

Linked by Love

Women in Mission

Volume 7 No. 1 Fall 2011

LWML Texas District

President *Kathy Lowman*

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What does a diving board, a roller coaster, the Grand Canyon, bungee jumping, and working as a missionary have in common? They were used to illustrate “Being with Jesus...Living on the Edge,” the theme of the 34th Biennial LWML June Convention in Peoria, Illinois. A few attendees experienced living on the edge when weather delays and flight cancellations made traveling to Peoria a little “edgy!”

Was it worth it? YES! The opportunity for fellowship with sisters in Christ was given as the number one reason for attending an LWML convention. New friendships were made and renewing old friendships did occur. Other reasons for attending were participating in communion worship service and being uplifted and inspired by speakers.

At the worship service Rev. Ken Klaus shared stories of women who have lived on the edge from the first century to today. He told us that we live in an age where living with Jesus means living on the edge. Mites in Action speakers showed how God uses the mites received through mission grants to further His Kingdom. Their mission exemplifies “Being with Jesus...Living on the Edge.”

Dr. Reed Lessings’ Bible studies were based on this statement: “Upon being filled with the Holy Spirit we must speak with encouragement and boldness against idolatry and this turns the world upside down!” He explained that Barnabas means, “son of encouragement.” He delighted the predominately female attendees by stating, “Well, maybe you can’t all be a Barnabas, but you can be a Barnababe!”

Among the convention total attendance of 4,668, Texas had 114 registered attendees, including LCMS Texas District President Ken Hennings and his wife, Val. Our district was represented by all 31 of its eligible voting delegates, plus Pastoral Counselor Rev. Michael Hafer of College Station, and the two District Young Woman Representatives, Jennifer Frosch of Lincoln and Whitney Lee of Stephenville. Texas committee members attending were Cheryl Mattil, Dr. MaryAnn Waldon, and Diann Higgins.

Prior to the convention Deaconess Perla Gil de Rodriguez of LINC-Houston attended the Heart to Heart Leaders training and Margo Dupre of Lubbock attended the Heart to Heart Sisters program. During the convention they and the District Young Woman Representatives participated in the mission banner procession that featured the LWML districts and the flags from countries where the LCMS has missionaries. These four ladies are excited about introducing LWML to all women. Invite them to your zone or society meetings to hear their convention experiences.

We thank and praise God for the service of LWML officers whose terms ended at the convention and for those elected to serve. Officers from Texas who “retired” were Rev. Mike Mattil, Pastoral Counselor, and Eloise Kuhlmann, Vice President of Servant Resources. Newly elected officers from Texas are Rev. John Heckmann, Pastoral Counselor, and Sally Krueger, Nominating Committee member.

Article continued on page 15

Heart to Heart Representatives

Perla Gil de Rodriguez and Margo Dupre

My name is **Perla Gil de Rodriguez** a native Mexican-American, born and raised in Houston, Texas. I was baptized catholic but raised Lutheran, so I consider myself a long-life Lutheran. I am married to Vicar Nelson Rodriguez and have three children Homero (14), Victoria (6) and Abraham (2). My family and I were called to serve as Pastor and family at a LINC mission church in Houston, Texas, Comunidad de Gracia Lutheran Church. We have served a congregation of 60+ people for about six (6) years now. My husband and I will be ordained and commissioned later this fall. We have completed our seminary studies through the Center of Hispanic Studies in St. Louis, MO. I have also had the privileged to be selected as the Heart to Heart Sister Leader –Texas District in 2011

What did you enjoyed most at the LWML convention? I would have to say the opportunity to meet all my Heart to Heart Sisters and many LWML women. I enjoyed hearing about what LWML women do throughout the year. It was to my amazement to learn about the many ministries that the league supports and establishes through their Mite boxes. As a child I would see LWML literature and Mite boxes but never knew about it or was my mother ever invited, nevertheless, involved and now that I am a woman it is pleasing to know that LWML is so mission minded and that the Face of LWML is all Lutheran women regardless your age or ethnicity.

What did you learned from being a Heart to Heart Sister or Leader? I learned that we have a great challenge ahead of us. We can serve as a tool to open the doors of LWML to many of our ethnic women, including to many ethnic churches in helping them get involved and apply for grants, whether at the district or national level. The women are amazing and each one of them brought ideas, experiences, love, passion, comfort and Christ to each one of our lives. We have a mission set before us and with God's help and with the support of our district leaders and our Heart to Heart Sisters we will accomplish our goal, and that is to announce LWML to all Lutheran ethnic women in our districts. Through Heart to Heart Sister's training, I was able to learn about Mites boxes, available grants and how to apply for them, and how to set up societies within our churches. My goal is to visit each of our surrounding ethnic churches (starting with Houston first) to introduce LWML and why it is important to be a part of such an awesome league.



Margo Dupre is an active member of Historic Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lubbock, Texas. She is married to the Rev Brian Dupre who is the pastor of Historic Redeemer Lutheran Church. Margo is very involved in the church as a youth group parent volunteer. She loves to volunteer during special events that are held at the church. Margo is the women's Bible study leader at Redeemer. She is also the LWML Vice President of her church society.

Attending the LWML convention in Peoria was a wonderful experience for me. I most enjoyed the feeling of strong sisterhood in faith from the start of the Illinois reception at the airport to the men and women met along the way during my daily activities.

Being fully submerged in an atmosphere that allowed me to enrich my faith and learn so much about the various ways our sisters and brothers in Christ have been called to serve the Lord was a wonderful gift of knowledge that I took back to my congregation.

Nominating Committee Chairman***Dorothy Hunger***
Nominations Needed Now

November 1 is the deadline for suggestions of nominees for election at the 2012 LWML Texas District Convention. As stated in the current bylaws the positions to be filled are:

President**Vice President of Human Care****Vice President of Servant Resources****Financial Secretary****Nominating Committee**

We ask your help in seeing that the names of ladies who show a deep, active interest in the LWML and who are willing to devote their time and energy to serve the Lord in a leadership position are submitted to the Nominating Committee. It is not necessary for you to solicit their consent or to determine their qualifications.

Nominations may only be made through your society or zone. Forms are available on-line at the district web site or from your zone president.

You may desire to personally challenge yourself; don't hesitate to let us know.

Volunteering for a position is certainly okay; just ask your society or zone to submit your name along with any others that have been suggested.

My mailbox is very large, and I challenge you to stuff it full with forms before November 1!

***Treasurer******Ann Bamsch******How will I get these bills paid?***

Many face this dilemma and must decide which one is more important. Times are tuff. Many have lost jobs. Investments aren't paying what we had planned. This not only affects individuals, but organizations that rely on donations. At each convention many organizations ask us to consider their project as one of our mission grant recipients. During the last Texas District LWML convention, the delegates voted to pay \$185,187.50 in mission grants to 10 different applicants. We have been blessed, that to date we have paid \$125,085 of our goal. The balance will hopefully be paid by the end of our biennium, March 31,2012.

We must remember that all we have come from our Heavenly Father. As we contemplate which bills to pay and feel that if one more comes we will be pushed over the 'edge', let us take our daily concerns to Him in prayer. He is always with us.

"BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! DON'T TREMBLE OR BE TERRIFIED, BECAUSE THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO." JOSHUA 1:9

2011-2013 Young Woman Representatives

Thank you, Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District, for allowing me the amazing opportunity to represent the Texas District as a Young Woman Representative.

One convention highlight was having dinner with LWML President Jan Wendorf, who gave the YWRs a Today's Light Bible, and challenged us to become women in the Word, of the Word, and walking with the Lord.

Another highlight included hearing mission speakers who reminded us of the great influence our Mites have on bringing Jesus to those all over the world! I realized all women between the ages of 8 and 80 can unite as Lutheran Women in Mission simply by collecting Mites, no matter what our schedules or circumstances may be. Simply by putting your change from the drive through or washing machine, YOU can join the ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and thereby help others to know Jesus. Won't you join me?

I would LOVE to share what I have learned about being a young Lutheran Woman in Mission with you, your society, and your zone! I may be contacted via email at jenniferfrosch@hotmail.com, phone (979-540-8360), or by mail at 1066 PR 7721, Lincoln, TX 78948.

Serving Him, Jennifer Frosch

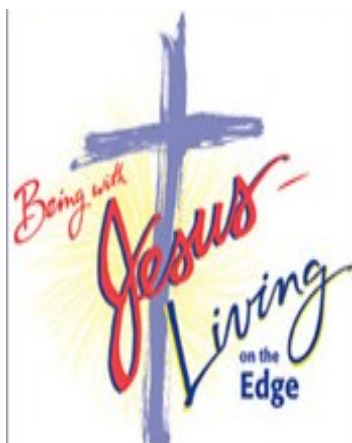
I recently returned from my first LWML National convention in Peoria, which I was able to attend as one of the District YWRs and through the support of the LWML Texas District and each Zone.

During the Peoria convention, I was inspired, or more accurately - convicted - to live on the edge by sharing my story. My hope now is to use my storied history as a demonstration of God's love and grace and to reach out to other women who may be fighting their own consciences.

The convention was a wonderful and valuable experience for me and I hope to continue my growth with LWML. We never know what God's plans for us are or where they might take us. My prayer is that He continues to guide each of us along His path.

I look forward to seeing everyone again next summer in College Station or before. I may be contacted at whitneyjeanlee@yahoo.com

Sincerely, Whitney Lee



Whitney Lee, left, LWML Texas District President Kathy Lowman, middle and Jennifer Frosch, right enter the Peoria convention assembly with the LWML Texas District banner.

Committee on Young Women Chairman

Kristine Wendorf

It's time to nominate your Zone Young Woman Representatives! Send forms and paperwork to the Chairman of the Committee on Young Women, Kristine Wendorf by November 1, 2011. If you have questions, call or e-mail at 956.244.8463 or kristinewendorf@gmail.com

Kristine Wendorf, 2814 Emerald Lake Dr., Harlingen, TX 78550-8618

Top 10 Reasons to be a Zone Young Woman Representative!

- 10. Meet women in your zone.**
- 9. Learn more about how young women can get involved in LWML!**
- 8. Make new friends.**
- 7. Grow in your leadership skills.**
- 6. Use your talents and skills.**
- 5. Meet the LWML Texas District President!**
- 4. You were born to wear purple!**
- 3. Get to know other young women in the LWML.**
- 2. Fun and games at the 2012 Bryan-College Station LWML convention!**
- 1. Serve the Lord with gladness!**

Hey Societies and Zones- are you using your Young Woman Representatives past and present? These women have unique talents and skills and they have shown interest in LWML by serving as a YWR. Use them in your society and zone! Take a look – what are your YWR’s from the past 2 conventions doing? Are they involved? If not, why don’t you ask them what they would like to be involved in? And don’t be afraid to take their ideas and start something new! These women are leaders, they love the Lord, use their skills!

Structure Committee **Joyce Martinets**

G O T B Y L A W S ?

If the answer is yes, do the bylaws need revising?
Email or send society or zone bylaw revisions for approval to:

amartz@swbell.net

Joyce Martinets
1211 Gemini Dr.
Austin, TX 78758-3811

Contact Joyce for a copy of your society or zone bylaws. She has a copy of all society and zone bylaws in the Texas District.

Vice President of Human Care***Sara Frank***

The 2011 Spring LWR Ingathering of quilts and kits was very successful as four large trailers were shipped FULL to the warehouse for distribution. The final tally of numbers is incomplete as some zones have not yet submitted their report. This information will appear in the 2012 convention manual.

The Stamporee project is very active in receiving and processing the stamps for profit. We have surpassed the \$12,000.00 mark of proceeds in about 7 years of collection. I will no longer refer to this as Project Comfort but will use the new name of **Quilt and Kit Shopping Funds** as directed by LWR changes. New name - same function!!!



It was my privilege to represent Texas District at the Biennial LWML Convention in Peoria, IL. I worked many hours in the Gifts from the Heart room helping to organize the donations and prepare for delivery to area benefactors. The Lord truly blessed these donations – it was astronomical to see such generous giving by LWML'ers.

Following the convention, I picked up a trunk load of stamps in Kenosha, Wisconsin; brought stamps received at the convention back to Texas; sold stamps in Iowa, and picked up more stamps in Kansas City, Kansas.

May God be with each of you as quilts continue to be made, kits assembled, stamps collected and all the other efforts given to those in your church and communities. My prayer is for you to experience the joy in giving and serving as Christ has taught us to do.

Gospel Outreach Chairman***Melissa Houchin*****Witnessing – A Lifestyle**

Is sharing your faith in Christ part of your lifestyle? I think all of us know that should be our goal on a daily basis since the Bible says, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20.

That is so much easier said than done, at least for me anyway. That is why I was so excited to find out about Kay L. Meyer's book Witnessing – A Lifestyle. I couldn't wait to place my order and get the book into my hands and start reading how I could make witnessing part of my lifestyle. The book teaches you that you have to start witnessing by building a relationship and praying for those people instead of knocking on doors. God is the one that will do the knocking and opening of the doors when the time is right. She also shares how witnessing starts in your own home. Wow!!! I never thought of teaching my child to pray and sharing devotion time with her as “witnessing” to her, and in turn she will use those tools to witness to her friends. Mrs. Meyer also shares how those doors can be opened at holidays, work, community and schools so you may plant a seed in someone else's life. This book is a great tool for teaching and encouraging you to make witnessing part of your daily lifestyle.

Kay L. Meyer is the founder and President of Family Shield Ministries. You may order her book Witnessing-A Lifestyle by contacting: Family Shield Ministries, Inc.

P.O. Box 230015

St. Louis, Missouri 63123

(314)772-6070 or (866)370-6070

www.familyshieldministries.com

Vice President of Communication**Rosanne Capdeville**

Quarterly Coordinator June Hall hall54@yahoo.com reminds you that magazine subscription orders and payments are coming due. Cost is \$5.00 each for 10 or more subscriptions sent to same address; otherwise, the subscription cost is \$6.50 each. The order is placed on the Society/Individual Membership form due to the Vice President of Servant Resources and the *Quarterly* Coordinator in November of each year. The Society President completes this form and informs the Society Treasurer the total payment due to the district. Societies may order additional *Quarterlies* throughout the year. Contact June or the Financial Secretary for information on the cost of ordering additional subscriptions.

It was a pleasure to attend the national LWML convention in Peoria. Hearing and seeing our missionaries tell of their experiences was thought provoking and moving. Thank you for sending me.

Share your Zone information on our LWML website www.lwmltxdist.org. Send Zone officer updates and news to me at communication@lwmltxdist.org.

<p>October 1 — District Mission Grant Proposals Due</p> <p>October 7-9 — ‘Spirit of Hope’ Retreat, Glen Rose, TX</p> <p>November 1—District Officer nominations</p> <p>November 1—District Young Woman Representative nominations</p> <p>November 5—Societies send Membership Reports to Zone Presidents</p> <p>November 15—Quarterly Subscription orders due</p>

**MISSION GRANT UPDATES**

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PAID</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
1. Scholarships fo Seminarians Texas District	\$50,000.00	\$37,500.00	\$12,500.00
2. Guiding God's Little Lambs-A Spiritual Care Program for Abused Children Lutheran Social Services of the South	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
3. Concordia University Texas - DCE Scholarships	\$24,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$6,000.00
4. Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. - Texas	\$26,800.00	\$14,200.00	\$12,600.00
5. Let the Little Children Come - Bible Stories for India and Sri Lanka Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$0.00
6. Family Shield Cult Educational Project	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
7. Women in Outdoor Ministry LOMT - Camp Lone Star	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
8. Short-Term Mission Team Financial Assistance Texas District LWML/LCMS World Mission	\$9,000.00	\$7,385.00	\$1,615.00
9. <i>Portals of Prayer Braille Production</i> Messiah Lutheran Church - Plano, Texas	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
10. LINC, Houston - Center for Hispanic Studies	\$14,387.50	\$7,000.00	\$7,387.50
(Includes \$15,187.50 overage)	\$185,187.50	\$131,085.00	\$54,102.50

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Debbie Curry

October 1, 2011 is an important deadline – the deadline to submit mission grant proposals for 2012-14! As I am writing this in July, I have only one complete mission grant proposal. The Mission Grants Committee needs many more. Look around your area for ministries that help Lutherans to serve, grow and spread God's Word. To encourage a timely response, chosen proposals will be placed on the ballot in the order the complete grant proposal packages (all requested information including the electronic submission of the resolution) are received. All the forms and instructions are on the website in the *Mission Grant Newsletter*.

As you make plans for your Fall and Spring Rallies, consider past and current mission grant recipients for speakers. Many of these agencies would love to share how your mites have been used to spread the gospel. A speaker's list with contact information for some of the mission grants can be requested by contacting gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org.

Remember to check out the issues of the *Mission Grants Insider* available on the website, www.lwmltxdist.org. Share this information with your society members at monthly meetings. Updated information on mission grants paid is posted monthly on the website for use with the mite goal poster, which can be downloaded and printed. Prayers for each mission grant are also on the website. There are mite box devotions on the LWML website – www.lwml.org.

Thank you for supporting the mission grant recipients with your mites and prayers!

Short-Term Mission Team

Gina Franke

Dzień dobry! (Good Day!) was a phrase heard every day of the English Bible Camp held in Korczew, Poland, from July 18-22, 2011. Six members of the LWML-Texas District traveled to Poland to teach English using the Good News of Jesus to over 40 students in the small village of Korczew. The camp included a daily Bible lesson, games, crafts, and public health activities. Over 95 percent of the students attended camp every day and always showed great eagerness to learn more about Jesus and increase their English vocabulary. Students ranged from the age of 5 to 14. God's presence was evident in the daily teachings, as students presented a closing program on Friday to their parents, speaking Bible verses and telling of their experiences, all in English!

The team members also enjoyed visiting the local area of Poland, including attending worship in the local Lutheran Church in Wegrow, Poland. Because they were such a large group to transport, the local fire truck was used to deliver the team to worship! The team toured various historical sites in and around Korczew and even got to meet the Countess while touring the palace in town. Three translators were sent to the camp to facilitate communication between the team and the students, and their work was appreciated beyond measure. New friendships were formed and Facebook friends were added before tearful goodbyes and a long plane ride home. All members of the team felt God's work was accomplished during their time in Poland and encourage all women of the LWML to consider a short-term missionary opportunity. It will change your life!

GET  READY  FOR  LWML SUNDAY 
ORDER YOUR MITE BOXES NOW!

Contact Michele Tate at financialsecretary@lwmltxdist.org. Personal mite boxes are 10 cents per box plus cost of postage to mail them to the society. Children's mite boxes and the larger collection mite boxes must be ordered from LWML in St. Louis.

Mail all monies made payable to *LWML Texas District*:

LWML Texas District

P.O. Box 5552

Frisco, TX 75035-0217

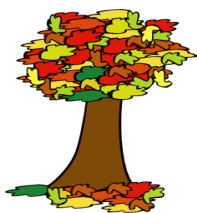
Mission-Ministry, Vision**Eloise Kuhlmann and Diann Higgins****M M V**

OK, so what is MMV? Those initials stand for mission, ministry and vision, things that each LWML group should have. For instance, what is your group's main mission focus? Your focus may be on one to three service opportunities each year, depending on the resources available. Engaging in too many service opportunities at once, may cause your group's focus to become splintered and dilute the impact of the group.

The ministry focus is on the women of your congregation. Is your group providing ample opportunities for all women to gather for women's Bible study and fellowship? Bible study and devotions draw women near to the Lord so they can know his heart and cultivate a stronger bond with him through the Holy Spirit. Fellowship time allows women to hang with each other and form a safety net of friendship. It is also a great opportunity to mentor new or younger women. Mentoring is just helping others develop their God given talents through friendly encouragement. It means walking beside another woman for a period of several months and showing her "the ropes" and then, letting go. (Ecc. 3:6) The goal is not to "do things the way we have always done them", but rather to provide guidelines to allow women to use the talents God gave them for his service in the way he directs them.

Vision, does your LWML group have it? Vision and focus are two different things. Focus is your short-term plan, what your group intends to accomplish in the next 12 months or less. Vision is your long-term plan. Where does your group want to be or what does it want to be doing three years from now? Developing a vision requires the group to answer a few questions. Where are we going? How will we get there? Who will do what? Who will hold us accountable? Should we align our work with the congregation or is the congregation willing to allow us to explore new challenges and opportunities for outreach and missions? Visioning will require some collaboration with your pastor(s) and church leadership. Take the time to engage others in your vision and help them get on board.

The single greatest tool to get your mission, ministry and vision on track is prayer. Ask the Lord to direct your LWML group through the work he leads you to do and yield to his will. He has great plans for your LWML group; he says so in Jeremiah 29:11-13. For help with the mechanics of putting your plan together, call or email one of your MMV coaches.



Eloise Kuhlmann
806-383-7700
rek68@aol.com

Diann Higgins
817-297-2356
diann.higgins@att.net

**WAYS TO USE YOUR QUARTERLY BIBLE STUDY**

- ▶▶ Personal study--Find a quiet place and work through the Bible study on your own.
- ▶▶ Use as family devotions---Use part or the whole study and share what you have learned.
- ▶▶ In your local society---Study God's Word, make Bible study a priority every time you get together.
- ▶▶ To those who are homebound---Take a copy of the *Quarterly* along with you when you visit people who cannot attend church.
- ▶▶ On a road trip---As you drive to your destination, discuss the study with those who are in the car with you.
- ▶▶ Retreat---Whether alone or in a group spend time with God's Word.
- ▶▶ Start a study group---Invite your friends to work on a project and then Bible study afterwards.



*Senior Pastoral Counselor**Rev. Dave Symm***“Pastor Sin?”**

I fielded a phone call from a new business in our community. They were wanting to mail some material inviting us to become their customers. The husband of the co-owner called to verify our last name. Apparently his wife was insisting our name is “Syn” or “Sin”. He said he had argued, telling her “I don’t think a pastor’s last name would be SIN.” I’m sure you can grasp their delicate situation. I gave him the correct name and its spelling “S – Y” and “2 M’s as in the candy,” just as I often say it over the telephone.

Well, the gentleman was right (though it might not be best for him to correct his wife!): Our name is not Sin. It’s Symm. But he was also wrong. Like you, I am a member of the fallen human race, for “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). While each of you may have a different surname, we are equally and alike sinners in the eyes of God. My calling as a pastor does not exempt me from this predicament of humankind. I’m no less a sinner than the next person.

However, God be praised, as one washed by the blood of Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit, I also bear the names “Saint,” “Child of God,” and “Christian” and for this I am most thankful. Daily I must acknowledge that I am a sinner. But daily I am reminded I’m also a forgiven member of the family of Christ Jesus.

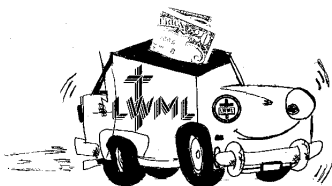
It doesn’t matter if your surname is common or unique - or even a near-homonym of a word like “sin”. What does matter is that in Baptism the melody of God’s love was etched by the Holy Spirit in your heart, making you a child of God. We carry His Name! Let’s carry it well!

*Financial Secretary**Michele Tate***ROUTINES ARE A GOOD THING!**

As I write this article my son has completed his first week of marching band camp as an incoming freshman at the local high school and there are only 3 more weeks of summer vacation for our family. I now cannot sleep late anymore and must get up when the alarm clock sounds. For a stay-at-home mom I feel like my “summer” has been cut short and the “routine” has started again of making lunches and driving kids to school on a daily basis. But, routines are good! I find that the school year helps me stay on target and I tend to get more things accomplished on a daily basis.

Is your society treasurer in a routine? Your society probably follows the same routine at its monthly meetings including a collection of mites. The society treasurer has more duties after that meeting. She needs to count up the mites collected and make a bank deposit. Then she writes a check payable to “LWML Texas District” and completes a Society Remittance Form. If the society treasurer does not have any of these forms, they can be found on the district website at www.lwmltxdist.org. Click on “District Mites” and select “Society Remittance Form” to access the downloadable Excel file. Make sure your society is using the Society Remittance Forms. Only Individual Members are to use the Individual Member Remittance Forms. Societies are requested to submit mites monthly and Individual Members are requested to send in mites quarterly to the district’s Financial Secretary so mission grants may be funded in a timely manner.

Now, besides the society treasurer’s record keeping, her routine for the month is complete – until the next society meeting. Contact this office, financialsecretary@lwmltxdist.org if your society treasurer has any questions about her “routine.”



Send your LWML news to LWML Texas District News Editor

Laura Wilson

3034 Elm Avenue, Groves, TX 77619

districtnews@lwmltxdist.org*Lutheran Witness* articles are due by the ninth of the month.

75th Anniversary Committee

Boo, Hoo!....

We have not heard from many of you...

Send in your commitment—oh, please, please do...

*The goal will be reached and **we'll** be happy, too!*

There are no new commitments to add since the last issue of "Linked by Love."

Younger women becoming involved in LWML is so exciting! The new ideas and enthusiasm they bring is refreshing and innovative for long-time members. Those who are young may not have thought too seriously about estate planning as yet. After returning a fair share to the Giver of all gifts, probably raising families and preparing for college educations have top priority in their financial plans. We do hope they have taken care of getting wills in order.

No matter the age, a simple means to make a commitment to the 75th anniversary "Endowing Tomorrow's Women in Mission" campaign is through the Texas District Church Extension Fund (CEF). A Save-By-Mail Account can be opened for a \$10 minimum (although a \$100 minimum is preferred by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas).

The Beneficiary Designation should state that the gift is for the Lutheran Foundation of Texas, 7900 E. Hwy 290, Austin, Texas, with all or part of the amount in the CEF account for the benefit of the Texas District LWML Scholarship Endowment Fund (EN057) **and/or** the Mission Inreach Endowment of the Texas District LWML (EN165). By adding to the account monthly the total will grow. As financial circumstances change, a deposit of a larger amount may be made. An account of \$500 or more has the option of being a one-year, three-year or five-year note bearing interest at the going rate. For CEF investment application forms, contact Texas District Church Extension Fund at 7900 E. Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78724, 1-800-951-3478, or at www.TexasCEF.org.

Another easy option—if a person has an IRA, insurance policy or savings account such as with CEF, it's easy to contact the financial institution with whom the account is registered and ask for a new beneficiary form. The anniversary endowment would be listed as a beneficiary for whatever percentage you choose. Use the beneficiary wording above stating any percentage you choose as your gift. Contact Larry Ohls at the Lutheran Foundation Office for help with proper wording.

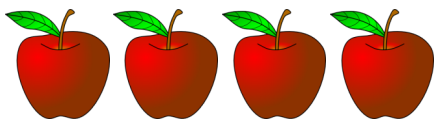
IMPORTANT: send a commitment form to Lutheran Foundation of Texas to make certain the gift is credited to the Texas District LWML Anniversary Campaign! Commitment forms can be requested from Pat Biar (loupatbr@sbcglobal.net, 1104 N 30th Street, Nederland, TX 77627, 409-722-7842), or Lutheran Foundation of Texas (1-800-880-3733 or www.lfot.org). Commitment forms can be downloaded from the Lutheran Foundation Web Site. To learn more about the campaign, log on to the Texas District LWML Web Site (www.lwmltxdist.org, click on the "Celebrate LWML 75th" button on the left side).

Prayerfully consider participating, lifting up your estate-planned gift with THANKS AND PRAISE to God for His incredible blessings to LWML for 75 years. Together with the Lord, we WILL reach our \$1,000,000 goal by 2017. God's time-line is not the same as ours, so don't delay. We can be called home at any time.

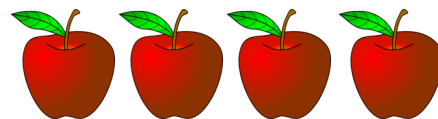
Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

(I Thessalonians 5:16-18)

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**2011—2012 LWML Texas District
Scholarships Awarded**



Carolyn Culbertson, Scholarship Committee Chairman, announces three scholarships have been awarded to women enrolled in a course of study leading to full-time professional church work in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod:

Lauren Van Syckle, attending Concordia University Texas

Lydia Humphries, attending Concordia University Texas

Samantha Schumann, attending Concordia University Texas

DIRECT YOUR THRIVENT CHOICESM DOLLARS TO MITES

The LWML Texas District is now able to benefit from YOUR Thrivent ChoiceSM Dollars? Follow the directions below (also found on district's website) and help the district's mites INCREASE for the work of God's earthly kingdom.

\$ Go online and:

Step 1 - Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Step 2 - Click on "log in" at the top right of your screen and enter your MyThrivent user ID and password.
(If you haven't registered on Thrivent.com, click on "register now" to register for full access.)

Step 3 - Look for your designated Choice DollarsSM on the right side of the screen.

Step 4 - Click on "Direct Choice Dollars" in the Thrivent ChoiceSM box on your MyThrivent page.

Step 5 - Search for: **Organization Name:** Lutheran Womens Missionary League Texas District
City and State: Bishop, TX
Organization Type: Other Lutheran Organization

Step 6 - Click on "Direct Choice Dollars Now" to direct your designated Choice Dollars to benefit LWML Texas District.



Vice President of Christian Life

Diann Higgins

RETREAT!



We aren't the cavalry, but sometimes we feel that way. Our roles as wife, mother, daughter, sister, or friend often mean we need to lend a helping hand to those around us. Most of the time, it's easy cheesy, but what happens when your battery is running low and your heart is heavy? To give our best to the ones we love, we must take time to charge up our batteries and lay our burdens down.



Jesus would retreat from the crowds to rest and pray so that He could give others His best. He uses our lives to touch the lives of others in His name. What value do we bring to their lives, for Jesus' sake, when we don't take care of ourselves?

Plan now to take a day or two to rest and pray as Jesus did. Go to www.lwmltxdist.org for a registration form. Retreat sign in begins at 2 p.m. Friday, October 7 in the Smith building. Dinner is served from 5 to 5:30 p.m. only in the Miller-Smith Dining Hall. Meal tickets available at sign in.

Early birds can take in a Bible study at 3:30 p.m. in the Siceloff Auditorium with the main event kicking off in the same place at 7 p.m. The retreat ends by 2 p.m. Saturday, October 8 to allow plenty of time to take in the parks, museums and attractions of Glen Rose. Pre or post-retreat activities are on your own.

One registration form for each attendee is required. Remember to check the box on the registration form if you want to receive discount coupons from the Glen Rose Chamber of Commerce.

Driving directions and a camper's list will be emailed or mailed to you upon receipt of registration and payment. Make checks payable to: LWML Texas District. If you are paying for more than one registration, include all applicable registration forms with the check. Go to www.glenlake.org for a camp map.

Short-Term Mission Team

Alice Klement

Who, me ??? You've got to be kidding...

Do you read about the adventures of folks who have gone on mission trips and say to yourself, "I'm glad for them, but that's not for me?" Unfortunately, God does not let us off the hook so easily. Combine the Great Commission with the financial realities facing the LCMS and it becomes clear that more and more "missions" are becoming a grassroots responsibility. The proverbial ball is being tossed into the individual congregation's, indeed, the individual member's court.

Consider a few facts:

Using Poland as an example, this summer 18 teams were requested; only 9 were available to be assigned.

Concordia English Language Center in Macau could be self-supporting if Synod would have 3 more volunteers for a year of service.

It's no longer our "father's mission work," in other words, career missionaries are no longer the norm in regard to conducting mission work in the LCMS.

Letting this concept of personal responsibility sink in can be unsettling at first, but consider the blessings that will come to the individuals and congregations that rise up to meet this new challenge!

What can I do?

Begin by praying to the Lord of the harvest to send labors into the harvest. Pray asking God's will for you and your congregation.

While you may not be the one to go on a trip yourself, think of the people in your sphere of influence that you might encourage going. Those just finishing college and those newly retired are prime candidates for a short or long term mission trip.

Get more information for yourself and others. Go to www.lcms.org, the *Get Involved* tab.

At LCMS .org you can also form prayer or financial connections with career and volunteer missionaries.

This is a critical time in the history of our church body. We pray that, with God's direction, we will rise up to meet the challenge with a resounding, "Here am I. Send me. Send me!"



Editor's note: Alice Klement, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, San Antonio. Alice served as team leader for this LWML mission trip to Poland. She is available to speak, sharing her passion for short-term mission work. To schedule a presentation by members of the team, contact Debbie Curry at gospeloutreach@lwmltxdist.org.



It's Time for Teens

Living on the edge is pushing past Peoria and looking forward to being with Jesus in Bryan/College station! As we prepare for the 37th Biennial LWML Texas District Convention, we look forward to including Texas teens in the future of our organization. If teens are not already involved in your society or zone, the 2012 convention will be a perfect opportunity to introduce and/or immerse them in the blessings that are LWML. To learn more about Friends Into Serving Him or starting a teen group, check out the links on the LWML website or contact a member of the Teen Task Force. More information will be forthcoming concerning teen participation at convention and convention registration for teens.



Terri Wenzel
Teen Facilitator, LWML Texas District
terriwenzel@hotmail.com
281-648-9885



Vice President of Servant Resources

Lois Teinert

Annual Membership Report Forms

The annual membership report forms have been sent via e-mail to zone presidents. The forms can also be downloaded from our lwmltxdist.org website. The society membership report forms are to be distributed by zone presidents to the societies in their zones for completion. Society presidents, complete the forms and promptly return them to your zone president. She needs to verify and tabulate information, and submit them to the District by **mid-November, 2011**. The forms look a little different this year. Instructions are included.

OFFICER & ADDRESS CHANGES

When zone officer changes occur throughout the year, send me the following information:

- name of your zone
- name of officer
- position of officer
- home address, phone number, and e-mail address of officer

When society president and treasurer changes, send me the following information:

- name of your zone
- name of your society, church, and city
- name of officer
- position (*president* and *treasurer* only)
- home address, phone number, and e-mail address of officer

Lois Teinert

Vice President of Servant Resources

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*For though we have never yet seen God, when we love each other God lives in us,
and his love within us grows even stronger. 1 John 4:12*

President's article continued**Kathy Lowman**

They will be serving with the newly elected president, Kay Kreklau from North Dakota. Other newly elected officers were Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Pat Reichert, South Dakota; Vice President of Organizational Resources, Carolyn Blum, Wisconsin; Treasurer, Lois Anderson, Idaho; and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Bev England, Oklahoma.

Join me in thanking God for the talents of banner designer, Janet Hurta of McGregor. Carrying this banner with the other 39 district presidents and accompanied by our two district YWRs, Jennifer and Whitney, was a highlight of the convention for me! The banner truly depicted "Being with Jesus...Living on the Edge."

What did we learn?

- We are all changed when we spend time with Jesus.
 - We are to reach out to those in need and to those who need to hear about Jesus.
 - Identify your God-given talents and make a difference in the world.
 - Speaking the truth of Jesus is living on the edge.

Many people daily experience "living on the edge," but do you, as a Christian "Being with Jesus," live on the edge? With the Holy Spirit's power in you, you can live on the edge and be bold to tell others about those things you have seen and heard. Move out of your comfort zone and tell others how Christ has been a part of your life.

"And they realized that they had been with Jesus. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."
Acts 4:13b, 20 NKJV


News Flash

The **White Oak Zone** is graciously welcoming members of the Northeast Houston Zone effective September 18, 2011. Due to declining participation in leadership roles in the Northeast Houston Zone, all societies in that zone have voted to transfer to the White Oak Zone resulting in a merge. Gifts and talents of those ladies in the Northeast Houston Zone will be implemented in a new setting. We praise God for leading these two zones to this decision and pray for abundant blessings to the new larger White Oak Zone.



LWML TEXAS DISTRICT CONVENTION
BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION
JUNE 29-JULY 1, 2012

Verse: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly..." Colossians 3:16A NIV

Goal: Inspire all women to become bolder and more assured
in their role of being in mission.

Experience a convention! Plan now to attend. Hope to see you there!

A convention website will be online soon, along with Facebook and Twitter accounts as "Faithanista News."