

MATTHEW 5:14-16

THE CANDLESTICK

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

1st ISSUE 2007

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It's hard to believe that the first day of spring is 20 days away. The lower regions of the Atlantic District have not seen very much (if any) snow this winter. We have been fooled by some mild days where sweatshirts and light jackets were enough to ward off the cooler air. The colder weather really hit the end of January with gusty winds making the wind chill factor unbelievable!

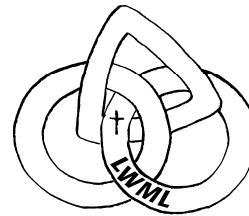
The Lenten season began with Ash Wednesday on February 21. Lent is a time when we humble ourselves, reflect on our sins and are thankful that we are forgiven even though we don't deserve it. We need to focus on our spiritual healing all year long. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

On Good Friday, Jesus Christ hung on the cross for you and me. He made the supreme sacrifice when He died and shed his blood for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

"God raised Him from the dead on the third day and caused Him to be seen." (Acts 10:40) On Easter morning, Jesus conquered the devil and sin when He rose from the dead. We can proclaim, "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" As we lift high the cross, we should be filled with joy knowing that we receive a free gift of love that we can accept from our Father. This is a personal promise from God that He loves and accepts us when we love Him, too.

Jesus conquered sin and death, and God gave us the power to believe through the Holy Spirit. *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."* (Eph. 2:8-9)

In His service,
Maureen Consiglio
President



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 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.

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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

We rejoice not only with the New Year, but that daily we are being renewed by Christ in the waters of our baptism. The Lord is working in us by His word and makes old things new again.

In the Epiphany season we focus on the fact that the Good News of Jesus Christ is given for the whole world. On the LWML website in defining *Who We Are* it states that, “the LWML focuses on affirming each woman in her relationship with Christ to enable her to be in ministry among the people of the world.” Our church ladies had an opportunity to be renewed in outreach to the people of the world in December.

Our ladies had not done a fair of any type in a number of years. When the suggestion of doing something like that during the Advent season, very few thought they would be able to do it, no less that it could be a success. Yet, with certain persistence they gave it a try. We would have an Attic Treasure and Christmas Bazaar with all the proceeds going to missions. They pledged that none of the money would be for our congregation, but for mission outreach. We would see how the Lord would bless. The first blessing was the number and quality of items that were donated for the sale. Next came a blessing many had hoped for, in the form of the younger women of the congregation offering to pitch in with their time and talents. The advertisements went out. The day came and the Lord blessed us with people and many conversations. Many noted that in our advertisements we mentioned all proceeds would go for missions. They saw the posters, etc. that we had displayed in the undercroft of the church, and it touched them. Many of these bargain hunters gave us extra money for missions. The Lord blessed us with almost \$700, which was matched by Thrivent. We were able to give half toward mites and the rest will be used for various mission projects.

The Lord indeed honors those who serve Him. The Lord showed what he could do with those who “serve the Lord with gladness.” It was a renewing and encouraging experience for our ladies. Take heart, serve the Lord, share the Good News, and He will renew your hearts and minds.

In Christ,

*Pastor David Demera
Senior Pastoral Counselor*



As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us, sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares was. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been. My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, “Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you.”

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through! Share this with someone you love, care about or even someone who needs Jesus in their heart. They may scoff, but at least the seed has been planted, and God will do the rest. May God bless you today and forever!

(shared on the internet)

Mission Grants

MISSION GRANT #4

ENCOURAGING YOUNG CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM / \$7,000

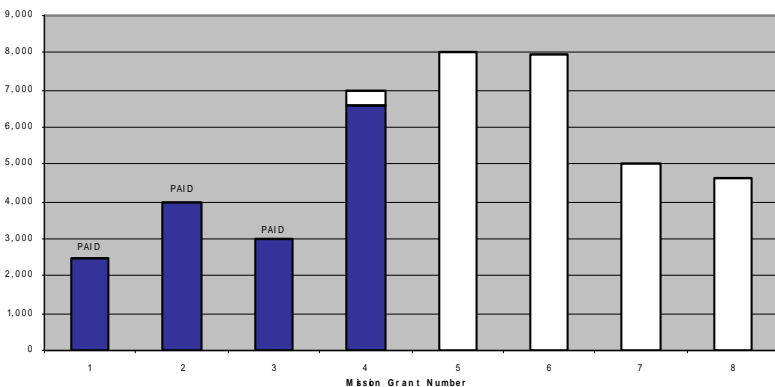
Encouraging Young Christian Evangelism (EYCE) is the Atlantic District's initiative to develop young people to be the church leaders of today and tomorrow. Youth in EYCE will meet monthly for youth oriented worship, training and Bible study. They will also participate in mission and service trips. EYCE will create a relational mentoring community with an emphasis on hands on ministry for youth who have a heart for missions. Youth in EYCE will be required to work with their home pastor to actively participate in ministry at their home congregation.

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.

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



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Mission Outreach

I'VE GOT THE JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY - DOWN IN MY HEART

We all know that one! And then someone calls out "Where?" and we answer singing "Down in my heart". I'll bet you're humming or singing it right now, aren't you? It's a happy, joyful song about Jesus Christ living in all of our hearts. But is He really living in all of our hearts?

Sadly, there are many countries that do not believe he is Lord and Savior. There are many that have not had the opportunity to learn about Jesus and what he freely did for us when he died on the cross at Calvary. There are countries and governments that deny access to His Word. And in this great country of ours, a superpower in the world, there are many who do not know Him, truly know Him. Isn't that amazing? You would think that with all the forms of communication at our disposal, we would be able to reach everyone living in the United States with the message of salvation – but it isn't so.

Jesus tells his disciples in Matthew 28:19-20, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*" If you believe, as I do, that the Word of God is for all time past, present and future, then you realize that He was not just talking to the eleven on the mountain in Galilee. He was talking to all of us, too. He wants us to go out and spread His Word in any way we can.

The people, who are involved with each of the Atlantic District LWML Mission Grants that we are supporting this biennium, have gifts given to them by God, to help in their mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who have not heard. I realize that not all of us can evangelize to strangers on the street, but He gives each of us gifts for us to use for His purpose. One way we can help to spread His Word is to **fill our "mite boxes" and fill them often**. Each time we are able to send a check to a Mission Grant recipient, we **are** evangelizing, and we **are** helping to put **Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in the Hearts** of God's people everywhere.

So the next time you bring your FULL mite box to church or to a meeting to hand in, sing out loud – I'VE GOT THE JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY, DOWN IN MY HEART, because you are helping to put that JOY in someone else's heart.

God's blessings to each and every one of you.

*Ginny Wirsing
Vice President
Mission Outreach*

Devotions

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE AND WHAT THEIR LIVES CAN TEACH US MARTHA, THE PRACTICAL SISTER

Martha was probably the older sister in the family that included Lazarus and Mary. They lived in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. Many times they must have offered Jesus the respite he needed after he had spent the day preaching and healing at the great temple in that crowded city. It is obvious from the way he reacted to Martha, Mary and Lazarus that he knew and loved them: they were not just his disciples, they were his close friends.

Martha was the responsible manager of the household. When a meal was to be prepared to feed a large number of people (probably at least 16 including Jesus and his disciples and her own family), it was Martha who was in charge of the preparations. She took her work seriously and wanted everything to be just right. There were probably a number of servants in a household wealthy enough to entertain that many people, but Martha had to oversee their work and undoubtedly attended to a lot of details herself so that everything would be to her liking. Having Jesus and his friends to dinner was a very special occasion: she wanted it to be perfect for him! When her sister Mary didn't help her as much as Martha thought she should, she took the matter to Jesus. (Luke 10:38 – 42) We all know that the answer he gave her was not the one she was looking for. Instead of criticizing Mary and telling her to give her sister a hand, Jesus praised Mary's desire to listen to him and chided Martha for dwelling on matters that were less important in the long run.

It's interesting that Luke doesn't record Martha's response! But considering how devoted to Jesus she was, probably what he said shook her up and helped her to examine her priorities. Martha had gotten tangled up in what were good, constructive activities but had lost sight of why she wanted to do things right in the first place: her hard work was inspired by Jesus and what he was and did and taught. Keeping her eyes on Jesus first was what was needed above all.

A bigger test to Martha's faith came when her brother Lazarus became seriously ill and died. (See John 11:1 - 46.) When he was ill, she and her sister Mary did the best thing for him when they sent word to Jesus that he was sick and asked him to come as soon as possible. Of course, we know that Jesus didn't come immediately – he waited a couple of days, on purpose! When he finally showed up in Bethany, Martha was quick to greet him, but must have been wondering why in the world he had waited so long to get there. Her dear brother lay in his tomb, already dead for four days. She spoke her mind, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

MARTHA, THE PRACTICAL SISTER

Continued from Page 4

But she also voiced her deep faith in Jesus when she added, "But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Jesus reassured Martha that her brother was not lost to her forever, that he would rise again. He then spoke this wonderful promise that his followers still treasure two thousand years later, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." Then he asked her that key question, "Do you believe this?" Martha's response was the same as Peter's had been, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." She was a woman of faith, a faith that even life's greatest trial could not break.

She was ready to get her sister Mary when Jesus asked for her. She was eager to do whatever he said. But it was also Martha who voiced the practical concern that "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days" when Jesus commanded them to take away the stone from the grave. She put her reservations aside and allowed the stone to be taken away. Martha was taking a leap of faith, and she was rewarded with the sight of Lazarus stepping forth from his tomb, alive and well!

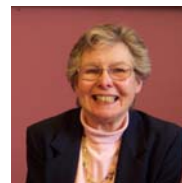
Isn't it an interesting commentary on the way people look at things that we hear a lot more about how Martha allowed herself to be so immersed in the everyday demands of her life that she lost her temper, than we do about how Martha's faith remained strong even in the face of death? Of course, both stories are significant in helping us to examine our own lives.

Women active in LWML are busy people. We often have more on our plates than we would like, but all the things we do and are involved in seem to have a rightful claim on our time. Like Martha, we're busy doing a lot of good things. Like Martha, it's all too easy to become so wrapped up in those good things that we become resentful of people who don't seem to be carrying their share of the load. Like Martha, we let our attention become too focused on the good works. That is not to say that we shouldn't be doing those "good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do" (Eph. 2:10). But we do have to always "keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). That was what Mary, Martha's sister, had understood which Martha had pushed away from the forefront of her consciousness because she was so busy doing what she had decided was more important. If we are so caught up in our activities that we don't make time for prayer, for listening to the Lord, we're on the wrong track.

Notice how Martha had grown spiritually in the time that had passed between the dinner-party incident and the death of her brother. When she heard that Jesus was nearing her home, Martha, who was undoubtedly busy with many people visiting her mourning family, immediately rushed out to meet him.

She told him her concerns and listened and responded to his words. She voiced her faith without hesitation, despite her grief. She was sure Jesus could help her even in the face of this tragedy. She was quick to get her sister Mary when Jesus asked for her. She allowed her brother's tomb to be opened. She was ready to do whatever he said. Martha had learned well to "keep her eyes on Jesus." Let us ask the Lord to help us do the same.

*Alice Schuman
Vice President
Leader Development*



LIKE A TREE PLANTED BY WATER

Just recently while driving to church on a Sunday morning, a drive that can take up to twenty minutes, I thought it was a perfect time to have a little "chat" with God. Things have been a little hectic in my life lately (as I'm sure they are in yours), and the every day stressors were becoming bigger and greater. I used this time alone to ask God to open up my heart and my mind through the power of the Holy Spirit. I wanted to hear something in that worship service that would remind me that all I needed to do was to put my trust in Him. I needed to be reminded that I did not have to handle all of this alone. I needed to be reminded that I have a God that loves me so much, that he gave His everything for me; a God that promises to never leave me nor forsake me. I have a God that is just waiting with open, outstretched arms, beckoning me to "come to Him"; a God that loves me, even when I am so unlovable. I have a God that wants me to trust Him with all my cares and troubles; a God that tells me "come to me you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." I have a God that hears the simple plea of one of his children and responds in the most outstanding way.

The worship service began. A hymn was sung. A psalm was read. Then, the following Old Testament verse was read: ***"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*** *Jeremiah 17:7-8.*

There it was in black and white. What beautiful imagery that verse portrays! All I had to do was to trust in the Lord. To be firmly planted in faith. To be "watered" with the Word. I would be able to stand firm, even when things get tough. What a wonderful God we have! I thank you my dear Lord for your awesome power of answered prayer!

*Deborah Graybosch
Vice President
Spiritual Life*



Parliamentarian

Does a church-based, mission-orientated organization of ladies need parliamentary procedure? Yes! Following parliamentary rules and procedures in your LWML meetings will help you to expedite business, maintain order, ensure justice, provide equal treatment for all members, and accomplish the purpose for which your society was formed. To that end, here's a top ten list of basic principles of parliamentary law:

10. Those who exercise their right to abstain from a vote allow the decision to be made by those who do vote.
9. The majority rules when voting on a motion (except if the motion deprives a member of her rights - see #8).
8. A two-thirds vote is needed if the motion deprives a member of any of her rights (for example stopping or changing the rules of a debate, closing nominations or polls, or rescinding action without notice).
7. Once a motion has been settled, it may not be brought up again in the same session unless someone moves to reconsider the vote on that motion.
6. Only a proposition or issue can be discussed (not the person who introduced it). Personal remarks are out of order!
5. Full debate before a vote can only be suspended by a two-thirds vote (see #8 - debate before a vote is your right.).
4. Only one proposition can be on the table and only one person may have the floor at a time.
3. To transact business legally, a quorum (a majority of the membership or a predetermined number as defined in your bylaws) must be present.
2. All members have equal rights to participate in meetings by making motions, speaking, and voting.
1. Decisions of the organization supersede decisions of any individual or small group.

adapted from Pointers on Parliamentary Procedure NAP C1993

E-mail any questions on Parliamentary Rules, Law, or Procedure that you or your society have to ad-parliamentarian@adlwml.org

*Heather L. Palkewick
Parliamentarian*



Human Care

LOOKING AROUND

I had been procrastinating about taking all the Christmas decorations down until finally, I realized I needed to do it. I just loved the feeling I had with them all around me. Well, it was do it now or my husband was going to take matters into his own hands.

When the job was all done, we looked around our living room and decided to do some upgrading. My husband wanted to get rid of an old tea cart that had belonged to my aunt when she was alive. Just looking at the tea cart would bring back so many memories of happy days in my aunt's home with our family, and I didn't want to think about getting rid of it.

The incident got me thinking about some of the other things in our home. They are after all just things I want, not what I need. Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus". Looking out the window on that sunny day I realized that I was blessed with all that I needed.

Our Father has created a wonderful world for us to live in, and he wants all good things for us. We just have to look around. He wants us to help make the world a better place by using all the talents and gifts given to each of us. He wants us to be more concerned about who we are as people of God, not about what we have. Luke 12:15 says..."a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

So, I have realized I need to look around and find the tea cart a new home, with a family that will enjoy it as I have. Even though the tea cart will be gone, I will still have my memories.

*Honey Pabst
Vice President
Human Care*



GoodSearch

From January 2006 through September 2006, the LWML received a check for \$2,237.91 from GoodSearch. The Board of Directors approved this money be used for the production of Faith Talk. Faith Talk, learning to talk about your faith with others, is a facilitator-led DVD for all women of the LCMS. The goal statement is "Each woman will be compelled to share the Gospel, pray for and recognize opportunities to do so, and then confidently live and speak her faith."



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

32nd Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 21–Sunday, June 24, 2007

Sioux Falls Arena and Convention Center

Additional information concerning the convention:

- Servant activities begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 21. If you would like to participate in any of these, it would probably be best to arrive in Sioux Falls on Wednesday.
- The Sioux Falls airport is not as large as JFK or LaGuardia. Since many of those attending the convention will be leaving on Sunday, you may want to consider going home either early Sunday (in which case you will miss the end of the convention) or Monday.
- Please consider purchasing the meal package, since there are no restaurants within walking distance of the convention center. Many of the hotels serve breakfast (information found in *Quarterly*). There will be concessions stands in the convention center and in the arena.
- The convention will be held in the arena where the delegates will be seated on the floor and the general membership will be in stadium seating. You may want to bring a seat cushion for your added comfort.
- There is an elevator going to the stadium seating for those in wheelchairs, using walkers or canes. All others will use stairs. A separate area is set aside for the wheelchairs, and the first row of seating should be used for those with walkers and canes.
- Bring a sweater in case the air conditioning is too cold.
- The pledge sheet for the mission walk can be found on the LWML website (www.lwml.org).
- You need to purchase a shuttle pass on your registration form in order to get to the convention center from your hotel. You will not be able to purchase the pass on site.
- If you would like to take one of the tours offered, registration ends April 20. If not enough people sign up for a tour, it will be cancelled.
- Follow the instructions closely found in the Winter *Quarterly* when preparing your “Gifts from the Heart”. You may bring as many as you would like.
- The LWML store will be open. There are quite a few new items for sale.
- Remember to bring your “Gifts from the Heart”, your pledge walk sheet, your Bible, your smiles and your hugs.

TEENS “ROCK” IN SIOUX FALLS!!

Are you going to Sioux Falls? Are you between the ages of 11-17? Do you like “hanging out” with the girls? If you answered “YES,” we want to see you at the Friends Into Serving Him Teen “Hangout” on Saturday, June 23. Teens will make new friends from across the country while participating in wild and crazy fun activities! Service, spiritual growth, and leadership are the focus of this awesome time together. Mark your calendar and plan to “ROCK – Rest on Christ the King” in Sioux Falls. Watch for more details in the convention newspaper.



2007 LWML CONVENTION OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES



Thursday, June 21

Offering #1 – LWML Mission Goal 2007-2009

Friday, June 22

Offering #2 – 65th Anniversary Celebration of the LWML

- Recognizing the blessings of LWML's auxiliary partnership with the mission and ministry of the LCMS for 65 years, this offering will be divided as follows:
- 30% for the LWML Endowment
 - Unrestricted dividends and interest earned on investments are set aside for LWML ministries, upon Board of Directors majority approval at the January LWML Board of Directors' meeting.
- 70% for LCMS World Mission to fund Missionary Children's Education
 - When missionaries are called to serve in foreign mission fields, their families are also called to go and serve. Many of these families have school-age children who need to be educated so they can come back to an American-style school for college or continuing education. This often means that they need special schools overseas or volunteer teachers from America to teach them on their mission field. Your support will provide tuition, school curricula, and American-style education to missionary children around the world. This will give missionary children around the world a quality education and prepare them for re-entry into our American school system.

Saturday, June 23

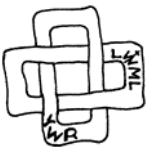
Offering #3 – Seminary student aid

- To be divided equally between Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.
- This offering is in thankfulness for the pastors who have faithfully served the LWML as counselors at all levels of our organization.

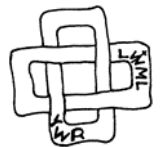
Sunday, June 24

Offering #4 – Continued funding for the Heart-to-Heart program

- In support of the LWML goal, "Oneness in Christ is strengthened through intentionally teaming with our LCMS sisters of varied ethnic, cultural, generational and organizational backgrounds," we plan to continue the Heart-to-Heart program. Funding will be used for future gatherings at LWML conventions and other efforts to provide opportunities for all our diverse sisters to join the LWML in mission focus, fellowship and service.



ATLANTIC DISTRICT YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED



Judy King, a student at Concordia College, Bronxville and member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bronx; and Twila Evanson, a social worker and member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn have been chosen to be the Young Women Representatives for the Atlantic District at the national LWML convention. Both women are excited about representing our District and meeting YWRs from other districts.

The first alternate chosen is Tamara Hughes a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bronx; the second alternate is Alisa Spivey a member from the same church. All the applicants were qualified. We thank them for submitting their applications.

Retreat

THE RETREAT AT TUSCARORA... THE DEAF EXPERIENCE

The three of us traveled to the retreat in Bethel, Pennsylvania with Pastor Wrede, Junior Pastoral Counselor and the Mission Field Developer for the Deaf, in his car. It worked out well for all of us to meet in Manhattan and travel together. We were fortunate to have transportation!

We enjoyed the place and a change of scenery and especially the foliage! It is amazing scenery and showed the beauty of God's creation. We enjoyed the food at Tuscarora as well.

A retreat like this would not have been nearly as enjoyable had it not been for the American Sign Language interpreters provided by the LWML. We are incredibly grateful to the two women who interpreted *everything* so we could be included. Without the interpreters, we would have felt very isolated and even left out.

Along with the interpreters, we appreciate the fellowship with all of our sisters in Christ and for your love. We were inspired by everyone; the leaders, the guest speakers and all who gave presentations. It's always wonderful to learn more about God's Word.

Thank you so much for making us feel welcome. God bless you all!

*Carolyn DeFalco, Earnestine Harris and Donna Wright
Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church of the Deaf
Elmhurst, New York*



Pictured from left to right: Carolyn Defalco, Donna Wright, Earnestine Harris

“SOMETHING NEW” FOR SUFFOLK ZONE

As you know, Suffolk Zone has had the reputation for “trying something new”, and we are never disappointed in the outcome. We tried a new idea last September - a “**Suffolk Social**”. It was a time for fellowship only, after a summer of not meeting as a zone. We decided to have “our version” of a *High Tea*. It was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Islip and we had, to our amazement, about 100 women attend. We had authentic English finger sandwiches: “Cucumber, Putting on the Ritz Egg Salad, and Chicken Curry” and of course all varieties of tea. The ladies of Trinity put a table of desserts out that would make any “Viennese Hour” look pitiful. We enjoyed the musical talents of the youth band “Anew” from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Middle Island. There was also a surprise visit from “Lady Lydia and Lady Genevieve” (Linda Guterres and myself) who taught the women in a very non-serious way about tea etiquette. It was good to “try something new”.

We also tried another “something new” in December. Honey Pabst graciously volunteered to put a Suffolk Zone bus trip together to the “Sight and Sound” theatre in Pennsylvania to see “The Magic of Christmas” and out to dinner afterward. We were hoping to fill one bus. Not only did the “something new” fill one bus, but also a second, and we also had a waiting list.

I had never been to the “Sight and Sound” theatre, but always wanted to go. When I walked into the lobby of the theatre, I was amazed at the beauty surrounding me, as it was still decorated for Christmas. But that was nothing compared to the play itself, with the costumes and set designs, and especially the live animals that walked right past us down the aisles onto the stage. There were Roman soldiers riding white horses down the aisles and live camels, goats and lambs on the stage which surrounded us on three sides. The story of Jesus' birth from when Mary learned she was carrying a “special” baby to when she had the baby in the manger was nothing short of spectacular. And when I thought it couldn't get any better – it did! I won't let you in on the ending in case you are planning to see it next year, but I will tell you, that I wish I had tissues. The overwhelming feelings of joy and expectation overflowed down my face. I would like to thank Honey for organizing the trip. It was a very special day for me and my husband that we will not forget.

The moral of this article? TRY SOMETHING NEW.

*Ginny Wirsing
Suffolk Zone President*

TRINITY ISLIP CELEBRATES LWML SUNDAY

It is that time of year again here at Trinity Lutheran Church in Islip. We celebrate LWML Sunday in January every year. This year it is "LWML Sock Sunday".

There is a flurry of activity in our LWML society as we prepare for LWML Sock Sunday. Before each service, we will be collecting new socks to be donated to The Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

We start with our LWML members being Ushers and Lectors at all of the church services January 27 and 28. We usually wear our LWML colors, pins and scarves.

I speak at each service thanking the congregation for their mite donations and mission support. I also tell the congregation about LWML, our Mission Statement and recent activities.

During the services, we will recite the LWML pledge and we will sing *Serve the Lord with Gladness*. During the offering, Pastor Wackenhuth will bless the socks to be donated.

After each service, the LWML ushers will hand out new mite boxes and flyers explaining the mite distribution.

In the church lobby, we will have a table displaying samples of each of our mission projects we have done over the years. We proudly display a prison Bible, layettes, school kits, bandages, sewing kits, Christmas boxes for Samaritan's Purse, confirmation banners and many more mission projects. We will also have a display of pictures showing LWML members at the Sag Harbor retreat, mission workshops, our annual LWML bbq and Christmas dinner. We will even have pictures of some members in several skits at the Tuscarora retreat.

After the 8:15am service, LWML hosts a coffee hour. While the congregation is enjoying the good food and decorations, discuss LWML's fellowship and many activities. We usually get a couple of new women interested in joining LWML each year.

We are blessed with a very strong LWML society here at Trinity. Each member has a passion to serve our Lord. Everyone pitches in to help with LWML Sunday and all the other mission projects and activities. We hope you will celebrate LWML Sunday in your church. It has been a success here at Trinity.

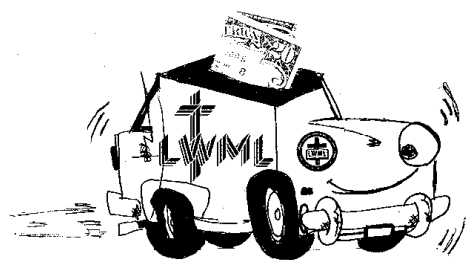
In His service

Liz Sullivan

President, LWML—Trinity, Islip



Left to right: Gayle Cain, Margie Swaine



Remember to send in your mites monthly to:

Clara E. Wert
18 Westland Avenue
Queensbury, NY 12804.

The national LWML is close to making the goal for the biennium, which ends March 31, 2007.

IMPORTANT DATES

Albany Zone

- 5/5/07 Retreat, 10:30am—3:30pm, Trinity, Schenectady, Speaker—Pearl Albrechtsen
6/9/07 Rally, 11:00am—3:00pm, Zion, Schenectady

Mid-Hudson Zone

- 4/21/07 Rally, 9:30am—11:30am, Our Savior, Fishkill

Nassau Zone

- 4/14/07 Rally, 9:30am—12:00pm, St. Paul, Bethpage

Queens Zone

- 4/21/07 Rally, Grace, Queens Vilage, time TBA

Suffolk Zone

- 3/9/07 Day of Prayer Service, 7:30pm, St. John's, Sayville
Registration forms will be available for the Cormaria Retreat
4/14/07 Spring Event, 9:30am, Messiah, Setauket
Health or School kits will be the servant event
5/11-12/07 Cormaria Retreat, Sag Harbor
6/2/07 Meeting, 9:30am, Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic
9/22/07 Social, TBA
10/20/07 Mini-Retreat, Time TBA, St. James Lutheran Church, St. James
11/3/07 Zone Meeting, place and time TBA

Triune Zone

- 3/31/07 Rally, 9:30am—1:30pm, Christ Assembly, Staten Island, Pastor Saywayne is the speaker
“Undie Sunday for Orphan Grain Train”

Board of Directors' Meetings

- 3/17/07 Executive Committee, Cyberspace
4/28/07 Concordia, Bronxville

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Submission deadline for the next issue is **May 1, 2007**

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