



The Beacon

WINTER/SPRING
2011

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor (Beacon@LWML-NED.org)

WHAT: LWML 2011 National Convention

WHEN: June 23-26, 2011

WHERE: Peoria, Illinois

WHO: ALL brothers and sisters in Christ who want to be with Jesus and live on the edge

WHY: For a mountaintop experience to be with Jesus and live on the edge

HOW: Convention information is at www.LWML.org or in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*



MEET FLAT JAN who visited New England on her way to Peoria with an important message for all (see page 2).

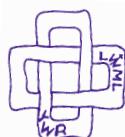
FROM NEW ENGLAND'S YOUNG WOMAN REP -- JENNIFER SEDER



Looking at pictures, and speaking with my local LWML members about the 2011 convention I have learned that thousands gather to share in the love of Christ through the focus of LWML mission work. The greatest experience that I am looking forward to at this convention is growing in faith through witnessing the kind support of Lutheran women for mission work. Being one of thousands of not only Christians, but fellow Lutherans will be a greatly uplifting experience. Growing up in the Northeast, I realize that Christianity is quite scarce among those whose paths I have crossed. It will be a great relief to be surrounded by believers in such an electrifying environment.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to participate in this convention, and I hope that in sharing my experience with others I encourage them to participate in supporting mission work.

Jennifer Seder



PEORIA, HERE WE COME!

LWML National Convention
Peoria, Illinois ~ June 23-26, 2011

MEET FLAT JAN!



“Flat Jan” (a life-size picture of National President Jan Wendorff) came to New England during the January blizzards. She is on a road trip that started in New England and will end in Peoria at the national convention. Her purpose was to remind everyone of the great need to send in mites to complete the national mite goal by March 31. Jan and District President, Lynn Batchelder, did not get very far due to the “monster storm”, but they did have some adventures in the snow. Flat Jan went on a sleigh ride, attended a mortgage burning party and played in the snow. Too bad she could not help us shovel!

Please send mites to New England District Treasurer, Donna Gruel; 1457 Province Lake Rd ; Effingham , NH 03882

President Lynn “supports “Flat Jan” in her mission to increase mite giving.

PASTOR HAZZARD LOOKS TOWARD PEORIA:

I am eager to make the pilgrimage to Peoria to attend the 2011 LWML National Convention.



My aunt has been attending the national conventions for years, and has been energized and excited about missions as a result. I have heard stories about the wonderful music and inspiring speakers, about the friendships made with people from across the country, about the enjoyable excursions to explore the hosting area. I am looking forward to experiencing the energy that comes as saints from across the nation (and around the globe) make the pilgrimage to Peoria united with a common purpose: affirming their relationship with the Triune God so that they are enabled to use their gifts in ministry to the people of the world. I am looking forward to worshipping God in an assembly of thousands of LCMS Lutherans. I am looking forward to being edified by the message of the excellent speakers. I hope to be reminded and reenergized to proclaim Jesus with renewed boldness in New England.

Thank you for the opportunity to go!

Pastor Christopher Hazzard

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT DELEGATION TO PEORIA

New England’s delegation is led by President Lynn Batchelder along with Zone delegates (D) and alternates (A). In addition, two special people are seated with the delegation but are non-voting members. Here are your representatives in Peoria:

Eastern Zone: Sherri Dickinson (D), Jackie Lawton (A)

Koinonia Zone: Dorothy Weise (D)

Mid Valley Zone: Nancy Fischer (D), Vicki Bohn (A)

Northern Zone: Joyce Sauca (D), Peggy Wang (A)

Young Woman Rep: Jennifer Seder (non-voting)

Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Christopher Hazzard, Jr (non-voting)



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

“For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard” Acts 4:20

Remember a “Tah Dah” moment in your life? Something you heard or saw that you thought you would burst if you did not tell someone? God gives us lots of “Tah Dah” moments if we just look for them. They may be occasions when we are able to buy a bunch of pink tulips in the dead of winter with 4 feet of snow piled high or that unexpected rainbow that takes your breath away! Praise to our God who makes those things possible!



Peter and John were feeling that way in the above verse that is part of the theme for the 2011 LWML National Convention – *Being with Jesus - Living on the Edge*. They were sooooo...excited about what they had seen and heard that they had to tell others. I am inviting you to “BE” with Jesus by being IN the Word daily and join me and many of your sisters and brothers in Christ as we meet in Peoria living “On the Edge” with Jesus! We too will want to speak of what we have heard and seen!

“May you be blessed by the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth” Psalm 115:15

President Lynn Batchelder

RECEIVERS BECOME GIVERS

After receiving a \$3,000 Mission Grant from the LWML-NED in 2009, the students of the First Lutheran School in Holyoke, MA, chose the LWML-NED Mites to be the recipient of their 2010 first quarter offerings.

Pictured here is Marianne Bischoff, principal of FLS (2nd from left) presenting a check for \$713.17 to President Lynn Batchelder. Looking on are Janice Mathieu, VP-Communication (far left) and Treasurer Donna Gruel (far right).

A joyous note: This was the largest amount collected by the students for a quarterly chapel offering in the history of the school.



Remembering “Walking in the Light”

NED LWML Fall Retreat **November 5-6, 2010** at the Holiday Inn in Enfield, Connecticut



Our keynote speaker, **Phyllis Wallace** (center), was greeted by retreat planners, VP-Christian Life Barb Giger (left) and Christian Life Chairman Nancy Fischer (right). Phyllis initiated the “Woman to Woman” program on WKFU-AM radio in St. Louis, MO.



Humor was a large part of Phyllis' message, but she also challenged us to consider our lives as servants of Jesus:

“We are the work gloves on His hands.”
“Loneliness can be a great time to spend with God.” “Our stumbling block is also our stepping stone.”



What a joy to welcome 21 first-timers to the retreat! If you've never attended a retreat, why not be a first-timer at the next retreat to be held at the Holiday Inn in Enfield, Connecticut, **October 28 and 29, 2011?**

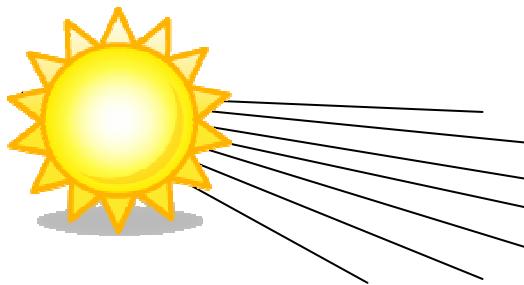


Our Dress for Success “closet” (left) where donations of clothes, shoes, purses, and more were gathered to help women enter the workplace. At right, Dress for Success representative, Coffy Smith fills her van for the second time to bring our donations to their headquarters. She expressed deep appreciation to the retreat participants.



101 people gathered in Enfield to hear Phyllis Wallace and to encourage each other in walking in the light of Christ.





MORE RETREAT MEMORIES ...



(L-R) Erika Wainright, Jean Fisher, Mica Coons, and Darlene Johnson make ribbon cross bookmarks to give to a friend or shut-in .



Tying fleece throws for shut-ins and nursing home patients are (L-R) Jennifer Dorantes, Sherlene Skov, Doris Love, and Jane Darling

SERVANT EVENTS



Tammy Pagan (above) and Marcia Domaingue (right) mark Bibles for prison ministry



(L-R) Renee Ross, Cassandra Dunlap-Haberern, Ellen Gillon, and Eunice Recoule assemble witness beads bracelets which tell the story of salvation through Jesus.



(L-R) Peggy Wang and Vicki Bohn decorate their purple pockets to hold their mites to bring to the next retreat.



\$3,226.07
for Mites

RETREAT MONEY SUPPORTS MITE PROJECTS

1. First Lutheran School-Holyoke, MA - \$713.17
2. Purple Pockets - \$364.90
3. Book Table - \$335
4. Candy Table - \$200
5. Individual Gift Envelopes - \$340
6. Offering at Closing Worship Service - \$1,273

FROM THE TREASURER

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 (LWML-NED Treasurer) at 1457 Province Lake Road, Effingham, NH 03882.

OUR NEXT PROJECT: Do you know someone you want to SEND on a mission trip? Is God calling YOU to GO for him to the mission field? LWML has sponsored many people for short term mission trips. BUT WE NEED TO SEND IN MITES to fund our next mite project which is for short term mission projects. As of 2/25/11 we need \$1,682 to complete this third mite project. Please send mites to Donna Gruel (address above).



HITTING THE MARK! The 2010- 2012 Mission Goal is \$53,075 — as of 2/25/11 we have \$21,398 toward that goal. Check out the web site at www.LWML-NED.org to get the latest mite updates. On that same website 2010 - 2012 Remittance Forms can be downloaded or printed under Forms (there are 4 to a page). Please use these forms when sending money to the Treasurer.

CONNECT WITH THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Treasurer, Donna Gruel
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Vice-Presidents

Christian Life, Barbara Giger
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Gospel Outreach, Sharon Dever
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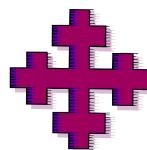
Communications, Janice Mathieu
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Sr. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Jonathan Liebich
SrCounselor@lwml-ned.org

Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Christopher Hazzard,
JrCounselor@lwml-ned.org



Lutheran Women in Mission,

Salt that isn't salty, an invisible city on top of a hill, a lit lamp placed under a basket—these are contradictions of terms Jesus uses in His teaching we call the Sermon on the Mount. Like unto these is a follower of Jesus who does not keep the law. Jesus then goes on to show us that keeping the Law is even harder than it sounds. The super strict Scribes and Pharisees actually relax God's Law into manageable rules and regulations. True keeping of the Law is a matter of the heart and is only fulfilled by perfect love for God and others. This is precisely what Jesus has come to accomplish because we can't even come close. His perfect love for His father and for us is most clearly seen as He submits to His Father's will and lays down His life for us. His fulfillment of the Law means righteousness for everyone who believes. (Romans 10:4)

As we go from the season of Epiphany into the season of Lent, we will see what appears to be another contradiction of terms: the crucified Lord of glory. He who shined in glory on top of a mountain transfigured before Peter, James, and John, will then walk the painful road to another mountain where He will hang on the cross in total darkness. Yet which of these events is a greater manifestation of His glory?

As we are called to let our lights shine, to "hide it under a bushel, NO," we remember the Light of the World shining from Calvary. The greatest works of love are often not brilliant flashes of glory, but humble works of love done in the dark and unappreciated by those for whom they are accomplished. This Lenten season, think: letting your light shine = denying yourself, taking up your cross, and following Jesus. It is hard to serve others in love and even harder when it is unappreciated, unnoticed, or even resented.

May Christ, who fulfilled the Law of Love for you and whose forgiveness covers over all your failings to love, grant you grace as you follow Him and shine in the darkness.

Humbly,

Pastor Liebich



QUILTERS OF NEW ENGLAND!! Marie MacDermid has all the information you need to know about packing and shipping your quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You may want to begin by checking out www.lwr.org; then click on "Be Involved" which then links to how to pack and send quilts as well as a list of local drop-off sites. If you need help, just contact Marie at mrsmac06782@yahoo.com.



**** IRS ALERT and YOUR WOMEN'S GROUP ****: Just a reminder to make sure you have the correct EIN # and approved name on your LWML Women's group bank account. We do not want any more groups of our women in trouble with the IRS. If you do not have this information, please contact your Zone President or Lynn Batchelder, your District President. All Zone Presidents received this information to pass on to their societies in 2010.



Around the

Z-Z-Zones!

Mt. Laurel Zone



Chaplain Etter

Zone President Barb Lis reports that their Fall Gathering went very well, with guest speaker Chaplain Laurie Etter of the York Correctional Institution, Niantic, CT. Bibles and any devotions are needed and well-received. Chaplain Etter said the women are grateful and amazed that a person would take the time to underline passages in a Bible for someone they don't know. Contact Barb for information on giving materials for the women's prison.

Koinonia Zone



The Spring Gathering will be held on Sunday, April 3 at Zion in Bridgeport, CT. The topic, "Reformation: It's Not Just for October" will be presented by Rev. Walt Harper from Immanuel-Danbury, CT.

Northern Zone

The Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 2 at Trinity Lutheran School in Keene, NH where those attending will be involved in a variety of servant events to benefit the school.



2012 LWML NED Convention

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

When: April 27-28, 2012

Where: Marriott Inn — Trumbull, Connecticut

The Koinonia Zone women continue to plan for your participation in our district's next convention. We are pleased to tell you about the convention site — it's a beautiful hotel easily accessible from the Merritt Parkway and Route 8 off I-95. Though located near shopping and restaurants, it is removed from the bustle offering a calm, relaxing atmosphere. The cost for convention is great! Only \$115 for up to four people in the room! Prayerfully consider joining us in April, 2012.



Save the
Dates!