

# Evergreen Echoes

Summer  
2010

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

## 2010 Washington-Alaska District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention Highlights



Thursday, June 17, 2010

2:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. Executive Committee Dinner

Friday, June 18, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 6:30 Registration Open

8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

10:00 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. Displays and Stores Open

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Interest Sessions and Servant Events

1:00 p.m. Processional Practice

2:00 p.m. Tellers and Pages Meetings

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Delegate Orientation

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Choir Practice

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. First Timers Meet

Dinner on Your Own

7:00 p.m. FIRST MEETING

OPENING OF CONVENTION

BANNER PROCESSION

WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Paul Linnemann, Proclaimer

COMMUNION

RECEPTION

Saturday, June 19, 2010

Breakfast on Your Own

6:00 a.m. - 6:45 a.m.- Mission Walk

8:15 a.m. Pre-Meeting Singing: Carla Tibbals

8:30 a.m. SECOND BUSINESS MEETING

Presentation of Colors

Organization of Convention

Nominating Committee Report

Mission Grants Presentation

Balloting: Mission Grants

Keynote Address: Heidi Floyd

Balloting: Convention Offering

Ethiopian Ministry: Berhanu Seyoum

Presentation of Scholarships

LUNCH RECESS – Displays & Stores Open

Lunch Speakers: Martha Moun and Nyakhat Gach

1:15 p.m. "Pre-Meeting Singing"

1:30 p.m. THIRD BUSINESS MEETING

Bible Study: Carol Bisterfeldt

LWML Report: Deaconess Sylvia Johnson

Sudanese Ministry: Rev. Matthew Both and Choir

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Voting: Balloting Changes Bylaws

Balloting: Officers and Nominating Committee

4:30 p.m. Close of Third Meeting

Displays & Store Open

7:00 p.m. BANQUET MC: Rev. Dudley Nolting

Sunday, June 22, 2008

Breakfast On Your Own

8:15 a.m. Pre-Meeting Singing

8:30 a.m. FOURTH BUSINESS MEETING

Opening Devotion: YWRs

Bible Study: Carol Bisterfeldt

Dedication of Gifts from the Heart

Mission Speakers: Rev. Ken and Sandi Schauer

Reports of Balloting

Report of the President

Closing Worship Service with Installation of Officers

Close of Convention by New President

## “We are God’s Tapestry”

“We are God’s Tapestry” What a great theme for our convention in Spokane June 18 – 20!!! Each of us is a vital part in God’s plan for our service in His kingdom. Together we form a beautiful tapestry that is a sweet aroma to Him. The part that we play – whether large, small, visible or behind the scenes – is a necessary thread that makes the whole a beautiful work of art. Without you, we are less than what we could be.



As a new biennium begins, please consider the part that you are playing in the WA–AK District LWML. Are you using the gifts that God has given you to serve Him and His people? Are you trying to do a task that you do not enjoy but someone needs to do? As new officers are elected and new committees formed, please prayerfully ask God to show you the gifts that He has given you. Then look for a way to use those gifts in His kingdom. Some of the tasks that we have openings for on district committees have not been filled this past biennium. The vice-presidents have prayed, sought out names of women who serve and then asked. But many said they were not interested. I challenge you to look deep within your heart to see just where you are spending your time and talents. Ask God to show you what His best plan is for you. God has given gifts to each of us. Our tapestry can be full and rich when we are all serving with the gifts that He has given us.

As John and I make plans to move to Nebraska, it is with some sadness knowing that we will not be together at district meetings and events. You all have a special place in my heart and the memories that I take with me are precious. Filling the role of president was God’s plan for us these past four years. It is my prayer that the tapestry He wove together with all of us is pleasing in His eyes.



Blessings, Elaine

## Missionary Speaker at Convention



**Matthew Both & Family**

Matthew was born on June 24, 1967 in Maiwut, Sudan, became a Christian in 1983, and was baptized in 1985. He married Rebeeca Bol on December 24, 1985 and served as a Presbyterian evangelist from 1985-1992.

The Bolt Family lived in a refugee camp off and on from 1989-1992 due to civil war in Sudan, and in 1992 fled to Kenya with Rebecca and daughter Leah (born in 1991). They lived in a refugee camp in Kenya for one year and came to the US in 1993 under the auspices of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

They re-settled in Des Moines, Iowa where Matthew worked for Catholic Social Services from 1993-2000 with refugee assistance. He became a United States citizen in 2000.

The family moved to Kentwood, Michigan in 2000 where Matthew worked as an evangelist at St. Mark's Lutheran Church from 2000-2005 focusing on work with Sudanese immigrants.

In 2004 he enrolled in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to be ordained a Lutheran minister in the LC-MS. He served as vicar at St. Mark's from 2006-2008.

Matthew made his first trip to Renton, Washington in 2007 to help set up Nuer services at King of Kings Lutheran Church. After a vicarage, the family moved to Renton in June, 2008 and he graduated from EIIT in October 2008.

He began conducting Nuer language services at King of Kings in July, 2008 and was called by King of Kings in May 2009, to be an Associate Pastor of Outreach with a focus on ministry to Sudanese immigrants in the Puget Sound area. He was ordained into the LC-MS pastoral ministry July 12, 2009.

In addition to Leah, born in Sudan, Matthew and Rebecca have five (5) children who were born here in the United States. In 2004, they also adopted their niece, born in Sudan, after both of her parents were killed while in the refugee camp in Ethiopia. The family currently lives in Kent, Washington.

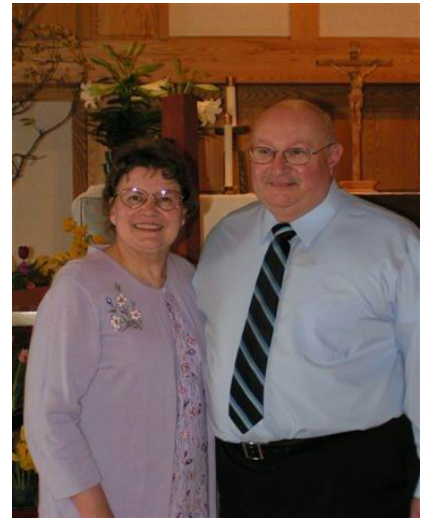
## Missionary Speakers at Convention

**Pastor Ken and Sandi Schauer** both originate from Wisconsin. At Ken's baptism the pastor announced that Ken would someday become a pastor. This statement became a reality May 26, 1968, when Ken was ordained in his home congregation, Trinity Lutheran, Spencer, Wisconsin.

Ken and Sandi were married at Trinity Lutheran, Spencer, in 1966. They traveled to Fort Wayne, Indiana where Ken began his vicarage and Sandi taught at Concordia High School. Ken graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

Ken and Sandi served congregations in Walburg, Texas; Odessa, Washington; and Ashton, Idaho. They were also missionaries for the Alaska Mission for Christ. Ken trained lay ministers and Sandi served as the Servant Events' Coordinator.

Currently, they volunteer at Trinity Lutheran Church, Republic, Washington, and Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, British Columbia. They, along with other communities in the area have formed CROSSings Ministries. Three churches from British Columbia and five churches in the United States work together in sharing ministry possibilities. All the congregations are small, and the Shauers need help with servant outreach events. If you are willing to help, call Sandi at 509-775-0657 or e-mail at iam4givn1944@yahoo.com.



**Berhanu Seyoum** was born in Addis Abeba, the capital city of Ethiopia, and belonged to one of the oldest families in Ethiopia. At a young age, Berhanu was brought up with a priest tutor and attended a school ran by American missionaries. After completing primary school, he then continued his education at a Catholic school also run by American Jesuits. He was raised in a family that mainly gave great value to the pursuit of knowledge and free thinking. He was exposed to the classic philosophers teaching at a young age. He was already enquiring about purpose of life at an early age of fifteen and spent many hours reading books to know and pursue truth. In later years, communism came to Ethiopia, and Berhanu, since he was not part of the communist youth camps, was branded a CIA agent and a bourgeois, and thus, an enemy of the state. He became a fugitive in his country and spent many years in hiding to save his life. While in hiding, he developed a friendship with Muslims, who deceived Berhanu into thinking that their God was the same as the Christian God. Berhanu eventually was initiated into spiritualism and started to encounter power manifestations of the supernatural. He also became a medium and was communicating with the "dead". His old curiosity to know the purpose of life based on rationalistic speculations this time was expanded into horizons he never anticipated. The ideas of God and the unseen world he grew to dismiss entirely as superstition now became a reality he never expected as he delved more into the powers and the wisdom of the unseen realm. But the Lord did not give up on Berhanu, and answered the prayer of his sister, who saw where all this was leading and Berhanu became a believer.

Berhanu left Ethiopia in 1994 and went to live in the Netherlands, where he continued his university study, which he had abandoned in Ethiopia, after 3½ years of a four-year degree program. He received a BA in International Business Management and Marketing. He continued to study Computer Science and Software Engineering, and found a job as a computer programmer. Berhanu moved to Seattle, WA in 2003 to pursue a Masters in Theology which he received in 2007. Since then he graduated and earned his Masters of Divinity degree in 2008 and was ordained on April 26, 2009.

Berhanu is a church planter and pastor of Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Seattle where he resides with his wife, Mimi, and two children.

# Friday Evening Worship Proclaimer at Convention

## REV. PAUL LINNEMANN

**Theme Verse**— *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Hebrews 12:2-3

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### Education:

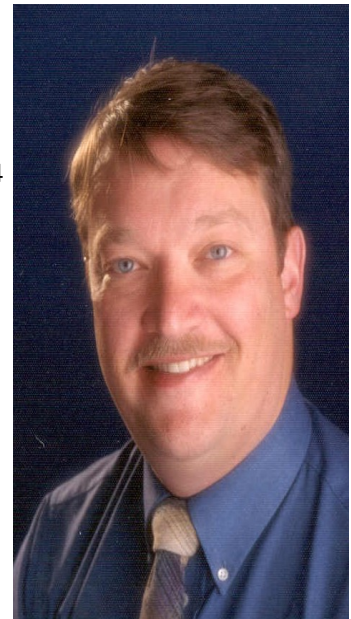
- Concordia College, Portland OR (BA – Education) 1980
- Lewis & Clark College, Portland OR (MA – Counseling Psychology) 1987
- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO (MA–Exegetical & Practical Theology) 1994

### Work Experience:

- Lutheran School Teacher 1980-1985
- Director of Christian Education (Trinity, Oregon City) 1985-1987
- Director of Student Development, Asst. Professor of Psychology (Concordia, Portland) 1987-1992
- Counselor (Lutheran Family and Children Services of Missouri) 1992-1994
- Pastor (Our Redeemer Lutheran Church) 1995-2009

### Church Involvement:

Congregational (as a layman): Sunday School teacher 1988-1989, Head Elder 1989-1992



### DISTRICT:

NOW District President 2009-present  
Circuit Counselor 2003-2004  
Workshop leaders for various Circuit gatherings 1989-1990  
NOW District Secretary 2004-present  
Center for Prayer Renewal Leader 2004-present  
NOW District Convention Planning Committee 2000, 2006, 2009  
NOW District Theological Conference Dean 2002-2005  
Oregon Pastors Conference Planning Committee 1996-1998  
NOW District Task Force on Early Adolescence 1984-1985

### SYNOD:

Advisory Delegate to Synod Convention 2007  
Voting Delegate to Synod Convention 2004  
Member of Synodical Convention Floor Committee – Higher Education 2004  
Author of LEA Monograph Article 1991

### Community Involvement:

On Call Chaplain – Meridian Park Hospital 1996-present  
Chaplain for Forest Hills Lutheran School 1995-2004  
Forest Hills Lutheran School Board of Directors 1998-2002 (Vice-Chairman 1998-1999; Chairman 1999-2000)  
Pastoral Advisor for Good Shepherd Lutheran Home Auxiliary 1996-1998  
Member of Task Force on Cross Cultural Ministry for LEA-TEAM 1990-1992  
Additionally, Paul is married to Cindy (married in 1981), and they have three children: Timothy, Peter and Rachel (Rogge).

***“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will.”***

Romans 12:2 NIV

Attending LWML events and using LWML resources will help renew your mind and spirit. The fabric of your life will be woven together with others to share and spread the Good News of Christ’s love.



God makes a beautiful tapestry from the scraps of our lives.

LWML conventions, retreats and meetings are times for renewing friendships and for making new ones. I always look forward to this renewing.

After our district convention in Spokane, we’ll be starting a new biennium. We’ll have a new District President, a new theme; and goals and plans to put into action. Committees will be formed to carry out these plans. Please consider being a part of these exciting plans. Your participation – the fabric of your lives – would be a welcome joy to the district and also help in your continuing spiritual growth with your Sisters in Christ.

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

Our district retreat will be in Post Falls, ID in September 2011. Planning will start soon. I welcome and encourage you to contact me. Say “yes” to become part of the retreat committee team.

In His Service and Yours,  
Marilee Ryan,  
VP Christian Life

### **LWML Offers Free Subscription to Daily Devotions**

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is now offering a new option for personal devotions through a *free* web-based subscription! All eleven of the new *Mustard Seed* sets will be the basis of these daily devotions, as one *Mustard Seed* is shared each day at your e-mail address. The LWML hopes this opportunity will be a valuable tool in providing a “quiet time” with the Lord.



When do you find time for personal devotions? God promises that time spent daily in His Word will sustain, encourage and nurture our faith. We often allow our schedules to interfere with our treasured time with the Lord and struggle to make our quiet time with God a high priority.

Subscription to the daily *Mustard Seed* devotion is just a “click” away. Go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) . Click “Resources” on the left hand navigation bar of the home page and click on “Devotions” to go to the *Mustard Seed* page. Follow the instructions provided to subscribe for the free daily devotions. (Please note that your-mail information will remain secure and will not be shared.)

Hundreds of women and men have already taken advantage of this opportunity since the mid-April 2010 launching of the service. Subscribe today!

Please remember LWML in your estate plan. Our legal name is: Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For over 65 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

## Vicar Matt Mantey Lends a Hand



Resurrection Lutheran, Des Moines, WA, has once again been blessed with a dedicated Vicar in Matt Mantey.

Here he lends his talented hands to the music for the February "Prayer Service" we hosted .

Pictured: Vicar Matt, and Carolyn Eichler-Ed

*Evergreen Echoes* (USPS 017-445) is published quarterly at no cost by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Washington-Alaska District, an auxiliary organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. District Editor: Carolyn Eichler, 10223 14th Ave. So. Seattle, WA, 98168. Deadline for next issue: July 31, 2010. Periodicals postage paid at Bremerton, WA 98337-9998 and additional mailing offices.

### District Roster of Officers and Committees

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**VP of SERVANT RESOURCES**

Debbie Good

**VP of CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Marilee Ryan

**VP of HUMAN CARE**

MaryLynn Huntwork

**VP of GOSPEL OUTREACH**

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Pat Greenwalt

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

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LaDonna Schrenk

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Rev. Mario Ancira

**COUNSELOR – EAST**

Rev. Dudley Nolting

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Judy Jeffery

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**RECYCLING COORDINATOR**

Sandi Hall

**SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Sarah Edwards

**SHORT-TERM MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Edith Haber

**TEEN LWML COMMITTEE**

Vacant

**YOUNG WOMEN COMMITTEE**

Marjorie O'Rourke

**DISASTER REPOSE COMMITTEE**

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Betty Alm

**2010 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN**

Mavis Waarvik



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Washington-Alaska District  
Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
2955 Corfu Blvd NE  
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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
*Evergreen Echoes*, 2955 Corfu Blvd NE  
Bremerton, WA 98337-9998

Non-profit  
Periodical Rate  
Postage paid at  
Bremerton WA 98337-9998



**Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
Washington-Alaska District 27th Biennial Convention  
June 17 - 20, 2010**