



The Beacon

Winter / Spring 2013

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

Beacon@LWML-NED.org

Hi, Ho, Hi, Ho — It's off to [joyous] work we go — in Pittsburgh!!

Meet our Young Woman Rep!



Christine Volkov, who will serve as our New England District Young Woman Representative, shares her thoughts as she looks towards Pittsburgh:

I have several hopes and expectations for this convention.

First and foremost, I am hoping that God will draw me closer to Him through His word and presence. I am hoping that I will be able to feel His presence at this convention and just let Him stir in me a desire to want to know Him more intimately and trust Him more deeply.

I am also hoping that through the speaker's talks, worship, and most importantly God's word, that I will be inspired to take back what I learned from this experience and use and apply it to my own life so that I may live a more Christ-centered life. That what I see, hear, and learn at the convention will inspire me to want to go out and share what I learned with others who seek to know and follow Christ.

I am hoping that through this experience God will give me the strength to do what needs to be done. That He will open the right doors and close those that need closing. That He will reveal to me a small glimpse of His plan for my future and challenge me to carry out those plans.

Ushering in Pittsburgh

Eighteen months ago, I was delighted, honored and excited to be appointed Ushers Committee Chairman for the National Convention in Pittsburgh. Serving with me are three Directors: Kristin Belding of Barre, VT, as Page Director; Sharon Dever of Fairfield, CT, as Main Floor Director and Cindy Zattich of Acton, MA, as Handouts Director.

What is the Usher Committee responsible for?

Among our duties: handing out a daily flyer to each guest upon arrival each morning, checking everyone as they enter to be sure that they have a name badge (only registrants are admitted), directing guests to assigned areas, collecting the offering each day and taking it to the counting room, and directing communicants during the Thursday Communion service.

What do ushers need to bring with them to Pittsburgh? Their smiles, their ears to be good listeners, their positive and welcoming attitudes, and their willingness to learn the layout of the convention center and share it with our guests.

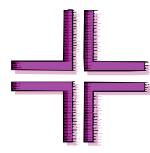
We need 90 ushers to properly staff the four days of the Convention, but we have not yet reached our goal. It is not too late to volunteer! If after reading the above, you feel that volunteering to be an usher is a way you can serve, please sign up today!

Dorothy Weise

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COUNSELOR'S

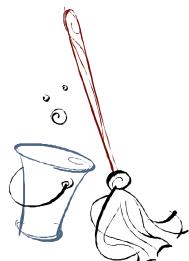


CORNER



“Remember you are dust, from dust you have come, to dust you shall return.” With these words, we begin the somber season of lent. As we honestly reflect upon ourselves, we realize that we are dirty people. The ashen cross placed upon our forehead is a public, visible proclamation of our dirtiness. On Ash Wednesday, we give up trying to hide our shame; instead, we confess that we are, as the divine service puts it, “by nature sinful and unclean.” We publicly proclaim that under God’s law, we stand condemned.

“Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead, and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.” With these words from the rite of Holy Baptism, each of us began our life of faith. By God’s grace, he puts his mark of the cross upon us, a divine property tag indicating that we have been bought back from sin, death and the power of the devil with the “holy, precious blood, and the innocent suffering and death” of Jesus. “All newborn soldiers of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of Him who died” (Lift High the Cross, LSB 837:3). The cross of grace placed upon us in our baptisms washes away the ashen cross of the law that we humbly place upon ourselves on Ash Wednesday.



The Pittsburgh Convention theme is “Quenched by the Water.” Thanks be to God that in Baptism, Jesus has given us the water that washes us clean, and quenches that for which what our thirsty souls long. There are many dirty, thirsty people in New England. Many of them have lived in their filth so long that they don’t even realize they are dirty. May God use us to be His bucket brigade of grace. May people be refreshed in our presence as God uses us to advance the Kingdom. Amen.

Pastor Christopher Hazzard
SrCounselor@lwml-ned.org

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Pittsburgh Bound!

President Leslie Colligan will lead New England’s delegation in Pittsburgh which includes these Zone delegates (D) and alternates (A):

Eastern: Mary Reuning (D), Sherry Dickinson (A)
Koinonia: Carol Sanger (D), Nancy Lutz (A)
Mid-Valley: Vicki Bohn (D), Gail Smuda (A)
Mt. Laurel: Dottie Simonides (D), Sharon Schmidt (A)
Northern: Betsy Gorneau (D), Peggy Wang (A)

Also seated at the delegates’ table, although a non-voting member, will be our Young Woman Rep, Christine Volkov who will be deeply involved in many, many other convention activities.





The President's Page

This is the year the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Ladies, blessings on your new year! (Ok, I admit I changed one word in the above Psalm 118:24 verse.) But there is sooooo much to rejoice about. I pray you will rejoice each day as you are serving the Lord. I am rejoicing and thanking the Lord for your work within our New England District, as well as thanking Him for the wonderful opportunities to serve Him this coming year.

This year, there will be society meetings, zone gatherings and retreats, PING trainings, pre-convention work parties, LWML meetings on the computer, and even an LWML national convention within driving distance – all for which I will be rejoicing.

BUT I also pray that we are all taking advantage of opportunities to study God's word, growing our relationship with Him, and using our gifts to His glory in ministry in our homes, our churches, our communities, and throughout the world. There are many opportunities to hear God's word in our church worship services, in Bible studies and reading devotions. You can even find Bible studies and devotions on the LWML website too.



There is much work for us to do. I hear God calling. Do you? I don't have to look far to see people in need – at home, in my church, in my town. And God has equipped us to help others. 1 Peter 4:10 tells us; "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (NIV). I also feel Him nudging me that our LWML district has the biggest mite goal yet because there are so many needs. On our district list of mission projects to be funded, I see short term missions, schools and school tuition assistance, food banks, a woman's shelter, Bibles and books in other languages, and much more. That is only a brief look at our district's mission projects. Have you heard about the cancer care packages, the Lutheran Malaria Initiative, and Project Joel? All these are national mission projects. Please pray for all our mission projects and prayerfully consider assisting in funding them through mites donations. You can read about all these mission projects on the district website lwml-ned.org and the national website lwml.org.

We are truly blessed to have so many opportunities to assist our loving Father!



In His Joyful Service,
Leslie Colligan, President
LWML New England District



Hope and a Future

LOOKING BACK AT ...



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



Barb Giger and Janice Mathieu register retreat attendees..



Barb Giger, Vice President-Christian Life, and Nancy Fischer , Christian Life Committee Chairman, share the joy of the retreat agenda. "Have we got plans for you!"



Our Guest Speaker, Diane Bahn, introduced us to some guests: the five women noted in the genealogy of Jesus. The first woman was **Tamar**, a woman of "pagan" background who suffered abuse, widowhood, scorn, and resorted to somewhat desperate means to take care of herself. Over the course of the retreat we learned how God brought her into His family and blessed her.



Rahab was a prostitute who embodied real faith – a faith demonstrated in bold actions. She, too, was brought into God's family.



Ruth, our third guest, was a woman familiar with life-changing events (widowhood, living in a foreign country, poverty, loneliness) who was helped by God through all her difficulties.



Bathsheba , a temptress who, with David, suffered the consequences of their actions but were forgiven by God.



Mary was chosen for great honor, privilege and responsibility although her life was not easy nor without deep heartache. She repeatedly surrendered her plans to God's plan.



RETREAT TIME WAS ALSO WORK TIME

Many hands
make light
work!



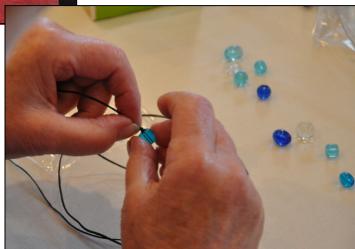
← We needed to make 200 pins for the convention choir members.

Conferring with a partner → helps keep the project on course.

The New England District LWML needs to provide large quantities of several items to be given to those attending the national LWML convention this coming June. Therefore, we were very busy working on the favors for Pittsburgh.



Each tote bag given to each one attending the Pittsburgh convention will contain a beautiful beaded bookmark. It's estimated that 4,000 may be there, so the NED LWML needs to do its part towards the 4,000 goal.



This team is working on tracing and embossing shell patterns for the centerpieces at Pittsburgh.



Lashing the cross
for the ornaments



This team is making Cross Christmas Ornaments as gifts for the expected 800 delegates.



It's great having help when four hands are better than two.

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MORE RETREAT TIME



(Left) Attendees brought Christian books of all kinds; and with a gift to mites, many went home with plenty of new reading material. (Right) Fabric had been donated for use by any individual or group who would exchange it for a gift for mites. These special tables resulted in \$592.37 for mites:

Books = \$243
Fabric = \$40.37
Candy = \$309



These packs of crayons are just some of the “love gifts” from the six hosting districts that will be assembled at a Servant Event at the Pittsburgh Convention. Finished kits will be given to agencies in the Pittsburgh area.

SAVE THE DATE

The next District retreat will be held Friday and Saturday, November 1 & 2 at the Holiday Inn in Enfield, CT.

Perhaps it's **YOUR** turn to be a “first timer”.

Church Worker Scholarships Available

Do you have a child, grandchild or a member of your congregation planning to attend one of our Concordia colleges, universities or seminaries in the fall? Do they plan to study for full-time church work such as a pastor, teacher, DCE, or deaconess? If so, please let them know that the LWML-NED has scholarship funds available to assist them.

The application may be found online at www.lwml-ned.org and may be submitted at any time prior to the August 1, 2013 deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact me at GospelOutreach@lwml-ned.org.

Sharon P. Dever
Vice President of Gospel Outreach



From the Treasurer

MITE GIVING UPDATE



At the end of January, we have raised \$21,505.77 toward our goal of \$55,000. As we enter February, we have \$6,978.70 toward projects **2A** \$5,000 for Short Term Mission Trip Scholarships and **2B** \$2,500 for the Young Woman Representative & Junior Counselor to go to the LWML convention.

Did you know when you give a mite gift to support the New England District through your society, church or sent directly to the district, your gift goes twice as far? Your gift supports not only the 2012-2014 Mission Grants that the New England District committed to at the 2012 convention, but also the National LWML Mission Grants. Each month 25% of mites coming into the New England District treasury are sent on to the National LWML, which in January resulted in a \$1,039 check.



E-GIVING

The New England District LWML has enrolled in "JOYFUL RESPONSE" a program through Lutheran Church Extension Fund where an individual can donate to our district Mite program electronically. Currently we have two individuals who have signed up in this program. If you would like more information about the ease of electronic giving, please contact Donna Gruel, NED Treasurer at 1457 Providence Lake Road, Effingham, NH 03882.

Memorials

2012-2014 LWML NED Mission Grant Memorials

Carol Schoneman (Waterbury, VT) in loving memory of departed loved ones
Janice Mathieu in loving memory of Leonard Morgan, Doreen Wiese's father
Janice Mathieu in loving memory of Rosemarie Connery, Tricia Connery's mother



Preparing for Convention 2014

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



The Northern Zone is working diligently to plan the 2014 Convention for the New England District.

An information gathering committee has worked hard to gather input from all the churches of the Northern Zone to determine the likes and dislikes of the members and what they would look forward to in a Convention. The Board of the Northern Zone will be meeting on Saturday, February 23 along with anyone from the Northern Zone who is interested in participating in the 2014 Convention Planning.

The committees necessary to head-up the planning have been determined, and they will be proceeding "full steam ahead".