

**Southern Illinois District  
Lutheran Women in Mission**

# Missionette

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**



**Volume 59 No. 2**

**December 2008**

**USPS-353-760**

## *LWML Calendar....*

Jan. 22—Board Meeting  
March 28—Spring Retreat  
April 16—Board Meeting  
June 25-28—National Con-  
vention in Portland

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**Mission Statement:** *The Mission of the Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to encourage each woman in the district to grow spiritually and to use her God given gifts to praise God and serve people.*

## Convention at Good Shepherd

"Witness to the Rock of Salvation," was the theme for the 2008 SID LWML Convention Sept. 19 and 20, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Collinsville. This year the convention started on Friday evening with a communion service.

Following the Friday evening opening worship service, a reception was held for fellowship and to participate in witnessing or mission projects.

National LWML Vice President of Servant Resources Eloise Kuhlmann of Texas shared an update from the executive LWML board and promoted the next LWML Convention in Portland, OR in 2009. The keynote speaker, Deb Wolf of St. Louis, used scripture, laughter and real-life applications to share God's message of joyous love.

Delegates elected Lucy Thompson of Collinsville as Vice President of Communications; Marilyn (Mickey) Roth of Belleville as Vice President of Gospel Outreach; Norma Tucker of Hoyleton as Recording Secretary and Rev. Dale Skeesick of Dorsey as Pastoral Counselor.

A goal of \$48,000 for supporting mission grants in sharing the gospel was adopted. Chosen for the next biennium were International and Campus Ministry at Our Savior, Carbondale; Seminary Student Scholarships; Christ Our Rock Lu-

theran High School at Centralia; Shared Prison Ministry; Vicar-Missionary Tract for Church Plant in Metropolis and Prison Ministry; Orphan Rescue and Outreach in Botswana, South Africa; United Lutheran Christian Elementary School in E. St. Louis; SIUE Lutheran Campus Ministry Outreach Program; Ministry to the Armed Forces, Ministry-by-Mail; *Today's Light & The Lutheran Messenger* in Southern Illinois in Braille and Care of Widows, Cows for Kids.

Attendees responded generously with ingathering gifts for the Phoenix Crisis Center in Granite City, a center for battered and abused women and children

Societies from the Metro Central Zone, with Debbie Wudtke as president, hosted the convention. SID President Brenda Schoenbeck of Collinsville presided.

**Eloise Kuhlmann**

**From Brenda...**  
**President Brenda**  
**Schoenbeck**

*The purpose of the president is to provide Christ centered leadership, using His wisdom and provision to seek opportunities in helping our LWML sisters use their gifts in service to the Lord.*

**Look to the Hills – God Reigns!**

**Psalm 121:1-2 “I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”**

It has been said that a national convention is like a mountaintop experience. This is certainly true with the LWML convention. There is all the excitement surrounding the event – the displays, the speakers, the fellowship with our sisters in Christ on a scale many times greater than on the local scale. There is the setting, probably a place where you’ve never been before. If you have been to a national LWML convention, you know the experience. If you have not, you will want to check it out. You come away with a glow, having been refreshed, invigorated and fired up. You literally come down from the mountain to the plains.

It is time to “Look to the Hills.” We in the Southern Illinois District LWML have begun the planning for the 2009 Convention in Portland, OR, June 25-28, 2009. Your zones will be selecting the delegates and alternates. Please be encouraged to come to the convention, whether you are the delegate or not. The district would like to be well represented at the convention. The registration materials will be in the winter issue of the Quarterly. Plan to make it part of your vacation travel in 2009.

Past President Anamelia  
Eden with President

As part of our plans for convention, we need an idea for the Southern Illinois District banner to be carried in the opening processional and displayed during the convention. This display is quite impressive. Your zone president has the specifications for the banner, or I can e-mail them to you if you like. I know there are many talented, creative women in this district and at least one of you has a good idea.

We are at the beginning of the 2008-2010 biennium for our district. We have adopted a new Grants goal; we have new officers and are now forming committees to help the officers in their tasks. If you would like to serve on a committee and have not been asked, please let me know. Willing workers are always welcome. “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” *Luke 10:2.*

Isaiah 52:7 says “*How beautiful on the mountaintop are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, Your God reigns!*”

Your sister in Christ,  
Brenda Schoenbeck

**MISSIONETTE (USPS-353-760)**

Periodicals postage paid are published March, June, September, December by the Southern Illinois District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 908 Arrowhead Dr., Collinsville, IL 62234. Editor: Jane Lucht, 10319 Elm Shade Road, Red Bud, IL 62278. Address changes to: Peggy Sachtleben, 908 Arrowhead Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. 1400 copies printed, 1201 copies mailed, 145 hand carried, 54 not distributed.

**Audit report on file**

**Treasurer Ruth Ann Arbeiter announced that the auditor’s report of the treasurer’s books is on file with the president and the treasurer. If anyone would like to see a copy, contact President Brenda or Treasurer Ruth Ann.**

## Counselor's Corner

Rev. Dale Skeesick

"GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD." This is Thanksgiving 2008. So for what are we thankful? There's almost too much to count! All our material blessings, the privilege of having been made children of God and heirs of heaven, living in a nation with freedoms, rule of law, and freedom to worship the one true God. These are all gifts we have received and continue to enjoy. Thanks and praise to God in Jesus Christ! In September, I was given the marvelous opportunity to serve the Southern Illinois District - LWML as Pastoral Counselor. My election to the District Executive Board was truly a surprise and an honor. To have been selected by the women in the convention for this special office was overwhelming. It is a privilege for me that I shall long cherish and remember. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the dedication the women of the LWML have for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with their time, treasures, and talents.

In my role as Pastoral counselor, I will be able to share my love for Christ with you and in turn encourage you to share His love for you with others.

I look forward to the opportunity to work closely with the officers of this district in planning and carrying out the various activities for the District LWML. I look forward to attending the various workshops and retreats that will be both inspiring and uplifting.

I would encourage you, the women of the Southern Illinois District to pray for me and my ministry as I will continue to pray for you and the work you continue to do - sharing your love for Jesus Christ.

God's richest blessings to you!

## Blessed Christmas!!



PAST PRESIDENTS—Eight of the nine living past presidents attended the LWML Convention in Collinsville. Seated from left are Mary Gray (1995-98), Vicky David (1990-94), Dorothy Mansholt (1974-78) and Ruth Ann Arbeiter (1986-90). In back, Jeannette Johnson (1982-86), Peggy Sachtleben (2002-06), Anamelia Eden (1962-66) and Jane Lucht (1978-82). Not present Faith Richardson (1998-02)

## LWML Store to feature "Web Special"

In order to acquaint LWML members with the availability of LWML products and resources through the LWML Web site, the LWML Store will be featuring a "Web Special" at the beginning of each month. Just look for the purple glitter words "Web Special" on the home page, [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

To receive these special prices, call 1-800-252-LWML (5965) and mention Web Special. You may also order online at <http://shop.lwml.org/>. On the checkout page in the "Enter comments" box, type in "Web Special". The price will be adjusted in the office before running your credit card. Postage remains at the regular price rate.

These specials are **not automatic**. Special pricing is available starting the first of each month while supplies last or the item is no longer listed on the Web site.

Norine Stumpf, LWML Office Business Administrator, encourages all LWML members to mark their calendars and check out the "Web Special" on the LWML Web site at the first of each month!

## New District Store manager

Marie Voges of Evansville has been appointed as the Public Relations Director which entails managing the District LWML Store. If there is a certain item or items a society or individual would want or inquire about, she can be reached at 7755 St. Leos Road, Evansville, IL 62242 or calling 618-282-2552 or email [dandre@htc.net](mailto:dandre@htc.net).

# Vice President of Gospel Outreach

## Mickey Roth

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3: 5 & 6*

I am the newly elected Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Proverbs 3:5 & 6 (quoted above) is my favorite Bible verse. I trust that

*The purpose of the Office of Gospel Outreach is to use scripture and information about our grants to uplift each woman of the SID LWML so her life serves as a witness to both Christians and non Christians and so she gives abundantly of her talents and treasures for the glory of God and the service of mankind.*

God will guide my path as I fulfill the responsibilities of this position.

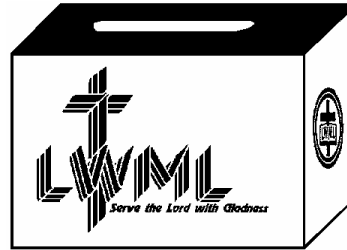
At the September convention in Collinsville, it was reported that all of the grants from the 2006-2008 biennium were funded in the amount of \$58,335. This is a powerful “Witness to the Rock of our Salvation”. God has richly blessed the gathering of mites to further the work of His kingdom.

The total amount of these mission projects is \$53,000. We trust that God will inspire the LWML ladies (and men) to generously give their mites to meet this goal. Always remember to say a prayer each time you drop a coin into your mite box. Pray for the projects

that have been selected, for all missionaries, and for all efforts to spread the Good News of the Love of Jesus Christ.

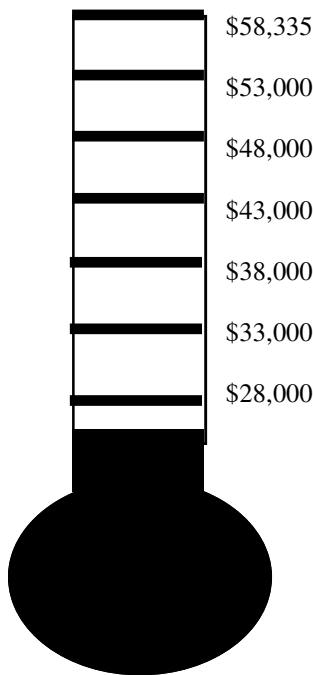
May the JOY of Jesus be yours in this Christmas season while you keep Christ first in all your many activities. On January 6 we will celebrate Epiphany, remembering the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus and the gift that Jesus is to each of us. Hopefully you and your society will share your blessings by giving an Epiphany gift to the District LWML.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year.



**Keep filling those Mite Boxes**

## Mitey Meter



We trust that God’s guidance was with the delegates as they selected the 11 following projects for the 2008-2010:

<u>Mission Grant</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>To be Paid</u>
Vicar- Missionary Tract for Church Plant and Prison Ministry.....	\$800	-0-
Orphan Rescue and Outreach in Botswana, South Africa.....	\$2,000	-0-
Care of Widows, Cows for Kids.....	\$2,400	-0-
<i>Today’s Light and The Lutheran Messenger</i> in Braille.....	\$2,000	\$2,000
Armed Forces Ministry by Mail.....	\$2,000	\$3,000
International and Campus Ministry –Our Savior, Carbondale .....	\$2,700	\$2,700
SIUE Lutheran Campus Ministry Outreach Program.....	\$2,700	\$2,700
Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School, E. St. Louis.....	\$6,000	\$6,000
Shared Prison Ministry with SID.....	\$7,000	\$7,000
Tuition Assistance Fund at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School.....	\$7,000	\$7,000
Seminary Student Scholarship Fund.....	\$8,000	\$8,000

## Vice President of Servant Resources Mary Ann Sachtleben

*The purpose of Servant Resources is to provide leadership development and maintain structure to equip the members of the SID LWML to follow in the footsteps of Christ, our true leader and guide.*

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6*

Trust is not always easy to do. This year our country has experienced many situations in which we have been asked to trust our government and leaders to do what they think is best for us. In November we voted for the presidential candidate that we believe we can trust to be the best person for that position. Trust comes with a lot of responsibility and like I said, it is not always an easy task.

I have had to trust God to give me the courage and strength to accomplish my tasks as V.P. of Servant Resources over the past few months. Those tasks have included delivering the bylaw's report to the SID convention Sept. 20; sending out adopted SID Bylaws to SID board members and Zone Presidents as well as sending copies of the adopted SID Bylaws to the National Structure committee. I have put my trust in the Lord to guide and encourage me as I attended the Assembly of Leaders conference Oct. 24-26.

I trust in God to give me the time and resources to meet my responsibilities as an LWML'er. We must all pray and put our trust in the Lord to continue His blessing of our SID LWML. Pray that He touches the hearts of all the Lutheran women in our district and that they will feel compelled to become active members in LWML. Trust His goodness and mercy forever!



## Convention in Portland

Plan now to attend the LWML 33rd Biennial Convention in beautiful Portland, OR, where the host committee will roll out the purple carpet just for you! Set aside June 25–28, 2009, to join your LWML sisters in Christ to "Look to the Hills ... God Reigns." What better place than Mt. Hood and its scenic surroundings to reflect on God's creation and the assurances we read in Psalm 121:1-2, "I lift up my eyes to the hills — where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Begin making plans, reserve the date and encourage other LWML/LCMS women (men and families are welcome, too) to journey with you to the beautiful Pacific Northwest. There is more information to come! Visit [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for details about the convention and the post-convention cruise to Alaska offered by Azumano Travel of Portland. Cabins are limited--book your reservations now!

## News! News! News!

Your Lutheran Woman's Quarterly staff is asking for unique news from your zones and societies!

Which events would inspire your LWML sisters to try your ideas? How are your teens and young women serving the Lord through the LWML? What would YOU like to share with your sisters in Christ?

Submissions are easy:

Send stories to [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org) or via USPS to Carolyn Blum, LWQ News Editor, 911 Tara Hill East, Hartford, WI 53027.



Please include the name of your LWML district, the name of your church and society, as well as the name, address, phone and e-mail address of the submitter. Submitters need not write the article in final form; you may just send a narrative with the who, what, when, where, why and how of the activity. We will then extract the parts we feel would be the most inspiring to our readers.

If electronic photos are sent, they should be in a high enough resolution to print sharply in the magazine (at least 200-400 kb is preferable), or prints may also be send. Please do not send photos taken with a cell phone.



**Sending you a  
Blessed Christmas  
and a  
Joyous New Year!**

## Vice President of Human Care Debbie Wudtke

*The purpose of the Human Care Committee is to sensitize women toward those who are hurting or in need and to enable them to compassionately reach out with knowledgeable, Biblical, hands-on car-*

*Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18*

All fall my mailbox fills with catalogs for everything: books, clothes, puzzles, fruits, jewelry, sports supplies, toys, home décor and more. I love looking through these, and usually I notice items that would make great gifts for friends and families. This holiday shopping season will probably be noted as one of the worst economically. Some even say that China will be hit especially hard as so many products are manufactured there. You may not consider where the items we purchase come from. Our world seems much smaller these days, and items are readily available from every corner of the planet.

Do you ever wonder about the people who make these items? Wal-Mart used to profile the American companies they used, but now just about everything can be made for less but not here in our country. This season you may want to consider a fair trade gift. Fair trade arrangements allow the people actually making an item to benefit from the sale of that item.

Lutheran World Relief has been working with SERRV, a fair trade partner. By working with groups of artisans, they offer beautiful items at reasonable prices, and you can play a role in improving the quality of life for someone in a developing country. Visit [www.lwr.org/handcraft](http://www.lwr.org/handcraft) to order online or request a catalog. You can read about the different groups that they work with.

If you head to St. Louis for holiday shopping, you might want to visit Plowsharing Crafts at their Kirkwood location or in the

Loop (Check out [www.plowsharing.org](http://www.plowsharing.org)) They are a fair trade retailer that works with volunteer staff so that the money from the sales of the items can really benefit the creators.

This season as you show your love and appreciation to the special people in your life, consider how your gift could also benefit the artisan who created it. Thank you all for your generous donations collected at the district convention. What a wonderful outpouring of your love to the local women and children that need support at Phoenix Crisis Center. A very special thank you goes out to the ladies from Holy Cross, Collinsville for sorting, counting and delivering (in at least 5 trips) all the items.

Here's how you showed your compassion:

276 Paper products  
+ 219 Cleaning supplies  
+1155 Personal hygiene products  
+ 299 Office supplies  
+2567 Clothing items  
+ 142 Baby items  
+ 380 Miscellaneous items  
=5038 Items and \$320.00

A priceless display of Christ's love!

**Be “Linked In Prayer” with LWML sisters throughout the United States every Monday at Noon. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to rest on the mission grants given through the LWML mites.**

### Directories

If anyone would like to have a copy of the SID LWML directory, contact Valerie Meyer (see back for address). You can also go to the SID website and

The directory has a complete listing with addresses and phone numbers of all the officers of the district, zones and societies in the Southern Illinois District.

OVERWHELMING REPOSE—LWML members of Holy Cross, Collinsville, were in charge of collecting, packing, counting and delivering the ingathering items that were so generously brought to the convention. The items were delivered to the Phoenix Crisis Center in Granite City.

## Vice President of Christian Life

### Diane Grebing

Opportunity: “a favorable juncture of circumstances” (*Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*)

I have recently been granted a wonderful and challenging opportunity: to serve you as Vice President of Christian Life! When President Brenda Schoenbeck asked me to consider this appointment, I must admit that I was nervous (and still am!) This is a big job which has been most recently filled with creativity and effectiveness by Terri Blasingame. (Thank you, Terri!) Through prayer and careful consideration, God has led me to see this appointment as indeed “a favorable juncture of circumstances”. As I begin to serve in this position, I am relying on Jesus to lead me and guide me to make wise and effective plans that are pleasing to Him. I know that I can “do everything through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). Fellow women in mission, I ask for your prayers and for your wise advice as I serve God and you in the coming months.

Opportunities given to us to serve and grow in the Lord through LWML often arise from “a favorable juncture of circumstances.” But lately we all have been given an opportunity to both rely on and to witness to God’s strength through a not-so-favorable circumstance: the recent economic downturn. Notice the faces which surround you as you enjoy your morning coffee at your

## Vice President of Communication

### Lucy Thompson

*The purpose of this office is to inform the district of what has happened and what will be taking place in the LWML.*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

The convention is behind us, and it was a good convention. But first, I want to thank you for electing me to this position. I am very excited about working on the board and pray that God’s will is always done. What a good feeling it is to be called to work for the Lord but to remember the above scripture at all times. Not to boast—sometimes that slips my mind.

This brings me to the evaluation forms that were turned in at the convention in September. For the most part, the majority of attendees were pleased with the convention, but some were not so pleased. Some gave us low

favorite café. Notice the faces in the checkout line at your local grocery store, in the cubicles of your office, on the sidewalks of your community. For many, worry lines have deepened and jaws have tensed. Times are hard and concerns are urgent. People are frightened about what the future holds for them and for their families.

As He has done throughout history, God uses unfavorable circumstances to draw us closer to Him and to the promises and comfort found in His Word. The Bible says, *We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose*” (Romans 8:28). Our great God has already worked the greatest good for us. In love, through His death and resurrection, our Lord Jesus reached down and rescued us out of the pit of eternal death and into His marvelous forgiveness and everlasting life. In Christ Jesus, our futures are secure. By faith, we *know* Jesus has miraculously saved us from our sins. By faith, we *know* that we live forever in Him. Therefore, by faith, we *know* Jesus will safely guide us through any times of trouble we may face on this earth. What comfort these truths are!

God gives us daily opportunities to share His promises of hope and salvation with hurting people. The Holy Spirit is with us and helps us share. It is my prayer that each of us would make the most of these opportunities to share with others Jesus’ saving love and the sure and certain hope we have in Him.

Joy, strength, and peace in our risen Lord!

**Willing to  
“Serve the Lord  
With Gladness”**

marks but no explanation as to why you thought we did a bad job. We welcome an explanation and suggestions as to how the job can get done in a better way than we did it. So in two years, there will be another convention, and we will look forward to suggestions from all of you over time until then.

Now would be a good time to start planning for the national convention that will take place June 25 through June 28 in Portland Oregon. Until then, I’ll pray that when I’m not happy with a situation I can make a suggestion on how to make it better— not just a complaint.

## Serving You Are:

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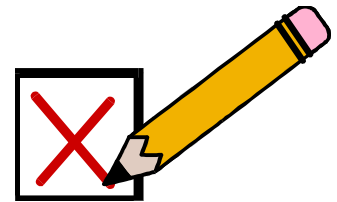
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## Around the District

Congratulations to Deb Albers, the Young Women Representative for the Southern Illinois District, who received the Lamb Award from the National Lutheran Association on Scouting. The award is given for many years of service given to young people through the Girls Scouts of America and the Boy Scouts of America. She is a member of Bethlehem, Ferrin and an active LWMLer.

## Mark your calendar NOW!

Terry Ditmer has agreed to be the leader



at the Spring Retreat scheduled for March 28 in the Carlyle area. More details will be mailed to each society. It is a program you won't want to miss. Make your plans to attend this interesting and inspirational day.

## Gifts of Love

### Memorials

Gladys Adden  
\*Helen Boeker  
Laurette Brandt  
Erna Culp  
JoAnn Dietiker  
\*JoAnn Dietiker  
Ruth Eickmeyer  
Herbert Gieves, Sr.  
\*Audrey Lesemann  
Elvera Rathert  
\*Shirley Twenhafel

### Birthday

\*Esther Boehne (90)  
\*Leona Niemann (90)  
\*Denotes Student Assistance Fund

Remember your loved one with a gift to the LWML



### Honor

Lillian Gaultney  
Shirley Wheatley