

**Southern Illinois District
Lutheran Women in Mission**



Missionette

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Volume 60 No. 3

March 2010

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LWML Calendar....

March 20—Spring Retreat
April 15—Board Meeting
July 15—Board Meeting
**Sept. 24-25 2010—District
Convention at Centralia**
Oct. 21—Board Meeting

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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.*

“The Joy of the Lord is My Strength” serves as the theme for Spring Retreat

You are invited to attend the Southern Illinois District Spring Retreat on March 20, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Prairietown. The theme for this year's event is taken from Nehemiah 8:10 b *“The Joy of the Lord is my Strength.”* The cost is \$20 per participant, which includes the cost of all materials and lunch.

Bring a carload of ladies and benefit from your Joy-filled day in Christ with your fellow LWML sisters. Invite some ladies that are not LWML members too. This retreat is for anyone!

Our day will begin with the worship service at 9 a.m., which includes Holy Communion. Rev. Dale Skeesick will be the proclaimer. We will then register over at the school and continue our day there. We will learn how to “flex” our muscles in the Lord. We will hear from local people that are using the Joy of the Lord to stay strong during their weakness.

The ingathering for the day will go to Community Hope Center. It is a local food bank. Bring any canned or boxed food items or cleaning supplies. I suggest a bottle of JOY dish soap. Let's see how much JOY we can bring!

Plan now to attend. You know we will have a joy filled day together as we learn how we can lean on the Lord for strength. The registration deadline is March 1. Make your check payable to: SID LWML and send it to: Deb Albers 22206 East Rd. Carlyle, IL 62231.

Registration Form. Fill out the following:

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Congregation / Society _____

Phone # _____

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.

Planning and Goal Setting

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Maybe you have heard the saying “Fail to plan, plan to fail.” Often we put off things until the last minute and find out that we lack what we need to accomplish the task before us – a failure to plan. Sometimes, but less often, we plan to the extent that we get caught up in “analysis paralysis,” dealing with the minutia, and lose sight of the goal – again a failure, this time of over planning.

We are now in a planning mode, looking forward to the Southern Illinois District LWML Convention. You have known for some time the place and date – Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, Centralia, IL, Sept. 24-25, 2010. Our theme is “**Grow in Grace,**” based on 2 Peter 3:18. You will be receiving registration information soon. I hope you are planning to attend.

All the active societies and the zones within the district have received letters regarding nominations for district officers. If you are interested in finding out about the duties of these offices, I can send you the position description for any office. The offices up for election this time are District President, Vice President of Human Care, Vice President of Servant Resources, Vice President of Christian Life (two-year term), Corresponding Secretary and Financial Secretary. You are all encouraged to become involved in the leadership of your district.

On a different note but equally important, the biennium ends on June 30. Please plan to get your mites in before that date for funding our district grants for 2008-2010.

As Jeremiah says, our God has a plan for each of us, and He will follow through with those plans. We have only to trust Him as we step out in service.

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3 NIV

*Your sister in Christ,
 Brenda Schoenbeck*

MISSIONETTE

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Christian Preamble

A Christian Preamble to your Will or Living Trust provides a fine opportunity to share this belief with your family and friends. Through the Holy Spirit, this personal statement of your faith will comfort your loved ones in their time of loss and encourage them to place their trust in Jesus Christ.

For Christian Preamble examples, contact LWML Gift Planning Services at 1 (888) 482-8425. You may also want to visit the website at www.lwmlgiftplan.org

Counselor's Corner

Rev. Dale Skeesick

We are just barely a month into the new year and already we begin talk of our journey to the cross and Easter. On Feb. 17 we entered the time of the Church Year known as Lent. It is the season in which we hear of Jesus' painful suffering and death. It is hard for us to imagine how people of God living then could be so blind, so cruel and so lacking in understanding that they could put Jesus to death.

How many times have we ordered something which sounded so wonderful and upon receiving it realized that it didn't fulfill our expectations? We were disappointed and perhaps a bit angry. In a sense, that's what happened to the Jews. They expected the Son of God to come as a great army leader. They expected another King, like David but only better and stronger. They had a false expectation by not understanding what God promised about His Son in the Old Testament.

They were not ready for a humble carpenter's Son who wouldn't fight but spoke of love and, of all things, dying on a cross. They could not understand that He came to win a victory for them over an enemy far greater than Rome. He came to win victory over sin, death and the devil.

Sometimes we have the same problem as the Jews. We, too, misunderstand God's promises. Sometimes Jesus doesn't meet our expectations. He never promised us a life of ease. Rather, we may expect just the opposite – to “take up our cross and follow Him.”

As we are in the season of Lent, may we take the opportunities that are available to worship and to prepare our hearts for Calvary and the cross - and for the glorious message of Easter – that Christ is Risen!



Young Women Rep

Deb Albers

Young Woman Representatives... where are they? They are in your church. Yes, your very own church, sitting in the pew with you perhaps. Ask them to come to the SID LWML Convention. Invite them to be your society's guest. They will have fun and learn the basics of what LWML is all about. Age doesn't matter. If there is someone that is not familiar with the LWML, or has just joined, or wants to know more, ask her to be your society's guest as a YWR.

Here is a quick overview of the weekend. Friday evening's activities will be at Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle, in the fellowship hall. Activities will be from 7 to 9:30 p.m. It will be filled with fun, fellowship and friends. The night will open and close with devotions. There will be music, get-to-know-you activities, hands-on mission work and a snack.

There will be a special time for the YWRs to get together and meet each other too. The cost for Friday evening and Saturday is only \$20. There will be baby-sitting available Saturday at the convention.

The convention will be held at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, about 12 miles from Carlyle. There are hotels available in Carlyle, if you wish to stay overnight Friday. Look elsewhere in the *Missionette* for hotel information. **The convention sessions should be done no later than 5 p.m. on Saturday.**

The convention committee encourages every society to sponsor a YWR. Your society may have more than one! The YWRs are the future of the LWML. I know how that sounds ladies, but it is so true. This is a worthwhile organization that supports the mission work of the church.

We are more than just food, fun and fellowship. There is business too, it is the business of sharing His word and His love with others by taking meals to ones that are sick, collecting Mites to support missionaries, packing health kits, and the list goes on. This service must be taught to our young ladies so they too can follow the LWML motto and “*Serve the Lord with Gladness.*”

If you have any questions regarding the YWR activity or the Friday evening fellowship time, just call me. I'll be happy to answer your questions. I can be reached at the number on the back of the *Missionette*.

YWR deadline is Aug. 1, 2010.

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Mickey Roth

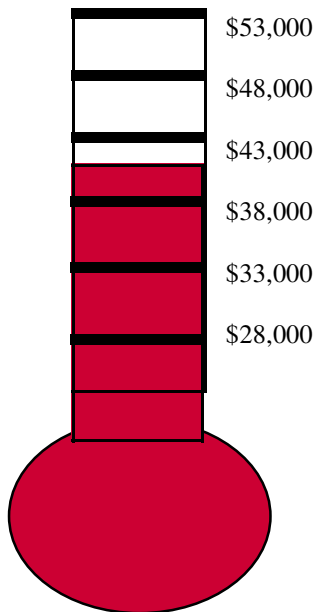
Ephesians 5:2 Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

In this Lenten season, we think of the sacrifices Christ made for us. He suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane, also when the soldiers mocked Him, and on the road to Calvary. Finally, He gave His life on the cross and thankfully we know this isn't the end of the story. Jesus came alive for us and conquered sin and death when He arose on Easter morning.

Thinking of Eph 5:2, we then should live a life of love - following

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.

Mitey Meter



Christ. Study His Word, obey Him, serve Him. We serve Him giving our time, talents and treasures. As ladies of the LWML, we sacrifice and give our mites and offer our prayers to support our mission projects.

Recently, we were able to fund two more projects—\$2,000 was sent to support blind ministry. The project money is used to publish “Today’s Light” and “The Lutheran Messenger” in Braille. Another \$3,000 was given to Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School in East St. Louis to help with their building fund. We pray for both of these mission efforts to be successful in reaching souls for Christ.

Scholarship applications for Southern Illinois District students going into full time church work

are now available on the web site - www.sidlwml.org. The deadline for scholarship applications is May 1, 2010. Other contact information is available on the application or on the website.



Now this classic is offered in a medium size. Box folds flat. Made of corrugated cardboard. Measures 12" x 5" x 7". Shown with traditional individual Mite box.

Call LWML office at 1-800-252-5965 or email lwml@lwml.org for price and postage.

Need Mite Boxes??
Contact Donna Janneke, financial secretary, at: 604 S. Charles, Steeleville, IL 62288
618-965-9276
janneke@egyptian.net

LWML MISSION GRANTS 2008-2010 BIENNIUM			
Total Mite Goal: \$53,000.00			
<u>Grant Name</u>	<u>Grant Goal</u>	<u>Disbursed</u>	<u>To be Paid</u>
-Care of Widows, Cows for Kids	\$2,400	\$2,400	-0-
-International and Campus Ministry			
Our Savior, Carbondale	\$5,400	\$5,400	-0-
-Ministry by Mail to the Armed Forces	\$5,000	\$5,000	-0-
-Orphan Rescue and Outreach in Botswana, South Africa	\$2,000	\$2,000	-0-
-Seminary Student Scholarship Fund	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
-Shared Prison Ministry with SID	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$3,500
-SIUE Lutheran Campus Ministry Outreach Program	\$5,400	\$5,400	-0-
- <i>Today's Light and The Lutheran Messenger</i> in Braille	\$4,000	\$4,000	-0-
-Tuition Assistance Fund at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School	\$7,000	\$3,500	\$1,500
-Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School, E. St. Louis	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
-Vicar- Missionary Tract for Church Plant and Prison Ministry	\$800	\$800	-0-
Totals	\$53,000	\$40,500	\$12,500
Designated gift to Orphan Rescue and Outreach		\$61.36	

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.

Visioning for Tomorrow (Courtesy of the 2008 Assembly of Leaders)

Deuteronomy 31:8 *The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*

Visioning is viewing God's plan for our life and the lives of those entrusted in our care. It is praying for the Holy Spirit's wisdom and making decisions that allow us to carry out that plan for Him. It is making choices toward that plan that honor God and bring Him glory.

Steps for Visioning:

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom. This is the first step in any visioning that is to take place in planning for a zone, society or congregation.
2. Seek Christ in His Word. Use devotions and Bible studies that encourage one another in the faith, focusing on Jesus Christ and His desires for you and the women of

Vice President of Human Care

Debbie Wudtke

One of my pet peeves involves the TV game show "Wheel of Fortune" and the contestants that buy vowels. Sometimes I think that they must have a rule about buying vowels because the puzzle looks so obvious to me and yet they still buy vowels. Do they really not see that _RANGE P_PP_ SEED M_FF_NS is Orange Poppy Seed Muffins? Instead they buy the "U" and the "I" and then the "O". I think sometimes we as Christians can be looking so closely at the details that we miss the main idea. We fret over the little things, worry about tomorrow, get lost in the day to day. Our lives can be so overwhelming that we forget the simple plan God has for us.

Mark 16 tells us "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." This passage does not necessarily mean for us to pack our bags and head out; it reminds us that we can carry this message everywhere we go even if it is just to the grocery store or the gas station. Having our focus on Him helps us from drowning in the earthly matters that can overtake us. As women of mission, we can show our faith by helping others deal with the day to day stuff. I have even been able to prepare lunch for 20 teachers

your group. Trust in His Spirit's ability to guide, lead and direct your choices. Pray! Pray! Pray for His vision of what you can become – vibrant, effective and energetic.

3. Believe amazing things can and will happen. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Also believe He will grant you the guidance and provide the supply. It is a promise and He is faithful to His promises.
4. Refer to Ephesians 2:10 and Philippians 4:19 "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).
5. Brainstorm: In your groups, have fun expressing new, exciting ideas, even if it sounds a little "off-the-wall." Many times those are the ones that bring a lot of laughter, fun and success.
6. Select one or more targets and goals you believe you can successfully attain as a group. Make plans to carry it out and set a timeline for its completion.
7. Determine a method of evaluation or accountability for the programs/activities you have selected. Ask yourself – "Did the program work? Why or why not?" Then decide whether it has enough value to be used again in the future.
8. Pray for His hand of blessing on all He has led you to do for Him Remember this exciting news: Our mission is to share Christ and His cross, for it is the power of God unto salvation. With that as your focus, your lives and the lives of those you serve will be blessed.

I pray that your society and zone leaders use the above information to encourage growth and enrich your groups. May God Bless your visioning efforts.

Willing to
"Serve the Lord
With Gladness"



(yes me- of the "Do Not Call Me for Food" group) because I know that what they do is important and part of God's plan. I have babysat when young parents just need a night out. I have taken a "girls day" when a friend just needed to get away from the young kids. No second guessing, no vowel buying; instead I look to the resurrected Lord and His promises.

You're Invited!!!

You are invited to the Southern Illinois District Convention on Sept. 24-25, 2010. Friday evening Activities will be held in Carlyle. Hotel rooms are blocked for the event there. The convention is Saturday at Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School in Centralia. Come and join us as we *Grow in Grace* based on 2 Peter 3:18



Convention Lodging

All rooms are reserved under LWML—Make sure to mention the group when making reservations. Please call the hotel directly to make reservations. A credit card is required to hold the room. Tax will be added to the cost as well.

Super 8 Motel in Carlyle: 15 non-smoking rooms @ \$65 for up to four people. There are two queen beds per room. Located at 1371 Williams Road, Carlyle, IL 62231, 618-594-8888

Microtel or Mariner's Village in Carlyle: 7 suites @\$86.99 will have a queen bed and a pull-out queen soft; 6 rooms with two queen beds @ \$76 for two people, \$5 per person up to 4; 1 handicap accessible room with queen bed @\$61.99; 1 regular room with queen bed for \$61.99. Located at #1 Resort Drive, Carlyle, IL 62231, 618-594-7666.

Dam West Campground is nearby with excellent fishing, golfing, boating and hiking. Bring the family and enjoy the weekend together.

To find out more about available camping go to the following website: <http://www.carlylelake.com/Camping/index.htm>

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.

2 Corinthians 5:17: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* New beginnings, that's what each New Year brings. This New Year we will have plenty to keep us busy. There are society meetings, zone meetings and district meetings. There will be the Prayer Service "Beautiful Feet" which each zone will schedule that is available on the web site www.lwml.org. The Spring Retreat is scheduled for March 20. The theme is "Joy of the Lord". The registration form will be available on our website www.sidlwml.org (also on

page 1 of this issue). The deadline for registration will be around the first part of March. The District Convention is this year on Sept. 24 and 25. It will be at Christ Our Rock High School in Centralia. There are positions to be filled on the board. Please prayerfully consider those jobs. So now it is time to let go of the past and build on the future. As the verse goes, we are a new creation if we are anyone in Christ. Let our whole lives be consumed with being in Christ.

Vice President of Christian Life

Diane Grebing

The purpose of Christian Life is to share information and materials that will help nurture the women in the Southern Illinois District as they grow spiritually to love and serve the Lord.

Being GRACE-ful

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:4–9, ESV)

Greetings, friends! I hope that in these initial days of 2010, through your daily study of God’s Word, you have been experiencing God’s joy and peace by the power of the Holy Spirit. I pray that you continue to eagerly open those Bible pages and rejoice in the promises God is keeping for you!

I recently received from my husband a gift of an exercise game for a popular video game system. (Don’t dismay, I asked him for it.) This exercise game is comprised of many smaller games and activities designed to help the user get in better physical shape. Since the first time I stepped on to the game’s balance board, the game’s computer brain has told me more than once that I do not have a good sense of balance. (Actually, I could have figured this out for myself. Many exercise sessions I spend more time off the board than on it!) My physical movements, instead of being graceful and fluid, are stumbling and awkward. (Trust me, it’s not a pretty sight.)

Under my own power, I am also spiritually stumbling and awkward. My sins are an even uglier sight than my exercise moves. As a matter of fact, left to my own attempts, I am spiritually dead. No amount of exercise or work on my part can change this fact. But thanks be to God! The truths contained in Ephesians 2:4–9 remind me that my merciful Heavenly Father, out of His great love, has saved us by His *grace* through faith in Christ Jesus!

The letters contained in the word *GRACE*, define the word well. Perhaps you’ve seen this acronym for GRACE before:

God’s
Riches
At
Christ’s
Expense

Think about it: because Jesus gave His life on the cross and then rose from the dead for us, we are now spiritually grace-ful! What a miracle! We who once were dead are now alive forever in Christ! Through faith in Him we have all the great and wonderful treasures that God has to offer! Even though we daily sin and fall short of God’s expectations for us, by faith, out of His great love, we forever have His power to help us repent when we fail Him and others. We forever have His forgiveness, His love, and His peace that reminds us we are eternally His. When our lives on earth end, we will live forever with Jesus in heaven where we will never again be awkward stumblers.

Grace-ful in Jesus, our moves are defined, refined, and purposeful as we daily serve Him and others with loving hearts. Released from the fear that our sins and Satan cause, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to move freely, joyful and secure in Jesus’ promise to always be with us. And on those occasions when we still do stumble or even fall, we can be certain that Jesus will lift us up and give us the strength to continue to live in Him.



“Grow in Grace: God’s Riches on Women in Gladly Rejoicing Always in Christ Everlasting” is the acronym theme for our upcoming SID 2010 LWML Convention. God’s grace is the gift that keeps on giving for eternity. Please keep the planning of this convention in your prayers in the coming months. Pray especially that through the worship service, speakers, previous and newly-selected mission projects, and through the gathering of women in mission, God’s grace would be proclaimed and exclaimed.

Spread the good news of God’s grace and invite younger women in your congregation to join you at the convention. We are His grace-ful instruments who are commissioned to share the saving love of Jesus with the world.

Oh, no! I believe I hear my exercise equipment calling me. No matter how much I use it, I will probably continue with a life-long struggle for physical grace. But thankfully, God has given all who believe in Him spiritual grace forever! What a God! What a gift! Be grace-ful in Him!

**Blessed
Easter!!**

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Care/Concerns

Our sympathy to the Ida Heinemann family. Her daughter is Marie Voges, the LWML Public Relations Director. She was an active LWMLer and attended many, many retreats.

Mickey Roth, VP of Gospel Outreach, became grandmother in December, and the baby has some health issues. Keep the family in your prayers.

STAY IN
TOUCH
WITH THE LATEST
LWML
HAPPENINGS WITH

LWML
e-NEWS


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Gifts of Love

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Lydelle Decker
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*Denotes Student Assistance Fund