

ACCENT

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On Lutheran Women's Missionary League
English District

Fall/Winter 2008

Thanksgiving is upon us! And all we have to be thankful for comes from the Lord. Reflections are ways to give thanks for His blessings in the past and in the present.

When you reflect back on your years in the LWML, what do you think about?

Do you think about the first meeting you every attended? I do! My first meeting was at Evelyn Kovacs' house. I was 19 years old. They elected me as their treasurer and said, "You'll be fine Cherie, we'll help you!" It still makes me smile today. And by the way, when is that help coming?

What do you think about?...the friends you've made...the missions you've supported...the mites you've dropped into that little mite box...the missionaries you've heard and met personally...those loved ones who have gone to heaven...or the guidance received through Bible study and worship.

Our Father in heaven, in His great love for us, has the desire for us His children to grow and develop, but to do so in His will, with His guidance. As Lutheran Women in Mission we have many opportunities to grow as our Lord guides us with His infinite wisdom, knowledge, power and understanding.

In 2 Corinthians 3:18 it says, "*We, who with unveiled faces, all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness, with ever increasing Glory which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*"

Being transformed into His likeness is kind of a **WWJD** thing. He wants us to always attend Bible study and worship so we can grow through Word and Sacrament. One of our blessings as LWML women is praying and worshipping together, strengthening our faith and reflecting God's love to the world.

We know how difficult it is in our world today. If we fall away we make an easy target for Satan's attacks. So, my LWML sisters and brothers in Christ, reach out to our families, friends, neighbors, communities, and across our oceans with the Good news of Jesus; that He loves us; He died on the cross for us; He forgives us our sins; and He has a home for us, all of us, in heaven. That's a promise for all

believers.

As we reflect on our past and present memories we must remember how important the work of the LWML is. Like the moon reflects the light from the sun, we as God's children through Christ reflect the light of the SON in those things we do, think, and say. All we have been able to do through the LWML is a reflection of God's love for us and for all of His children. That's what a reflection is. In response to God's love we reach out to the world with His love; His Word; His Son; our Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Also, we must always remember to give God the glory, for He has blessed us in many ways. All we have to be thankful for comes from the Lord. In other words; God gets the glory for everything we do! "*Let your light so shine...and give glory to Your Father in heaven.*" Matthew 5:16

Reflections are ways to give thanks for His blessings in the past and in the present! Share your reflections with your family and friends this Thanksgiving and watch the blessings flow!

Cherie F. Voorhees, Editor

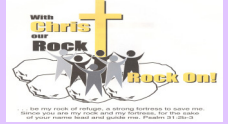
ACCENT Deadline: Feb. 1, 2009. Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Rd. Trenton, NJ 08618 or Fax to: 609.896.0341 or send me an attachment through e-mail: voorhees@rider.edu

Visit our English District LWML web site for the latest news at:
www.englishdistrictlwml.org



“LWML - What’s Happening?”

Connie Johnson, President
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I have not had an opportunity to visit with you via the ACCENT since shortly after the English District Convention in Pittsburgh. What is happening in the English District LWML?

We held our fall board meeting in Chicago September 12-14th at Trinity Lutheran in Villa Park. It was a very full weekend with the opportunity for planning, Bible study and getting to know the new members of our executive committee. We welcomed our new counselor, Rev. Rick Mensing, from Tucson, Arizona. Pastor Mensing was appointed to replace Rev. Michael Scheer, who was elected at the Pittsburgh convention, but is unable to serve at this time.

In October, three members of the English District participated in the 2008 LWML Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis, Mo. Katie Stahl from the Arizona zone, Mary Kuenzel from the Greater Detroit zone and I participated in the leadership training weekend designed to train new leaders, to in turn train other leaders, in our District. The theme for the weekend was “*To Everything There is a Season...A Time to Lead*” from Ecclesiastes 3:1. We look forward to sharing this training with future leaders of our District.

Think about going into the mission field on a short-term mission trip. Please read and prayerfully consider this opportunity. Shirley Holle, short term mission coordinator for the English District LWML, has additional information in this issue of the Accent.

Are you ready for a mountain top experience? It’s not too early to begin planning for the 33rd Biennial LWML Convention, June 25-28, 2009 in Portland, Oregon. “Look to the Hills God Reigns” is the theme based on two verses: Psalm 121:1-2 and Isaiah 52:7.

We have chosen a theme for the 2010 convention in Detroit. “Beautiful Feet for the Journey” based on Nahum 1:15a “Behold on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!” (NKJM). You are invited to submit your graphic design depicting the theme in color to me at 815 8th Ave SE, Forest Lake, MN 55025 or email me at connieandbruce@msn.com by April 1, 2009.

Please continue to pray for and support our mission grants for this biennium and the national mission grants. We were able to pay our first mission grant of this biennium shortly after the fall board meeting. To God be the glory!

For up to date information about the English District LWML, visit our website at www.englishdistrictlwml.org.

There are many opportunities to serve our Lord through the LWML so, “Let none hear you idly saying, there is nothing I can do; while the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you. Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be. Answer quickly when He calls you, here am I, send me, send me!” (Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling – Lutheran Worship CPH).▶

The ACCENT is going online!

Would you like to receive the ACCENT via your email?

We will continue to send the ACCENT out through the US Postal Service but for those of you who would like your subscription emailed, JUST LET US KNOW!!

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Communication through the ACCENT is very important to our District especially since we are spread out across the country. We want to give everyone easy access to information and conversation and this is another way to accomplish that goal.

All Editors and District Presidents; this is the last issue that will be mailed to you. Please sign up via email.
Cherie F. Voorhees, Editor

“Life Goes On.”

Pat Gilde, Vice President Gospel Outreach
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And life goes on. We hear these words so many times, especially during hard times. No matter what, life does go on.

We have six mission grants to support. This is the beginning of The Busy Season - back to school, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are many things to do to “get ready.” It would be wonderful if every woman would fit her mite box into her plans.

Over the summer months mites do not come in on a regular basis, but we have managed to pay our first grant, **Amigas Ministry in Brazil**. Amigas provides Christian education, food, clothing and Christmas gifts to 4,000 children and the elderly in the slums of Brazil.

Let us renew our routines now that summer is over and put our change into those mite boxes. The next mission grant to be paid is Sierra Leone Evangelism Outreach. In 1995 the Lutheran Church had to evacuate its missionaries from Sierra Leone due to civil unrest. We voted \$2,500 to cover the entire cost of Outreach in Sierra Leone so that through medical and evangelistic work the message of salvation can be a healing balm to broken hearts.

In the book of James he reminds us to take care of our brothers and sisters and Paul tells us "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law." (Romans 13:8)

Yes, life will go on but we have the ability to help fit Christ into that life for those in need and those who need to hear about Him.

May God continue to bless your life.▶

*Add up your blessings, I say;
Make Thanksgiving
last more than a day.
Enjoy what you've got;
Realize it's a lot,
And you'll make all your
cares go away.*

Our Mission Goal for the 2008-2010 biennium is \$15,000

1. **Amigas Ministry, Brazil**, - \$3,000.00 PAID
2. **Sierra Leone Evangelism Outreach**
- \$2,500.00
3. **India School Project** - \$3,000.00
4. **Asian Indian Outreach, Pennsauken, NJ** -
\$3,000.00
5. **Gambia Church Planting and Land
Purchase**, - \$2,000.00
6. **Uptown Ministry Substance Abuse Program,**
Chicago, IL - \$1,500.00

LWML National Convention Portland Oregon June 25-28, 2009

Look to the Hills -- God Reigns!

Each zone needs to prepare to send their delegates. One delegate from each zone except Chicago, which will have one delegate from each circuit (2), is eligible to attend. The total number of voting delegates from the English District is 11.

We hope to send two Young Women Representatives (YWR) between 22 and 35 years of age.

A District Caucus will take place at the convention with the time and place to be determined.

Start planning now, it will be here before you know it. Encourage one another to attend—let's take a road trip ladies!!!!

“God’s Hands at Work Through the LWML”

Sarah Reinstadtler, Vice President Human Care
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Here we are at the end of another year. We as Christians rejoice during this time due to our Savior’s birth and the promise of our salvation. This has been a year of floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, unemployment and financial problems all over the United States and the world. In these times of change Christians are not exempt from physical, mental, emotionally and spiritual problems. As followers of Christ this is our time to let our Christian light shine. This is what Lutheran women in mission are all about!!! As our families, friends, fellow church members and communities struggle, we look to God for guidance, to be our rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save us and we reach out and share this message with all those around us. “*Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.*” Psalm 31; 2b-3. How comforting it is to know that this too will pass.

Let us as LWML women pick up our light even when we may be down. Check on a neighbor during this winter, make chicken noodle soup in small containers to share with the elderly, college students, or single parents when they may be sick. All the local food banks are in great need, there are more people in need and less people who can give. Local meals on wheels can always use pre-made food or volunteers to prepare or deliver meals. I know all of your societies already do outreach in your communities; thank you for your exceptional example of Christ.

As the struggles continue always rejoice remembering the promise of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

With Christ our rock we will rock on in 2009!!! I wish all of you, your families and societies a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. ►

“LWML Mission Challenge”

Shirley Holle, Short Term Mission Coordinator -
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Have you ever wanted to experience the work of a missionary? In a foreign land? Here is your opportunity. At the February 2008 LWML Board of Directors meeting, President Janice Wendorf issued a challenge to the LWML’s 40 districts to each send two short-term mission teams into the mission field by March 2010 in support of our missionaries and partner churches. The English District is seeking women for a short term mission trip in Hong Kong or other parts of Southeast Asia – Cambodia, Indonesia, or Thailand.

Short-term team mission trips offer an opportunity for LCMS members to perform Christian service while experiencing life in a different culture. Short-term teams contribute to the mission work being done in a country by participating in: evangelism, English teaching (EFL), vacation Bible school, construction, medical work, and more. As a member of the team you would need to raise your own funds which are \$1,000 - \$1,200 plus airfare. The duration is from 1 -2 weeks with many at 10 days. The time frame we are considering would be from October, 2009 to March, 2010

As women (and husbands) commit we will be able to narrow down the project and the dates. Please contact either Connie Johnson or Shirley Holle.

The short term mission team is a win for everyone. As a member you will be working in the field with missionaries, you will be telling the mission story, develop pray support. You will help build the capacity for increased effectiveness of national churches and leaders around the world. You will be transformed by your experience and then be able to help your congregation become more active in mission work at home and around the world. Most importantly you will make a difference to the lost through prayer, giving and personal involvement in the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him.

For more information visit www.LCMSWorldMission.org and click on Short-Term Team.

As LWML President Janice Wendorf says, "Let's be Lutheran Women in Mission!" ►

“Speed Bump? Jump Start!”

Jan Simmons, Vice President Servant Resources
simmfarm@comcast.net



I attended by first board meeting as the Vice President of Servant Resources. It was in Chicago during the remains of Hurricane Ike. Most of the Chicago area received six inches or more of rain. We had to deal with the discomfort of wet feet and clothes, closed roads and delays. However, those who lived in the city of Chicago were faced with many more serious and life changing issues. How appropriate that the opening devotion given by Junior Counselor Pastor Rick Mensing, was titled, *Signs Along the Road, Speed Bumps*. We know that even in our worst “speed bump” we have God’s presence - Hebrew 12:1-3.

This also applies to our LWML societies. Sometimes we hit speed bumps when trying to plan activities and meetings to achieve the goals we set as LWML sisters. It is hard to find the resources for these goals. There is a wealth of resources available through the LWML to help you plan an exciting meeting or activity. For example there is a NEW! LWML Society Starter kit that has resources for beginning a new society or the NEW! *A Women’s Praying Heart*, a collection of prayers written by women for women. There are many Bible studies plus resources for outreach and mission.

At the board meeting, the Executive Board set the goals for our Districts next Biennium. I was given the primary target goal of **Partnering for Diversity - Oneness in Christ is strengthened through intentionally teaming with our LCMS sisters of varied ethnic, cultural, generation, and organization backgrounds**. Throughout the next biennium I will be passing along resources that will help our LWML District achieve this goal. Hopefully this goal will not be a **speed bump**, but a good **jump start** to getting women of all ages, races and backgrounds involved in the LWML and its mission.▶

“Heed the Urging of the Holy Spirit!”

Corrine Compton, Vice President Christian Life
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Do we actively seek other women to share our love for Christ? I mention this because a couple of decades ago, I kept myself solely in the confines of my Lutheran Church on Chicago’s Southside. Then I was given the opportunity to respond to an invitation (from a couple of new found friends) to attend a “spiritual retreat”. It was being held at a Catholic school for an entire weekend. We would be sleeping on cots laid out in the classrooms. I was promised that this retreat was not for indoctrination into the Catholic faith or any other denomination.

I timidly said okay for the retreat but almost chickened out on the Friday that it started. I talked myself into going, feeling that if I was in any way uncomfortable I could leave. When I entered the cafeteria/auditorium, on that Friday, there were thirty women there who greeted me with hugs and Christian welcoming. I saw several women whom I had not seen since elementary and high school. This was a surprise because I attended grammar school on the near south side (known as Bronzeville) and high school on the far south side (in a sub division known as Morgan Park). How unique to have our paths cross at this pivotal moment in my life.

All the women at the “Retreat” represented every Christian denomination, i.e. Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of the Living God, an inter-denominational church, Catholic, and yes two Lutherans. This tapestry of Christian women was humbling and inspiring. We prayed together for our families, friends, each other, and world issues. I learned to “Let Go and Let God” which, ironically I discovered was the theme of the Retreat. We had study sessions of books from the New Testament, testimonies from guest speakers and the most profound for me, we washed each others hands and studied them and confessed the ill and good that our hands had done.

This gathering began my personal journey to know our Savior, to trust Him, to believe in Him and to worship Him, unashamedly. This has become my daily quest.

So, my sisters in Christ, if you are given an invitation or request to meet with women from different Christian denominations for a spiritual gathering—don’t hesitate, “Heed the Urging of the Holy Spirit”! You may very well come away “Renewed”.▶

“Smaller Coins, Bigger Gifts!”

Elsiena Velazquez, Treasurer
elsienavelazquez@juno.com



As we approach the new year, it is hard to believe that the convention and summer is behind us already. It is my hope that we will be able to help others with the new projects that we voted on at the convention in April. I am sure that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Love of God, we will fill our Mite boxes to reach these goals.

Another thing to be thinking about is the Quarterly and ACCENT subscriptions that will be coming due after the first of the year. If you have any changes, be sure to let me know as soon as possible so that I can forward the information to the National office. I will be sending out invoices to the Zone and Non-Zone Presidents shortly.

May the Lord Bless each and every one of you as you prepare to be with family and friends during the upcoming Holiday Season.

Elsiena Velazquez—2121 S. Pantano Road #326
Tucson, AZ 85701—520-731-9475 ►

“Christ With US!”

Pastor Rick Mensing, Counselor

There once was a somewhat backward farmer who stopped by his neighbors to tell them that their son was stuck in a mud hole. “How deep is he sunk?” the boy’s father asked. “About to his ankles, the farmer replied lazily. “Well” said the father, “only up to his ankles—we’ve got time to set awhile and have a glass of tea before we go dig him out.” “I don’t think so,” replied the laid-back farmer. “He’s in head first!”

Looking back over 2008 to date, it seems to be that kind of year, up to our ankles—but in head first!

Plans not going as they were supposed to. Goals preempted. Finances faltering. Relationships strained. Frustrations growing. Our nation seems to be reeling. The hurt and the pain cannot be denied.

Many of you remember Annette Funicello. As the most popular of the Mouseketeers, Annette was the ideal personified. Everything seemed to be going her way; beauty, popularity, financial stability.

Annette Funicello courageously stepped down from the pedestal of perfection in July, 1992. This was five years after she had been diagnosed as suffering from multiple sclerosis. Going public with her disease was a great weight lifted from her shoulders, she says. She had feared her fans’ reaction. Here is how she

explains it. “I didn’t go public for a long time because I believed people wanted to think that nothing bad ever happens to Annette...”

“Nothing bad ever happens to Annette.” But bad things do happen. They happen to Annette’s and to Anna’s and to Andrews and to Anthony’s. They happen to us all. Life is difficult.

That is why now is a good time to read the first chapter of the Gospel of John. “In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness...”

The light John is describing is of course Christ. Christ has come into our dark world, and therefore there is hope. Hope for those of us who are in head first up to our ankles. Hope that is built on more than a positive attitude, built on more than human ingenuity, built on more than financial stability, built on more than freedom from troubles. It is hope built on a person—a person who cares for each of us individually, a person who could not be defeated by life’s greatest pressures, a Roman instrument of execution or even a grave. It is hope built on God incarnate, in the flesh, with us, dwelling in the heart through the Holy Spirit.

The state of our lives thus far in 2008? What can be said? Because our lives are wrapped up in Christ, we have hope, joy, peace and life no matter what the outward circumstances.

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7 ►

We thank thee, God, for blessings
The big ones and the small —
Thy tender love and mercy
That guards and keeps us all.

The hope, the beauty, and the love
That brighten each day’s living —
We praise thee,
and our hearts are filled
With joy, and with thanksgiving.

Author Unknown