



MATTHEW 5:14-16

# THE CANDLESTICK

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2006

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Triune Zone has been diligently working on preparations for the 17th Biennial Convention to be held May 6-7, 2006 at the Staten Island Hotel, Staten Island. Janis McDaniels, the Vice President of Gospel Outreach will bring greetings from the national LWML. Pastor Neil Mittelstaedt, the Atlantic District Mission Executive, will be the keynote speaker.

Information packets containing bylaw amendments, biographies of those seeking office, and mission grant proposals were recently sent to all societies. A worksheet for voting on the mission grants was also included in this packet. Please carefully read over all the materials and let your delegate know how you would like them to vote. Each society may have two delegates. The Board of Directors encourages the societies to financially assist the delegates, if possible. If you have any questions prior to convention, do not hesitate to contact your zone president or any member of the Executive Committee.

We need to complete funding the mission grants that were voted on at the last convention. We have been praying for these grants and would like to see that they receive the funds they requested. Please send your mites in as soon as you collect them. Every penny counts!

Remember, Christ is beside us, no matter where we are or what we are doing. Christ is behind us, gently nudging us to do His will. Christ is before us, leading us to do the work of the LWML. To God be the Glory!

Maureen Consiglio

## GOOD SEARCH: GOOD FOR MISSIONS

This information was received from LWML President Linda Reiser.

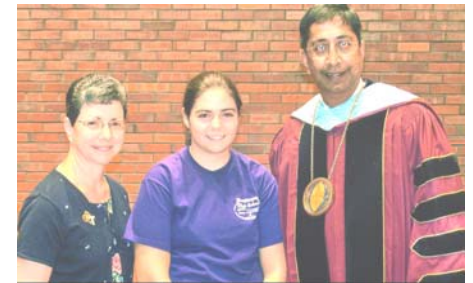
Want to earn money for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League AND search the Internet at the same time? It's possible using GoodSearch.

Instead of "Googling" the next time you use a search engine, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and type "LWML" and select LWML St. Louis in the "I'm supporting" box. Each time a search is initiated, an estimated 1 cent is given to LWML. This sounds like a small amount, but multiple searches by many people add up.

Much like mites add up to produce significant results, so can GoodSearch generate money for missions. It's even possible to add GoodSearch to your Internet browser's toolbar. Follow directions on the site to install. Tell your friends and happy searching!

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

This year's recipient of the Atlantic District's Lutheran Women's Missionary League/Lutheran Women in Mission scholarship was Amy Rivers from Poughkeepsie, NY. She attends All Saints Lutheran Church in Lagrangeville. Maureen Consiglio presented the scholarship to Amy at the Opening Service of Concordia College, Bronxville in September 2005.



*Maureen Consiglio, Amy Rivers and Dr. Viji George, President of Concordia College, Bronxville*

## SEARCH YOUR MEMORY

The LWML scholarship was first awarded in 1984. The following information is missing from our records:

1984-1985	name & church of recipient
1985-1986	name & church of recipient
1991-1992	Liann Greener, need church
1992-1993	name & church of recipient
1993-1994	name & church of recipient
1995-1997	Patricia Mann, need church

If you can help with any of this information, please contact Maureen Consiglio.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” Mark 16: 1-3

It had been a hard three days. They were tired, somber, and hurting. There was shock and confusion over how their lives had been turned upside down over the past few days. The Sabbath had been one of sorrow and mourning that knew no rest. The ladies in spite of this kept on going. The tomb beckoned them; they trudged on in order to do what was necessary to honor the Lord one last time. There were many burdens that weighed them down yet they still had one last obstacle to worry about, “Who will roll away the stone?”

As we enter the season of Lent, we too might have been going through a few hard days, weeks or months. There may have been some things in our lives that have shocked and confused us. We may feel as though our world has been turned upside down. Our worship experience may be difficult because we are overwhelmed with sorrow and mourning. Life may seem to give us no rest. We continue to go on and do what we have to do in our lives, but burdens weigh us down. We might be so beat up by life that we might be on the verge of losing hope. So many things may have blown up in our faces that we see nothing but obstacles in front of us. We cry, “Why Lord?” We in our despair pray, “Who will roll away our stones?”

The women going to the tomb seemed to have little expectation or hope. God had a lot in store for them. He knew their worries and the obstacle that confronted them. The Lord had the answer to their question already in motion. The women arrived at the tomb and, “when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large had been rolled away.” Their prayers were answered even before they were spoken. There were more surprises in store for them. They entered the tomb and found

not a stone cold body but an angel dressed in white. He had good news for them. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!” Jesus was not dead, but alive! Jesus had conquered sin, death and Satan. The saying written in Isaiah has come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” Paul continues, “Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Are there times in our lives when we have little expectation for a better tomorrow? When life has kicked us in the teeth and we feel that we are at the end of our rope, it is our faith that sustains us. “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” The same Jesus who died and rose again is there to help us through the difficult days. He who bore the cross for us will help us not to be crushed by the crosses that we bare in life. Christ says to us, “Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest for your souls.” As we travel to the valley of the shadow of death in this Lenten season, let your Easter hope sustain you. God does work everything together for the good! Jesus who was raised from death to life promises us a new full life. We have comfort in the knowledge that we have a Comforter. “He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.” Jesus helps us to overcome all things. Amen.

Rev. David Demera

## STAMPS STAMPS STAMPS

Thanks to all of you who have been donating stamps as part of our District project. The response has been great. We hope to have enough stamps to send a shipment to the dealer in a couple of months, so keep those stamps coming in. If you have any questions, please contact our Stamp Chairman, Linda Bizzaro at 631-583-0046. Remember – the stamps we want are commemorative, foreign and stamps over 39 cents. Just leave them on the envelope and send them to me or bring them to a meeting and they will find their way to me.

God Bless

Honey Pabst, VP-Human Care

## MITE ALERT MITE ALERT



Martin Luther once said, "We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give him praise, thanks, and honor."

Two years ago, at the Atlantic District Convention, we voted to support nine mission projects. These mission projects fit the most important criteria that we have, and that is to help spread God's Word to those who have not yet heard of His saving grace.

As of the writing of this article, we have collected enough mites to pay for the first six mission projects. We have also collected \$3,442.62 towards mission grant #7, FOR A TOTAL OF \$32,786. This is the backbone of the LWML – mites.

I want to thank God and all of you for all the mite offerings, the bake sales, the yard sale profits, and anything else you did to help God's people. But... our commitment of two years ago is not yet accomplished. We still need \$7,630 to pay ALL OF OUR mission projects, and we only have until MARCH 31, 2006.

Mission Grant #8 is for the Bethany Mission Center, an Atlantic District mission, and Mission Grant #9 is for Processing Eyeglasses for the Mission Field – MOST Ministries, both very worthy grants. We made a commitment two years ago, and I know with God's help and the generosity of all of you, we will meet our goal and *help to further God's Kingdom.*

God's blessings,

Ginny Wirsing, VP-Mission Outreach



## HUGS



A hug is defined as:

To clasp or hold closely, especially in one's arms; embrace or enfold as in affection.

To ascribe steadfastly to; cherish.

To keep, remain, or be situated close to.

To be pleased with; congratulate.

To comfort; console.

In my life since being diagnosed with fibromyalgia, I have discovered the many facets of a HUG.

There are many descriptions of a hug as one can see from the definitions listed from the dictionary above. Living with hugs in your life, when you go to pain management to achieve the best health care possible, has been one of the things that has kept me going.

I have always been a person who freely gives hugs for any and all occasions. A hug says, "Hello, how are you". It says, "I am happy to see you". Other hugs say "Congratulations", "I'm sorry", or "I am with you during a difficult time".

Living from one day to the next, with no idea of how I might feel the next day, even if I feel fine today, has been a difficult thing to do. The symptoms vary from day to day, some days more, some less. How do you cope with this constant change, never understanding what a day might be like?

My faith, strength and courage in living with fibromyalgia is pretty much summed up with HUGS. They must be given and received as well. There are all types of hugs and all are meaningful. I have never appreciated receiving certain kinds of hugs till now. Now they mean the world to me.

What kinds of hugs have I received?

Many and all varieties. The gratitude and thankfulness that I have for them is indescribable. A little hug just means so very much when one is in pain.

I would like to share some examples of hugs with you:

My husband isn't a talkative person. But when he knows I am in pain, he is willing to clean, cook, do laundry or whatever needs to be done without complaint. What love this hug is!

My daughters are adept at putting my TEMS unit in place and doing what needs to be done when suddenly I need help when Dad isn't available. They have improved their hugs.

A special friend has shown me that I have the courage and strength to do what is required to be as healthy a person as I can be. Sometimes she hugs me in person – she has such strong hands from violin playing. Other times, she hugs me in her heart when I cry that I can't stand the spasm, headache or whatever the problem is at the time. She has a special place in her heart that is reserved for hugs for me. When I call that I need a hug, she knows I am having a tough time coping. She has special love for giving herself.

Several friends send cards with uplifting messages, prayers and notes. Receiving a lovely card or e-mail when you are having a bad day is such a great hug. Other friends call regularly to share, pray and visit. We share our love and faith, hugging each other.

Going to Integrative Pain Management has been a terrific experience. I would not have the life I have without it. This means seeing the neurologist, physical therapist, massage therapist, psychologist, nutritionist, chiropractor, dermatologist and therapeutic touch person to date. All these health professionals are hugging me with their expertise. They confer to give me the best care possible. Their support and concern is wonderful. My hug to them is to say how much I appreciate what they do for me and of course, give them a BIG HUG on occasion. When I am in tears, they hug me.

The co-workers in my office have been with me through the whole experience of learning to live with fibromyalgia. They have shown such understanding and concern by letting me be alone when I feel the worst. Some

days, I have cried and said, "Give me time, it will be better". And then some of them hug me on their own or if I ask. You don't give up your life by being in pain. By having faith, you go through it with strength and people who give you hugs along the way.

I guess the best thing a hug shows you is that you aren't alone. Sometimes, you do want to be quiet in rest or sleep. But you want people to understand that the person you were before the illness is still the same YOU. You haven't left the body that now is in pain so much. And so you grow in faith to learn that not only is God with you all the time, he is constantly reminding you that your family, friends, co-workers, medical staff, etc. are sharing their love and His with you. What love He has shown us.

And what is prayer but one BIG HUG. We are sharing all our concerns with God and he is responding by answering our prayers. So many, many people have been praying that I will be able to be feeling better and it is such a special feeling to know the love that God sends us through other's hugs.

And there is something to be said about receiving a hug, too. Be gracious and pleased that you are getting a hug. Some people give the most wonderful hugs. You feel they are really sharing their strength with you. Others are wishy-washy and some I have taught to give hugs better. Many of my hugs are to say, "Thank you for taking such good care of me" or "Thanks for being with me".

God put us on this earth to love, share, encourage and support one another. What better way can we do this than by giving a HUG.

Barbara D'Amico  
Queens Zone



On Saturday, October 15, 2005, I attended the Atlantic District LWML Fall Retreat held at the Tuscarora Inn in Mt. Bethel, Pennsylvania.

The theme for the retreat "Lost and Found" focused on the Gospel of Saint Luke Chapter 15. The three parables under consideration were "The Parable of the Lost Sheep", "The Parable of the Lost Coin", and "The Parable of the Lost Son". Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. They are every day truths with spiritual applications. In each of these parables, someone or something was lost, but the most important point is that each was found.

"The Parable of the Lost Son" – I always thought that the son that took his inheritance went away and squandered it was the bad son. Pastor Gerald Coleman, who was the leader for the Bible study, did a great job opening my eyes, explaining it both from a human and a divine perspective.

After the son squandered his inheritance, he was left broke, hungry and with no family. His friends abandoned him because he was broke. He came to his senses, went home and asked his father to forgive him, which the father lovingly did by throwing a big party with his friends.

The older son, who was out in the field working, wasn't notified that his brother came home and the father was having this big celebration. When he came home, heard the music and dancing, he asked one of the servants, "What is going on?" The servant told him his brother is home and the father is having a party for him. He was very angry and did not go inside. The father (Jesus) came out and saw him sulking. He pleaded with him to come join the celebration, but he refused. The father said to him, "All that I own is yours, but my son who was lost is found, he was dead and now he is alive. Come and celebrate." The older son still refused.

The difference between the two sons

is (a) the younger son realized he did something wrong and he asked his father for forgiveness and repented, and (b) the older son did not repent because he did not think he was the bad son. Although he owned everything the father had, he was not grateful. The younger son left his father's house, but the older son broke his father's heart.

In the same way, Jesus rejoices and celebrates when one of us sinners repents. Some of us are like the younger son. We repent and ask Jesus for forgiveness and some of us think we do not need to repent or to ask for forgiveness. As Pastor Coleman said, "Jesus already forgave us on Good Friday when he died on the cross for our sins."

I enjoyed the two skits and the fellowship with other sisters, but the Bible study about the three parables and how Pastor Coleman explained them was awesome. I definitely learned a lot more about the parables. It does not matter how much we sin, the Lord always invites us to come to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. Jesus' love reaches out to all sinners and finds them no matter how they became lost.

This was the first time I attended an LWML Fall Retreat, and definitely will come back for another one.

Redeemer LIPS (Ladies in Prayer and Service) was honored to be asked to do the closing devotion after the Bible study on Saturday. Six members from Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx attended the retreat, and we all had a great and fulfilling day. Thanks be to God.

#### **Your Cross**

Whatever your cross  
 Whatever your pain  
 There will always be sunshine  
 After the rain.  
 Perhaps you may stumble  
 Perhaps even fall  
 But God's always there  
 To help you through it all.

Cecile Walker  
 Bronx-Westchester Zone

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Maureen Consiglio, President  
 25 Windover Lane  
 Coram, NY 11727  
 Phone / Fax: (631) 331-3088  
 E-mail: [freetimetoday@juno.com](mailto:freetimetoday@juno.com)

Honey Pabst, Vice President  
 Human Care  
 386 Grundy Ave., Holbrook, NY 11741  
 Phone: (631) 589-8353  
 E-mail: [arthon@aol.com](mailto:arthon@aol.com)

Deborah Graybosch, Vice President  
 Leader Development  
 130 Pawnee Street  
 Ronkonkoma, NY 11779  
 Phone: (631) 981-9342  
 E-mail: [dgraybosch@optonline.net](mailto:dgraybosch@optonline.net)

Virginia Wirsing, Vice President  
 Mission Outreach  
 4 Garden Lane  
 Yaphank, NY 11980  
 Phone: (631) 924-7106  
 E-mail: [gwirsing@optonline.net](mailto:gwirsing@optonline.net)

Marya Smith, Vice President  
 Spiritual Life  
 1229 Hempstead Road  
 Schenectady, NY 12309  
 Phone: (518) 370-4258  
 E-mail: [mmhtims@aol.com](mailto:mmhtims@aol.com)

Lois Webb, Correspondence Secretary  
 4 Rider Avenue  
 Yonkers, NY 10710  
 Phone: (914) 968-6004  
 E-mail: [lmwebb70@aol.com](mailto:lmwebb70@aol.com)

Linda Knueppel, Recording Secretary  
 107 Sunrise Hill Road  
 Fishkill, NY 12524  
 Phone: (845) 896-6169  
 E-mail: [lmknueppel@optonline.net](mailto:lmknueppel@optonline.net)

Clara Wert, Financial Secretary  
 18 Westland Avenue  
 Queensbury, NY 12804  
 Phone: (518) 793-4835  
 E-mail: [wert@capital.net](mailto:wert@capital.net)

Ethel Lesh, Treasurer  
 585 County Rt. 62  
 Cambridge, NY 12816  
 Phone: (518) 677-8293  
 E-mail: [epllesh@capital.net](mailto:epllesh@capital.net)

# Zone News

## QUEENS



The ladies of St. John's, Glendale, Bible study group sponsor a 10 year old girl from India. Her name is Chitti Boda. They send \$30 a month, and a little extra for special occasions.

Their congregation is also sponsoring another little girl, Raynuka Dharavath.

The ladies first heard about sponsoring a child when Reverend John Bascom, who is from India, came to their church and talked about the project called *Warm Blankets*. He and his wife have 14 girls in their home.

We are happy to be part of this worthy project and to do God's will. The web address is [www.warmblankets.org](http://www.warmblankets.org).

Lillian Stoller

## EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place / Zone / Event / Theme</u>
March 10	7:30 pm	St. John's, Sayville (Suffolk) Prayer Service
March 18	9:30 am	Trinity, Scarsdale (Bronx/Westchester) "Let There be Light" LWML Prayer Service
March 25	9:30 am	St. John's, Holbrook (Suffolk) Ingathering to Support Coalition; Speaker: Amanda Cardone from Suffolk Coalition Against Domestic Violence
April 8	9:30 am	Our Savior, Bronx (Bronx/Westchester) Donations for "Friends & Family of Ebeye Baby Outreach"
April 8	TBA	True Light, New York (Triume) Rev. Raymond Wong
April 29	TBA	St. John's, Williston Park (Nassau/Suffolk) TBA
May 13	TBA	St. John's, College Point (Queens) TBA

# Convention News

## "GIFTS FROM THE HEART" INGATHERING

You are encouraged to bring to our convention one or more of the following in new, unwrapped packages:

- For infants through age 3
  - Receiving blankets
  - Onesies
  - Sweaters, hat, booties
  - Diapers
  - Wash cloths
- For girls or boys, age 11-15
  - Tooth brush in a holder
  - Soap in a soap dish
  - Toiletries in plastic containers
  - Comb and hair brush
  - Face cloth and hand towel

These items are being collected for The New York Foundling Staten Island Campus.

## WORKSHOPS

Three workshops will be offered on Saturday afternoon. They are:

- My Sister's Keeper, presented by Janis McDaniels (on mentoring)
- Life on the Buddy System, presented by Jessica Sauer (for young women)
- Fun and Games, presented by Linda Guterres

The first two workshops will be given concurrently since they target different audiences. The third workshop will be offered to everyone.

## OFFERINGS

There will be two offerings taken at the convention:

- #1 for the Atlantic District LWML Mission Goal for 2006-2008
- #2 for Redeemer Lutheran School, Flushing and *For the Sake of the Church* (This offering will be split)

The mission of *For the Sake of the Church* is to double, by 2010, the number of Lutheran leaders produced by the Concordia University System. The offering will go toward the endowment for this program.

Please make checks payable to Atlantic District LWML.

From:  
Cynthia Barsuhn, Editor  
20 Vanderburgh Road  
Poughuag, NY 12570

*The Candlestick* has a new look!

Visit us online at <http://adlwml.bravehost.com>

We welcome your comments, suggestions, articles, photos, etc.

Send e-mail to [TheCandlestick@verizon.net](mailto:TheCandlestick@verizon.net)

or mail to the Editor, Cynthia Barsuhn, 20 Vanderburgh Road, Poughquag, NY 12570

Submission deadline for the next issue is April 1 (no foolin')

