



The Beacon

Winter / Spring 2015

The New England District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Newsletter

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DESTINATION: Des Moines

Jr. Counselor Represents NED at Des Moines Convention

As I look forward to the convention this June in Iowa, I notice that the theme of this year's event is, "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap", and we re-



member that our Lord is a Lord of abundance. After all it was by His abundant grace that He brought us to salvation. It was He Who worked faith in our hearts when we were lost as Paul reminds us in Colossians 2, "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircum-

cision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses."

Having been forgiven by His grace our Lord knits us into community in His body, the Church, through baptism, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." And it is in this body that our Lord's abundant favor continues as we are nourished with His Word and Sacrament. Community is very important to the life of the church for here we are reminded that the fight isn't ours alone. Here we pick one another up and nurture each other so that we are ready to go back into the world to be used by our Lord as instruments of His grace in whatever station our Lord has called us – workers in His harvest field.

But let us not forget that our ultimate goal as we enter our Lord's harvest field is not to swell our church attendance rolls. It is that they come to know our Lord and Savior so that when the trials and tribulations of this world come, as they do to all of us, they might know the peace that passes all understanding. This is especially true as we face our final enemy, as Paul calls death in I Corinthians 15. As many of you know my father passed away on December 11 of 2014. However, what I know beyond the shadow of

a doubt is that he now rests from his labors with the Lord having received the crown of eternal life that is ours through faith. I had the privilege of having that conversation about faith in Christ and the assurance of sins forgiven with my father many times (as I've had that conversation with many parishioners before their death).

To know that the Lord has used you in some way in another person's life, whether it was in planting the seed or nourishing it, is particularly gratifying and humbling when they receive the crown of life promised to God's faithful. That is the harvest that our faith reaps. I know that we look forward to having more people in church and reaping a harvest in this world, but our faith ultimately has its fulfillment in heaven. May God continue to bless the efforts of the LWML both here in New England and wherever we seek to make the Gospel known!



Pastor Joseph Mazikas
NED Jr. Counselor

DESTINATION: Des Moines

Meet Your District Representatives!

President Leslie Colligan will lead New England's delegation in Des Moines including these Zone delegates (D) and alternates (A):

Eastern:

Christina Anop (D), Mary Anne Hansen (A)

Koinonia:

Sharon Dever (D), Dorothy Weise (A)

Mid-Valley:

Nancy Fischer (D), Roze Stockman (A)

Mt. Laurel:

Barbara Lis (D), June Merwin (A)

Northern:

Betty Hoyt (D), Kathy Schnitger (A)

Also seated at the delegates' table, as non-voting members, will be Jr. Counselor Joseph Mazikas and our Young Woman Rep who will be deeply involved in many other convention activities.



Thoughts from a First-Time Delegate

First I would like to say that anyone reading this article who has never been to an LWML Convention should certainly add it to their "bucket list". In 2013 I attended my first national convention in Pittsburgh. The experience will be marked as a highlight in my life. The spiritual connection I made there was an amazing experience. Not only did I make lasting friendships, but I was also personally touched by the Holy Spirit time and time again. What a wonderful feeling being surrounded with so many sisters that love the Lord! The air was electrifying!

Leaving that convention, I knew that by God's grace I would again make another journey, this time to Des Moines, Iowa. When asked for volunteers to be a delegate, I gladly offered so that I could participate in convention on a personal level.

I will come to convention prayerfully asking God to guide each of us in making decisions as to where our mites are mostly needed.

I hope to meet many of you in Des Moines.

Blessings,
Christina Anop, Eastern Zone Delegate

From the Treasurer (Part 1)

2014-2016 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS

Thanksgiving offering in Loving Memory of my dear husband Pastor Jim Keurulainen. I thank and praise God that he was enabled to be such a blessing to all the dear people of our NED. He loved you all dearly. God's blessings of His free love and peace be yours. Love in Jesus. ♦ Priscilla Keurulainen

The women of the LWML NED \$200 in loving memory of Pastor James Keurulainen

Gail Milke in loving memory of Pastor James Keurulainen

LWML-NED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Carol Sokofski in loving memory of Alma Sohle

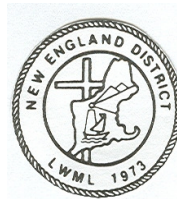
Gail Milke in loving memory of Alma Sohle

Memorials





The President's Page



Dear Sisters,

Praise God! All honor and glory are His! God is mightily using our New England District Mite Collecting, Prayer Warrior, Sisters in Christ! The LCMS website lovingly depicted LWML as a sisterhood dedicated to Serving the Lord with Gladness (referencing Psalm 100:2), sisters wanting to share the love of Jesus with others. Here in the New England District our sisters gloriously shine like lighthouse beacons; always pointing others to Christ. We have been staying in His word, collecting mites, working to fund mission projects, at society meetings and in other ways like "loose change" offering/collections at church and craft mission fairs. We have been collecting items for Orphan Grain Train during ladies Bible studies and society meetings, packing meals for "Feeding Children Everywhere", and happily making quilts and pillow case dresses! Ladies have been working in two new New England based missions and have been joyfully serving our Lord in countless ways in our families, churches, Sunday schools, and communities. All the while we have been inviting more women to serve alongside us. The attendance at the recent fall retreat increased by almost 50% from last year! Praise God! He has answered our prayers! More beacons; more workers.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. " Luke 10:2 He knew we needed more workers before we could even imagine it. The harvest is plentiful; with each passing day there are more and more people that need to hear and see the love of Jesus. Through our mites, prayers, gifts from the heart and service, our sisters are pointing people toward our loving Father. In the next year, our mites will fund:

*Short Term Mission Scholarships *YWR & Junior Pastoral Counselor to National LWML Convention *Hearts and Soles for Haiti *Missionary for Central Alaska *Care for Ministry Families *Trinity/Hope Inc., Lutheran Schools in Haiti *Playground Equipment, Open Arms Christian Preschool *Professional Development for the Teaching Staff, First Lutheran School, Holyoke, MA *Ghana Seminary Support

Our mites are at work in our churches, in our schools, and around the world. This year there will be more opportunities to serve in our homes, churches, and at the missions within our district. There will also be more opportunities to serve at LWML district-wide servant events. This year we also have some of our women serving as delegates at the upcoming national LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme of the convention is "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap".

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

At convention, we sisters will have the opportunity to

Be fed by God's Word and Sacrament.

Be nurtured through worship and fellowship.

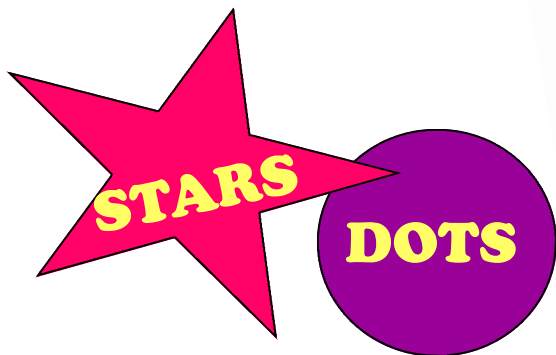
Be equipped to sow, nourish and reap in the Father's field.



Won't you come with us to convention as the sisterhood is gathering in Des Moines. I hope to see you there!

Serving the Lord with gladness,
Leslie Colligan
LWML New England District, President





The New England District LWML Woman's Retreat
Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8, 2014
Holiday Inn ~ Enfield, Connecticut

**BELIEVE,
DREAM BIG
& DO**



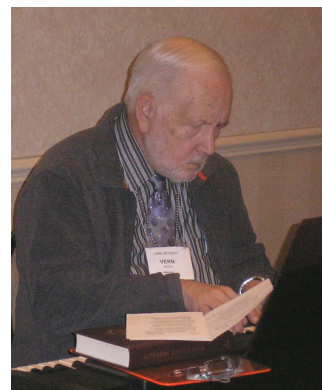
As a writer of children's books, guest speaker, Renata Bowers, shared with us the trials and triumphs of her delightful heroine, Frieda B. As we heard Frieda B.'s story, Renata was also helping each one of us to write "my personal story": That is, my interests, talents, desires as gifted to me from God and His intention that I willingly use them according to His guidance.

Dots and stars represented the two voices we listen to. The dots stand for coldness and a judgmental attitude. When others "give me dots", doubts assail me. On the other end of the spectrum, stars are the praise I receive for my God-given talents but keeping the glory for me thus elevating my pride. Both dots (doubts) and stars (pride) hinder "my story".

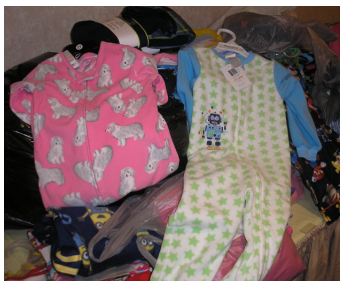


Irene Champagne (L) and Nancy LaFerriere (R) share a dot or star.

What's an LWML Retreat without music by Vernon Koch!



GIFTS FROM THE HEART



Over 150 sets of pajamas and books were gathered for the Pajama Project.



Shoppers...Dancers...A Visitor...Crafters...First-Timers



Everyone enjoys shopping at the CPH table ably organized and run by Susan Dow.



At the conclusion of the "Dream Big" session, Renata played the music "Hold On Tight to Your Dream" by Electric Light Orchestra which led many to get up and dance, such as Nannette Falsetti (L) and Juanita Bok (R).



Special visitor, President Timothy Yeadon, chats with Ellen Gillon (R) and Sandy Schipul (L). When he addressed the group, Pastor Yeadon told how when he arrived and saw all the dancing, he questioned if he were in the right room — is this the LWML?! Pastor Yeadon thanked the NED LWML for what each woman does to support the gospel message.

CRAFTERS

It takes a lot of concentration to convert an electric tea light into a snowman ornament.

Marilyn Sarvela, Mallika Kantayya, and Ann Stoddard focus on their work while

Sherlene Skov and Peggy Wang look on.



Below Barbara Blake, Mary Vaughn, Vickie Bohn and Donna Carlson proudly show off the results of their crafting skills.



First-Timers



What a joy to see over 50 women who are attending their first retreat! From all the smiles, it looks as if they truly enjoyed themselves. Each received a gift of an LWML bookmark, pencil and an entire set of mission prayer cards.

More on page 6

A Story in a Cupcake



While Renata and Betty Yancik mixed the cupcake batter, we considered that each individual ingredient does not taste well alone, but when mixed and baked, delicious chocolate cupcakes are the result.



President Leslie helps to distribute cupcakes to Peggy Wang and others. Each woman received a cupcake in order to



decorate it in her own individual style as demonstrated by Anita Schoch. Like cupcakes, we are of the same substance, women redeemed by Christ yet unique in our talents and service.

Next Retreat: November 6 & 7, 2015 at the Holiday Inn in Enfield, CT

Nominating Committee

Active in your local society and Zone? Looking for a new challenge and another opportunity to serve? The Nominating Committee would like you to consider the following District opportunities to serve beginning at the 2016 Convention.

The **President** serves a four year term and presides at all District conventions and Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings as well as representing the LWML-NED at all national LWML meetings and conventions. She communicates to the membership through the Beacon, PIO and to the NED through the NED newsletter. The President is responsible for the execution of all resolutions passed at convention and at meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The **Secretary** serves a four year term and keeps a record of the proceedings of conventions and all Executive Committee and the Board of Directors meetings.

The **Vice President of Organizational Resources** serves a four year term and is responsible for the bylaws and Young Women Committee for the purpose of encouraging young women to join and participate in the LWML-NED. She is also responsible for the selection process of a YWR to the national convention.

The **Vice President of Special Focus Ministries** serves a four year term and is responsible for making members aware of mission service opportunities in the congregation, zone, district and community and for encouraging participation in these mission opportunities.

Pastoral Counselors serve in an advisory capacity and attend Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, conventions and retreats serving a four year term, two as Jr. Counselor and two as Sr. Counselor.

The **Nominating Committee** (3 members) serves a two year term and recruits members to fill the positions up for election at the next convention.

The Nominating Committee invites you to submit your name for consideration, or if you have suggestions of qualified candidates, please let the committee know.

Jean Bateman ✕ Sharon Berg ✕ Sharon Dever, Chairman
nominations@lwml-ned.org



From the Treasurer (Part 2)

RETREAT GIFTS FOR MITES: Generous retreat goers gave the following:

Retreat Offering	\$2,941.05
Used Book Table	182.30
Popcorn, Candy Table	109.12
TOTAL FOR MITES	\$3,232.47



A special Thank You goes to LCEF and Brenda Bacon for sponsoring the coffee hour at our November Retreat.

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As of January 31st, the amount collected for the 2014-2016 Mission Goal (\$57,000.00) is \$28,231.25. The first four grants have been fully funded; Grant #5 YWR-Junior Pastoral Counselor to National LWML Convention (\$2,000.00) has a balance of \$850.34

SPECIAL NOTE: The LWML Ladies of the Lutheran Church in Madison, CT submitted \$590.00 from their Craft Fair. (awesome!) Thanks be to GOD for the inspiration He has given to the ladies of LWML.

As Betty Sivacek wrote to me, "God will bless our efforts to reach the goal (\$57,000.00) and then some--as HE always has in the past." AMEN to that. God is good.

Shirley Schindler, Treasurer



LWML Archivist Boot Camp (more like **snow**boot camp!)

District archivists were called to St. Louis for January 27th-29th. In Maine we have a saying that "you can't get there from here", and probably most New Englanders know just what I mean. During a major blizzard even the best of plans need to be changed. My first plans were canceled, re-scheduled to a later flight, canceled again, and only then to get a text at 4:30 Monday morning that my flight leaves at 10:00 am that day!

Now I'm in St. Louis a day early and what to do? NO, I'm not even thinking of going up in the Arch!! I don't like heights.

Our purpose in St. Louis was to attend an interactive workshop for District Archivists. We learned what we need to begin an archive and many useful tools to do the job; things to do and things not to do; what to keep local and what to send to Concordia. The event was very helpful to all in attendance. Although, my work load just got larger, it is fun work for the League, so how bad can that be? We got to meet some other archivists from Oregon, California, Florida, Texas, Montana, Minnesota and Missouri. We had lunch at the Seminary with the students, and then we worked on the display for the convention in Des Moines, which looks to be a fun time to see all the folks that make the LWML a great success. There's lots of hard work ahead of us, but working for the Lord

is no work at all. I would like to thank the staff for the great meeting they put together and also the LWML NED Board for making it possible for me to attend Boot Camp. May the Lord bless and keep you all your days, and I hope to see you in Des Moines.

Betsy



Betsy Gorneau, NED Archivist



Around the **z-z-Zones!**

Mid-Valley Zone

The women of the Mid-Valley Zone gathered at Holy Trinity Church, Terryville, CT for the Fall Rally. After opening devotions and a short meeting, we went to the ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN warehouse. After a tour and explanation of the work done there, the women began to assemble hygiene kits; twelve boxes of kits were completed. For more information on Orphan Grain Train and how you can help, visit their website: www.ogt.org



(L-R) Nancy Johnson, Nancy Fischer, Cordelia Behrendt, and Mary Ann Kalwat transform the pile of supplies into health kits.

Mt. Laurel Zone



The LWML group at Christ Lutheran, Niantic decorated the narthex Christmas tree. Kathy Silva donated nearly three dozen new chrismons made of pearls and gold beads which greatly enhanced our tree.

Pictured are: Chris Wood (on the ladder), and in front (L-R) Sherlene Skov, Kathy Silva (chrismon crafter), Ginny Card, Barbara Lis, and Betty Hansen.

Koinonia Zone

In September forty-four people (women **and men**) gathered at Immanuel-Danbury to hear guest speaker District President Timothy Yeadon at the Fall Gathering. Under the theme "Liberia, New England, and all parts east of Heaven!" he shared how district churches are active in mission work at home and abroad. Accompanying Pastor Yeadon was Pastor Leon Schultz of St. Paul's-Providence who spoke of the plans to build a Lutheran School in Gbarnga, Liberia. Sadly, progress on the plans has been curtailed because of the Ebola outbreak.



Pastor Schultz chats with the registration ladies, Juanita Bok, Carol Hirsheimer and Pauline Schneider.



Pastor Yeadon gets some microphone help from Pastor Walter Harper of Immanuel-Danbury who will be the guest speaker at the Spring Gathering at Christ the King in Newtown on April 19th.

