



The Beacon

Winter / Spring 2016

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

Carol Sokofski, Editor

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The Mountain Laurel Zone invites you to the 26th LWML- NED Convention



WHEN: April 8 & 9, 2016

WHERE: Holiday Inn ~ New London, Connecticut

THEME: "Still Quenched by the Water"

based on John 4:14

"...whoever drinks the water I shall give him will never thirst again, but the water I shall give him will become a well of water within him that bubbles up for eternal life."

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

BEING QUENCHED BY GOD'S WORD

Bible Study Leader:
Rev. Dr. Dien A. Taylor



CARE AND MERCY SHARED IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Brent D. Smith,
SED Executive Director for Mission Development



BANQUET SPEAKER

LWML National Representative:
Shelley Moeller, Vice President of Gospel Outreach



More convention news on page 2

“GIFTS FROM THE HEART” CONVENTION INGATHERING :

The New England District Orphan Grain Train warehouse is located in Terryville, CT with the GOAL to provide relief for human needs worldwide.

THE NEED IS GREAT!



- ♥ Underwear and socks (NEW ONLY!)
- ♥ Caps, hats, gloves, scarves (new or slightly worn/in good condition)
- ♥ Pillowcase Dresses (see directions on our www.lwml-ned.org website.)
- ♥ Monetary donations made out to: OGT, New England Branch
- ♥ Hygiene Kits: 1 bath towel, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, comb, 6 Band Aids.
(Wrap in towel and tie with string or ribbon.)

CONVENTION FOCUS FORUMS



Sandra Ravell –

Bethesda’s work with children with intellectual disabilities in the Dominican Republic



Jon Rossman –

Building the Gbarnga, Liberia School



Deaconess Tiffany Manor –

Introduction to Disaster Response

(Intro to the LERT -Lutheran Early Response Teams- training and working on the survival Kit Project)

Convention Registration

\$110 until March 15, 2016

\$130 from March 16–23, 2016

*Includes Friday Banquet
and Saturday Buffet Lunch*

Convention Banquet Meal Choices

Baked Scrod

Roast Beef Au Jus

Mini Chicken Parmesan



HOLIDAY INN ~ New London, CT

Hotel Room DEADLINE MARCH 15TH, 2016. Make your hotel reservations with the Holiday Inn by calling **1-860-443-7000**. We have reserved rooms at the special rate of **\$99** for up to **2 people per room**, the rate of **\$109 for 3-4 people in a room**, each rate

includes a breakfast buffet. To receive this rate, based on room availability, reservations must be received by the hotel no later than **March 15th, 2016**.

When calling for a reservation please identify yourself as being with “*Lutheran Women’s Missionary League*.” **PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!**



The President's Page



Dear Mite Collecting, Prayer Warrior, Sisters in Christ,

As LWML New England District President, it has truly been an honor and a blessing to work alongside all of you, dear sisters, for nearly four years. This 2014 – 2016 LWML-NED biennium is almost at an end. Looking back on the past four years, we ladies, with God's direction, have generously given our time and talents to completely fund and exceed two biennium mission goals not to mention assisted in the completion of two national mission goals. With these mites, we have fully funded the mission grants, the short term mission scholarships, and the church worker scholarships. God has truly blessed the work of LWML-NED. All praise to our loving Father!

We New England ladies started off these past four years by working and planning and working and WORKING on a NATIONAL LWML convention. How awesome was that! We became forever friends with so many sisters in Christ across our district and across the country. We were "Quenched by the Water" and yet now we are "Still Quenched by the Water".

We have sprinkled His Living Water across the country and around the globe. During these four years, we have funded 30 Mission Projects, awarded 36 Short Term Mission Scholarships, and awarded 9 Church Worker Scholarships. I cannot count the number of places for which we have also provided needed ingathering items. I praise and thank the Lord for the lives that we district women and our mites have touched, through these mission projects and scholarships.

Some of the places that these mites have poured out God's love and mercy are right here within our district such as Bangor, Maine, West Roxbury, Massachusetts and the New England Division of Orphan Grain Train. Other places are all around the globe such as Alaska, Appalachia, Haiti, Ghana, Madagascar, Guatemala, and Gbarnga, Liberia.

Ladies, each day, I thank God for the awesome privilege that you entrusted to me four years ago. I am humbled by the work of the LWML-New England District. It has been with overwhelming joy that I have worked alongside all of you. We will soon be gathered for our LWML District Convention. Let's CELEBRATE our Father's work through LWML-NED! Let's just think of it as our Father's big pool party. We will be "Still Quenched by the Water!"



Joyfully Serving The Lord,
Leslie Colligan
LWML New England District, President



Retreat Remembrances: Rejoice in God's Comfort

The New England District LWML Woman's Retreat
Friday & Saturday, November 6-7, 2015 ♥ Holiday Inn ~ Enfield, Connecticut



Donna Pyle
Retreat Presenter

Approximately 120 women and a few good men joined together this past November for fellowship, singing, prayer and a whole lot of laughter for the 2015 LWML-NED Retreat.

In her first time to New England, life-long Texan Donna Pyle shared stories from her life showing how in even the worst possible moments of our lives, God is there to give us comfort.

Throughout the retreat, Donna focused on Philippians 4:4-7 and showed the ladies how to Rejoice, give Thanksgiving in Prayer, and finally have God's Peace and Comfort in our lives.

She talked about how she found God's peace in her life after finding forgiveness to others that had hurt her in her life. One especially meaningful thought included: "Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to die."



During the fellowship time, the ladies had a chance to purchase Donna's books and get them personally autographed, while others joined the craft table (see below) or visited with old friends.



Many gathered in the craft room to make beaded icicles for their Christmas decorations



Mite boxes on the various shopping tables such as the book table and candy and popcorn table resulted in \$3,367.00 for mites.





There were 16 first-timers who each received a gift bag containing an LWML pencil, an LWML book-mark with the league pledge and a small LWML gift.

New England District President, Timothy Yeadon, always loves to bring greetings to all of the wonderful ladies of the district!



Young Woman Rep, Michaela Gierke, shared her experiences at the Des Moines National Convention declaring how exciting she is about the LWML after attending the convention in Des Moines!



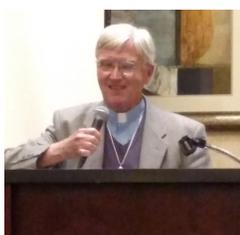
GIFTS FROM THE HEART [left]: Gifts of socks, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and women's feminine products were given to the Hands of Grace, an outreach of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of New Hartford, CT.



[right] Denise Yoreo and Donna Eddy from the Hands of Grace gave a presentation to show the women the large impact that the program has on men, women and children that are struggling even in a small town like New Hartford and thanked everyone for the vast quantity of gifts. They needed two cars to take it all back!



Senior Counselor David Batchelder led the closing devotion using the LION, the OWL, the EAGLE and the FROG to show God's love for us.



Your Mites At Work



Madagascar

Leigh Nawoichik received a \$400 Short Term Mission Grant for her trip to Madagascar. With thankfulness to the LWML-NED, she shares some of her experiences below.

At the beginning of September, I was blessed with the opportunity to travel with a Mercy Medical Team to Madagascar and help deliver medical care to the people there. LCMS sends Mercy Medical Trips to several underserved areas throughout the year, including two trips to Madagascar each year.

While there, we traveled to a different Lutheran church each day to set up a free medical clinic for the people in the area. In just five days we saw and treated just over 1800 people. We saw a wide range of people from ages of a couple months to as old as 93 years. What was more amazing were the things people came to the clinic for. Some complaints were as simple as a cough or back pain, but others were more serious such as epiglottitis or experiencing multiple seizures a day. Realizing that people of all ages had no choice but to suffer with these ailments for years but also that they never know if they will get any relief is eye-opening. To think that these people can't even access something like Tylenol, something we take for granted everyday, really puts things in perspective.

The average wage for the Malagasy is \$1.25 a day. Most hospitals are government run and will not even see a patient unless they are able to pay upfront. We are extremely blessed to live in a country where we have numerous resources at our fingertips. I cannot imagine living in a place where seeing a doctor is almost unheard of.

Despite all of this, God's work is evident in the people there. Every individual we met was incredibly kind and grateful for even just meeting us. We worked with a Lutheran hospital in Antsirabe, the second largest city in Madagascar, where the care they provide is not only compassionate, but it is also blessed by God. This hospital is able to see patients and provide the best care they possibly can, and the patient is provided with a bill afterwards. This hospital has about 100 beds, and every individual we met on their staff was extremely kind, welcoming, and knowledgeable.

This trip was life changing and I encourage others to take the opportunity to serve others whenever you are given the opportunity. You will be amazed at the impact it will have on you spiritually.

Dominican Republic

Bob and Sandy Ravell received an \$800 Short Term Mission Grant for their trip to the Dominican Republic. They share some of their experiences below.

MOST Ministries was in charge of our Dominican Republic Bethesda team. MOST Ministries is committed to impacting the world for Jesus Christ through short term missions by empowering the found in reaching the lost.

It was an incredible experience and privilege to be able to visit the Dominican Republic and see how the Lord is using our missionaries there.

Our focus and mission statement of Bethesda Lutheran communities is "Reaching out in Faith, Word and Deed", sharing the love of Jesus with people who have developmental disabilities. This ministry began in the Dominican Republic in January of 2009.

In early November 2016, we visited two private group homes and two institutions.

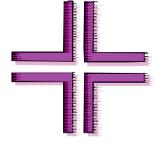
The first three days was in Palmar Arriba visiting our church, school and group home. The group home is home to six orphans with developmental disabilities. They enjoyed helping serve our breakfasts, helping us make the fleece quilts for their beds and playing games. We were able to repaint the living room and wrought iron security grills and do other repairs. Evenings were spent at the LCMS Seminary which is up the hill from the church, school and group home.

The next portion of the trip was in Pedro Brand visiting the institutions which were home to children up to 18, and the psychiatric hospital which was home to those over 18. There is also a private home for children. In these homes we were able to share Jesus love through Word, music, simple craft and lots of hugs. We were able to bring clothing and bath towels to the psychiatric hospital for the residents. It was amazing to see their response to the Christian music and simple Bible lesson. They are visited regularly by Dr. Marisol Martinez and deaconess Danelle Putnam.

One of the important goals of 2016 is to bring word and sacrament into these institutions.

We are thankful for the scholarship support from NED LWML to make this trip possible.





Country Music, Love, and Lent

When I was growing up, my brothers and I could not choose our own radio station to listen to while traveling in the car with our parents. (This was before the age of iPods.)

Anyway, this meant I was forced to listen to 1970s Country-Western music. At the time, this was not my preferred music choice. However, many of the songs grew on me. In particular, I do remember one with great fondness, "I love" by Tom T. Hall. Perhaps you know the song. If not, you can find it on YouTube.

Imagine hearing a grown middle-aged male in a baritone voice singing:

*I love little baby ducks,
old pick-up trucks,
slow movin trains, and rain.*

*I love little country streams,
sleep without dreams,
Sunday school in May, and hay.
And I love you too.*



The song reminded me to be thankful to God for all the things in my life others may label as insignificant.

*I love leaves in the wind,
pictures of my friends,
birds of the world, and squirrels.*

*I love coffee in a cup,
little fuzzy pups,
old TV shows, and snow.
And I love you too.*

In today's age of Facebook, text messaging, tweeting, blogs, iPads, iPhones, Google, videos on demand, High Definition Television, and 3-D movies, this song seems so out of touch with life today. But deep down inside, if we take a moment to pry ourselves away from what so easily distracts us, we know that the most-valued things in life from God are simple.

*I love honest open smiles,
kisses from a child,
tomatoes on a vine, and onions.*

*I love winners when they cry,
losers when they try,
music when it's good, and life.
And I love you too.*

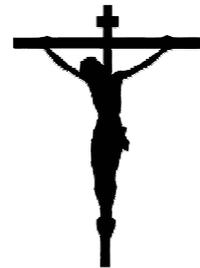
This Lent, let the Gospel speak of the simplicity of the Child born in a manger, Who grew up to live the perfect life so He could suffer and die for you and me for all our imperfections. That's the ultimate expression of love from God. So, let His love from the cross radiate in the power of His resurrection for you and me. Perhaps, if Jesus were to write His own version of the song it might go something like this: (Maybe even with a Country and Western tune)

*I love people who give,
put their faith in Me to live,
praying in My Name, and candle flames*

*I love sinners who confess,
forgiveness for Me to bless,
proclaiming life forever, and church members
And I love you too.*

*I love being born like you
sinless life to pursue
ministering in joy, and Satan to annoy*

*I love dying on the tree,
setting people free,
rising from the dead, and My blood shed
And I love you too.*



"Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him," 1 John 4:8-9 ESV

In the Joy of Jesus,

Pastor Dan Eddy, Junior Pastoral Counselor
JrCounselor@lwml-ned.org

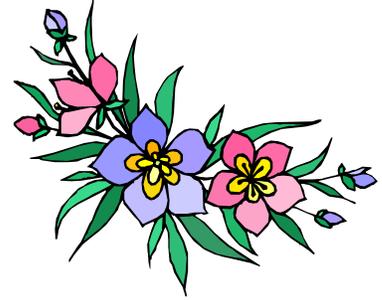


From the Treasurer

Memorials

2014-2016 LWML NED Mission Grant Memorials

Kathleen Havlin in memory of Doris Brochboker
Lynn Batchelder in memory of Deborah Patterson
Priscilla Keurulainen in memory of Pastor James Keurulainen
Shirley Schindler in memory of daughter Deborah Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Laferriers in memory of Mom & Sister
Christina Anop in memory of friends that have gone to the Lord this year
Gail Milke in memory of Emily Chiplinski, 94, a member of
Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT and Carol Sokofski's Aunt



LWML NED Scholarship Fund

Janice & Richard Mathieu in Memory of Paul Mathieu (Richard's Dad)

MITE GIVING UPDATE

We have collected to date \$ 55,429.94 towards our goal of \$ 57,000.00. We now have March to contribute the balance of \$ 1,570.06. I certainly believe that this will be quickly obtainable. Keep up the good work.

There must be a lot of crafty women in Madison Lutheran Church as their Guild submitted \$518 from their Craft Fair. Redeemer Lutheran in Gorham ME also had a Craft fair netting \$145. What a blessing these crafters are to NED. Thank you, Ladies, for all your hard work.

“PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW”

Shirley Schindler, Treasurer

Mid-Valley Zone

Around the

z-z-zones!

The women of the Mid-Valley Zone gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church, Springfield, MA on September 25, 2015 for the Fall Rally.

After a short meeting, handler Joyce Sauca introduced Lydia, a Comfort Dog who is stationed at Messiah Lutheran Church in Lynnfield, MA. Lydia visits schools, nursing homes and community events. Joyce and Margaret Isabelle demonstrated some commands Lydia has been taught.

After the meeting, we enjoyed a supper made by the ladies of Trinity Lutheran while Lydia relaxed on a blanket with her stuffed Kitty. The Mid-Valley Zone gave a donation in support of Lydia's care and maintenance.



Lydia loved by 3 little brothers who attended the program.