

MATTHEW 5:14-16

THE CANDLESTICK

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

4th ISSUE 2011

NO VACANCY?

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

St. Luke's Gospel tells us that when the Virgin Mary was about to give birth to her son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, there was "no room for them in the Inn." The flashing "no vacancy" sign lit up the night. There was no place for Joseph to take his betrothed, but to a stable. There she gave birth to a son, wrapped him in rags, and laid him in an animal feeding trough.

"No Vacancy."

As I read through St. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus, I started thinking about my own life and how there have been many times that the "no vacancy" sign has been up on the door of my heart.

How many times have I tried to handle the burdens of life by myself?

"No Vacancy."

How often have I neglected to help someone in need...

"No Vacancy."

How many times have I missed opportunities to "let His light shine through me"?

"No Vacancy."

The list goes on and on.

We have now arrived at another season of Advent; a time for Christians all over the world to prepare for the coming of our Savior, Christ the Lord. In a world where there seems to be so much uncertainty and fear, Christians can rejoice, because God sent His very own Son, Jesus Christ to walk among us.

The angels brought us some very good news on that night, oh so long ago—

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"

A Savior; Born so long ago, in such humble surroundings; A Savior promised by God; Son of God; A Savior who was born to die; Died so that I may live; A Savior who lives forever, so that I shall never die; A Savior that promises to come again!

The world around us may seem to be crumbling and crashing in on us, but we have the promises of a loving God to hold on to. We have the promises of our Living Savior!

Take down the "no vacancy" sign on your heart. Listen to the tender voice of the Shepherd saying, "Follow Me." Walk with Jesus from the manger to the cross; watch as He takes the sin of the world, yours and mine, upon Himself. But rejoice when He defeats sin and death and lives forevermore!

May the joy and peace of this wonderful Christmas season fill your hearts with the peace, love and promises of Christ Jesus!

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*Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room
For thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee!*

*Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus
There is room in my heart for Thee!*

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne
Emily E.S. Elliot, 1864
Timothy R. Matthews, 1876*

*Deborah Graybosch
President
Atlantic District LWML*



The in-gathering for our April 28-29, 2012 convention has been selected. It's the ALBANY MARITIME MINISTRY.

Albany Maritime Ministry's "Christmas-at-Sea" program makes Christmas real for hundreds of seafarers who will be away from home and loved ones at Christmas. Gifts in a wrapped shoebox are given to the ships' captains when the ships are in the Port of Albany to be distributed on Christmas Day at sea.

Suggested items to include in a "Christmas-at-Sea" box are: knit cap or gloves, warm socks, writing paper, pens, travel board games, playing cards, puzzles, toiletries (razor, shaving cream, toothbrush and toothpaste), "AA" batteries, OR whatever else you can fit in and you think would be appreciated. There are also women sailors. If you pack a woman's box, please mark it for women.

Wrap box and lid separately so that boxes can be easily opened in case examination of contents is required.

Pastor Hempel of Albany will be at the convention to speak to us about the ministry.

The LWML Atlantic District Convention registration form can be found on pages 7 & 8 of this issue of The Candlestick. Be on the lookout for full convention registration information coming in January!

Pastoral Corner

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you all in the name of our New Born King!!

The Christmas Epiphany Season gives us a chance to remember and move forward in faith.

We remember by thanking God for the **Hope**, **Peace**, **Love**, and **Joy** that He brings once again. His **Hope** is a guarantee, for Jesus is the **Hope** to the world. His **Peace** is beyond all human understanding; after all, He is the Prince of Peace. The **Love** of God reminds us that His Grace is undeserved, God's Riches at Christ's expense. His **Joy** is complete as we look forward to the New Year.

I can remember our retreat; it was truly a spiritual journey for all who attended. We will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, like Peter, when he kept his eyes on Jesus, and walked on water. Just as Peter walked on water, we walk by faith.

In closing, I would like to say that it has been a joy to have served as Junior and Senior Pastoral Counselor. Our Junior Pastoral Counselor, Pastor Yee, is ready to assume the position as Senior Pastoral Counselor in April 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

*Serving an Awesome God,
Pastor Marvin Griffin
Senior Pastoral Counselor*

2011 Scholarship Winner

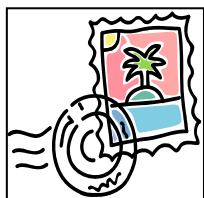


Pictured (l to r): Alyssa Joerz, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church - Hicksville and Immediate Past Atlantic District LWML President, Maureen Consiglio



Sue Zimmerman is now president of the Suffolk Zone. Her e-mail address is cotnclc@aol.com. We extend a warm welcome to our newest member of the Atlantic District Board of Directors!

GREAT NEWS!!



We received \$155.00 from our recent delivery to the stamp dealer, which brings our six year total of funds received from all the stamp donations to \$1,251.00. All donations go to the AD LWML Interpreter's Fund for the Deaf. We are so thankful for all who have donated the stamps and worked on getting them cut and sorted so they can be delivered to the dealer. Please continue to save your stamps. We will be happy to accept any collections or first day covers. If you have any questions, please contact Honey Pabst at 631-589-8353 or on line at hunny.pabst@yahoo.com (please put "stamps" on the subject line).

Honey Pabst

**SUFFOLK ZONE ANNUAL WOMEN'S
RETREAT
AT THE CORMARIA RETREAT HOUSE
Sag Harbor, NY**

DATE: May 11-12, 2012
(Friday-Saturday)
SPEAKER: Dr. LuJuana Butts
TOPIC: **"Celebrating God's Gift of Relationships"**



*ALL WOMEN IN THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND*

The registration form will be available on the AD LWML website in the coming months and also in *The Candlestick*

What I enjoyed about the LWML retreat 2011 was I liked how we met for prayers at 7:45 am on the deck overlooking the Delaware River. That was nice; it brought back memories of the years past. That morning the weather was a little cool, the sun was shining over the river, and we ladies worshipped God surrounded by nature. I also loved the closing service on Sunday morning led by Pastor Griffith and the choir director. The service was very uplifting, and in addition, I gained a prayer partner.

*Ura Steele
St. Matthew's
Brooklyn*



I was very impressed with the LWML Retreat. I loved the speaker, although I was a bit concerned at first. Seeing that she is a humorist, I felt that there may be a danger of the humor overpowering the message. I must admit though that her message could not be any clearer.

The worship leader was very rousing and I came away feeling very refreshed, invigorated, and spirit-filled.

I am looking forward to the 2012 retreat.
*Urmattie Singh
St. Peter's Lutheran Evangelical Church
Brooklyn*



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One of the most Spiritual and Blessed experiences I have had was attending the LWML Retreat at Tuscarora in Mt. Bethel, PA. This was my first Women's Retreat and will certainly not be my last. I had a wonderful time with all my sisters in Christ from St. Peter's Lutheran Church and St. Matthews. We laughed, talked, sang praises to God, read the Scripture, prayed, spent quality time together in the Lord.

The Retreat was a place where sisters in Christ from all over the Atlantic District got together to share their thoughts and feelings. To worship in the chapel and share meals. Most of all praising one God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The location was perfect, overlooking the Delaware River. The atmosphere was one of peace, calm and serenity. Worshipping on the deck overlooking the river early in the morning and watching the sun come up on the horizon was sheer heaven. My praise and thanks to all the women who took part in making the event possible. It is amazing to see how they all went out of their way to make other people happy. It goes to show that we are "Women of God on the Move" striving to bring everyone closer to God. These experiences and knowledge will be shared with all at St. Peter's and with friends and family.

Yvonne Sansarran
St. Peter's Lutheran Evangelical Church
Brooklyn

Five women set off from Brooklyn on Friday, October 14, 2011. We were going to Tuscarora in Mt. Bethel, PA, to attend our first LWML retreat. It was the most wonderful and spiritually rewarding experience of my life. It amazed me that five women could room in one small cabin and there were no disagreements. I made a new friend; I don't do that easily. Jan Struck who was the speaker for the retreat was inspirational. All the women were truly sisters in Christ. I have told everyone who would listen that this was one of the best experiences of my life. If I had the power, I would take every woman from St. Peter's to the retreat next year. I know I'll be there.

Nancy Rickert
St. Peter's Lutheran Evangelical Church
Brooklyn



I had the opportunity to be a first timer at the LWML retreat. It was an awesome experience, especially getting to meet our retreat leader, Jan Struck. She's an amazing and wonderful Christian speaker. It was a refreshing weekend; I met some very nice people.

I would like to share an incident that happened to me in the cabin that I was sharing with 4 sisters from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. It was about 11:00 pm on Saturday night. All of us were in bed when suddenly I felt something that fell on my head. I jumped up, brushed off whatever was on my head, and there on my pillow was a bug! With the commotion, all of us were up, bed linen on the floor, and the bug went MIA. The five of us looked everywhere - no bug. Deacon Nancy said, "don't be afraid - it's only a bug." Deacon Singh said, "Chrissy, sleep, the bug is gone". Sister Ura said "pray," and sister Yvonne said, "it's gone now." We really looked everywhere and the bug had disappeared. I said, "thank God" and I fell asleep.

When I woke up next morning, I forgot about the bug. We packed and left on Sunday afternoon. When I got home, I took the bag with the clothes that I wore over that weekend to sort out in the bathtub. I emptied the bag directly into the tub and there looking up at me was "the bug"! I screamed. I couldn't believe my eyes. The bug came home with me!

My first LWML retreat was wonderful...bug and all.

Christine Grant
St. Peter's Lutheran Evangelical Church
Brooklyn

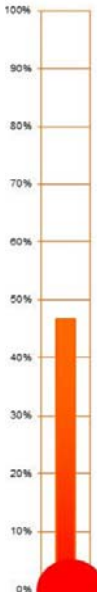
My first experience at the Atlantic District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) retreat at Tuscarora was something I have never imagined. The atmosphere is very different from the hustle bustle of city life. The retreat was like a detox from everyday life, and I was able to focus on my spirituality and on God. The LWML is about funding missions in the Lord's service that help the less fortunate here and abroad. Grants are given from money that is generated by collecting mites. Learning about the grants and mites helped me to realize what I have in life because there are people who are less fortunate than I.

The food at the retreat was bountiful--lots and lots of food! Every time I finished eating, I felt like I could not move! The speaker, Ms Jan Struck, was great. She will have you laughing for days. The arts and crafts were fun. I learned how to do things I would have never tried before. I enjoyed socializing with the older attendees because they have so much wisdom and such great stories to tell about their past. One thing that was missing was more youth with whom to socialize. Other than that, my whole experience was great!

Alyssia Smith
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Bronx, NY

Mission Outreach

MISSION GRANTS SELECTED 2010-2012 BIENNIUM



1.	Blessed Are You Among Women.....	\$1,500.00	PAID
2.	Building Young Women of the Faith.....	\$4,000.00	PAID
3.	Christian Children’s Books for Marshallese Children	\$6,000.00	PAID
4.	SonRise-Mill Neck Outdoor Mission to Special Needs Children.....	\$4,800.00	*see Note
5.	Bilingual VBS at the Life Church.....	\$3,000.00	PAID
6.	Art and Music Enrichment Classes (LCCNH).....	\$1,000.00	PAID
7.	Open The Doors and See All The People	\$1,250.00	PAID
8.	Let the Children Come – Let the Children Sing	\$4,000.00	PAID
9.	Seminary Student Tuition Assistance Matching Grant	\$5,000.00	
10.	MOST Ministries Water Outreach Project.....	\$2,870.00	
11.	Lord, Make Me A Missionary: Answering the Call for Workers in the Harvest Field.....	\$5,000.00	
12.	Outreach to Concordia College from Village Lutheran	\$5,000.00	
13.	Scholarship for Atlantic District Missionary Frank Hwang.....	\$1,580.00	

*Note: Mission Grant Cancelled

NEXT MISSION GRANTS TO BE FUNDED:

Mission Grant #9 – Seminary Student Tuition Assistance Matching Grant - \$5,000

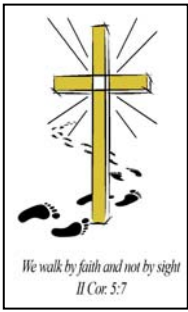
The grant funds will be used for Seminary Student Tuition Assistance in a 1:1 match by The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund through the generous gifts of individual donors, family foundations, congregations and corporations. The funds will be distributed to Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) and Concordia Theological Seminary (Ft. Wayne). Sponsored by Rev. Dr. Glen D. Thomas, Executive Director, Board for Pastoral Education – LCMS.

Mission Grant #10 – MOST Ministries Water Outreach Project - \$2,870

Water-borne infections that are easily and successfully prevented/treated in the United States can cause severe illness and death in developing countries where 70% of people lack access to safe water. Many of these people are dying without knowing “the gift of living water” as well. MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term, a Recognized Service Organization of LCMS) plans to send volunteer teams to share the gospel message while building latrines and water filtration systems, teaching good hygiene and elementary treatment of common illnesses. Sponsored by MOST Ministries, RSO of LCMS.

Atlantic District Mission Grants.....	\$45,000.00
LWML Mission Grants	\$18,750.00
Atlantic District Mission Inreach	\$11,250.00
2010-2012 Total Mission Goal.....	\$75,000.00

*Lillian L. Biddle
Vice President
Mission Outreach*



Atlantic District LWML 20th Biennial Convention

Saturday, April 28 – Sunday, April 29, 2012

Best Western Albany Airport Inn - 200 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205
518-458-1000

www.bwalbanyairport.com

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name _____ First Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____
 LWML Zone _____

CIRCLE YOUR STATUS

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Delegate | Alternate Delegate | Board of Directors | Past District President |
| General | Clergy | Young Women's Representative | Exhibitor |

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

NO registrations accepted after April 10, 2012 (per hotel contract)

Registration postmarked on/before **March 20, 2012** = \$75 (after March 21, 2012 = \$90) \$ _____

Spouse Registration postmarked on/before **March 20, 2012** = \$40 (after March 21, 2012 = \$50) \$ _____

HOTEL/MEAL PACKAGE

(Includes Saturday lodging, lunch buffet and banquet; Sunday breakfast and lunch)

Single room with all meals = \$149 (after March 21, 2012 = \$159) \$ _____

Two in a room with all meals = \$104 (after March 21, 2012 = \$114) \$ _____

Three in a room with all meals = \$89 (after March 21, 2012 = \$99) \$ _____

Four in a room with all meals = \$74 (after March 21, 2012 = \$84) \$ _____

DAY RATES (per person)

Saturday Only (includes lunch, banquet, and registration) = \$116 (after March 21, 2012 = \$136) \$ _____

Sunday Only (includes lunch and registration) = \$93 (after March 21, 2012 = \$103) \$ _____

BANQUET ONLY = \$30 per person (after March 21, 2012 = \$40) \$ _____

Friday evening room rate (includes Saturday breakfast) = \$90 (after March 21, 2012 = \$100)
(divide cost of room by number of people in the room) \$ _____

Sunday evening room rate (includes Sunday breakfast) = \$90 (after March 21, 2012 = \$100)
(divide cost of room by number of people in the room) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Make check for total amount on Page 1 to: **AD LWML 2012 CONVENTION**

Mail registration form and payment to:

Deacon Pearl Albrechtson
136 Elm Street
Schenectady, NY 12304-1204

Cancellations must be made in writing and received no later than March 20, 2012.

No refunds will be made after March 21, 2012.

Will you be participating in the CHOIR? (circle one) Yes No

Please mark your BANQUET ENTRÉE CHOICE:

- _____ Penne Pasta Prima Vera
- _____ Pork Medallions
- _____ Maple Glazed Salmon Filet

ROOMMATE LIST (This must be filled out on ALL non-single room registrations)

- 1. _____ 2. _____
- 3. _____ 4. _____

SPECIAL NEEDS

Dietary concerns: _____

Handicap Accessible Room Needed? Yes _____

American Sign Language Interpreter needed? Yes _____

**Shuttle service is available from Rensselaer train station, Albany bus station and Albany airport. Call the hotel for pickup at 518-458-1000.

For questions about Convention Registration, please contact Deacon Pearl Albrechtson

E-mail: ducky1@nycap.rr.com

Mite Marathon... **Start Strong**
FINISH STRONG!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2011

2011-2013 LWML BIENNIUM MITE CHALLENGE **START STRONG... FINISH STRONG!**

As you prepare for the joyous Christmas season, remember the Mission Grants that we pledged to support! Give these grant recipients hope by sharing God's love as you fill your Mite Box and pray specifically for them!

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me ... (Acts 20:24).



Consider these festive ways to praise God and thank Him this Advent season:

- ★ For each wrapped gift under your tree, drop a gift into your Mite Box.
- ★ Jingle your change in your Mite Box and pray for the mission grants.
- ★ For every house in your neighborhood that has outdoor Christmas decorations, adorn your Mite Box with green!
- ★ **December 12th – National Ding-a-ling Day!** Put \$5 in your Mite Box for all those times you were a ding-a-ling!
- ★ December 16th – National Chocolate Covered Anything Day! *What's not to celebrate??*
- ★ When you place a **bow** on a gift, **bow** and give thanks to God!
- ★ **Christmas Day – Jesus is Born!** Make a special donation to His glory to tell His story!
- ★ Travelling to see family? Put \$\$ in your Mite Box for each mile traveled.



Lutheran Women's
Missionary League
www.lwml.org

ZONE EVENTS

Suffolk

05/11-12/12 Woman's Retreat at Cormaria, Sag Harbor, NY

District

04/28-29/12 LWML Atlantic District Convention, Schenectady, NY

Board of Directors

01/07/12 Concordia College, Bronxville (rain/snow date - January 14)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2013...

National

06/27-30/13 LWML Convention, Pittsburgh, PA

Come and meet our national LWML President, Kay Kreklau. Kay will be with us for the entire convention-- April 28-29, 2012.

Visit us online at www.adlwml.org

Send e-mail to TheCandlestick@adlwml.org

or mail to

The Candlestick

12 Antarctic Street—Bay Shore, NY 11706

Submission deadline for the next issue is

March 1, 2012

PLEASE MAKE COPIES

FOR YOUR SOCIETIES.



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.

Executive Committee



Deborah Graybosch
President
E-mail: deblwml@gmail.com



Rosa Cruz-Molina
Vice President, Human Care
We remember our dear sister in Christ, Rosa, who now rests in the arms of her beloved Savior.



Eunice Bailey
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Honey Pabst
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E-mail: hunny.pabst@yahoo.com



Elsa Webb
Correspondence Secretary
E-mail: elsawebb@aol.com

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