohasset on a cold wintry day, I don't want to let go of the Celebration of Jesus birth. I love the bright stars all over the house, in the windows and draped over the front yard bushes. I love the goodwill that the season coaxes out of us at a time when the landscape is dead (at least here in New England) and nothing seems to be growing. I know Lent is soon to be on us and we will again retrace the steps of Jesus as He confronts His cross. And I know how important it is to be penitential and to see the cross made for us.

But I can't forget the star. I can't or won't forget how it guided the Wise Men across a brutal desert, an impossible trek even today and much more risky because of borders and international hostility and a simple distrust for a neighboring countryman.



I will not forget the star because it was God's sign that the promise was being kept. *"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."* V.2. And if that star aroused foreigners to something great, isn't that a sign that it still might bring hope to those who don't know Christ today? *Is not our task as believers in Jesus the Christ to first follow the star ourselves and to tell others about the One it announces?*

So we are much more than keepers of traditions. We are much more than a people who rejoice in what God has done for us. We are people of the star who know in our hearts that the world has a new king. He will reign in the hearts of all who will bow down to Him. He will call home all who believe that He has the power to do so. He will embrace all who come to Him, and He will give them rest both while they are still living in a world which has its Herods and in the world to come, where we will be living with Him forever.

Being Pastoral Counselor to a group of believers who live this out every day is both a pleasure and a blessing. May we never lose sight of the star which calls us to our mission in the church. May it continue to lead us to the cross and the empty tomb and the Mount of Ascension and finally to the open arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

Pastor Bob Schipul-Emeritus
Sr. Counselor NED-LWML



Retreat Snaps



Guest speaker, Elaine Bickel, shared her humor and insights into living our Christian faith.



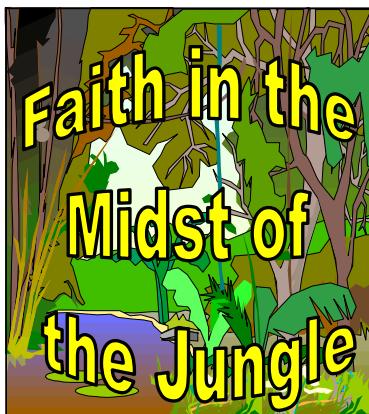
Made last year, the purple pockets return bearing their mite gifts.



Our sock drawer overflows with gifts for the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, MA. Below many hands pack the socks for delivery to the home.



In other servant events, an assembly line (left) make greeting cards to encourage pastors' wives. Bottom left, Tammy Pagan, Paulette Sheehan and Nancy Gebhardt mark Bibles for prison ministry. Below, Doreen Wiese and Cindy Schachter write Christmas cards for Central Food Ministry patrons.



Women's Retreat November 6-7, 2009

Smiling faces on retreat first-timers reveal their joy in being at the retreat. They received a gift bag of goodies to remember the occasion.



More pockets were made at the 2010 retreat. Bev Schumacher, Sally Hass and Ruth McArdle display their newly-crafted purple pockets.



It's always fun to shop at the CPH booth (top) and the Christian Book Club table (bottom).

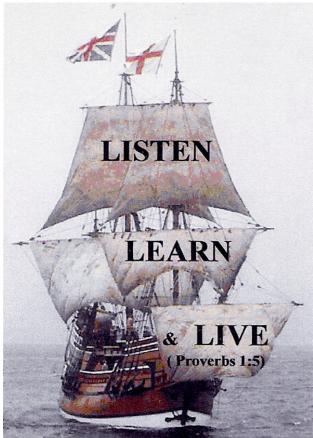
Total from Purple Pockets, Purple Fives, Candy, Books and offering yielded \$2,938 for mission projects!



Crafters Marie Schulze and Ruth Janssen paint stained-glass crosses.



Counselors Liebich and Schipul call us to the Lord's Supper as we close the retreat at Jesus' table.



2010 New England District LWML Convention

April 30th - May 1st
Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor
Plymouth, MA

**Let the wise listen, and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance
*Proverbs 1:5***

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline is April 2, 2010

Any registration received after this date will be assessed
a \$10 late fee and meals can not be guaranteed.

Name: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Church: _____ city: _____

Zone: (check one) Eastern Koinonia Mid-Valley Mt. Laurel Northern

I am: (check one) Voting District Board Member Non-Voting District Board Member Teen
 Young Women Rep(18-35) Delegate LWML member Guest Pastor Vendor

Friday Dinner: Pilgrim Turkey Dinner

Saturday Breakfast: Mayflower Breakfast Buffet

My Saturday Box Lunch Choice: Picnic Express Deli Express
Fried Chicken, Potato Salad Deli Sandwich, Potato Salad
Corn Chips, Whole Fruit, Corn Chips, Whole Fruit,
Brownie and Soda Cookies and Soda

CONVENTION COST: *PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LWML-NED*

Friday-Saturday Convention Fee \$110 Saturday Convention Fee \$70

- Send Completed Registration Form, Health and Emergency Form, and Check to:
LWML Convention, Patricia Martin, 21 Andover Street, Warwick, RI 02886
- Please indicate: Send my confirmation via: (check one) mail e-mail

HOTEL ROOM: Make your hotel reservations with the *Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor* by calling **508-747-4900**. We have reserved 60 rooms at the special convention rate of \$125 plus tax for up to 3 people per room. To receive this rate, based on room availability, reservations must be received by the hotel no later than March 30, 2010. Identify yourself as being with Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Register early!

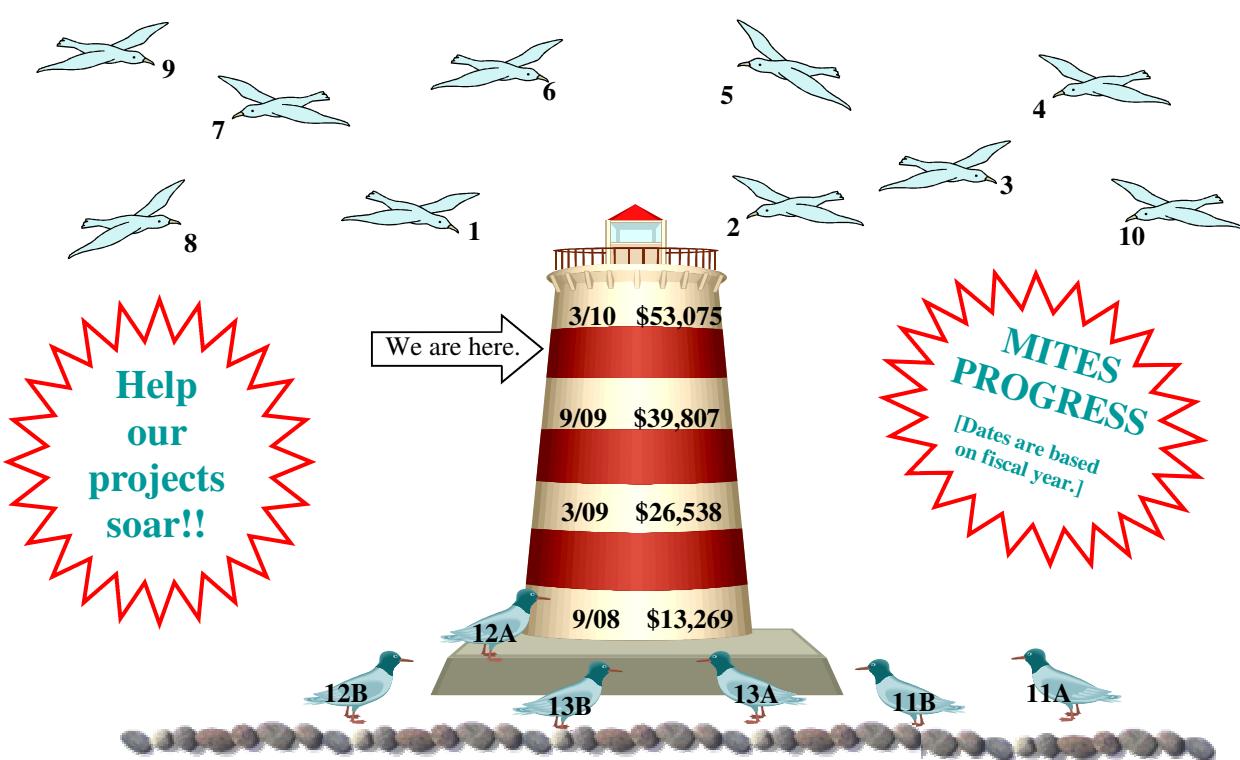
I have physical limitations: _____ I have special dietary needs: _____

This is my first district convention I will be bringing a banner and stand to display

*Since the LWML will be taking pictures and videotaping proceedings and activities, your registration for this event gives LWML permission to use your image and comments in educational, informational, and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media.

Please complete the Health and Emergency Information Form. THANK YOU!

[B]



[as of March 7, 2010]

2008-2010 BIENNIAL MISSION GRANTS

Shining Christ's Light into the World through Missions

1.	Young Woman Rep. & Jr. Counselor to LWML convention	\$2,500.00
2.	College Scholarships for Church workers NED	\$7,000.00
3.	Medications for Kenya Medical Mission	\$2,500.00
4.	MOST Scholarships—NED Members	\$5,000.00
5.	Ministry to the Armed Forces—Ministry by Mail	\$1,000.00
6.	Bibles to Go—Christ Lutheran Early Childhood Center, Hebron, CT	\$750.00
7.	Concordia Seminary Good Bank, St. Louis, MO	\$1,000.00
8.	Concordia Seminary Food & Clothing Co-Op, Fort Wayne, IN	\$1,000.00
9.	Emergency Telephone Replacement, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY	\$5,000.00
10.	Children's Fund, First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA	\$3,000.00
11A.	Ingria Ablaze, Support in Russia	\$1,000.00
11B.	Our Redeemer Kindergarten Playground, New Ipswich, NH	\$1,500.00
12A.	Provo Novo New Mission, Brazil	\$500.00
12B.	Themba Trust-Siyathema Girls High School, South Africa	\$2,473.00
13A.	Togo Africa High School Ministry	\$137.87
13B.	Messiah Art Group, Messiah Lutheran, Lynnfield, MA	\$137.87