



MATTHEW 5:14-16

THE CANDLESTICK

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

2nd ISSUE 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Christ Before Me—leading my way to the convention.

Christ Beside Me—supporting me during our sessions.

Christ Behind Me—gently urging me to go forward, continuing to serve Him with gladness.



I'm sure many of you reading this newsletter have been involved in the preparations for a wedding. That is sort of how it felt getting ready for the convention. There were many days, weeks and months leading up to the BIG DAY, the actual convention. The committees had performed their tasks. Now was the time to experience the fruits of their labor.

We opened our convention with worship, praising the Lord for His goodness and grace. Without Him, we could do nothing.

Much of the business of the meeting was accomplished the first day. Officers

were elected, bylaws were amended, a new total budget of \$66,100 was approved and mission grants were selected.

I had the pleasure of having breakfast with the YWRs (young women reps) who were at convention for the first time. They are a very exuberant group of women with many ideas. I hope that we will see more of them. Jessica Sauer, the Young Women's Advocate, presented a workshop for the YWRs.

Janis McDaniels, the LWML representative, gave an overview of the LWML and also presented a workshop on mentoring. Linda Guteres presented a workshop on ideas to help your society grow. The Rev. Neil Mittelstaedt told the assembly about the various missionaries that are in the Atlantic District. He shared many

humorous stories. The Rev. William Meyer from Concordia College, William Kletecka from LCEF (who gave us those wonderful tote bags) and The Rev. Dr. David Benke also brought greetings.

The two days went by so fast. Now it's time start again.

This convention was put together with a lot of TEAMwork—Together Everyone Accomplishes More. We will continue to work as a team—encouraging, praying, praising and collecting mites for missions. Why not join the team? There are various positions in which you can serve on the Board. If interested, please contact me. There is no greater "job" than serving the Lord with gladness.

Maureen Consiglio
President



2006 -2008 Newly Elected Officers

Left to right: Pastor William Wrede, Jr. Pastoral Counselor; Deb Graybosch, VP-Spiritual Life; Linda Guteres, Corres.Secretary; Alice Schuman, VP-Leader Development, Maureen Consiglio, President

MISSION GRANTS 2006 - 2008

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our 17th Biennial Atlantic District LWML Convention was held this past May 6-7, 2006 and your delegates voted on a new **total 2006-2008 budget of \$66,100**. Of this \$66,100 total budget amount, **15% (\$9,915)** will remain in the District Inreach Account; **25% (\$16,525)** will be sent to LWML (formally known as National) to support the mission grants that were voted on at the LWML Tampa Convention last June, 2005. **The remaining 60% (\$39,660) will support the Atlantic District LWML mission grants that were voted on, by your delegates, for this 2006-2008 biennium.**

As the "mites" are collected, the mission grants will be paid in the following order:

<input type="checkbox"/> St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Food Pantry Mission Outreach	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> SonRise Lutheran Ministries – Children's Camperships	\$4,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Preparing God's Children for Life	\$3,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging Young Christian Evangelism	\$7,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Our Savior's Needy Families	\$8,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Ministry	\$7,965
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening a New Outreach Center in New York City	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Our Community Outreach School's Music Ministry	\$4,592

I will be highlighting each mission grant in the next two years so that you know exactly what the funds will be used for and be able to pass this information on to others.

I pray for God's blessings on all the women of the Atlantic District LWML. I ask that as you collect your "mites" in your mite box each day, please pray for each of our mission grants selected. "Mites" can do mighty things, but in conjunction with prayer, there is no stopping what our coins can do.

In loving service to Him,
Ginny Wirsing
VP, Mission Outreach



MISSION GRANT #1

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Food Pantry Mission Outreach - \$2,500

St. John's Lutheran Church in Holbrook, NY has a food pantry mission outreach program which is growing in demand. They serve those in the community who require assistance due to low incomes, disabilities, broken families, and no housing. The mission goal is to provide groceries for one week's relief along with spiritual counseling and support. The funds will be used to purchase food, baby care products, school supplies, limited financial support and Christian literature focusing on finding strength in the Lord through troubled times. The funds would also be used for additional shelving to store the supplies before distribution.

Ginny Wirsing
VP, Mission Outreach

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ATLANTIC DISTRICT LWML 17TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION REPORT



The Atlantic District LWML 17th Biennial Convention was held on May 6-7, 2006 at the Staten Island Hotel, Staten Island, NY. The theme “Christ Behind Me, Beside Me, Before Me” as based on Hebrews 13:8, 20-21:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen”.

After the banner procession, President Maureen Consiglio opened the convention. With the new two day format, every minute was filled with convention business, Bible studies, workshops and singing.

Janet McDaniels, LWML Vice President, Gospel Outreach brought greetings from the LWML. She posed the question, “Where is LWML?” She reminded us that LWML is a united team, serving worldwide anywhere there is a need. She encouraged us to unite in prayer every Monday at noon and attend meetings and conventions.

The two Bible studies were presented by Rev. John Young, Senior Pastoral Counselor and Rev. David Demera, Junior Pastoral Counselor. Rev. Young’s Bible study was entitled “Along the Way”. The word “way” has many meanings in different languages and in the Bible. Ultimately, Jesus is the way. He said “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me”. (John 14:6) Rev. Demera’s Bible study was taken from the book of John. Using our convention theme he discussed “Christ Beside Me: John 2:1-11, “Christ Before Me” John 2:11 and “Christ Behind Me: John 20:1-18.

The Atlantic District is fulfilling its vision of diversity, generational and ethnic. Generational diversity by encouraging Young Women Representatives (YWR’s) to attend District and LWML conventions to learn about LWML. These young women are our future leaders. Ethnic

diversity through Heart to Heart Sisters. This group was started in 2003 to encourage more ethnic women to learn the mission and goals of LWML, become leaders and spread God’s love in their cultures.

The delegates were busy with convention business. They elected officers, selected eight mission grants for the next biennium, and approved amendments to the District bylaws.

Our keynote speaker, Rev. Neil Mittlestaedt, Mission Executive Atlantic District, gave an overview of the work of the Atlantic District Mission Society. The Society is currently involved in Gospel work in many different languages and cultures in New York State. He asked for our prayers, encouragement and financial support for our missionaries.

Rev. William Meyer brought greetings from Concordia College, Bronxville. Thirty to forty percent of Concordia students are Lutheran. Fifty-one students are from the Atlantic District. He asked us to remember Concordia in our personal and congregational prayers, and encourage students to attend Concordia College.

Rev. Dr. David H. Benke, President of the Atlantic District, greetings was informative. He stated that pastors are getting younger. Twenty-five percent of Missouri Synod pastors are under 25 years of age. We have eight new pastors in the Atlantic District. The Missouri Synod has a variety of programs to prepare young and mature men for the ministry.

After two busy and Christ-centered days, we returned home knowing that Christ is always with us.

Behind Us, Beside Us, Before Us

Moments With God

Happy Moments, Praise God
Difficult Moments, Seek God
Quiet Moments, Worship God
Painful Moments, Trust God
Every Moment, Thank God

*Irene Thompson
Bronx-Westchester Zone*

PAST PRESIDENTS AT THE CONVENTION



Left to right: Nancy Graf Peters (1998-2002),
Julia Draper (1986-1990), Marya Smith (1982-1986)

YOUNG WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

It was an honor to be selected as a Young Woman Representative from the Bronx-Westchester Zone at the Atlantic District Convention last month. It was a great opportunity to intermingle with and learn from other women who have similar interests as myself.

During a breakout session, Jessica Sauer, our Young Woman Advocate, led us in an activity and discussion about what it means to be a young Christian woman in this world. All of us were so involved in the discussion that we worked right through the second session! We discussed what

LWML can give to us, and what we can give to LWML. I was also touched at how welcoming everyone was. The Young Women Representatives wore Hawaiian Leis around our necks. I can't even count the number of times a woman would come up to me and say "I'm so glad that you are here". We were included in the presentation of the in-gathering offering and even were able to participate in a skit inviting everyone to the National Convention. (I was the one with the pink "rock" on my finger!)

For me, the convention was moving, informative, and refreshing. I learned about the inner-workings of LWML, how to be a delegate, and most importantly, that the ladies of LWML sure do know how to praise our Lord and Savior with fun and enthusiasm. Thank you for allowing me to participate in such a worthy organization. I'll see you at the next event!

*Heather L. Palkewick
Hearts and Hands
Our Saviour Lutheran Church,
Bronx, NY*



Young Women Representatives (YWR)

Left to right: Jessica Sauer, YW Advocate; Michele Erikson, Suffolk; Narda Seoprasad, Bronx/Westchester; Pauline Flowers, Bronx/Westchester; Twila Evanson, Triune; Heather Palkewick, Bronx/Westchester

CONVENTION INGATHERING

CHANGE..... How that word can sometimes send shudders through all of us. Well, change didn't faze our fearless convention committee as they "dove in" and pulled off a wonderful two day experience for us. My thanks to all for their hard work. We had time to pray, to sing and to laugh with each other. We renewed old friendships and made new friends too.

I was overwhelmed with the response from all of you to our ingathering requests. You reached into your hearts and pockets and brought an abundance of items for the New York Foundling, Staten Island Services. Julia Draper, God

bless her, spent approximately seven hours counting all the items and sorting them into categories. When all was said and done, it amounted to over 2,000 items. I am humbled by your generosity and give thanks to God for the blessings that you are. You heard what God's Word tells us about loving one another and you too, "dove right in." May you continue to reach out to others who are in need and share God's love in all you do.

May your summer be filled with many blessings as you refresh and refuel with warm weather plans with family and friends.

Serving with gladness,
*Honey Pabst
Vice President Human Care*



Left to right:
Julia Draper, Marya Smith

FROM OUR JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR



Even during a mild winter, and this past winter certainly seemed to be a mild one, the ground appears to be so barren. It's hard to imagine that there is anything living or growing beneath the surface. A beautiful spring seems unlikely when gardens give no hint of their potential. But, just like clockwork, the days begin to warm and soon bulbs send shoots to the surface and buds on trees seem to literally explode with intricate flowers and foliage. If plants could talk, I think I would have a great deal to learn from them as I consider my role as the new Junior Pastoral Counselor for the Atlantic District LWML. While I've never been in this role before, past experience with the LWML tells me that the potential to see beautiful and powerful things happen is certainly on the horizon!

When I came to the Atlantic District six years ago, straight from Concordia Seminary-Saint Louis, I felt as vulnerable as those first tender shoots a seed sends to the surface. Even

with 15 years of experience as an interpreter for the deaf, I had never been a pastor. Even with eight years of higher education and a vicarage that took me to California and Washington, D.C., there were still thoughts that perhaps I had finally bitten off more than I could chew. But, just as God sends rain and sunshine to make it possible for a young plant to grow, His Holy Spirit equipped me for things beyond my ability to imagine

I'm convinced that God has tremendous plans for the LWML and, by your selecting me to serve with you, I'm thankful for the opportunity to be involved at this time. So many faithful servants have spread God's precious message of salvation to the ends of the earth. Have you wondered what God's plans might be for you, your congregation, and the LWML? God, in His time, will reveal His plan for each of us as we continue to be His servants here and at this time.

God bless you!
Pastor Wrede

IN MEMORIAM



On February 14, 2006, our sister Margaret B. Diggs received her heavenly crown. Margaret was a member of The English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, in St. Albans. She served as vice president of the Queens Zone and held several positions on the Atlantic District LWML Board of Directors. She touched many lives and will be missed by all who knew her.

JESUS, OUR LEADER



Our first rule in all things must be to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.” (Heb. 2:2) What can we learn about leadership from Jesus?

He prayed to His Father continually. In that heavenly contact Jesus found strength and direction. Prayer at the beginning of a task, during the performance of it and when it has been carried out will give us that vital connection we must have to “do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Eph. 2:10)

He chose a team of people of various personalities and talents. He knew they’d have some problems in adjusting to each other. Perhaps He even considered that to be a part of their training: if you’re going to become “fishers of men,” (Mk. 1:17) you have to learn how to deal with all kinds of people.

Jesus modeled the behavior He desired to develop in His team. He was patient, forgiving, gentle and compassionate: a thoroughly humane man. At the same time He was uncompromising in confronting evil and dedicated to doing His Father’s will.

Jesus spent a lot of time in conversation with His disciples. He shared His feelings, ideas and plans with them. They didn’t always latch on to what He was saying right away, but He continued to talk to them about what He knew was important for them to know.

Despite their shortcomings Jesus delegated responsibility to the people on His team. When they were going into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, Jesus told them to look for “a man carrying a jar of water.” (Mk. 14:13) But He didn’t micromanage the preparations for what was to be the greatest feast ever, remembered in detail two millennia later. On an earlier occasion He sent 70 of His disciples out on their own as missionaries. He gave them some

general directions on how to proceed and then released them to go about their task. He was able to graciously allow others to do things: He didn’t have to supervise every detail personally.

As leaders in LWML, we are privileged to look to Jesus to inspire our words and actions. We follow Him with hearts grateful for the example He gives us. We rest in Him, gaining courage to continue even when obstacles confront us. Jesus shows us His Way and walks with us as we go forward.

Alice J. Schuman
VP, Leader Development
Atlantic District LWML

THE WAY WE WALK



Have you ever really thought about it? I attended an awards ceremony the

other evening and was struck by how differently everyone walks. We all put one step in front of another and we each have our own style. What is the same is that we are all going someplace. Sometimes we know the way, and sometimes we need a map to find our destination.

In our faith walk, we each walk a little differently too and not only by our physical walk. Sometimes we know the path that we want to take, and sometimes we need a map. How blessed we are that God has given us the Bible as our map to guide our way. In Psalm 86:11 we read, “Teach me your way, O Lord; and I will walk in your truth”. What a comfort that is. To be assured that we have someone who cares so much for us that he will always be there to teach us and show us the way. Even when we take a wrong turn, God shows his love by bringing us back to the way we should be going. In Luke 15 Jesus told us the story of the lost sheep. The shepherd would leave his flock in search of his lost sheep and then rejoice with his friends when he found it. This is what Jesus wants us all to know. His love

for us is so great, so that not one of us should be lost. He will always be there to help us find the way we should go. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life”. (John 14:6)

Think about babies when they are first learning to walk. They are not very sure of themselves and many times they fall down. They pick themselves up and keep trying until they are stronger and can take several steps. Sometimes we are like this too. When our direction isn’t clear, we falter in our steps and become unsure. Like a baby, we can keep trying because God has provided that assurance that he will always be there for us, lifting us up.

So remember, whatever steps you take in your daily walk, our Lord and Savior is there with you. May your walk be a joyous one.

Honey Pabst
VP, Human Care
Atlantic District LWML



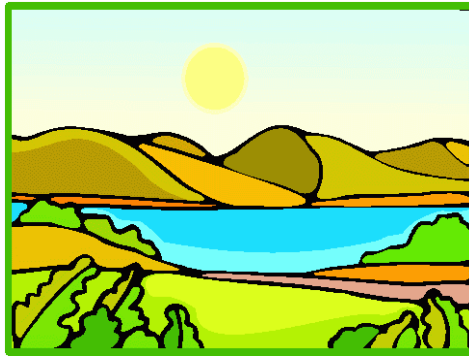
WORTH REPEATING..... GOOD SEARCH: GOOD FOR MISSIONS

Since we first told you about GoodSearch, in *The Candlestick's* 1st Quarter 2006, the “hits” on goodsearch.com have really added up. Below is a history:

January	74	\$.74
February	7,224	\$ 72.24
March	17,948	\$ 179.48
April	21,426	\$ 214.26
May	26,727	\$ 267.27

Keep spreading the word! Remember that rather than “Googling”, 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.

ATLANTIC DISTRICT LWML RETREAT
“From Campground to Mountaintop –
A Unique Camping Experience”



When: October 13 – 15, 2006

Where: Tuscarora Retreat Center
Mt. Bethel, PA.

Retreat Leader: Jan Brunette –Author of several books, including “For Heaven’s Sake - Finding Self-esteem at the Foot of the Cross”

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

And so we know and rely on the love that God has for us. God is love. Who ever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
1 John 4: 15-16

For information please contact: Deb Graybosch, VP Spiritual Life at: dgraybosch@optonline.net or call: (631) 981-9342

SUFFOLK ZONE EVENTS

June 29 Nassau/Suffolk 2008 Convention Meeting

Sept 23 Suffolk Social "High Tea"

Oct 21 Suffolk Zone One Day Mini-Retreat

For further information, contact Ginny Wirsing, Suffolk Zone President at gwirsing@optonline.net

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

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

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Submission deadline for the next issue is August 1

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