



Evergreen Echoes

Winter
2008

Visit our website at www.WA-AKLWML.org

DISTRICT PRESIDENT ELAINE NELSON



As I write these words, fall is fading into winter. The leaves are dropping to the ground and I know that the season is changing. The winter season starts us off with wonderful events – Thanksgiving and Christmas. At both of these times, we celebrate God’s goodness to us. What a wonderful time of year!!

And last weekend – October 24 – 26 – there was much celebrating and learning and making new friends and growing in the Lord. Pat Greenwalt, MaryLynn Huntwork and I were at the Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis. We learned new things and refreshed on some not – so – new things. Two of the areas of focus were Mentoring (Building Up Our Sisters in Christ) and our Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ (Christ- Centered Living.) Everything we did was focused around the four Primary Targets.

Two definitions about mentoring that I heard and like are: 1. A mentor is someone who invests herself in others. 2. Mentoring is using the best part of yourself to help someone else. Think about this and see where you can be a mentor to someone.

Christ-centered living is a must if we want to be doing the things that God created us to do. Without Him, we will miss the mark. Daily devotions, regular Bible study alone and in groups, a daily prayer time and regular worship are things that enable us to have Christ as our center.

Pat, MaryLynn and I plan to put together a program for you with the highlights of the things we learned. It will be interactive and fun. Watch for it in 2009.

May the Baby in the Manger be your focus these days. Merry Christmas!!! Elaine



Life's Journey

Thank you for your support and confidence in electing me as your District Vice President of Christian Life. I trust in God's plan and His guidance through the experience and sharing of all of you. I also trust that God does not give us more than we can handle.

After the convention in June my journey continued on to MN for my 40th class reunion. How fun and exciting to see classmates without the worries and angst of yesteryear. Everyone was friends with all and it was freeing to be who we are.

My next journey was to Idaho for my daughter's wedding. It was a week filled with many events and last minute to dos. The Christ-centered ceremony was beautiful, as will be their new life journey together.

Last fall at our district retreat, I spoke about "teaching the children", and my trust in God's promise of

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it". Prov 22:6 NIV This verse is very comforting to me and probably to most Christian parents. With four children now married and moved far away from my husband and me in Alaska, I rely on those words and pray that even with my bumbling parenting skills, my children will continue the proper training of my grandchildren

My newly married daughter and her husband have the scripture reference Deut 6:5-9 engraved on their wedding rings.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

These are the Words of our Lord. Let us all live by them daily. With Thanksgiving and the start of Advent, take this marvelous opportunity to share with family and friends the reason for our thankfulness and the source of all our blessings. In doing so, we will be uplifted ourselves and renewed in our faith.

Bless all of you on your Christ Centered Life Journey.

In His Service,
Marilee Ryan
VP Christian Life

Mission Statement of the LWML

www.LWML.org

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

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Art of Mentoring

When I was asked to write an article about mentoring, I decided to do some research. The dictionary's definition of a mentor is "a wise and faithful adviser." When I thought about it I realized that not all advisers are wise or faithful. The world is full of people that don't have our best interests in mind. Thus, Christians need to intentionally find ways to encourage teach and help those around them.

Recently, I read in the Wall Street Journal an article by Maggie Jackson about how important mentoring is. It is even being taught to Business majors at Universities..If it is important for businesses how much more important is it that Christians use it to encourage people to come to church and to become involved.

Once again I think of Stella who is now four. When her new sister, Iris, was born she announced that she would be a good big sister. She not only announced it but she started showing that she was a good big sister. She started to bring her toys, help her mother change her diapers and feed her. But actually the first thing she started to do was pray for her. Now she has twin boy cousins that she is starting to look out for and protect. She also announced that she was going to be a good big cousin. The first thing she did was pray for them and then she chose their cribs.

One of the children's messages I recently used was about a little girl teaching her dolls to pray. I know that it seems easier to teach children

what we want them to do but I've found that adults need our special love and attention as well.

I am involved in LWML on a Society, Zone, District and National level because a very special women asked and asked and asked me to go with her to events. We need to encourage, praise, and demonstrate to those around us that we are involved in LWML because we love our Savior and want them to love him too. We need to show our enthusiasm for our Lord and the various organizations that spread the Good News.

The following are a few ways to begin to mentor. Please send me other ways you mentor so I can share them in the future.

- Don't just invite someone but also offer to give her a ride.
- Develop friendships in and out of church.
- Use children's messages not only to teach children but to put the ideas in their adult's minds. One I used recently was about a mother who saw her daughter teaching her dolls how to pray.
- Use a child's devotions at holidays along with a treat. Adults will be listening too.

Please send your ideas for mentoring to me so I can share them with others.

May God Bless you and your efforts to mentor.

Carol Lee Drager
Leader Development Committee



LWML 33rd Biennial Convention
June 25 – 28, 2009
Portland, Oregon

SAVE THE DATE

September 25-27, 2009

LWML WA-AK District Retreat
at the Wesley Inn in Gig Harbor

*Make plans now
to attend*



"Anchored by His Grace"

*From the fullness of His Grace we have all
received one blessing after another. John 1:16*

Jan Struck - Presenter

*A great opportunity to get "anchored" in Christ
and "uplifted" by the Spirit through fellowship
with one another.*

"CALLING ALL YOUNG WOMEN"

LWML 33rd Biennial
Convention
June 25 - 28, 2009

**Deadline to apply
to be a YWR is:**

January 15, 2009

**Additional Information
Contact:**

**Marjorie O'Rourke
YWR Chairman
(253) 813-3196
mjourourke@juno.com**

Forms available at:

<http://wa-aklwml.org/>

*Do YOU know the Four Primary Targets that LWML has
set as guidelines for our work together?*

They are:

- 1. Christ - Centered Living*
- 2. Telling the Good News*
- 3. Partnering for Diversity*
- 4. Building Up Our Sisters in Christ*



News from the Zones

Alaska Zone Retreat FROG

Imagine driving nine hours to attend a LWML Zone Retreat. In addition to that, imagine leaving at 4:30 a.m. because it is snowing and there is already eight inches of snow on the road. That's what four wonderful women from Mt. Drum Lutheran Church in Copper Center, Alaska did to be able to attend the Zone Retreat in Homer, Alaska. When they arrived, they were not only cheerful but didn't complain that they would have to make in three days. Actually most of the sixty-eight people traveled over 250 miles to be part of this uplifting weekend. Everyone raved about the beauty of the trip and the setting of the Hotel. We had to compete with the view of the Alaskan Mountain Range and Kenai Mountain Range and Kachemak Bay so we had to work hard on keeping everyone involved.

This was a FROG Retreat "**Faith Rests On God**". There were Frogs everywhere. There were handmade frog centerpieces, other frog decorations, four inch stuffed frogs with logo t-shirts to wear as a pin at the Retreat and then use as a Christmas ornament There were frog door prizes, a frog Mite skit and two frog puppet shows (the scripts and puppet patterns were given to each Society so they could share them with the children of their congregation). There were also a Faith Bible study, a presentation about the "Tower of Love," an African ministry Faith Lutheran in Homer sponsors. The presentation brought tears to many eyes. We held a successful silent auction to benefit the "Tower of Love".

We also invited men to attend. They participated in some of our activities but they had a separate breakfast and Bible study.

On Sunday morning we joined Faith Lutheran Church for an LWML communion service which was followed by a delicious potluck provided by their ladies.

MT. BAKER ZONE NEW

The Mt. Baker Zone held their Fall Rally on October 4 at Immanuel – Everett. Our speakers were Dale Rahn and Emily Bartelheimer from Lamb of God Lutheran – Lake Stevens. They gave a wonderful presentation on the Haitian Lambs of God Orphanage. We could have listened to them all day! We were all moved to help support this mission. Our hosts provided a delicious lunch and, with 72 present, we enjoyed great fellowship. The rally ended with a beautiful communion service led by Pastor Palm and Pastor Heck. A new zone president was elected. Donna Allen from Concordia – Oak Harbor had served for the past four years and said she was blessed by the experience. Our new zone president is Julie Onken from Messiah – Marysville and she is excited to serve.



Donna Allen – left and Julie Onken

60 Years of History

The humble beginnings of our current Lydia Guild began in 1944 when the ladies of the newly established Redeemer Lutheran Church convened to form the first Ladies Aid. These ladies met in each others homes for social times and Bible Study and were a service group for special events at Redeemer. As once noted in the old minutes (now, unfortunately lost), all ladies attending were listed along with what was served by the hostess. Among the early members were Mrs. Fergin, Emma Shmitt, Ethel Chich, Lydia Torkelson, Verna Fellman, and Lydia Zutz (Verna's Mother). To honor Lydia of the Bible, and because there were two "Lydias" in the group, the name Lydia Group was proposed and voted upon by the members.

In 1948-49, the group applied for membership in the young Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Our group was five years old when we joined. Now more emphasis was given to serving others outside our congregation through the collection of Mites and support of missionaries. Verna reported that Hattie Buttonhoff stayed at Lydia Zutz's home the night before the charter was received and had breakfast at Verna's home. They had their banquet at the old Richland High School, which, at the time, was near Lewis and Clark Grade School.

Twenty-seven ladies have served in the Presidential capacity with Lois Altman serving at the time of chartering. She has served as Guild president a total of eight (8) years during out 60 year history more than anyone else thus far. Verna Fellman was president for one term. Verna's expertise was in keeping the kitchen functioning well and beautiful hand quilting. Lois was, for many years, in charge of wedding service for Redeemer.

Though membership has grown and deminished over the years, the joy and enthusiasm of the members has never waned. Many projects have been funded through both Mites and Offerings. We thank and praise God for His goodness to us and the opportunity to serve Him through Lydia Guild. Linda Einspahr



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 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 sent.

Please do not send photos taken with a cell phone.

Questions? Send an e-mail to newseditor@lwml.org or call 262-966-7418.

OLYMPIC ZONE BANNER

WA-AK District LWML

Convention 2008 Theme and design by JoAnn Seltz & Margaret Ebert

As the Olympic Zone learned the 2008 WAAK Convention theme, “for the LORD, the LORD is the Rock Eternal” Isaiah 26:4 the words of hymn writer Nikolai F.S. Gruntvig rolled in our minds.

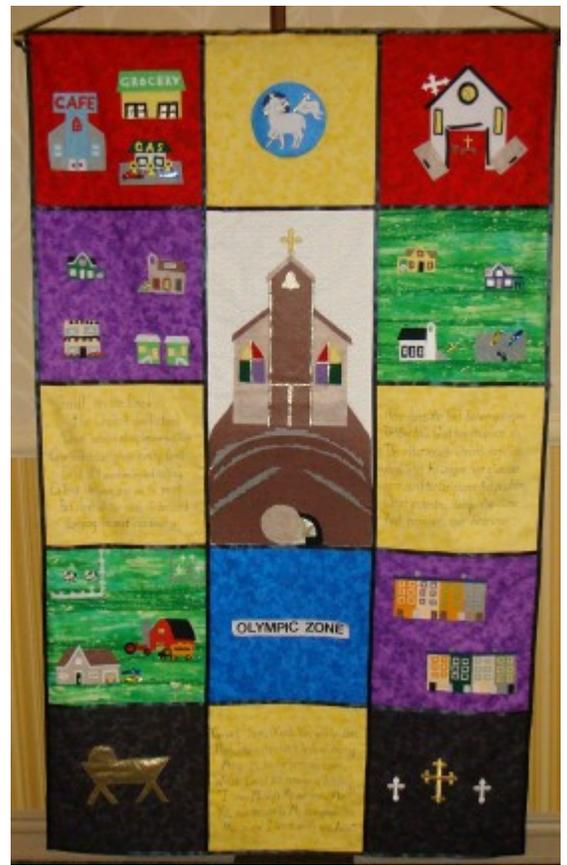
Built on a Rock the Church doth stand, Even when steeples are falling...”
LSB 645, TLH, LW

Verse 5

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done.
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come

Where Christ His message is bringing:

**“I know My own,
My own know Me,
You not the world, My face shall see.
My Peace I leave with you. Amen.”**



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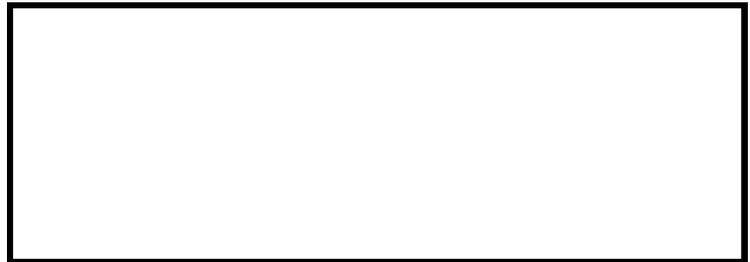
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2008 – 2010 District Theme



We Are God's Tapestry

A quilt is made of different squares, sewn together.
Likewise, with our different gifts and talents, we make a beautiful service for our Lord.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms...If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides,