



# The Beacon

Winter/Spring 2012

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

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**WORSHIP**

LWML  
New England District Convention  
April 27—28, 2012  
Marriott Inn—Trumbull, Connecticut

## **BIBLE STUDY**

The Rev. Walter Harper of  
Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Danbury, CT

[Details on page 2]



**JOIN THE CHOIR!**



## **FOCUS FORUMS**



Compassionate Care

Oneness in Christ

Mites at Work



Enhancing or Defacing  
your Temple of God

[Details on page 2]

Enjoy the beautiful  
Marriott Inn in Trumbull, CT

Conveniently off major highways.

Only **\$115** (plus tax) for up to  
4 people per room.

**SPECIAL GUEST** representing the  
National LWML, Edie Norris, the Public  
Relations Director for the National LWML



## CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY LEADER



The Rev. Walter Harper of Immanuel-Danbury, CT will lead us in Bible study on the many facets of our convention theme "COME". Pastor Walt's presentations are noted for his in-depth study along with a twinkle in his eye making for quality with a smile!

The **Gifts from the Heart** convention ingathering is designed to help the smallest in the Kingdom.



We will collect disposable diapers for Birthright, the Stamford, CT office of this organization that "*...cares for every woman and does not pass judgment on the 'quality' of life or circumstances of a pregnancy...No matter how difficult a situation may seem, Birthright helps each woman plan constructively for her future.*" [quoted from Birthright's website]



The specific diaper sizes we seek are:

Preemies (up to 8 lbs - N),  
Newborns (8 to 14 lbs - #1),  
Baby (16 to 28 lbs - #3).



## FOCUS FORUMS

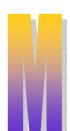
Encouraging! Uplifting! Informing! Challenging! These words describe the 2012 Convention Focus Forums, where topics were chosen based on the letters of our theme word "COME":



Compassionate Caring: Pastor Jack Breznen, Trinity-Stamford, CT, will guide us in understanding the demands and pressures of caring for the elderly or infirm and how we can help care for the caregiver.



Oneness: Pastor Tim Yeadon, St. Pauls-New Hartford, CT, will lead a Bible study on the meaning and significance of oneness in Christ and what it means for the Church to live Koinonia in a "me first" age.



Mites at Work: Edie Norris, the National LWML Public Relations Director, will share what our mite offerings are accomplishing throughout the world as well as all that's new in LWML.



Enhance or Deface Your Temple of God: Joel Wardenburg, a health professional, a member of Immanuel-Danbury, CT and a past presenter at national youth gatherings, will lead us in a discussion of tattoos and body piercings. With even the famous "Barbie®" doll sporting a "tat", this timely topic is sure to spark some lively discussion.

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION:

The convention registration fee is **\$125** by April 6, 2012, with late registration increasing to \$140 from April 7 to April 23.

Please note that registration includes 3 meals: Friday evening banquet (choice of chicken, salmon or pork), and on Saturday, a full breakfast buffet and a buffet lunch. Register early to avoid the higher fee.





**MARRIOTT INN—TRUMBULL, CT** — We are pleased to tell you about the convention site — it's a beautiful hotel easily accessible from both the Merritt Parkway and Route 8 off I-95. Though located near shopping and restaurants, it is removed from the highway bustle offering a calm, relaxing atmosphere

We have reserved rooms at the special rate of **\$115 plus tax** for up to 4 people per room. To receive this rate, based on room availability, reservations must be received by the hotel no later than **April 6, 2012**. Make your hotel reservations with the Marriott by calling **1-203-378-1400**. If you have a problem, ask for Mary. When calling for a reservation, identify yourself as being with "*Lutheran Women's Missionary League*." **REGISTER EARLY!**



## COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

In 2012 the LWML reaches its 70th year. During the Friday evening banquet, we will take a fond look back at 1942 when the LWML was organized while the US was at war. There are more parallels to these two events than you may realize! Uh, did someone say the Andrew Sisters might show up? Come and find out.



## SHOWER IN A BASKET

Human Care  
VP—Cindy Zattich

Calling all grandmothers, moms, and women who have a heart for newborns! Here is a great (and proven) outreach idea: it's called Shower in a Basket and is the brainchild of Jaime Droste of Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

When Jaime was a brand new grandmom (a little boy!), she stopped to realize how blessed she and her family were—parents, grandparents, church family, a baby shower....Not all babies come into this world with such stability and support, and they may not have much in the way of necessary baby items. The Spirit touched Jaime with an idea, and her LWML group (and entire church) went to work.

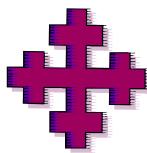
The idea was to purchase plastic laundry baskets and fill them with useful baby items, like

diapers, wipes, new or gently used baby clothes, bibs, lotion...you get the idea! They also included a child's Bible and information about their church. And extra special, they wrote up a welcome letter "from a grandma" (what a blessing the new baby is and how it's being prayed for) and found a thoughtful devotion that new moms could think about when they used all the items in the basket.

The idea was announced before summer so LWMLers and interested church members could collect items during the summer. They approached a local CVS store which donated many items.

The baskets were prayed over and assembled at their October LWML meeting—18 baskets,

(Continued on page 4)



Dear Lutheran Women in Mission,

I cannot believe that this is my last time to write to you through the *Beacon* as your Pastoral Counselor. When Althea Pattison first asked me if I would consider being a counselor, my first thought was not, "Hear am I send me, send me." Nothing against you, but I already felt stretched thin between home and church. Looking back now this is one of those times I am truly glad that I couldn't say no!

Attending retreats and conventions, I have been nourished and refreshed in my faith. I have also gleaned great ideas from presenters and from conversations with you for my ministry at Christ Lutheran—Yes, I have painted their nails in a hideous teal color and told them they couldn't take the polish off until they had shared the Good News of Jesus with someone. But what I will cherish from these last years is you (even if I only remember your face and not your name)! I have been getting acquainted with the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds me. Thinking about you and seeing your faces in my mind, gives me encouragement to run with endurance. I am not alone. Christ Lutheran is not alone. Satan would love to have you carry the weight of the world (and the church) on your shoulders. Then you will surely grow discouraged and lose heart when (not if) you fail. When I stumble and fall, or when I miss an opportunity to extend the kingdom of God, I like to think that maybe at that same moment one of you is extending the kingdom through your words and actions. This gives me encouragement to continue fixing my eyes on Jesus instead of myself and my immediate challenges. So I would leave you then with the first two verses of Hebrews 12, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Gratefully yours in Christ, Pastor Liebich

(Continued from page 3)



Janet Lovegreen,  
Liz Cross and  
Sherry Dickenson  
sort the many  
donations.

half for girls, half for boys. According to Jaime and LWML president of Our Redeemer, Tara Rocco, it was a great success; the members embraced it with a smile on their faces. Everyone was able to contribute in her own way (buying, sorting, organizing, etc.), and age was not a limiting factor. It was easy and fun, and they plan to make this basket outreach an annual event.

So, what did they do with all these newborn baby baskets? They donated them to Tri-Town of Rhode Island, a local agency that directs area people in need to nearby appropriate help services. The baskets went to moms who otherwise would never experience a nurturing baby shower.

Does this project touch your heart? If so, feel free to be a copycat! Redeemer would be flattered! Or tailor it to your own needs and ideas. And don't hesitate to contact them with specific questions (and ask for copies of the grandma letter and the devotion).

Jaime Droste [jdroste@cox.net](mailto:jdroste@cox.net)  
Tara Rocco [talarocco@gmail.com](mailto:talarocco@gmail.com)





## *From the President ...*

*“Do whatever He tells you.” John 2:5*

It is hard to believe that four years have passed since I had the honor of being elected as your District President and began this journey.

My theme verse has been from John 2:5 “Do whatever he tells you.” It sounds simple enough but it requires a couple of things. First, you have to be listening to hear God’s voice. Are you in the Word daily? Are you quiet before the Lord long enough to hear His voice? I know that is difficult for me some days! The men who brought Jesus the water jars needed to be listening for His command.

Second, you have to be willing to do what He tells you even if you feel inadequate or ill-equipped. As you have often heard, “God does not call the equipped, He equips the called”. The men brought the jars filled with water to Jesus even though it made no sense at the time. Is your heart open to do His will or do you say, “Yes, but only if I can do it my way”.

Finally, do you trust the Lord to walk with you each day, step by step, holding His hand, trusting Him for your daily needs? Do you give Him your burdens and cares or do you often take them back. I know I do sometimes. When I give my problems to Jesus, He ALWAYS takes care of them.

As I’ve taken this journey as your president, I have often felt inadequate but never alone. God has been with me every step of the way. He has shown me His grace and filled in for my inadequacies again and again and again. He has introduced me to some amazing women along the way. There are so many women working in God’s kingdom to bless His children in extraordinary ways.

So as my journey as your District President ends, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity. I look forward to listening for God’s direction for the next journey we will take together. It is always exciting to see what Jesus has planned. I encourage each of you to “Do whatever He tells you.” I promise you that you will never be disappointed!

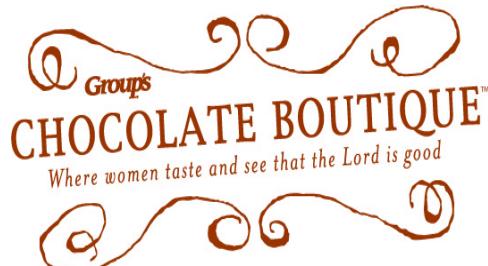
Lynn Batchelder

*“I always thank God for you.” 1 Corinthians 1:4 a*



# Retreat Recollections

Pastor Hazzard started off our retreat as he led us in a Bible study where we learned about savoring and sharing the rich indulgence of God's grace. Participants (pictured right) write responses to study questions presented by topic leader, Barbara Giger.



A chocolate mess on our hands made us realize the consequences of hanging onto the good and bad situations in our

lives. We all agreed that we want to trade the mess of hanging onto everything ourselves for the sweet peace that comes from trusting Jesus with everything.



Many took advantage of the Concordia Publishing House bookstore to do some early Christmas shopping.



**GIFTS FROM THE HEART:**  
Retreat attendees brought items for the residents of the Veterans Home in Holyoke MA. Thanks to Sue Chandler and her husband, Lee, for delivering the items to the home.

Always creative we used our "used Christian books" table and candy table to generously donate towards our Mite goal. Thanks to all who brought items and those who contributed so generously to mites through their purchases.



The Sweets Table was just one of several sources of gifts totaling \$4,665.33 for our mission mites goal:

\$ 328.00	Sweets Table
\$ 182.00	Books Table
\$ 45.00	Candy Basket Auction
\$ 75.00	Candy Bags Auction
\$ 988.57	Gifts to Mission Goal
\$ 357.51	Purple Pockets
\$2,689.25	M&M's Quarter Containers



Thank you,  
LCEF!



a **Chocolate Fountain** that brought smiles to many!





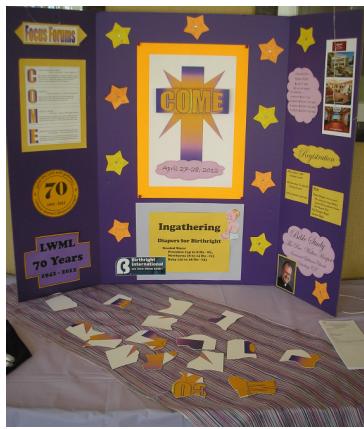
Smiles abound as those attending retreat for the first time are introduced and presented with gifts — a chocolate lollipop and a coupon for a discount on registration for the next retreat. If you've never been to retreat, why not be a first-timer at the next one? Details are coming soon!



Snow! In October?! Much to the disappointment of most, and with prayers for safe travel, we ended the retreat with a box lunch at noon on Saturday so everyone could be home before our 'freak' storm hit!

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the Lutheran Church Extension Fund for their generous contributions to our retreat.

We read Philippians 1:3-6 and made note cards to send to those who bring us joy, expressing our appreciation to them and telling them how much they mean to us — a great exercise in this age of technology when we rarely take time to write notes.



Koinonia Zone, hosts for the District Convention in April, displayed plans for convention along with a challenging jigsaw puzzle!



with the two Pastoral Counselors, Pastor Hazzard and Pastor Liebich who each led retreat devotions.

As another successful retreat comes to a close, Barb Giger (VP-Christian Life and retreat presenter) and Nancy Fischer (Christian Life Chairman and retreat registrar) joyfully compare their chocolate lollipops

# Around the **z-z-zones!**

## Mid-Valley & Mt. Laurel Joint Gathering

The Mid-Valley and Mountain Laurel Zones held a joint gathering October 1<sup>st</sup> at Grace Evangelical Church in Middletown, CT with the theme “You Will Be My Witnesses”. The Rev. Volker Heide, Mt. Laurel Zone Pastoral Counselor, led the opening devotion based on thoughts from the book of Philippians.



Matthew Hass, Missionary to Japan, spoke about his experiences during his outreach work in Japan. Matt was immersed in the Japanese culture while serving with LCMS World Missions Volunteer Youth Ministry. Matt related that less than 1% of the Japanese population knows Jesus Christ as their Savoir. He connected the church to the community through English conversation classes, English Bible studies, regular outreach events and being part of the community. He met his wife Becky in Japan; she taught English as a foreign language at a nearby Lutheran school. Matt reminded us that we are all missionaries. The group explored ways to share the gospel with people nearby and around the world.

The Rev. Kevin Karner, Mid-Valley Zone Pastoral Counselor, gave the closing prayer. After lunch, the women participated in craft projects: making Thanksgiving cards and dishtowel angels. The crafts along with food collected for Gifts from the Heart were given to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Middletown.

Gail Smuda, Mid-Valley Zone President



### GIFT TO THE 2010-2012 LWML NED MISSION GRANTS (since July 1, 2011)

† Gail Smuda in memory of Fran Gahr (friend)



### WE NEED YOU TO MEET OUR MITE GOAL !!!!

As the Beacon goes to press, we still need **\$11,016.79** to meet our mite goal by March 30<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE send your coins, bills and checks as soon as possible to our treasurer,

**Donna Gruel; 1457 Province Lake Road; S. Effingham, NH 03882-8450.**

People are depending on us to meet our mite goal so they can complete their projects and spread the Gospel to ALL nations. Be a part of reaching our goal !

