



SUFFOLK SON SHINE

ONLINE NEWSLETTER OF THE SUFFOLK ZONE LWML

March 2007

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Dear Friends!

Thank you for your continued support of our online newsletter. If you wish to see something in this newsletter, please let us know.

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COUNSELOR'S CORNER



But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? {13} If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. {14} And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. -- 1 Corinthians 15:12-14

All of these questions have the same answer:

What is it that gives a widow courage as she stands beside a fresh grave?

What is the ultimate hope of the cripple, the amputee, the abused, and the burn victim?

How can the parents of brain-damaged or physically handicapped children keep from living their entire lives totally and completely depressed?

Why would anyone who is blind or deaf or paralyzed be encouraged when they think of the life beyond?

How can we see past the martyrdom of some helpless hostage or devoted missionary?

Where do the thoughts of a young couple go when they finally recover from the grief of losing their baby?

When a family receives the tragic news that a little daughter was found dead or their dad was killed in a plane crash or a son overdosed on drugs, what single truth becomes their whole focus?

What is the final answer in pain, mourning, senility, insanity, terminal diseases, sudden calamities, and fatal accidents?

By now you've guessed correctly: the hope of the bodily resurrection in Jesus Christ!

Unfortunately, many of us face these problems and tragedies on a regular basis. Also, it is unfortunate that the results of sin and death do not take a vacation in our lives. It would be very nice if we would not have to deal with these things. However, as we all know too well, sin and the troubles of life plague us each day!

For this reason (because we are constantly up against the ravaging effects of sin), God constantly comes to us with His gift of grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. **Every Sunday** (not just Christmas and Easter) is God's time to come to us and strengthen us and give us His perseverance so that we may go on living in the face of these tragedies.

I pray that as we continue to move in Lent toward the celebration of Easter and Christ's victorious resurrection, that you would continue to find God's blessings coming in Word and Sacrament. For in the journey to Easter, our lives find the hope and assurance that He has overcome all things and given us the eternal victory from our daily problems!

- - *Pastor Schenkel*

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Deb Graybosch, co-editor of the Suffolk Son Shine, has been after me each month for an article for the Zone newsletter. I always tell her that I have to “wait for Him to talk to me”. We laugh and laugh and sure enough the words come, and I know I am being helped by my Lord. This month was a little harder to get the words out of my heart and onto the page. Just a few days ago, my friend, Linda, buried her mom.

As I sat in the church for the funeral service, I became keenly aware at how I was being witnessed to. I was being witnessed to by the love of a mom for her Lord and Savior and how she cultivated that love for Christ in others, from the Church newsletter that she was editor-in-chief for down to the hymns that were sung that day. One of her favorites, as we were told, was *“I Love to Tell the Story”*. I had to have sung that hymn at least a thousand times over the years, but it really took hold of my heart this time, especially the second verse. It goes like this: *“I love to tell the story, Tis pleasant to repeat. What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard, the message of salvation from God’s own holy Word.”* Ladies, that is what we as Christians are all about – to tell the story to those who have never heard.

Wilhelmina Mintz made sure we got the message in that hymn at her funeral service. I got the message and I thank her for it. I am refreshed and renewed and again ready to “serve the Lord with gladness” and I pray that you are too.

I am looking forward to our “Day of Prayer Service” on Friday, March 9 at 7:30 pm when we come together as Christian women and rejoice in His love for us and pray for one another and for those who don’t know Him or have a personal relationship with Him. I hope and pray to see all of you at St. John’s in Sayville that evening.

God’s blessings to you,
Ginny Wirsing

WALKING WITH JESUS



Mom's Last Article

To say my Mom actually wrote this article would be a lie so I won't even suggest it. But being with Mom throughout these past months gave me the opportunity to hear her idea and I feel compelled to fulfill one of her last wishes.

Back in November when Mom was diagnosed with lung cancer I can tell you that she was scared. Mom was entering an unknown world and if the stories she heard about radiation and chemotherapy were true, she was in for a bumpy ride. Mom also realized she had a choice-she could refuse treatment or enter this very eerie world of cancer treatment. After many discussions with God, her Pastor, and all her children she made the decision to enter into the foreign world of radiation.

I could go into all the details of how her treatments began, continued and finally ended but that was not the message she wanted to convey. The sole purpose of this article is to tell you what my Mom uttered in the emergency room preceding her last hospital stay.

A fellow church member, Carol McCormack, had been with her that day. Mom was supposed to go for a blood test but when Carol arrived at Mom's apartment she was too weak to stand. Carol called my sister and me and I met both of them at Good Samaritan Hospital. We sat on a chair next to Mom in the emergency room while we waited for the doctor.

In retrospect I think Mom knew. I think she knew that her body was nearing the end of its stay on earth and that this was going to be the last leg of her journey. She turned to me and with a tear running down the side of her cheek said, "I guess I'm not going to get to write my last article."

Mom was the editor of St. Luke's Good News and it was probably the most proud accomplishment of her life. Yes,

Mom raised three girls and lived to tell everyone about us. But the work on the newsletter was all her own and she poured everything she had into it.

I asked her what she meant about her statement and that's when Mom turned to me said, "I just want to tell everyone not to be afraid. Don't be afraid of all the machines. They're just big and they have to move all around your body to make sure the radiation hits the right spot. Don't be afraid when you get your tattoos or your blood tests. Don't be afraid because you're not alone-God is right there along with you and He will get you through."

To be honest I was floored by her unselfish statement. How could a woman who had endured so much poking and prodding throughout her life think of everyone else at a time like this? How could she be focusing on other people's fears rather than her own? It was at that time that I truly realized how strong and caring my Mom was.

That's when it hit me that Jesus tells us the same thing. Jesus says don't be afraid because He loves us. Don't be afraid because Jesus holds us in the palm of His hand. No one can snatch us from Him. We have been bought with a price and we are His-Jesus owns us and we are safe.

So there you go Mom! I hope I did you justice. I hope that your message is read and spread throughout our families, congregations, and the world!

As our family begins to heal from this great loss, I am sure that I will be turning to all the "Do not be afraid" verses throughout the bible. I have never known life without my Mom, I have no idea what is in my future, but I DO know who holds that future.

Isaiah 43:1-5 But now, this is what the Lord says- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.

Linda Guterres
February 2007



SPOTLIGHT ON: *CHRIST LUTHERAN, EAST MORICHES*

Prepared by Dorothy Saul

Christ Lutheran Church marked its 11th year as a member of the LWML, Suffolk Zone. In 1995 when we joined we had just 8 women and 1 circle. We now are blessed with over 30 women and soon to be 3 circles, overseen by Deaconess Bonnie Sherwood. Our purpose: To serve the Lord with Gladness.

From January – April we held our regularly scheduled meetings with Bible Study, fellowship and giving of our “mites” for LWML mission projects. In May we had the most women in attendance at the annual *Cor-Maria* retreat in Sag Harbor. This is always a bonding and inspirational event as well as an ingathering for a specific mission project. In June, Carol Baumann hosted all circles at her home in Peconic (a delightful day – sumptuous food). The Fall saw our women working very hard under Carol’s leadership to make the *church yard sale* a huge success. Our *Christmas Boutique* afforded great fellowship and cooperation and was a monetary success for our Building Fund. We also contributed our time and culinary talents to Christ Lutheran’s yearly *Chicken BBQ*.

2006 ended with our yearly Christmas lunch held the first Monday in December. Close to 35 women gathered that day at the Cooperage Inn in Baiting Hollow for food, fellowship and thankfulness for our health and for each other. As in past years, Pastor Fleischmann joined us at this event. We presented him with a token of our appreciation for his commitment to our organization and thankfulness that he is our Pastor.

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

(Psalm 100:2)

ATLANTIC DISTRICT
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

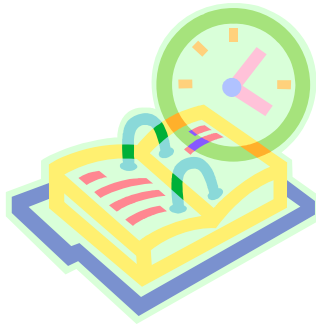
MITE UPDATE

- We need to collect \$28,640 before the end of the biennium....
- That is approximately \$1909 per month....
- Currently we average (May-Dec 2006) \$1150 per month....

We are not far off from the goal; you are all doing a great job, but we need to push on....

KEEP "MITES" IN THE FOREFRONT!!





SUFFOLK ZONE COMING EVENTS

3/9/07	7:30 pm	DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE	St. John's - Sayville
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	Zone Meeting	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	Zone Meeting	TBA

PHOTO DISPLAY!

As I was thinking about the Atlantic District Convention in 2008, I wondered how we could share with everyone all the exciting things that are going on in our Zone. The idea that came to be was a photographic display. I am hoping that each society will take pictures of their events and activities and send them to me. Just put your name, your church name and Zone, the date and the name of your event and the cause if there is one. I will be happy to put the display together so everyone can share in our excitement. If you need any help or wish to contact me, I can be reached at 631-589-8353 or on line at arthon@aol.com.

Honey Pabst, VP Human Care
AD LWML

Suffolk Zone LWML

SPRING EVENT



Saturday, April 14, 2007 – 9:00am
(Worship Service 9:30am)
at
Messiah Lutheran Church
Setauket, NY

We will be putting together health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please bring as many of the items listed below.

Dark hand towels, dark washcloths, bath-sized soap, toothbrushes, 5-7oz toothpaste, wide tooth combs, metal nail files, nail clippers, band aids

Don't forget to bring your lunch – refreshments and desserts will be provided by the ladies of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Thrivent will help in financially supporting this event

FROM THE EDITOR..

Ups-and-Downs

As I sit here writing these words, my family is preparing for the wedding of our oldest son in less than four weeks. What a wonderful time this is! So much planning, so much excitement, so much joy! My husband and I have been truly blessed by God to be adding to our family a wonderful woman, that we can proudly call our daughter-in-love.

Another event will be celebrated in less than four weeks. This event marks the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. His triumphant entry into Jerusalem was marked with cheering crowds and palms being waved. Shouts of *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”* will soon turn to shouts of *“crucify Him!”* just a few days later. The *“ups-and-downs”*.

As Christians, we know that the terrible events of that Holy Week will end in triumph on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Life will bring us “ups-and-downs,” the “up” of Palm Sunday, the “down” of Good Friday. But the “downs” of life **end** on Easter Sunday with Jesus victoriously winning the battle over sin, death and Satan by His resurrection from the dead.

My message is to my son and my daughter-in-love: Life will have its “ups-and-downs”, but hold on tight to Jesus, your Lord and Savior, keep Him as the unseen guest in your home, cling to His promises, stand firm in your faith, and He will see you through all the “ups and downs”.

Deborah Graybosch
March 2007

