

Evergreen Echoes

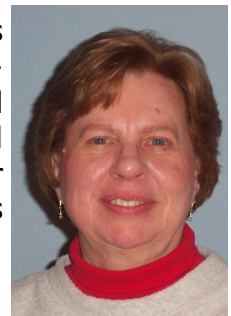
Fall
2007

Visit our website at www.WA-AKLWML.org

DISTRICT PRESIDENT ELAINE NELSON

Wow!!! What a convention we had in Sioux Falls!! We certainly did Rest On Christ the King!!! We Rocked!!! We voted for new officers, by-law changes and a whopping \$1.7 million Mission Goal. But the thing that I will remember the most was the Worship and Praise. When you get over 5,000 Christians together in one place, you can't help but be uplifted and full of praise to God. It just spills over on your face, in your actions – all those hugs and in your every thought. Can we do the same when we are here at home in our district? I certainly believe we can.

As Easter people, we are dangerously armed with the love of God and His Holy Spirit. We can worship and praise Him fully at our local society gatherings, at our zone events and certainly at our district meetings, retreats and convention. I invite you to purposefully plan and participate in worship and praise to God every time you gather with fellow believers. Do this at your Zone Rallies and your society gatherings. And then take it to the streets and share it with those God puts in your path. Let your light shine and continue to R.O.C. K.!!!



R.O.C.K.ing with you,
Elaine Nelson



The Sioux Falls Host Committee. As you can see, it takes a lot of people to put on an LWML convention! Please consider volunteering to help out in Portland 2009! Watch for information on the many opportunities there will be to join in the fun in 2009.

BREAKING NEWS!!

LWML Convention theme announced for Portland 2009!

Theme: **"Look to the Hills...God Reigns!"**

Bible verses:

Psalm 121:1-2: *"I lift my eyes to the hills -- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."*

Isaiah 52:7: *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*

Suggested colors: green, gold, purple

Send proposed logo illustrations/graphics - **NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 10** - to: LWML PR Director Peggy Turnipseed
31100 Polo Bend
Georgetown, TX 78626

**DISTRICT PASTORAL COUNSELOR WEST REV.
MARK GRIESSE**



What a summer it has been! My wife, Yvonne and I had the opportunity to go first to the LWML convention in Sioux Falls, SD. What an inspiring event. Gathered around the theme Rest On Christ the King we had the opportunity for worship, laughter, missions, offerings, voting, and service. I was impressed with the daily offering that brought in over \$50,000 each day. In addition they set a mission goal of \$1.7 million and funded 18 grants totaling 1.19 million.

If all that wasn't enough, I also had the privilege of attending the LCMS convention in Houston, TX. Gathered around the theme "One Message - Christ" this also was an opportunity for worship, laughter, missions, offerings, voting and service. They only had one offering, but if I remember right it was impressive as well totaling several hundred thousand dollars to be used for training pastors in our seminaries.

Through all of this summers' activities it is clear that both the women and the men of our church body want to be involved in mission and outreach. God has blessed us greatly. He sent his Son Jesus, who paid the price for our rebellion against God, suffering greatly and demonstrating the lengths God was willing to go to bring us back to him. Christ's death and resurrection has so changed the heart of each believer that we can talk of nothing else. Jesus Christ is our One Message, He is our fortress, the Rock on whom we rest. Because of His great love for us we are challenged to love one another, to share our stories and testimonies with those who do not know Christ as their Savior and Lord. We want them to be in heaven with us too.

This fall as we gather in retreat at Post Falls, Idaho we will be talking about sharing the stories of how we have been impacted by God's great love for us in Christ. I look forward to meeting with you all again. I look forward to hearing your faith stories. I look forward to hearing how the Holy Spirit has guided your summer, so that you might have the opportunity to share His love with others.

I close with the words of St. Paul from Colossians 3:15-17. *Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Pastor Mark Griesse

DISTRICT ELECTIONS 2008

Your nominating committee is still looking for candidates for **Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Nominating Committee**. We hope that many of you have searched your hearts and prayed for guidance and are willing to be placed on the ballot at the District Convention in June 2008. The biographical form, and a description of the candidate's responsibilities is posted on the District website. We also have sent copies to each society. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Blessed to be a blessing. Doris Wurl, Nominating Committee Chairman

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District Editor: LeeAnn Tibbals,
945 N Cleveland St, Moscow, ID 83843-9406.
Deadline for next issue:
October 31
Periodicals postage paid at Moscow, ID and additional mailing offices.

DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS

October 31, 2007 Deadline!

Do you have a Mission Project Proposal idea to be considered for adoption at the 08 WA-AK District Convention? Go online to WA/AK District Web site and download the form and instructions. Send it to Betty Alm by October 31, 2007.

WA-AK Mites at Work: Cambodian Puppet Ministry

At June's LWML convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Washington–Alaska District LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach Betty Alm and Mission Advocacy and Grants Committee Chairman Lisa Davis met with Gunya Na Thalang. She is the Lutheran Hour Ministries Asia Area Counselor of International Ministries, working in thirteen countries. They talked about the 2006-2008 Washington–Alaska District grant funding the Puppet Ministry of Cambodia. Gunya talked about her personal experiences and about the impact of the \$10,000 grant from the WA-AK District.

Gunya had been a Buddhist prior to becoming a Lutheran Christian. As a follower of Buddhism, she had no peace in her earthly life nor security of a saved afterlife. Buddhists must work continually to be “good.” There is a small temple in every Buddhist home and business to hold in evil spirits so those spirits are not out causing mischief and bad karma. The evil spirits must be given sacrifices and peace-making offerings in the form of coins, incense, fruits, and similar items. A Buddhist is fearful of not doing enough to be perfect. A Buddhist woman works hard because she is earning her way to “heaven.”

When the Cambodian dictator Pol Pot was in power in the 1970's and 1980's, Christians were dispersed, imprisoned, and killed. The current government of Cambodia does not allow Christians to bring in Bibles or other printed Christian literature. In many areas of the country, having possession of printed Christian materials will result in arrest, imprisonment, and even death. Preachers are not allowed into the country to preach the Word. Organizations working in the country must be registered with the government.

Some relaxation of the tight restrictions of Christians has occurred due to an event involving prayer. A son of the prime minister was healed physically from an illness after he was told that he was being prayed for by Christians. His spiritual healing, resulting in conversion from Buddhism to Christianity, has been helpful to Christian activities in Cambodia.

The Puppet Ministry is accepted by the government because no printed word is involved. The stories performed using the puppets are from Scripture, showing and telling God's Word. Oral tradition to pass on cultural ideas is common in Southeast Asia since many of the people are illiterate. The Puppet Ministry works with local churches.

Scripts, originating with the Vietnamese puppet ministry program, are adapted to Cambodian culture. The puppets are styled to be easily recognized as Cambodian. Small (muppet-like) puppets were first used, limiting the audience to twenty.

The Washington–Alaska District LWML mission grant of \$10,000 has been used to purchase materials for making life-sized puppets for the Cambodian presentations. A mannequin head is attached to a coat-rack type pole with wheels. Culturally appropriate hair, makeup, and clothing are added. The hands are fashioned of fabric and attached to meter-long sticks. During a performance, one man can operate the puppet by moving the mouth with one hand and the sticks with his other hand, and by moving the entire wheeled puppet with his feet and body. A larger stage front has been made also.

With larger puppets, larger audiences—upwards of two hundred people—can see performances. Presentations are given twice a month and often repeated at a location. Additionally some of the grant money is being used for training with professional puppeteers and for transportation costs for the puppet ministry.

There is need for similar puppet ministries in other countries of Southeast Asia—Thailand, Laos, and particularly Myanmar (formally known as Burma). This type of communication using puppets has a lasting effect on the peoples of those countries. Hearing, seeing, and experiencing a puppet performance brings the message of Christ alive.

DISTRICT ROSTER

WA-AK District LWML Officers and Committees

To contact any of the board members below please click on the “Contacts” button on our website. You may email messages from there and it will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

PRESIDENT

Elaine Nelson

TREASURER

Mavis Waarvik

VP of SERVANT RESOURCES

Debbie Good

COUNSELOR – WEST

Rev. Mark Griesse

VP of CHRISTIAN LIFE

Carol Drager

COUNSELOR – EAST

Pastor Dudley Nolting

VP of HUMAN CARE

MaryLynn Huntwork

NEW!!

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

ORDER MITE BOXES

#SEND ROSTERS HERE#

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RECORDING SECRETARY

Marie Chow

MEETING MANAGER/ PLANNER

Eddie Norris

NEW!!

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

\$\$*SEND MITES HERE*\$\$

Bobbi Kindred*

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PARLIAMENTARIAN

Addie Stern

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Sonja Frazier

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Nancy Wyckoff

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Doris Wurl

NEW!!

RECYCLING COORDINATOR

Sandi Hall

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Marianne Bell

TEEN LWML COMMITTEE

Florence Jonen

YOUNG WOMEN COMMITTEE

Sarah McKinley

DISTRICT EDITOR

LeeAnn Tibbals

WA-AK DISTRICT MEMBERS-

If you would like a PDF version of this newsletter, with full addresses, emailed to you for printing in your society please email LeeAnn Tibbals, District Editor, at ltibbals@verizon.net

It's hard to sleep on the airport floor, but you can always Rest On Christ the King!

Wendy Tieck, YWR

Since returning from ROCK – Rest On Christ the King, the 32nd Biennial LWML convention, a few weeks ago, I have been struggling with writing this article and waiting for God to inspire me with what to highlight from my experience at the convention. This morning, while getting ready for work, I realized that while the convention was uplifting, amazing, and everything I hoped it would be, I actually had more profound experiences during my travel to and from the convention than at the convention itself.

For those of you who do not know, the Wednesday before the convention, and also the day most women were traveling to the convention, United Airlines lost their computers world-wide for several hours, causing many flights to be delayed or cancelled. Liz (the other WA-AK YWR) and I were, as “luck” would have it, flying United. We made it from Seattle to Denver, but we missed our connecting flight to Sioux Falls. They could not guarantee us a flight out until the next night, but they put us stand-by on the several flights the next day. Due to the huge number of people grounded in Denver, there were no hotel rooms, so Liz and I were forced to spend the night in the airport. I don't know if any of you have ever tried to sleep in an airport, but between the hard floor, bright lights, and the message that plays every five minutes announcing the current security alert status (which on the return flight caused a little PTSD for us), well, let's just say that there wasn't much sleeping going on. But, I am so thankful that I wasn't traveling alone, and it did give Liz and me an opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

The next morning, we freshened up, grabbed breakfast, and headed to the first flight on our stand-by list. We were sitting at the gate, and we noticed a group of women sitting in the gate area. While I didn't see anything on or with them that said LWML, they just looked like LWML members, if you know what I mean. Liz and I went over and struck up a conversation with them. They were all from Colorado and were heading to the convention. We talked with them while waiting on the plane to board. Once they had all boarded and the boarding process was over, Liz and I were called to the podium. We actually made it on to that first plane! But that wasn't the great part. The great part was what happened when we boarded the plane...all of the ladies that we had been talking with erupted into cheers when they saw that we made the flight. It was incredible! And oddly enough, even though there were over 5,000 people in attendance at the convention, we ran into our friends from Colorado every day, and I'm sure that we'll run into each other in Portland in 2009.

So, Thursday afternoon, we finally made it to Sioux Falls. I'll admit, most of the convention is a blur for me. Between the meetings, servant activities, YWR activities, singing in the choir, pledge walk, lunch with President Linda Reiser, and just hanging out with other YWRs in the evening, we definitely didn't get any more sleep than we did that night in the Denver airport. But that was okay. We were resting on Christ our King, so we were good to go! And go we did...non-stop, it seemed, until the convention was over Sunday afternoon.

Convention Report

We are One: A Legacy Refound

Elizabeth Barton, YWR

The 2007 LWML convention was a powerful experience for me that reshaped my understanding of what it means to be a Lutheran woman. Above all else, I was overwhelmed by the joy, love, and giving spirit of the 5,000 Lutheran women around me. Indeed, the air seemed to crackle with energy that loudly proclaimed through thousands of little ways “We are One” - women with “one mission” (to serve the Lord with gladness), “one message” (of the love of our Lord and savior and his redeeming grace), and “one people” (sisters together, a community and family). The hugs, prayers, and smiles of 5,000 Lutheran sisters in Christ, on fire for God and eager to serve gave me spiritual goosebumps!

How incredibly our oneness was displayed when the pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters from individual women, churches, societies, zones, and districts were gathered together. Alone, our mites may not be all that mighty, but one in purpose and mission, our individual offerings of mites totaled more than \$1.5 million. When I heard the mite total for 2005-2007 and read the Gifts from the Heart donations total, I was humbled and amazed. I pictured the church women I grew up with quilting, the ladies I sing with in choir diligently raising money and dropping their change in their mite boxes, and I imagined them as little streams that flow together into a mighty ocean. I was overtaken with a deep sense of gratitude and respect for the women in our societies, my own grandmother and the thousands like her who quietly, consistently and happily have played such a powerful role in feeding, clothing, educating, and reaching with the Good News, thousands of people in the United States and all over the world for the last 65 years. What an incredible legacy. What an incredible challenge to my generation and generations of Lutheran women to come.

The oneness of the family of God was potently on display when Rev. Khurran and Cynthia Khan of the People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) presented on their mission work with Muslim immigrants. God's work in cultures where being a Christian is dangerous was astounding. When one woman reported that in 6 years 36 family members from Afghanistan had become Christians, the power and grace of God brought tears to my eyes. And to my heart, it brought a challenge: how am I called, as a part of this “one people”, a recipient of the “one message” and a bearer of our “one mission” to be “dangerous” for the sake of Christ?

Upon returning home, I continue to reflect on the “so what” of the convention. As President Linda suggested, I am reflecting and praying about what my “one spot” will be. I am encouraged by the message that our mission is lived out by resting in the power of our rock, Christ the King. I am stirred by the reminder from Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy that, yes, we do have a “safe place” in Christ, but we are also called to be “dangerous” in our service. I am filled with deep gratitude to the WA-AK District for sponsoring me as an LWML YWR, for I have rediscovered the awe-inspiring legacy of Lutheran Women in Mission and I am eager to move forward into that legacy to, by the grace of God, do my part. I look forward with great anticipation to our Fall retreat, 2008 District Convention, and Portland 2009, when again, we may experience in that unique LWML way, our oneness in Christ.



LWML
Convention
June 2007

Be sure to check out the Fall Quarterly for new Mission Grants and convention highlights.



Outgoing LWML President Linda Reiser with newly elected President Jan Wendorf



President Linda with some of the YWR's at convention. Wendy is on the far left and Lizz is on the far right. Be sure to read their articles!

Jan Struck provided funny skits throughout the convention. Here she tells her niece about the Lutefisk dinner she is serving the YWR's, "the piece of cod that passes all understanding".



This beautiful cross in front of the podium contains a rock from each LWML district.

EVERETT 2008

The Washington-Alaska District LWML Convention 2008 Host Committee has been working on the many details of the convention that will be held in Everett on June 20-22, 2008.

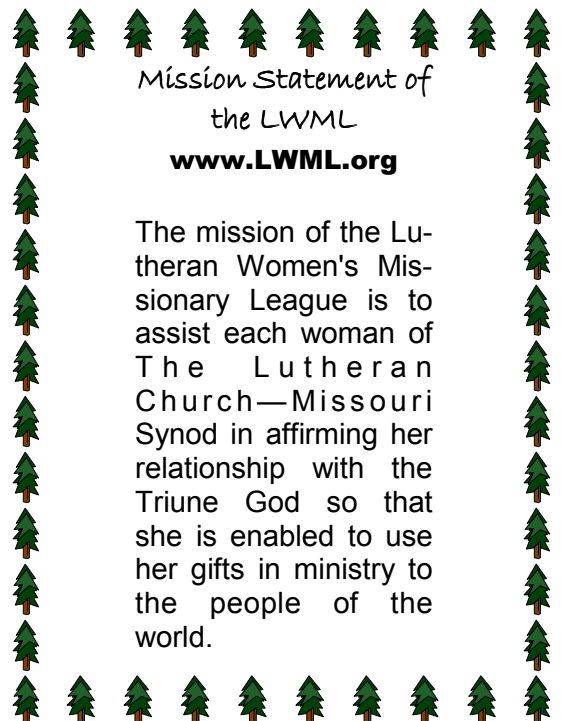
We know you will want to plan to attend this event in just 11 months. You have some time to set aside funds. Maybe you could skip a latte a month to fund your registration. For less than a fast food meal a month you could fund your meal package.

The hotel room rate at the Holiday Inn in Everett is \$109, plus taxes, per night. If you share the room with one to three others, it will help with the room expense. Make it easier to afford this expense by foregoing dinner out, a movie, or sporting event every other month

Nothing to it! Just a little planning now and you won't have any money worries - at least about expenses for the 2008 Convention! The clock is ticking and we will keep you updated.

Can't wait to see you in Everett, June 20-22, 2008.

The Lord, the Lord is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26:4



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.

Vice President of Christian Life, Carol Drager

Stella's Back

Every time I am inspired to use something Stella has said in my Evergreen Echoes article, I am sure that it will be the last time. However, she's done it again and in fact she gave me two ideas this time.

"You're not my friend anymore!!!"

That's what Stella, my three year old granddaughter said to me when I accidentally stepped on her foot. What a surprise that was to me - one minute she is telling me she loves me and the next minute she's angrily telling me that I'm not her friend anymore. That started me thinking...How often we do that to God. One minute we are happily singing "What a friend we have in Jesus!" and the next minute we are questioning why He let something happen to us or why He doesn't answer our prayers the right way (our way). We forget that He wants the best for us and that He promised to be with us in the bad times as well as the good. God is our friend today, tomorrow and forever. Yes, we can happily count on Him and sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus" all the time.

"I'll see you tomorrow!"

A few weeks ago Stella who lives 4,000 miles from us ended our brief phone conversation with "I'll see you tomorrow!" Actually she wasn't going to see us for at least two months. As always her brief statement started me thinking. This time I realized that I should live each day as if I was saying to God, "I'll see you tomorrow!"

God willing I'll see you in September at the WA-AK District Retreat in Post Falls, ID.

Hello, I am your new "Recycle Queen". My name is Sandi Hall, I am with the North Columbia Zone LWML. Please contact me for all of your recycle needs. I would like to keep track of all labels and boxes that are ordered. If you follow the guidelines, you can use your own box and we receive a bonus for using our own boxes instead of ordering. If you would like a copy of those guidelines please contact me. We just received \$943.60 for the last quarter's recycling. GO RECYCLERS!!



2008 QUARTERLY RENEWAL NOTICE

Attn: Society Presidents

**Please watch for the 2008
Quarterly Renewal
Notice in your church
mailbox, fill it out**

**promptly, and return it to the Quarterly
Chairman, Sonja Frasier. Look for your
society notice the first part of October. If
all the societies can do this before the first
deadline, which will be in December, it
will save lots of postage. Thanks a bunch!**

Sonja Frazier, Quarterly Chairman

2008 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Application forms are now available from your local society or online at www.wa-aklwml.org.

Several inquiries have been received regarding qualifications for the scholarships available from the WA-AK DISTRICT LWML. Scholarships are available to women who are members of a LCMS congregation within the WA-AK DISTRICT LWML who are preparing for a career in the churches or schools of the LCMS. She must be enrolled in an LCMS college in preparation for a full time career in the church. Questions please contact a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Donations received for the last quarter total \$1568.00; \$1108.00 from societies and \$460.00 from individual gifts. Thanks be to God! Please continue to remember the Scholarship Fund with your gifts and prayers.



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Washington-Alaska District
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Retreat Ingathering

Ross Point Retreat September 28-30, 2007

Lutheran Community Services-Spokane and surrounding areas. MISSION STATEMENT: *Lutheran Community Services Northwest Partners with individuals, families and communities for health, justice and hope.*

LCS Sexual Assault Center agency responds to victims of sexual violence in the hospital. Often times our clients clothing and underwear are taken in the evidence collection process and they are forced to walk out of the hospital in hospital scrubs. As you can imagine, after suffering from the victimization of the crime, this added in-dignity is traumatic at best. The ability to deliver a change of clothes, etc, can greatly impact the healing process of our clients.

Bring items to retreat for the Friday night icebreaker Sept.28, 2007

Personal hygiene products-shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, new clean wash cloth, lotions, body sprays etc.

Various sizes of women’s undies

Sweatpants and sweatshirts, any color and size

Mustard seed devotions and LWML material will be added to each bag



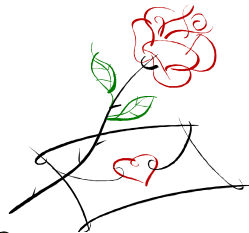
Human Care Committee

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ. What a blessing it was to ROCK with all the attendees at convention. If we think of all the rocks scattered 'round the world, from River rock to Desert rock to Mountain rock they don't compare to the rock we have in Christ. Our WA-AK banner depicted the walk among the rocks. The path begins at the river or baptism, thru the desert with new growth in Christ on one side and death on the other, and finally the mountain. The path begins small and widens as we move thru life ending with the path narrowing once again on the mountain. Jesus made this walk for us. He made the path from the river, thru the desert and up to the mountain with all our sins on his back. We can

Rest On Christ the King because He is our ROCK-our salvation, from the beginning to the end. *Lord, strengthen within us a simple faith and trust in You, the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*



Our District Banner (with Heidi Penkert—EIE Zone President). The banner was created by MaryLynn Huntwork, VP of Human Care.



Vice President of Human Care
MaryLynn Huntwork

PORTLAND 2009!!!

NINE REASONS TO SHARE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME:

These were shared at the Sioux Falls convention, as the invitation to **PORTLAND 2009**.

Visit the end of the Oregon Trail – without the inconvenience of a trip by covered wagon, and help celebrate the sesquicentennial of Oregon statehood – that's 150 years!

Within a 90 minute drive, see the Columbia and Willamette Rivers; Mt. Hood; the Pacific Ocean; and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. You can cruise on the rivers; ski on the mountain; wade in the ocean; and windsurf in the Gorge!

Travel just a few hours and you can bike around Oregon's Crater Lake or see a Shakespeare play in Ashland; visit Washington's Mt. St. Helens – **before** it erupts again; take a jet boat through Idaho's Hell's Canyon; or cruise Alaska's Inside Passage!

Visit the Portland Rose Test Garden – it **is** the Rose City, you know. There are also the Classical Chinese Garden; the Japanese Tea Garden; and the Oregon Zoological Garden!

Ride the Metropolitan Area Express. MAX will take you from the airport to your hotel; to and from the Oregon Convention Center; and to lots of other great places around town – including the only other Sak's Fifth Avenue that is actually **on** Fifth Avenue, in downtown Portland!

Watch the Beavers play baseball – that's the Portland triple A team, **not** the state animals. We also have lots of ducks!

Stay, shop, play and pay **no sales tax** - anywhere in Oregon!

Share your faith, as a missionary to the most unchurched area in the USA!

Your LWML sisters of the Oregon, Utah-Idaho, and Washington-Alaska Districts and all of the members of the LCMS Northwest District are waiting to welcome you to the first LWML convention in the Pacific Northwest in 56 years! **It's the chance of a lifetime!!!** **PORTLAND 2009!!!!**

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE COMING TO PORTLAND, OREGON, MAY 16-18, 2008!

LAP/LIFE JOURNEY, The Women's Leadership Institute from Concordia, Mequon, Wisconsin, and Concordia University, Portland, Oregon are partnering to sponsor a leadership conference for women. The theme, "Heart and Soul: Called to Leadership" invites both women and men to hear our call to be Christian leaders in all of our vocational arenas of home, community, church, and society. Well known keynote speakers will share their personal leadership stories. Worship and praise will touch and inspire any woman's heart! There will be break-out sessions involving practical training. A unique "Networking Market" that will allow participants to see up-close the various ways women are in leadership. And plenty of time for laughter, fellowship, prayer, and mutual encouragement! On-line follow-up leadership courses - available to both women and men - will be open for immediate registration through LAP. Campus housing is available for those wanting affordable accommodations, as well as other motels and restaurants close by. While the conference is especially geared for women, men are definitely welcome!