

The Eastern District



Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML

Sail into the Future
Sisters Acting In Love



I N K



“I made a difference” is inscribed on a purple bracelet I received at the nursing home where I volunteer since my retirement. It is very rewarding to see the smiles on the faces or the hug you receive for touching their lives. Many people in the home do not have a friendly face to talk to or someone to walk with them down the hallways. In some circumstances this is the only contact they get. Family members may not know how to handle their loved ones in a nursing home setting.

I have the fun job – I run the ice cream Shoppe on Wednesdays for 2 hours each week. Ice cream always put s smile on their faces. I have one gentleman who looks forward to seeing me each week. He puts a smile on my face. I have regulars who can't wait for me to scoop their ice cream.

Have you made a difference in someone's life lately? Very often we go about the business of the day – work, family and home and we may forget the needs of others right around us. The neighbor who is lonely since her husband died and needs a friendly face to talk to her. How about calling a friend that you have not seen or talked to in a long time? She may be waiting for your call. How about the new people who just moved in and haven't been welcomed to the neighborhood? Bake a dessert and welcome them. These circumstances can be changed if we reach out to others in love to make a difference in their lives.

When two or more people come together in the spirit of harmony ...it's like putting LIGHTNING in a Bottle! And when this happens, a difference can be made in the lives of so many throughout our communities and world. Amazing things happen when people come together for an objective or goal.

There is a pull inside each and every one of us to make a difference while we are here. It is up to us to make our time matter. Compassion and Positive Attention are the keys to making a difference.

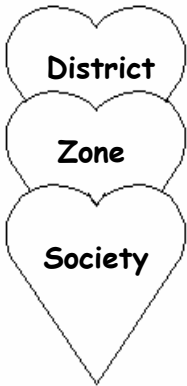
Please reach out and make a difference in someone's life. You won't regret it.

Darlene Byrns
President, Eastern District LWML

“I can do anything through Him who strengthens me” Phil. 4:13

*Together
Serving
the Lord
with
Gladness*

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




COUNSELOR'S
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Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

It is a privilege to serve as the newest LWML counselor for the Eastern District! With Pastor Litke finishing his term as counselor, I am able to continue bringing representation from the Pittsburgh/ Western Pennsylvania region. I am new to this part of the United States and am also grateful to be afforded the chance to get to know fellow brothers and sisters in the Eastern District during my time as an LWML counselor.

I am the pastor at Christ Lutheran Church and School of Forest Hills, PA. We have a very active women's group at Christ – the most active I have seen for some time. We have also been blessed with some younger folks getting involved in mission projects and we hope to continue that trend in the future! My wife, Linda, has always enjoyed her time spent in LWML activities. She was a Young Women's Delegate while we lived in South Dakota. Linda has always promoted the mission of this organization wherever we have been. Who wouldn't?

Linda and I have been married for 23 years. We are both originally from southern Wisconsin. I attended Concordia College in Milwaukee and then went on to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Linda went to college at Concordia in St. Paul, Minnesota for elementary education. If you visited our home, you would meet our adopted children: Miguel (age 12), Jonathan (age 12), David (age 10), and Timothy (age 4). Yes, all boys!

The main topic of the fall retreat this year was **Friendship**. It is important for us to work together as friends. Friends share common goals. Friends forgive each other for mistakes. Friends allow each other to be who they really are – no masks. Friends - as the very word illustrates - are there until the "end." What better way for us to work together for the good of others and the glory of God? Satan makes judgments and causes separation. Jesus accepts us as we are and binds us together in one holy family.

It was pointed out during the retreat that most people only have a very few true friends in their life. How many do you have? You have at least one true Friend, with a capital "F." In John chapter 15 Jesus says, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you **friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you." Truly, what a friend we have in Jesus! You are never alone, never separated from the love of your true and heavenly Friend. You can experience even more of that true friendship when you take it and share it with others who also need a friend, helping them to know the comfort and strength you have received from the Lord. Isn't that what the LWML is all about?

It has been great that I have already made some new friends in my short time as counselor. I hope to make many more as we work together serving the Lord with gladness.

***Because He Lives,
Ron Breight, LWML Eastern District Junior Counselor***



A gift from the heart from Eastern District LWML

Darlene Byrns, President, Eastern District presented a check for \$1200 to Linda Gage, Director of Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center to be used for any

need they may have at this time to help further their mission.

I was glad to be able to present this gift. The money was from interest we accumulated from our savings funds. None of the mite money was used.

Mission Grants

2008 RETREAT

GIFTS FROM THE HEART INGATHERING

The 2008 Eastern District LWML Retreat ingathering of mites will be used to fund the current mission grant goal. Generous donations of checks, cash, and coins were placed in the large LWML Mite box throughout the weekend. A total of \$1029.11 was collected. What a blessing all of you are as you serve Him!



GRANT 1 READY TO BE PAID

The Eastern District LWML currently has enough Mite money to pay Grant No. 1. We are currently awaiting the necessary paperwork. We will need to raise \$4,800 in Mites before we can pay our next grant. Grants 2 & 3 were tied and will need to be paid together. Please give generously to Mites so we can reach these goals quickly.

KEEP
US
UPDATED

FROM THE VP OF COMMUNICATIONS—DONNA COLEMAN

October is the month for elections in many of our zones and societies, and District VP of Communications Donna Coleman will be waiting for reports of any changes.

ZONE LEVEL: If you have a change of officers, either the Zone President or Corresponding Secretary should forward the new information to Donna as soon as possible. Please include names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. This will help in keeping the District directory as current as humanly possible!

ZONE PRESIDENTS: Please let Donna know also how the societies in your zone should be considered, namely whether they are "active" or in some cases "inactive" or perhaps even non-existent in some congregations. One way to determine if a society is "active" is if they contribute mites on a regular basis to the zone treasurer. There are currently over 50 congregations within our District with no active LWML participation. Perhaps zone presidents could spread the word about Individual LWML memberships to these congregations. LWML catalogue has Individual Membership Guidelines available (Item 14345 in LWML catalogue) which describes procedures for obtaining individual LWML membership). Sometimes we lose LWML sisters who transfer to other congregations without societies, and perhaps there are women in some of these 50 or so congregations who would like to become a part of the LWML. Think about the opportunity to involve more women in LWML!

SOCIETY LEVEL: If there has been a change in the President or LWML Representative in your congregation, please forward that information also.

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly – Any increases in subscriptions or changes in address of where the Quarterlies should be shipped should be sent to Donna Coleman at any time. (Just a reminder, decreases in orders can only be made once a year with the next deadline of April 1, 2009.) Hopefully societies have been able to cover the cost of their 2008-09 subscriptions or will do so before March 2009.

STATISTICS: It's never too early to begin keeping track of the statistics that are required by National LWML. Society presidents need to be ready to report to their zone president in two years how many women are involved with their local LWML and Zone Presidents, in turn, need to report on number of zone activities for the biennium July 2007 through June 2009.

Send all information to: Mrs. Donna Coleman
VP of Communications
542 Burritt Road, Hilton, NY 14468
E-mail: dcoleman851@aol.com (LWML in subject line, please)



GREETINGS FROM THE VP-GOSPEL OUTREACH SERVANT RESOURCES—REBECCA BESSELL

As fall approaches and we see the changes in the landscape and weather and all of our societies and zone activities become activated again after our summer break I think of the changes that I have gone through in the first two years in office as the District VP. It has been challenging at times but always rewarding when I think about the things I have experienced and how it has strengthened my life with increased bible study and prayer. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the District

LWML in this position.

I would like to challenge each of you to think about your involvement and to ask yourself if now is time to use the talents and gifts God has given you. Some of those gifts you may not even be aware you have but what a comfort to know you are never alone. When I struggle I refer to Romans 5 and Joshua 1 and remind myself I can do this with the help of the Lord.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord: and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

The Eastern District of the LWML is continually looking to seek out those who wish to share their talents and interest as we together "Serve the Lord with Gladness" I have included the talent survey sheet (found on page 4) which I ask that you take a moment and prayerfully consider how you can serve.

You may return this to me via US mail, 7048 Benedict Beach Road, Hamlin, NY 14464 or email (rlb54@rochester.rr.com). I would love to hear from you. Thank you and pray as the seasons change so do we. God is good!

Linked together in Christ,
Rebecca Bessell

Upcoming Events

Spring 2009	Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting
June 25-28, 2009	LWML National Convention Portland, Oregon
Sept. 18-20, 2009	LWML Retreat Camp Pioneer Speaker Jan Struck
June 17-20, 2010	Eastern District Convention Pittsburgh, PA

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS



A special thank you to all who have gathered cancelled stamps for the Canadian Bible Society during the past months. After a delivery of 35 pounds was made this past May, 2008 to the Hamilton, Ontario headquarters, a letter was received from Rev. Dennis

Hillis, Director of the South Central Ontario District. It reads as follows:

"We would like to thank you for the used stamps which were brought to the office of the Canadian Bible Society. After the sale of these used stamps, the money is used to translate and distribute God's Word to people around the world who are hungry to read the Bible in their own language. Without the faithful support of God's people, it would be difficult for the Society to continue in this work. Thank you so much for caring."

More recently, on July 28, 2008, an additional 28 pounds (mainly from the Pittsburgh Zone) were taken to the Hamilton headquarters. You are encouraged to "continue the good work" on behalf of this particular mission outreach. Your efforts and time are very much appreciated.


Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2

Be a Good Steward and Help Us Share

Society Presidents and LWML Representatives: If you are a society President or LWML contact person for your church, you are a very important person in our distribution of "The Link". This is not intended to be just your personal copy. You have been designated as our contact for your church. Either copy this issue for your society members, 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. **This is our only form of communication and we are counting on you to get the information out. If you feel your copy should be sent to a different address, please inform the Editor so she can update her records. Thank you for your help.**

The Link is now available in e-mail format. If you would like to receive a copy via e-mail, please let me know and I will add you to my list of e-mail recipients.
Bev Wicher-Editor Bevajw@roadrunner.com

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:

NEW CO-CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED

President Darlene Byrns announced that Ruth Wurster has agreed to be Co-chair of Mission Grants and Terri Devan has agreed to be Co-chair of Human Care. Beth Scholl is to be Co-chair of Leadership Development.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDS FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND STRUCTURE CO-CHAIRMEN

Co-chairs for Christian Life and Structure have yet to be filled. Come join us as we Serve the Lord With Gladness. This is not a big time commitment, we only meet twice a year. If you are interested or want more information on what is involved contact Darlene Byrns or the respective Committee chairmen, contact information is on page 7 of this Link.

2009 RETREAT— Central New York North will be the host Zone and the speaker will be Jan Struck. The theme will be from 1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your Cares On Him".

YWR'S FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION

We were reminded that Young Women Rep names nominated for the National LWML Convention need to be in by Dec. 1st of this year. Each Zone should nominate one and then one will be selected from our District to attend. The ages are 22-35. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact President Darlene Byrns.

News

NIAGARA ZONE

Niagara Zone Fall Rally
 Saturday, October 11, 2008, 10:00-2:30
 St. Mark Lutheran Church
 1135 Oliver St., North Tonawanda

Wellness Theme: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, (s)he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)
 Speakers: Dr. Joy Staggers-Deberny and

Parish Nurse Mary Dries Ingathering: School supplies for Afghanistan children as suggested by Chaplain Alex Knowles, currently deployed in Afghanistan Potluck luncheon with entertainment Elections of Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Christian Life Chairman, Counselor and Delegate/Alternate to 2009 National LWML Convention.

From Around
the Zones

BUFFALO AND NIAGARA ZONES

DONATIONS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Since 1945, United States Lutherans have provided material resources - quilts, kits, and soap - for people in need throughout the world. Women, children and men deeply appreciate these gifts of comfort.

Lutheran Churches in the Buffalo and Niagara areas have worked hard at sewing quilts, putting together kits, and buying soap. On May 15 twenty-one churches delivered their donations to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Sanborn. 1243 quilts, 71 school kits, 56 health kits, 7 layettes, and 465 pounds of soap were loaded by volunteers onto a large trailer owned by Kent Coble, who also volunteered his time driving to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland. The Niagara and Erie Chapters of Thrivent paid expenses involved in making the delivery to Maryland.

In the past 18 years 23402 quilts plus soap and kits have been donated by these congregations. "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8

GENESEE ZONE

The Genesee Zone hosted an LWML Autumn Seminar on October 4th entitled *Seasons of a Woman's Life* at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mendon, New York. *Seasons of a Woman's Life* is a seminar that explored the developmental and spiritual issues of life's stages. This combination of lecture and discussion based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 was led by Patricia M. Pakan, Ph.D. Pat, a dynamic, entertaining and experienced lecturer, is a former member of St. Mark and resident of Mendon. Pat's energetic, heartfelt style of presentation provides accurate information that is applicable to daily life. In addition to the main presentation, there was a special guest appearance by "nice Jewish girl" turned Christian Ethel Chadwick. Ethel's radio ministry called **Blessings and Bangs** (Saturdays 8-9AM on 990AM and 102.7 FM WRCI) is a ministry of Messianic Congregation Shema Yisreal, a congregation of Jews and Gentiles who have found faith in Messiah Yeshua.

A presentation of the **mission grants** approved at the recent LWML Eastern District Convention along with generation of ideas for societies to raise **Mites** to fund these grants rounded out the program.



TOP TEN CLUES THAT YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY MIGHT NEED AN MMV* CONSULTANT

(With apologies to David Letterman, we offer the following concerns.)

You know your local society may need an MMV* Consultant if:

10. When someone mentions "going On-line", you all think about laundry rather than communication technology.
9. When you select new officers, it has to do with rotation among the four of you rather than election from the 40 or more.
8. When you mention having a mixer, and the group thinks "for coffee cake batter", rather than "assimilation into your ladies' group".
7. When you ask someone from church if she's read "the Quarterly", and she's thinking "stock portfolio" rather than "mission awareness".
6. Strong support has to do with panty hose rather than missionaries and seminarians.
5. Your group's only "mission outreach" is the bake sale at the county fair.
4. Telling the "good news" means the Tigers have won a double header rather than sharing the truth about Jesus to the kids in the neighborhood.
3. When you discuss growth of the group you are talking about waistlines rather than spirituality.
2. You ask someone from the congregation about "Mites", and they start a discussion about allergic reactions rather than mission projects.
1. You sincerely desire to assist women in creating and enhancing sensitive, relevant and appealing ministries in your local congregation.

Written by national MMV consultants. – This was shared at the Rochester convention. - Please contact Eastern District MMV consultants Claire Carlson at patchtroop546@aol.com or 716-649-4678 or Jacqui Green at 215-473-1421, jacquig2@verizon.net We would love to come to help your group.

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The next deadline is December 1, 2008

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 and also in the LWML E-News.



The 33rd Biennial Convention

June 25-28, 2009

Portland, Oregon

Theme: *Look to the Hills...God Reigns*

Psalm 121:1-2 (NIV) *I lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?*

My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Isaiah 52:7 (NIV) *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

Look to the Hills!

LOOK! Look for the LWML to meet next June under the banner “Look to the Hills... God Reigns” — the theme of the 33rd Biennial Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention in Portland, Oregon, June 25-28, 2009. It has been 56 years since a national LWML convention has been held in Portland, so you should be booking planes, trains, automobiles (and definitely chartered buses) to attend. It’s the opportunity of a lifetime! Begin making plans now, reserve the date and find some travel friends. Visit www.lwml.org for more information

Post Convention Cruise News

The response to the invitation by Azumano Travel to take the post convention cruise to Alaska following the Portland Convention has been outstanding. We have now filled our initial group of cabins and the travel agency has been able to secure additional ones for us. Space is still available! Call Lisa now (800-634-2306) to avoid disappointment. Rates may be higher than first offered. Join your sisters for a trip of a lifetime! Check the LWML Web site www.lwml.org under Convention for more information.

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