

# Evergreen Echoes

Winter  
2009

Visit our website at [www.WA-AK LWML.org](http://www.WA-AK LWML.org)

**June 18 - 20, 2010  
Biennial Convention  
Official Call**

**TO:** All LWML WA- AK District members, pastors, and friends

**FROM:** Elaine Nelson, President

**RE:** LWML WA-AK District Convention

**DATES:** Friday, June 18, 2010, 7:00 pm Opening Worship through Sunday, June 20, 2010 Closing Service

**PLACE:** Red Lion Hotel at the Park  
303 W. North River Drive  
Spokane, WA 99201  
Phone: 509-328-7361

**THEME:** We Are God's Tapestry  
1 Peter 4:10, 11b



**GOAL STATEMENT:** Confident that God loves me through giving His Son, Jesus, to die for us, I seek to use the gifts God has given me to serve others, so that God will be praised.

**OBJECTIVES:** Convention attendees are given opportunities for and motivated to:  
Praise and worship God for His goodness and love;  
Use their gifts and talents in dedicated service to Christ;  
Share the Good News of Christ's love and His sacrifice with those both far and near.

Watch the Evergreen Echoes, our website, your email and the church office next year for special mailings and to get all the latest information

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## President's Message

Chilly nights and cool days tell us that we are in that season of the year where we celebrate. We celebrate God's goodness to us at Thanksgiving and we celebrate the Birth of Jesus in December.

The Fall District meetings are over. Many of us had a great time in Ephrata with good food and much work accomplished. Be sure to get the full report from your zone president. Fall rallies are over. All zones have received the presentation based on materials from the Assembly of Leaders in Fall 2008. We trust that you enjoyed this time of personal growth for service to our Lord.

Now it is time to focus on the festive times of the year and then we will set our faces to head for Spokane in June. We will vote on new grants. The Gospel Outreach committee has been receiving these grants and will have everything ready to vote on then. Watch for this listing in the spring. The Nominating Committee is in the process of gathering names for the ballot for new officers. This is the year we elect a President, Vice-president of Servant Resources, Vice-president of Human Care and a Treasurer. The names will also be available in the early spring. Watch for this. We will also have a few bylaw changes for you to consider. Make plans now to be part of this convention to make new friends, renew friendships and to be a part of making decisions for your district.



In the busy days ahead, do take time to commune with your Lord each day. He will give you the strength and joy that you need to live each day to the fullest. God's richest blessings be yours.

Serving Christ with you,  
Elaine



Wishing all of you a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year too!

Blessings from your District Officers



November 2009

In his book, **“Detours: Sometimes Rough Roads Lead to Right Places”**, Clark Cothorn tells

of a Christmas when his family encountered an unexpected house guest. A squirrel had fallen down their chimney into the wood burner stove in the basement of their Michigan home. Cothorn writes:

“I thought if the squirrel knew we were there to help, I could just reach in and gently

lift it out. Nothing doing. As I reached in...it began scratching about like a squirrel overdosed on espresso.

We finally managed to construct a cardboard box “cage” complete with a large hole cut into one side, into which the squirrel waltzed when we placed the box against the wood burner’s door. We let it out into the safety of our backyard.

Later, I thought, isn’t it funny how, before its redemption, our little visitor had frantically tried to bash its way out of its dark prison? It seemed that the harder it struggled in its own strength to get free, the more pain it caused itself.

In the end, he simply had to wait patiently until one who was much bigger – one who could peer into his world – could carry him safely to that larger world where he really belonged.”

Even though we live in a world that becomes supposedly less complicated through technological advances, we still find ourselves waiting. Between now and Christmas we will be waiting for packages to arrive; waiting in line at Macy’s or Shopko; waiting for our adult children to come home for the holidays; waiting for... Even though most of us don’t like waiting that is exactly what the upcoming Advent Season is all about.

During the Advent Season, through prayer, devotionals, worship, and the signs and symbols of Advent, we ‘groan’ with Isaiah as he expressed his hope and yearning for a day when weapons will be turned into agricultural instruments. We cry out with Zechariah, rejoicing that the dawn from on high is breaking upon us. We echo the prayers of people like Hannah, Micah and millions of others, named and unnamed, many whose expectations of the future kingdom may have been hazy, yet who still yearned for someone who would save them by establishing His kingdom among them. After centuries of waiting the Word became flesh in Jesus, the Christ, and His kingdom was established forevermore. The waiting was over – at least the waiting for the first Advent of the Savior of the world.

As we move into and through Advent 2009 what are you waiting for? For Christ to be made ‘more alive’ in your heart? For your faith in the Messiah to be strengthened and deepened? For your relationships with your loved ones to be magnified? For your hopes and dreams to be heightened and renewed?

Remember the squirrel from Michigan? He simply had to “wait patiently until one who was much bigger – one who could peer into his world – could carry him safely to that larger world where he really belonged”. A piece of wisdom for us to consider as we wait for Immanuel to be with us in ways that will change ‘who we are today’ into ‘what he wants us to be’ in the future.

Waiting and Watching with You,

Pastor Nolting



I'm writing this on October 31, Halloween, and the day before All Saints Sunday.

This time of year is for harvesting and gathering the bounty of the land.

“Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field”. Exo 23:16 NIV

This is also a time of thanksgiving.

But, of course, as Christians we are thankful for all of our blessings each and every day. We are thankful to God for all that He both our daily bread – the harvest of the field, and our spiritual bread – the gift of grace through Christ's death and resurrection.

The term “pay it forward” may apply. Christ paid for our eternal life. Nothing we do can repay that gift. Our works do not buy us a place in heaven. But, again, as Christians, we do good works because of our gifts from God. We pay it forward. This is true of LWML through our MITE giving and missions support.

This is true when we help our community and neighbors. We share our blessings, because it is pleasing to God.

And God will bless us and give us joy.

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.” 2 Cor 9:11 NIV

Please share God's love by being generous to those less fortunate during Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

“And continues to give us, we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all the power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” Col 1:10-12.

Amen.

Marilee Ryan,  
VP Christian Life



*Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Magazine*

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* is the official publication of the LWML and is published four times a year – spring, summer, fall and winter. Enjoy great Bible studies (includes a Spanish Bible study), messages from LWML officers, feature stories, young woman columns, teen topics, mission grants, LWML product depot items, free items, and much more.

Braille, large print, or cassette tapes are available free from: Lutheran Blind Mission, 7550 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63119-4409, or by calling 1-888-215-2455.

Selected articles or parts of articles of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* are available for reading online – [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

**Society Presidents:** *Quarterly* 2010 renewal order forms were mailed in October to each active and inactive society. Read directions carefully, decide the number of copies you need, and please fill out the form promptly and return to the *Quarterly* Chairman by **December 15, 2009**. Individuals may order if your church doesn't have an LWML.

**Idea:** Each LWML member order at least one extra copy to share with a shut-in or a friend who is not a member of LWML. They make a WONDERFUL quick gift, a token of thanks, or a pick-me-up for a friend who may not even be Lutheran. They only cost a “buck a book” when a society orders 10 or more copies.

Sonja Frazier – *Quarterly* Chairman      E-mail: [srfrazier@nwinfo.net](mailto:srfrazier@nwinfo.net)

## District retreat in Gig Harbor



Our retreat in Gig Harbor *Anchored by His Grace*, was a great success because of all of you who attended, and to all of you who helped and participated. What talent we have on the district!! And it was so exciting to have all the First Timers come forward! I am thrilled and very thankful to all of you.

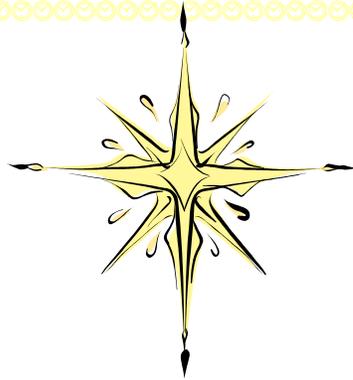
To keep anchored in Christ, please check out the Web site at [LWML.org](http://LWML.org) for Bible studies.

**A New Song** is a new women's Bible study devotional that will encourage and inspire women's faith... daily devotions written by real women facing real-life issues. Discover more about God's love through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

On our district Web site at [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org) is an Advent-Epiphany Bible study *Do You See What I See?* from the Winter 2006 "Woman's Quarterly" written by the Rev. Vernon Schindler.

Christ brings joy to those who come to him.

Blessings and Joy on your Holiday season.  
Marilee Ryan, VP Christian Life



It has been a busy season. As the Autumn speeds toward Winter my mailbox is full of Mission Grant Proposals for the 2010-2012 biennium. The Mission Advocacy and Grants Committee will be reviewing them as the District prepares to vote on which grants we will be supporting during those two years. God has richly blessed our district in our ability to reach out in love and support so many different types of mission work. Please keep the MAG Committee in your prayers as we continue this important work.

Our current biennium's grants are almost completely paid – keep those Mites coming!

	Grant	Paid
1. Aid to Seminary Students	\$ 8000	\$ 5714
2. Financial Assistance to the Concordia Theological Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op	\$ 5000	\$ 5000
3. The Morning Star Girls Club and Mentoring Program		
Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.	\$ 5500	\$ 5500
4. African Immigrant Outreach Ministry in Seattle	\$10000	\$10000
5. Production of Portals of Prayer in Braille		
Lutheran Blind Mission at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Spokane Valley, Washington	\$ 4000	\$ 4000
6. Church Roofs in Republic of Guinea		
LCMS World Mission	\$ 6000	\$ 6000
7. Puppet Ministry in Myanmar for Children and Families	\$15,400	\$15,400
8. Kitchen/Food Bank Renovation		
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Washington	\$ 5000	\$ 5000
9. The Lutheran Church = The Teaching Church: Translating Luther's Small Catechism for Kenya	\$ 4500	\$ 4500
10. Guan Seminary, Ghana, West Africa: LCMS World Mission	\$ 7000	\$ 7000
11. Scholarships for the Themba Trust-Siyathemba Girls' High School of Dirkiesdorp, South Africa		
LCMS World Relief/Human Care	\$ 7450	\$ 7450
12. Catechism for Mexico from Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones, Tijuana, Mexico	\$ 2150	\$ 2150

At our 2010 District Convention in Spokane we will also be voting on the recipients of our offerings. You should have a Proposal Form in the Bulk Mailing that your church received. The form is also available on our website. LeeAnn Tibbals

## NEW MITE BOX SIZE NOW AVAILABLE

Mite Boxes are now available in a new size. In addition to the traditional smaller box and the larger display box, a medium size box is now offered. This classic is made of corrugated cardboard and measures 12"x 5" x 7".

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) at its national convention in June 2009 adopted a mission goal of \$1,825,000 for the 2009-2011 biennium. Mites collected (in boxes of all sizes!) are used to fund grants that further the mission and ministry of God's kingdom throughout the world. Lutheran Women in Mission have funded mission grants since 1943.

President Janice Wendorf shares that the need for a medium sized Mite Box was conceived after hearing about the smaller Mite Boxes being passed around at

LCMS district conventions. "The Mite Box would make it through a couple of rows and would already be full...so we needed to provide a larger container to use for gatherings!"

The medium size Mite Box is available from the LWML Office or online from the LWML store at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). The design is the same on all sizes of boxes. The price is \$3.50 per box; \$9 for three; and \$125 for 50. Call the LWML Office for shipping costs.



## Plan to Attend the 2010 District Convention Early!

Don't be there at the worship service! Be there early enough to attend an interest session! These interest sessions focus on aspects of the LWML.

Plans on interest sessions are being finalized! Interest sessions in the past: Teen LWML, Leader Development for Zones and an Archivist-Historian Workshop.

Details on interest sessions and the convention will be coming ....to a society near you!

The WA-AK District convention will be June 18-20, 2010 in Spokane, Washington.



Do you know a wonderful, dedicated Christian young woman in your church that is considering entering full time ministry in the LCMS as a teacher, deaconess, DCO, DCE, parish musician, family ministry or family ministry? Are they currently attending one, or planning to attend one of our Concordia Universities this next year?

Applications for any LCMS young woman in the WA-AK are being taken at this time until March 15, 2010. The applicants should be preparing to attend or be current students of one of the LCMS Concordia Universities. They should be in the course work of full time church work, and should be planning to be a student in the school year of 2010-2011. Each society President should have a copy of the Scholarship Application and the letters of recommendation that can be given to EACH local applicant. There is also a copy on the WA-AK LWML website that can be downloaded and filled out, if needed.

In addition to this, we are still collecting contributions. These will be dispersed among the applicants in Spokane in June, 2010 at our District Convention. They may be in the form of individual, society, zone, church and memorials. A flyer is being sent in the bulk mailing that can be used as a bulletin insert to help encourage the above.

May God graciously continue to help call dedicated workers for His work in spreading the good news of Jesus to the world.

Sarah Edwards  
WA-AK LWML Scholarship Committee Chairman



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**District Retreat**  
**Gig Harbor, WA**

