

# The Eastern District

# Lutheran Women in Mission

# LWML



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Happy New Year to all of you!

A New Year is a time of renewal. To look at where you have been and what you hope to accomplish in the New Year.

So much has gone on in my life since my last article. I officially retired on August 15, 2006. It has been great to plan my own schedule and to spend time on the things I love the most, especially the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. I have attended the Niagara and Genesee Zone Fall rallies sharing the



Sail into the Future  
Sisters Acting In Love

information about the "Sisters Acting In Love" (SAIL) program. It is great to meet the ladies of the zones that I serve with. If you have an event planned, be sure and invite me. I have a lot of time to travel and love to share the message of the LWML.

Our board meeting was held in September at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center. I shared the vision of the SAIL program. Each officer was given a boat to remind them that we are all part of the crew keeping the boat afloat. We all signed each others boat as a reminder that we are all needed to accomplish the work. Teamwork is very important in any situation. Working with others on the same task is better than trying to do it alone. Remember – all the ladies of the Eastern District are part of this program too!

**There are many opportunities to serve in the New Year:**

**Workshops, Joy shops, and Rallies**

- \* Attend an event and invite a friend
- \* Mentoring someone about what LWML means to you.

**2007 national convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 21 – 24**

Witness the sharing, caring, and love of the LWML through:

- \* Servant Events
- \* Bible Study
- \* Greeting friends both old and new
- \* Mighty Mites in action as we determine which projects will be selected
- \* And many other events!

**Annual LWML Fall Retreat at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center, September 21-23**

Our speaker will be Jan Struck, a humorist with a Christian Message. Details will be coming out in the future.

**Individual Society Events and meetings**

**Officer opportunities in the district**

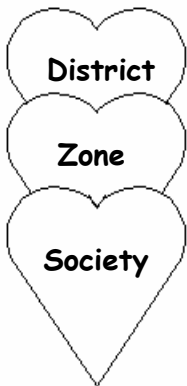
Need for co-chairman for the following:

- \* Mission Grants Committee
- \* Human Care committee
- \* Leader Development committee
- \* Structure Committee

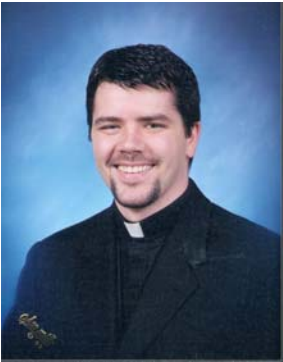
If you are interested, please contact me at [Darlene248@aol.com](mailto:Darlene248@aol.com) or call 585-288-5568.

There are many ways to Serve the Lord with Gladness – come join us! You won't regret it.

In His Service,  
Darlene Byrns  
President, Eastern District LWML



Together  
Serving  
the Lord  
with  
Gladness



### The Christian Family The Rev. Evan P. Gaertner

This time of year we all seem to find our focus on our families. Neither the family nor struggles in a family are a new concept. Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus fled to Egypt to escape the murderous rage of King Herod after being visited by the Wise Men. The Holy Spirit watched over the Holy Family as they made this journey and called them back to Nazareth when it was safe. The rage and anger of Herod was not going to be able to defeat the purposes of God. In fact, this journey to Egypt fulfilled the Old Testament promise, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

At the baptism of Jesus we find a fuller picture of the family of Jesus. Immediately after Jesus was baptized a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Jesus is the only begotten son of the Almighty Father. At Jesus' baptism the household of God, all three persons of the Holy Trinity were visible.

The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and Jesus' baptism point to the intersection of our participation in our physical families and in the family of God. In both God is at work fulfilling his plans for us. God is at work in your family, physically and spiritually, but this is not always clearly visible. St. John the Evangelist wrote, "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

When a mother gives birth and that newborn baby is placed into her arms, a relationship of love and care is born. Likewise when in the water's of baptism God places his name upon you, a relationship of love and care is born.

I know the struggle we find in witnessing; that our families do not always live up to our expectations. We also struggle with what we expect from our congregations and what we actually witness happening day to day. Living in this tension can create a lot of stress. I wonder how stressful it was for Joseph and Mary to experience the visit of the Wise Men and then quickly pack up and leave for Egypt? How contrary to what they expected was that journey! Yet we know the Spirit was at work.

There are moments in our lives when we do not see clearly how God could be at work. I am sure we all want to give our children and friends the keys to a life of meaning and fullness, but you know thriving in this world is not going to be easy. But no matter how challenging the world around us may be or how difficult it can be to see sin raise its ugly head in our congregations, the meaning and fullness of life is found in the love of God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to LINK your physical families with your family of God. Whether it is home devotions, singing together in the same pew, or kneeling together at the communion rail, trust that you are a part of a family built on the foundation of the love of Jesus.



*The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world*

**Welcome**  
We welcome the following newly elected Zone Presidents into the Eastern District LWML:

- Fern Suckow—Buffalo Zone
- Cathly Ippolito—Genesee Zone
- Cathy Kabell—Pittsburgh Zone

- Thank you to the outgoing Presidents for your time and efforts
- Joan Fritsch—Buffalo Zone
  - Rebecca Bessell—Genesee Zone
  - Waneta Lingenfelter—Pittsburgh Zone

#### WELCOME NEW ZONE PRESIDENTS

### Upcoming Events

- March 9-10, 2007** Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting  
Pinnacle Lutheran Church  
Rochester, NY
- June 21-24, 2007** LWML Convention  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Sept. 21-23, 2007** Fall Retreat  
Camp Pioneer  
Hamburg, NY
- June 6-8, 2008** 2008 District Convention  
Rochester, NY

**MISSION GRANT NEWS**

As we begin a new year, we look back at what has passed and then look ahead at what is to come. Looking back we recall the Eastern District Convention held in June in Lockport, New York. Here we approved a mission goal of \$22,800 and selected five grants to support with our mites. Now it is time to look ahead.

First, we need to remain faithful in the giving of our mites. Let us do this prayerfully, asking God to bless our offerings to do His work.

As surprising as it may seem, we also need to look ahead to 2008. Proposals for mission grants to be voted on in 2008 will need to be written and submitted by this fall. Now is the time to look for potential projects. Do you see a way to share the love of Christ with others in your community through a mission project? Speak with your pastor, your society, and members of your congregation to identify areas where LWML might be able to provide funding for a mission project. Start planning now so that we may continue to serve the Lord with gladness.

In His service,  
Jackie Blank  
Mission Grants chair



**GRANT #1 PAID**

\$5,000 has been paid to LCMS World Mission for Kyrgystan Mentoring Church Leadership. This grant will be used for resources in preparing Pastoral candidates to share Jesus with those who don't know Him in the Kyrgystan area. This was Grant #1 approved at the 2006 Eastern District Convention for the 2006-2008 biennium. Your generous Mite donations have made it possible to pay this grant. Please continue to give generously to Mites so we will be able to fund all our grants in this biennium.

**FROM THE GENESSEE ZONE  
MITES FOR MISSIONS**

The LWML group at St. John, Hamlin, NY decided to try something new this year. We put Mite boxes in every Sunday bulletin with a challenge for all to put their change in the box for the next three weeks. Each week we included a little information about how our Mites further mission work here and abroad. On LWML Sunday we had everyone bring their Mites forward during the service. The children were also included in this and received their Mite boxes in Sunday School. To date we have received \$575.08! It was a wonderful response and we definitely will try this again next year.

**REMINDER TO ZONE AND  
SOCIETY PRESIDENTS:  
NATIONAL LWML WILL WANT STATISTICS!**

Shortly after the new year begins, National LWML will be requesting statistics from the various districts for the 2007 National LWML Convention Manual. Back in March 2005 a memo was sent to zone presidents reminding you that zone presidents are responsible for keeping track of the number of zone events during July 2005-2007 (rallies, seminars, workshops, prayer services, zone retreats, servant events, etc.). In addition, society presidents will need to provide you with the total number of women involved in their local activities and number of active LWML members. Naturally there will have to be some estimating of events through June 2007, but please begin compiling these figures now so they'll be ready when you are contacted for them. If you are a new zone or society president and have no idea what this is about, it's not too late to begin gathering this information – just didn't want you to be surprised when you're officially asked to supply the figures from your zone/society! Kathi Rickus, VP Communications

**For Your Information**

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding the reconfiguration of the District Circuits and how that effects the LWML Zones. Even if your church has been moved to a new circuit, the LWML Zones remain the same, so keep meeting in your Zones as you always have

*We need YOU*

NEEDED: We are still in need of a Retreat Theme and a Zone to host the 2007 retreat, September 21-23 at Camp Pioneer. We also need retreat coordinators. The speaker has already been planned. If there anyone who would be willing to help with this, please contact Darlene Byrns at [Darlene245@aol.com](mailto:Darlene245@aol.com)



Former Eastern District President Claire Carlson and Karen Blackmon from the Buffalo Zone, holding up the quilt which Karen put together from the quilt squares made at the Eastern District LWML Retreat at Camp Pioneer September 14-16,2006.

**ATTENTION: LWML SOCIETY PRESIDENTS AND INDIVIDUAL LWML MEMBERS**

Please cooperate and complete form below as indicated for the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscriptions beginning with the Summer 2007 issue – **deadline for orders: April 1, 2007.** Return a form even if your order is not changing!!

**Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY ORDER FORM  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008**

**Please complete form and return by April 1, 2007 to:**

Mrs. Katharine Rickus, ED LWML VP Communications, 250 Rogers Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150-5273 or  
E-mail: [RICK4219@aol.com](mailto:RICK4219@aol.com) (be sure to put LWML in subject line!)

Name of LWML Society (or Women's Group if combined) \_\_\_\_\_  
(or Individual Member's name if not affiliated with a Society: \_\_\_\_\_)

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (city)

Mailing Address for Quarterlies: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State and Zip Code)

**# of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscriptions ordered for Fiscal year 2007-2008: \_\_\_\_\_**

The cost of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and publication expenses for the *ED LWML LINK* newsletter\* for 2007-08 is

\$5.50 each subscription for orders of 10 or more, or  
\$7.00 each subscription for orders of 1-9 copies.

Note: National LWML increased the cost of the Quarterlies in the Spring of 2007, thus the increase of 50 cents over last year's cost.

**Payment is encouraged within the first few months of fiscal year 2007-2008. Send payment to your Zone Treasurer and indicate on check "For Quarterlies 2007-08. Return this completed Order Blank to Kathi Rickus.**

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

\* The subscription rates above include funds to help defray the cost of the ED LWML LINK newsletter, one copy of which is sent to Society Presidents. Payment enables more Mite Box offerings to be available to fund mission grants. Copies are also provided the ED LWML Board of Directors, congregations without active societies and some National LWML personnel. Society Presidents are encouraged to share the news in the LINK with their society members by making copies or gleaning information for church newsletters/ bulletins.



## 32ND BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION IN SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Have you marked your calendars for June 21-23, 2007? That's when the 32nd LWML Biennial Convention will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. That is where the Lutheran Women in Mission will gather to **ROCK!** and learn to **Rest On Christ the King**. Dr. Mary Manz Simon, best-selling author and well-known speaker, is the Bible study leader, who will share with us her insight of God's Word. We are also privileged to have as our keynote speaker, Terry Kieschnick, who is first lady of the LCMS, wife of LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick. Terry has a heart for all women who serve the Lord with gladness! Be there to hear her encourage us, as we learn to truly "**ROCK!** and learn to **Rest On Christ the King**".

Detailed information, including all registration forms and order forms, along with the schedule and the details of the presenters is available in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, which you should have received at your church. Information is also available on the LWML website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). Registration is open starting March 1st.

Tour information will be sent separately to your LWML District President. You won't want to miss the Corn Palace and the Black Hills, which are great for family fun or a busload of convention goers. See [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for more details.

Come:

- \* Rejoice in the security found in God's Word and love
- \* Celebrate the oneness found in Jesus, our King
- \* Confidently and boldly share the Gospel message
- \* Be led and guided by the Lord to personal avenues of service

*"In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me." (Psalm 31:1-3)*

## FIRE AT CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES, CABOT, PENNSYLVANIA

As many of you have probably heard, there was a fire at Concordia Lutheran Ministries in Cabot, Pennsylvania that destroyed the Haven 1 apartment building. Thanks be to God that all residents, rescue workers and volunteers were kept safe and no one was injured. Many of the residents are now in the new Lund expansion (an assisted living facility) at the present time. The residents don't know at what time there will be a new apartment building where they can each return to the "comforts" of their own shower, kitchen, etc. Below is a list of the LWML ladies who were living in Haven 1 at the time of the fire.

Peg Schelein 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #251 Cabot, PA 16023

Eleanor Schwalm 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #356 Cabot, PA 16023

Dorothy Blankenbuehler 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #351 Cabot, PA 16023

Jean Hauer 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #200 Cabot, PA 16023

June Scarpino 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #001 Cabot, PA 16023

Henrietta Maurhoff 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #355 Cabot, PA 16023

Arlene Beckman 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #117 Cabot, PA 16023

Ruth Goerss 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #301 Cabot, PA 16023

Anne Pfeifer 112 Marwood Rd. Apt #220 Cabot, PA 16023



The Board of Directors of the Eastern District LWML voted to contribute \$50 to each of the above-named ladies taken from in-kind donations to help support them in this most difficult time. Please continue to lift these ladies and the Concordia Home in your prayers as they try to rebuild their lives.

**Executive Committee:**

- President** **Darlene Byrns**  
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412-486-5777 (church)  
[jstaupitz@msn.com](mailto:jstaupitz@msn.com)
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[TheRevEv@yahoo.com](mailto:TheRevEv@yahoo.com)

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Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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**The next deadline is March 1, 2006**

The Link is published four times each year.  
Deadlines to submit articles:  
March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

**TOGETHER IN PRAYER**



Don't forget to join your National LWML Sisters "Together in Prayer Every Monday at Noon". Pray for our National LWML, Our Districts, Our Zones, Our Societies and our "Mites" and Mission Grants that they may be used to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the World. Each month there is a specific prayer emphasis listed on the National LWML Website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and also in the LWML E-News.

**MMV—Mission—Ministry Vision** program is available in our Eastern District. We have two consultants who have been trained to encourage and assist women's groups in reaching out to others by:

- \* Defining their purpose and sharpening mission focus
- \* Exploring various organizational structures
- \* Helping to plan effective, spiritually motivated programs
- \* Assisting in developing local leaders

If you would like one of these MMV Consultants to come in and work with your LWML groups, contact one of them today; they would love to help you.

Claire Carlson (Buffalo) 716 649-4678  
e-mail [Pachtroop546@aol.com](mailto:Pachtroop546@aol.com) or  
Jacqui Green (Philadelphia) 215 473-1421  
e-mail [jacqui2@verizon.net](mailto:jacqui2@verizon.net)

## ***Be a Good Steward and Help Us Share "The Link"***

**IMPORTANT!!!!** It appears that some contact people are still not receiving their copy of the Link. This is our only form of communication and it is very important that it is shared with the appropriate people. "The Link" is currently mailed to all members of the Board of Directors of the Eastern District LWML (which includes each Zone President) and to either the Society President or Representative that each society has designated and of which we have been informed. In most cases these are mailed to the church address with the name of the person to receive it on the envelope, unless we have been asked specifically to mail it to the contact person's home address. In some cases, where it has been requested by the congregation, the Pastor or church secretary is the person to receive this communication.

Special note to all: If you find this mailing to be in your hands, you are a very important person in our distribution of "The Link". **This may not be intended to be your personal copy.** Currently, we do not plan to distribute "The Link" to individual e-mail addresses.

### **Attention: Society Presidents**

Either copy this issue for your society members, or post it at church, or glean items from it to submit articles for your congregation's bulletin/newsletter and, above all, remember to inform your members at society meetings.

#### **LWML Eastern District – from the Editor**

If you find yourself to be the recipient of this issue of "The Link" and it should be directed to someone else or you would like to provide a different mailing address, please inform me of the following:

**Replace with this name and mail to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State, City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Remove the following name:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State, City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Beverly Wicher  
 LWML Eastern District – Editor  
 150 Unionvale Road  
 Cheektowaga, New York 14225  
 Or e-mail: [bevajw@adelphia.net](mailto:bevajw@adelphia.net)  
 Please indicate: LWML Link-Address Change on the subject line

**Attention: Society Presidents**  
**Need to decrease (or increase) Quarterlies?**  
**Take note of April 1, 2007 deadline!!!!**

**Decreases in Lutheran Woman's Quarterly subscriptions can be made only once a year, and the deadline is April 1, 2007** to contact VP of Communications Katharine Rickus of any such changes for 2007-08. Note: Increases and changes of address can be made anytime during the year. You can reach Kathi by mail: 250 Rogers Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14150 or e-mail: [RICK4219@aol.com](mailto:RICK4219@aol.com). (Be sure to put LWML in the subject line!)

Societies are reminded to help defray the cost of the Quarterlies and ED LWML LINK newsletter expenses by sending contributions to their respective zone treasurers, who will, in turn, send them to the ED LWML Financial Secretary. If you have not covered your Quarterlies for the current fiscal year (April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007), please do so as soon as possible! Special thanks to all those societies who have covered their Quarterly subscription costs to date!

**Did you know?** National LWML increased the cost of the Quarterly beginning with the Spring 2006 issue. Therefore, the rates for the new fiscal year for the Eastern District LWML (April 1, 2007-March 31, 2008) will be as follows: \$7.00 per subscription for 1-9 copies to same address; \$5.50 per subscription for 10 or more copies to same address. These figures include the cost of the Quarterly plus a \$1.50 contribution towards the cost of the ED LWML LINK newsletter, one copy of which is sent to Society presidents in care of the congregation unless the president has requested the LINK editor to mail it directly to her home.

**IMPORTANT FACT:** These donations will enable the District to use your mite box offerings more effectively for mission grants; otherwise the Quarterly and LINK expenses must come from Mite Box receipts!

P.S. Just a reminder – please also notify Kathi Rickus of any changes in zone or society officers for the ED LWML Directory so it can be kept up-to-date!

Congratulations to Pastor Sound, former Pastoral Counselor, who has been elected Pastoral Counselor of the Cheasapeake District
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