



# SUFFOLK SON SHINE

**ONLINE NEWSLETTER OF THE SUFFOLK ZONE LWML**

April 2007

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

Welcome!  
Counselor's Corner  
Message from the President  
Walking with Jesus (Devotion)  
From the Editor

Atlantic District LWML News  
Coming Events  
Mite News  
Cormaria Registration Form



**Dear Friends:**

**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! May the joy of Easter and the triumph over sin and death be with all of you!**

Deborah Graybosch  
[dgraybosch@optonline.net](mailto:dgraybosch@optonline.net)

Donna McDonald  
[Bok2Rok@verizon.net](mailto:Bok2Rok@verizon.net)

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER



*'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'* - Luke 20:17 (ESV)

It seems to me that the start of Spring brings a renewed interest in sports. The improvement of the weather encourages us to get outside, move around, and maybe even, exercise. There is also in the Spring, the return of my favorite sport, baseball, and of course, my favorite team, the New York Yankees!

For different reasons, sports are an interest for many people. Probably, the most interesting and exciting part of sports is the “comeback” story. Stories of overcoming adversity and the odds give hope and inspiration to us. Some of the great comeback stories of recent sports history are the 1986 Mets (with the famous Bill Buckner error), the 2004 Red Sox (that one really kills me), George Foreman’s return as an old man to become the heavyweight boxing champ, and more recently, Tiger Wood’s comeback to win right after his father’s death. Sometimes, it is also the hope of a comeback, that moves us. Many were rooting for the Kentucky Derby winner, Barbaro, to defy the odds and comeback from his devastating leg break, but sadly he did not.

Well, as we know, in the Church, the season of Spring (in Olde English, the word is Lent) brings us the greatest comeback story of them all. From the clutches of death and defeat, our Lord Jesus came back from the tomb, and won the greatest of all victories. We can only imagine the emotions of those dearest to Him on that Good Friday. All hope was seemingly lost. Death apparently overcame the one who said He came to triumph over it. Those close disciples were so overwhelmed in their grief and loss, that on that Sunday morning, it took a little while and some convincing, for them to realize that Jesus had comeback from the grave. But finally, when they did realize and accept what happened - this comeback story was the greatest source of inspiration for their lives... and ours.

The comeback of Jesus from the grave, led those apostles to give the rest of their lives (even to their own deaths) to sharing that message of hope. The comeback of Jesus changed the world as it existed. It turned the Roman Empire into the Holy Roman Empire. It even eventually, caused the recounting of time according to the events of the life of Christ so that today, we are in the year 2007 AD (“Anno Domini” which is Latin meaning “in the year of our Lord”).

That comeback story of Jesus that happened long ago, continues to happen today, changing our lives by giving to us our own “comeback” story! Like combatants in a sporting event, our lives are in constant competition and struggle against our adversary - sin and death. On many occasions throughout our lives, it appears to us that we are on the brink of defeat. Sometimes, we feel as though there is no hope and strength for us. But, *“the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”*. Our Lord Jesus now, by our Baptisms into Him, has become that foundation and cornerstone for our lives. Standing in faith upon Him, we are assured of sharing in that greatest of all comeback stories. As He came back from the dead, we too, by His grace poured out for us, will come back from the defeat of sin and death!

~ Happy Easter!  
Pastor Schenkel

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### OPENING DAY

Opening Day is an exciting day for a Yankee Fan. And today, April 2, was that day! And what a day it was. The Yanks beat the Devil Ray's 9-5. (I think the Mets won their Opening Day game as well, but we won't talk about that). Regardless of the missed records of last year, the disappointments, the "almosts", Opening Day is a new beginning, in anticipation of the new season.

We look forward to Opening Day, the first robin running around in the yard looking for a meal, the first daffodil popping out, the first warm day without a winter coat, the flowers bursting in bloom seemingly overnight on the magnolia tree, earthworms squiggling on the walkway after a rain, and the sun setting a little later each day (completely throwing off my schedule I might add). There are so many more things that we anticipate and are excited about at this time of year. For me, Holy Week that ends on Easter Sunday is special and very meaningful to me. We are reborn Easter morning; we become new with the risen Christ.

For Christians, each day is Opening Day. Each day we can become a new person in Christ, with opportunities to show His love to people all around us. Each day we have the opportunity to look into God's Word for guidance and answers to questions that we have. Each day He gives us the ability to throw the old self away and put on the new. Our God is a forgiving God and a patient God and I thank Him for being so patient with me every day so that each day is a new Opening Day.

We have much to look forward to in the Suffolk Zone. The Spring Event on April 14 at Messiah Lutheran, and our annual Cormaria retreat in Sag Harbor will be held May 11-12 (registration form is included in this newsletter). We also will be holding "**something new**" in the fall, but I will let you wonder about that a little longer (I know, I'm such a tease). I will be attending the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the end of June, and I am so excited about going and I look forward to participating as your delegate.

I look forward to seeing you at all of these special events in the zone. I believe that participating in these events with our fellow Christian sisters, help us, with Christ leading the way, to become new each day.

May each day be a successful Opening Day for you this season!

Ginny  
April 2007



## WALKING WITH JESUS



The unopened letter lay on my desk.

Cherilyn was a young girl I began pen-paling with through a group known as Long Island Youth Mentoring. We began writing each other in October of 2006. Cherilyn seemed like a girl obviously with some problems but also a girl who had it pretty much together.

Cherilyn never got into details about her struggles, nor was I encouraged to ask. She spoke of her parents and her younger brother in a positive light and she seemed eager to go home. Her parents were building a new house and Cherilyn was excited about her new room.

I received news from my coordinator that Cherilyn had gone home and that I could continue to write her there. Assuming that she had sort of "graduated" from the program I thought things were going well and maybe they were. I continued to write her although I wondered why Cherilyn was not returning my notes.

After being home for about two months, Cherilyn committed suicide. She never even got the chance to read my last letter and now it has been returned to me unopened.

My biggest regret is that I never took the chance to tell Cherilyn about Jesus. There were inflections within my letters about my love and need for Jesus in my life, but I never told her of the beauty of Christ and His saving grace. I just wonder who did witness to Cherilyn if it wasn't me.

In the book of Esther, Mordecai tells Queen Esther to notify the King of the impending slaughter of the Jews. Even though Esther was Queen, she had to be summoned by the King to enter his presence. If Esther entered the King's presence without being summoned, Esther would risk being killed. Mordecai tells Esther:

*"Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4:13-14*

God promises through His word that everyone has the opportunity to receive Christ. We are God's tools that He uses to get His message of salvation out to the masses. Everyday we come into contact with so many people who we can witness to through our words and actions. And I for one, fall drastically short of my daily "quota."

Am I punished for this short-coming? Am I keeping someone from their salvation? Did Cherilyn choose to commit suicide because I didn't witness to her? I can tell you that the answer to each of these questions is emphatically no! But I also must tell you that I am missing tremendous opportunities where God can bless those around me with His message of love, grace, and salvation.

During this Easter season, I pray that each and every one of us will reach at least one other person and tell them the wonderful news that Jesus Christ lives! Jesus came to earth, was crucified, and He rose from the dead. Jesus loves us and He wants nothing more than to have a personal relationship with us.

Spread the news! Jesus Christ lives! Hallelujah!

May you have blessed Easter season!

Linda Guteres  
April, 2007

P.S. One book that has helped me with my witnessing skills is, "Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World," written by Rebecca Pippert and it can be found at [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com).

# *From the Editor*



## ***Change***

*I the Lord do not change. Malachi 3:6*

Our world changes around us by the minute. Change is inevitable. We all go through changes in our lives. Some of those changes can be good and some can be bad.

My world, as I know it, is changing this year in so many ways. My oldest son was just married this past weekend. This is certainly a big change in the life of a family when one member moves on to begin a new life of their own.

My second and youngest son will be graduating high school in just two months. He will then be leaving for college. This too is a big change, first for my son who will now be learning to live on his own, and also for my husband and I who will be experiencing the "empty nest syndrome".

There are other changes that can occur in our lives. Our health can change as we get older. Financial situations can change. Our family unit can change with births and deaths.

Change. It can make us shudder, or we can welcome it. You've heard the saying "it will be a welcomed change".

Our world changed on that Friday so very long ago, when our Savior Jesus Christ took the sin of the world on His shoulders and hung on that tree. His bitter suffering and death on that terrible day changed our lives forever. We went from a world of sin and darkness to a world of forgiveness and light, a world of death and dying, to a world of life everlasting. This was change, and this was good!

The darkness and sadness of that Friday quickly changed to the light and joy of the first Easter Sunday. This was truly the ultimate change. The sorrow and the sadness of the followers of Jesus quickly turned to joy when they realized that their Master was alive! This was change, and this was very good!

There is one thing that will never change: the love that God has for us. He kept His promise to send a Savior to a world dying from sin, a Savior that would rise from the grave and overcome sin and death.

As our world changes around us with each and every heartbeat, we as followers of Christ can rest on the promise that ***"I the Lord do not change"***.

*Deb Graybosch*  
*April 2007*



## Atlantic District LWML News

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!*

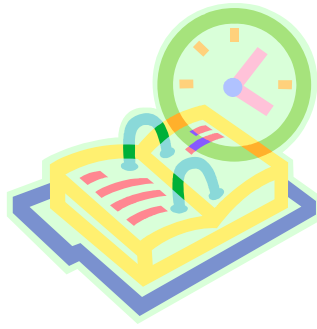
*Mission Grant #4 -Encouraging Young Christian Evangelism  
Has now been paid.*

*Here is the highlight of Mission Grant #5-Our Savior's  
Needy Families:*

**\$8,000**

Our Savior New American Lutheran School's mission class and a Woman's Bible Study group from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach, NY have partnered together to meet the dire needs of families in the community. Along with meeting the physical needs, such as food and utility demands, they deliver Bibles, have fellowship, prayer and ongoing communications allowing these families to feel loved and to know the love of Christ through the church body, bringing them into the acknowledgement and joy of our Lord. This grant will help to continue to purchase food items, handle emergency fuel needs and daily living supplies. The funds will also help to supply Bibles, devotionals and tracts for these families.





## *SUFFOLK ZONE COMING EVENTS*

4/14/07	9:30 am	SPRING EVENT	Messiah Lutheran-Setauket
5/11-5/12	4pm-4pm	CORMARIA RETREAT	Retreat House-Sag Harbor
6/2/07	9:30 am	<b>Zone Meeting</b>	Grace Lutheran-Mastic
6/21-6/24/07		LWML CONVENTION	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
9/22/07	TBA	SUFFOLK SOCIAL	St. John's - Sayville
10/20/07	8:30 am	MINI-RETREAT	St. James Lutheran-St. James
11/3/07	9:30 am	<b>Zone Meeting</b>	TBA

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND POST AT  
YOUR CHURCH**





**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE  
SUFFOLK ZONE RETREAT  
May 11-12, 2007**

**Theme: "Living Water"**

**Speaker: Jessica Sauer - Young Women Advocate, Atlantic District LWML**

**Place: Cormaria Retreat House, Bay St., Sag Harbor**

**Cost: \$80.00 per person. Please remit full amount.**

**Checks should be made payable to LWML SUFFOLK ZONE**

Please send all registrations and checks **plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope** to:

Mrs. Virginia Wirsing  
4 Garden Lane  
Yaphank, New York 11980

Phone: 924-7106

**Registration deadline is April 29, 2007. REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER THAT DATE.** Details and directions will be furnished with receipt.

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BIBLE

**\*\*Ingathering: "Hope House – The Community House\*\***

Information about the ingathering will be sent with your acknowledgment

Tear off and send with your check to Mrs. Virginia Wirsing, 4 Garden Lane, Yaphank, NY 11980

I will attend the May 11-12, 2007 mini-retreat at Cormaria Retreat House. I have enclosed my payment of **\$80** payable to **LWML Suffolk Zone.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONE: \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE ROOM \_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE ROOM\*\*

\*\*PLEASE GIVE NAME OF PERSON YOU ARE ROOMING WITH \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL ROOMS ARE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES THAT WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF, PLEASE CALL VIRGINIA WIRSING AT 924-7106, OR INDICATE THEM ON THIS FORM BELOW.**



# LWML MITE UPDATE!



## MITES OVER THE TOP!

All praise to God! As of Tuesday, March 27, we have reached -- and surpassed -- our mission goal for the 2005-2007 biennium. Final figures are not yet available, but this is a time of rejoicing. Any mites received by March 31 will also be counted toward the 2005-2007 biennium goal.

As LWML President Linda Reiser says, "God loves to take ordinary people like you and me and through them do extraordinary things!" "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13)

(Taken from the LWML E-News 3/30/07)





Luke 24

## The Resurrection

*But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.*

