

SRD NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE
SPIRITUAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
OF THE INDIANA DISTRICT LWML

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| Fall 2011 | Volume 75 |
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Dear Sisters in Christ,

What an amazing country we have. As my husband and I journeyed out west recently, I was reminded just how wonderful and awesome our God is. The amazing canyons and cliffs of the west are absolutely breathtaking. From the valleys of the canyons to the top of the peaks, God painted a beautiful and peaceful picture. The peace of the southwest mountains reminded me of our upcoming convention theme ... A Heart a Peace!

You can learn more about "A Heart at Peace" when you attend the 2012 convention in Evansville, IN where we will help you to experience God's peace in all areas of your life by knowing God's peace, being at peace, leading in peace and sharing God's peace. Your SRD committees are working hard to share their experiences of peace through Bible studies, workshops, song and motivational speakers.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2012 LWML Indiana District convention, "**A Heart at Peace**", on **June 22-24 at The Centre in Evansville, IN**. You will truly come away with your "Heart at Peace".

"A heart at peace gives life to the body...." Proverbs 14:30a

Serving with Gladness,

Penny Letterman, VP-Spiritual Resource Department
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WHO IS TO RECEIVE THE SRD EXPRESS NEWSLETTER?

- 1) The zone LWML President, Christian Life, Christian Outreach, Human Care, and Leader Development chairmen through their home and/or email address.
- 2) The society LWML President receives a copy, which is sent to her church. She
 - ✓ Makes at least one copy of this newsletter;
 - ✓ Reads and keeps a copy for herself; and
 - ✓ Distributes the sections of the other copy to the appropriate committees.

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS NOT RECEIVING THE SRD EXPRESS:

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Check out our Web site! www.lwmlindiana.org

Listed below are the areas/zones of the IN District LWML and the chairmen and committee members of the Christian Life, Christian Outreach, Human Care and Leader Development committees. Please feel free to contact them for resources, speakers or to share ideas you have used. They are very willing and available to help you.

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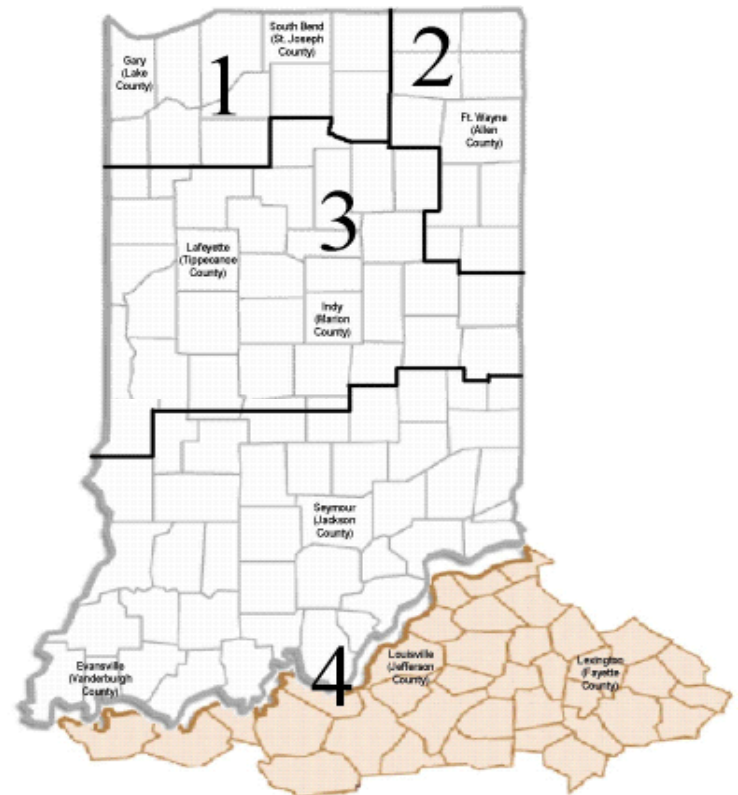
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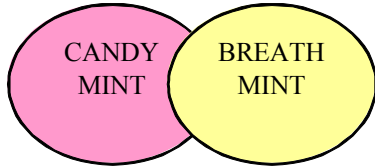
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TWO MINTS IN ONE!



Do you remember an old commercial for a certain mint that went something like this: “___ is a breath mint. NO. ___ is a candy mint.” And then the people would argue back and forth until the great pronouncement: “You are both right. ___ is two mints in one!”

Christian Outreach is something like that mint. On the one hand, it tries to encourage ladies to share their faith in Christ with those of different cultures outside the church. We easily understand that and call it “witnessing”. On the other hand, Christian Outreach tries to encourage ladies to share their faith in Christ with those of different cultures within the church. This can be called “building bridges between Christian sisters” to enable them together to demonstrate Christ’s reality in their lives to non-Christians. This side of Christian Outreach can be hard to understand.

The truth of the matter is that we often cannot see those of different cultures in our congregations – they fade into invisibility. Others outside the church may see them even if we cannot. And because we may save our sharing of what Jesus means to us for those of different cultures outside the church, and don’t share it with those we are supposed to be “sisters in Christ” with, the non-Christian of another culture may not accept our words because our actions don’t match. Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another” (Jn. 13:35 NAS).

How we interact with Christian sisters who are different from us DOES impact witnessing or evangelism.

It is the goal of our committee to help you and your society begin to recognize the hidden cultures in your congregations. It may not be a matter of skin color or language, although these can be very real, depending on the congregation. It may be family status, marital status, income, employment or lack of it, physical or mental differences, or other things. The difference of culture means that priorities, world view and choices made will differ from yours and it can cause Christian sisters to fail to love one another and work together in Christ’s mission. Together let us ask God’s forgiveness for our blindness and ask Him to give us eyes to see the people around us as He sees them.

Michele Yamanaka, Chairman

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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BE A RUTH ...BE A NAOMI

The Book of Ruth gives us a glimpse of daily life in ancient Israel. Naomi is an Israeli wife and mother whose family moved to Moab because of a famine in Israel. There her sons grew up and married; there her husband and sons died. Now, bereft of all she loved, Naomi is returning to her home in Bethlehem in Israel. Her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth, will not leave Naomi, but will make her home and life with Naomi. Here is a picture of two cultures, of age differences, of economic stress.

Widows in that day were without financial support. There was no “safety net” of Social Security, Medicare, or food stamps. But God had a plan. God’s “safety net” required that as the harvest was taken in, the harvesters were allowed only one pass thru the fields. Whatever they missed or dropped was to be left there for the poor, the widowed, and the homeless to gather as “gleanings”. So Ruth, with the strength of the young, went to the fields of Boaz to glean, because Naomi, with the knowledge of the aged, knew that Boaz was a relative and would help them. Boaz protected Ruth, ultimately married her, and they became the grandparents of David, who became king of Israel. God’s plan was carried out in the short term -- and in the long term, as Jesus, our Savior, came from the line of David. From Ruth and Naomi we learn how age counsels youth, youth cares for aged, and love binds all together.

Economic and time stresses abound today—working mothers, women with husbands who cannot work and women who are looking for work. Some will say that the LWML is just for older women who have the time and money to attend events: **“My life is too full and my purse is too empty!”**

When I invited a young woman with children to come to LWML, she replied: **“I CANNOT COME—“**

**I cannot come to the meeting
I'm stressed beyond belief.
I have 2 kids, a husband, a job and a dog.
The laundry must be folded**

**The groceries must be bought.
There's homework to monitor
My son just found a frog! I cannot come!**

Time and money: if you do not have a car and depend on the local bus system, that creates both time and money stresses. If you have so many commitments – children, husband, job, home – you just do not have the energy to take on one more thing to do!

How can you as an LWML-er, society, and zone address the concerns of these women?

Be a Ruth -- take an interest in an older woman; listen to her, learn what she likes and needs; invite her, bring her to a ‘gathering’ (NOT a “meeting”), make it possible for her to participate. Be there for her with your strength and your assistance.

Be a Naomi -- take an interest in a younger woman; listen to her, learn what she likes and needs; invite her, bring her to a ‘gathering’ (NOT a “meeting”), make it possible for her to participate. Be there for her with your experience and your assistance.

Did you notice – both suggestions are the same! Be interested in another person, use your unique talents and experiences to be a friend to another woman and share with her an experience (LWML!) that will make her life easier, more fulfilling, and where she can also serve in ways she can afford – with whatever time, talents, or treasures she may have available.

As a society or zone, be aware of timing and cost – if your society meets at noon and she is at work till 5:30, she cannot come. Are your gatherings at a time and place so women can come? Do you provide childcare for those mothers who need it? Do you keep the cost low so anyone can participate?

How do you reach out to women in your community? Certainly, you can use your church bulletin and newsletter – but how about those new-fangled ways available today – Facebook, Blogs, Internet, email. Ask someone to be the computer “correspondent”; you, (the one comfortable with a pen or a typewriter), write up what’s happening and give it to the computer-smart lady in your congregation to send out over that mysterious internet. It is a way to serve that costs nothing more than many will already have – computer access. Show enthusiasm – be excited about how you **Serve the Lord with Gladness** in the LWML; work together as sisters in the Lord and be willing to make the changes that will help you reach out to ALL women, regardless of culture, age, or economics! Do not let anyone have a reason to say “I cannot come!”

BE A RUTH --- BE A NAOMI

Pat Potratz, Christian Outreach Committee

[inspired by “Ruth and Naomi” Bible Study by Stella Beabout, Treatshop 2011]

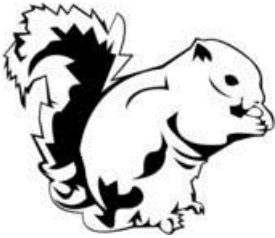
Christian Life

Fall

2011

Greetings

Did you enjoy the late fall colors? I did. I also enjoyed having some nice warm sunny days late in the season. A walk on a day with a good breeze blowing, leaves falling all around and the dogs sniffing every new scent floating in the wind is a favorite rite of fall for me. It is also a great time to talk to God. As you walk you find many reasons to praise him. The beauty of the trees and flowers, the sun shining, squirrels running around



gathering nuts and chipmunks scampering along with their cheeks full of goodies all seem to move me to an attitude of thankfulness.

What are you thankful for this year? Family, health, employment, friends and a home are all possible answers. I am also thankful that I have a loving God who watches over me and helps me when I am troubled. He promises to "give me peace" when I trust in Him. John 14:27 says, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

When Jesus was born, most of the people who greeted Him had no idea of what a high price He would have to pay to give us this peace. As I celebrate Christmas this year and hear the words of Luke 2:14, *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests*, I will try to remember that the peace that Jesus gives us comes to us through the cross. It can't be purchased at the department store. Jesus already

paid for it. This peace comes to us through our faith in Christ and His love for us.

As we celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus our Savior, let us also give thanks that we have received the biggest gift of all, the peace that comes only through knowing Jesus Christ our Savior and King!

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Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Heb. 13:5b)

Have you heard from God today? Oh, I don't mean an audible "how-de-do" while sitting at a red light, but that still, small voice that's all through the Bible and is still present today. Our lives are so filled to overflowing with stress and strife and critical decisions to be made that we tend to forget (ignore?) that God is right here, right where He's always been, just a "Father ... " away.

But He's also just a shout away. "Help, I can't handle this by myself!" In the midst of our second stress attack of the afternoon, while we're surrounded by deadlines and whatever else, God sometimes steps right in and gives us a verse. And then ... what was our problem. anyway?

Don't you just love it when God gives us back a verse from His Word? Something like, *Do not be anxious about anything* (Phil. 4:6a), or *do not fret* (Ps. 37:8b) that may zoom right into our heart and mind to give us the peace and the calm that we so desperately need for that moment, for that day, for always. He reminds us that He's right there and that we are not by ourselves in whatever we're going through.

Prayer: Lord, help me not to forget to take You with me today, wherever I go, whatever I'm doing. Strengthen and guide me, especially when the day goes a little crazy. Let me lean on Your Word and realize I can't do it without You. Amen

All Scriptures references are from the NIV.

He Is Here

Written by: M.J. Corrales, Ponca City, OK *Published by:* Lutheran Women's Missionary League 2010

http://www.lwml.org/resources/program_helps/index.htm

Human Care

Demonstrating God's love and concern by extending a helping hand to all in need.

SRD Express Newsletter

Fall 2011



"Lord, open my eyes, ears and heart to reach out with care and compassion to the needs you place in my path."

Matt. 25:42-44

The purpose of the Human Care Committee is to provide resources to assist women as they care for the hurting and those in need while sharing the Gospel and love of Christ. Did you know that the Human Care Committee was renamed thru a Bylaws change at the national LWML Convention in Peoria? It is now known as the **Mission Servants Committee?**

Are you searching for some new ideas and ways reach out with the love of Jesus to touch the lives of others around you? Some of the following ideas were shared by women visiting the Human Care Exhibit at the Peoria Convention under the theme of: "Bee Christ's Care Bear-ers".

- knitting, crocheting caps for premature infants
- go on walks with someone, exercise together and share spiritual truths from God's Word
- provide transportation for someone who can't drive to do their grocery shopping or go to a doctor's appointment
- play the piano or other musical instruments for shut-ins, nursing home residents, group home residents
- sit alongside someone going thru a time of crisis or change, being quiet, showing care and encouraging them
- baby-sit, do laundry and fold clothes for a mother of small children
- rock babies, care for infants and toddlers so their mom's can be together to study God's Word and have a Mom's morning out or be with an older sibling at a special event at school
- support young women in a crisis pregnancy center with notes of encouragement
- plant a garden and give the produce away to those in need
- help others develop skills to help them in seeking a job i.e., using a cell phone or computer

Keep looking around your church, neighborhood and community! There are many needs! What a blessing to reach out with the love of Jesus! "Bee a Care Bear-er" reflecting Jesus love, care and compassion as you serve others in new, creative ways.



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News from Human Care

LUTHERWOOD – In August, our retreat was held at Lutherwood in Indianapolis. As a result of that, we have been able to help them in other ways. We were contacted by them requesting coats for the residents. We have contacted Orphan Grain Train and they have agreed to supply the needed coats. We also have been asked to help wrap Christmas gifts on December 16 and/or December 20 from 9-12 AM or 1-3 PM. If you can help on either of these days, please contact Penny Letterman at 812-568-7290 or pennyndon@insightbb.com for more information.

2012 District Convention - Plans are being made for the convention that will be held in Evansville. We will be having an ingathering that will help the Lord's Warehouse in Monroe City, Indiana and Hope Central, which is located in Boonville, Indiana. We will also be having servant events on Friday afternoon, June 22. Watch the future district publications for more information on all of these and make plans to attend the convention. Mark your calendars now for June 22 – 24, 2012.

RESOURCES

There are lots of human care resources in the LWML catalog. A few of those are:

- Walking with the Lord...Verses from the Psalms to Guide Your Steps #20765
- Jean Gems #49000
- Caring and Sharing, a Bible Study and Leader Guide #20400 & 20410
- Healing Scriptures Bookmarks #16545

Check out these items and lots more in the LWML catalog or at www.lwml.org

Leader Development



SRD Express Newsletter

Fall 2011

“Who, me?”

According to Webster's dictionary a leader is one who leads, directs the operation or activity and tends toward a definite result. The Thesaurus says to lead is to go through life in a certain conduct, to live, pass, pursue or spend. What does God's word say? “Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us” (Phil. 3:17). God provides us as leaders and examples to others. Do we lead by our own actions or by the power of God and in his will?

How many times have you been asked to help with an activity – either plan it or lead it- but pass by that opportunity because you don't want to be perceived as a “leader” and subsequently be asked to do something again? Or are you afraid that if that activity isn't as successful as you think it should be, or that others judge it to be, you may be looked down upon? “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Josh. 1:9).

We all know of people within our group of friends, acquaintances, and church members who do this. But let us look at ourselves. Are you afraid to commit to an activity or board, either to help plan or carry out the event? Have you ever thought “if not me, then who?” Well, now is the time Get involved; give the activity a chance. Who knows, you just might surprise yourself! See what you can do. Step back and become a leader instead of a follower. “Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel and afterward you will receive me to glory” (Ps. 73:23-24).



Diane Emrich/Sarah Rippy

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Treatshop sessions at Lutherwood:

I would like to provide a brief summary of the topics our committee covered at the Treatshop in August at Lutherwood. This workshop was truly a delightful gathering of many like-minded women of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League. I hope you got to attend, but I noticed several comments on the evaluation indicated that there was regret that participants couldn't attend all the breakout sessions for each committee, so I am including this summary of topics and resources for you.

The **Leader Development Team** started with a Hats Off devotional led by Peg Brettin. This conversation was between God and a woman who has so many hats to wear – wife, mother, secretary, webmaster, gardener, etc. that she can't take time to talk with her Lord. The message is that we must always remember to start with the Word no matter what extreme schedule we pursue. Bring our fears, our wants and our cares to Him, so He can take the burden. This Hats Off devotional was gleaned from www.peggiesplace.com, a women's inspirational website.

We then did an icebreaker. Each attendee received a colored card with a few random words on it from a scripture passage. They were to find the other attendees with the same colored card and then determine what the scripture is by gathering together and piecing the words into the complete scripture passage. After the passage was revealed, they could discuss it's meaning for them as a leader. Each group then shared their passage with the whole assembly.

The next part of our session was about the consent agenda item. We have written about this before in a previous SRD, so I won't dwell on it here. Basically, it is allowing numerous items of discussion to be voted on as a package to speed along the business portion of any meetings. We handed out a short informational sheet about this (**copies available from LD committee**).



An activity that was especially interactive and provided great ideas from sharing was the BUILD Bingo. We had columns labeled B – Bring Glory, U – Understand His Word, I – Information on Missions, L – Leadership Activities, and D – Donations and Creativity. Part of the card was completed already, but we asked the participants to share ideas they found successful in their societies to fill in blank spaces on the cards. Then we played some BUILD BINGO!! Many people got some great new ideas!! (**a complete list of activities and ideas from this activity is available through LD Committee**).

Mary Nichols then presented a short summary of a women's talent survey they used at her church in Ft. Wayne. She also provided guidelines to use a survey like this so women feel included (**available through the LD committee**). She stressed that a follow-up must be done once the results are compiled. Contacts should be made through email or phone and women were requested to join in activities and leadership for specific events.

The last item in our session was the matching of Prayer Partners. These women will continue to pray for each other in their ministries, challenges and needs.

I hope everyone that attended came away with something new to try and if you weren't able to come, please contact your regional representative for any of the above materials I mentioned from the Fall 2011 Treatshop. Don't forget to use the National LWML Leader Development resources. There is a wealth of materials that are available at www.lwml.org. Under **Resources**, choose **Helps** and then you will see **Leader Helps**. Check out the most recent (Fall 2011) **Follow the Leader** and other downloadable materials on this page. Please don't hesitate to contact one of our committee representatives for more information or for help in implementing any of these items. We look forward to seeing you in Evansville!!

Sarah Rippy
Leader Development Chair

CALL FOR ZONE BANNERS



2012 INDIANA DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Indiana District LWML is looking for Zones to bring a banner that

represents your Zone. The banner will be carried by the Zone President and the YWR from your Zone in the processional at the opening of the Convention prior to the Opening Worship Communion Service at the Indiana District Convention in Evansville, Indiana, on June 22nd, 2012.

Each Zone is asked to create a banner or bring an existing Zone banner that gives glory to God and represents your Zone. If you choose to create a new Zone banner and want to express some aspect of the convention theme, the theme is:

“A Heart at Peace”

Bible Verse:

“A heart at peace gives life to the body....”
Proverbs 14:30a

Display your Zone name on the front of the banner.

Attach the banner to a 1” dowel and use a strong quarter-inch or 8mm cord.

The banner should be relatively easy to manage when carried

The Properties Committee will provide poles and stands for the banner

Latest News

Societies and Zones.... It's Time To Select Your YWR Candidates

It's time to think about selecting a Young Woman Representative (YWR) candidate from your Society? The name of your Society YWR Candidate needs to be submitted to your Zone President by January 15th, 2012.

Zone Presidents will process those candidates and select one YWR to represent their Zone. Please send the name of the YWR representing your Zone to our Indiana District YWR Chairman:

Becky Linnemeier
18716 Amstutz Road,
Auburn, IN 46706
260—704-4554
e-mail: bpeconge@hotmail.com

by February 15th, 2012. Follow-up by sending the name of the YWR representing your Zone and a copy of her YWR application form by e-mail or USPS to Becky Linnemeier by March 1st, 2012.



Serving the Lord with gladness.

Psalm 100:2

Indiana District LWML
Betty Bardonner, Editor
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**Indiana District Mission
Statement**

The mission of the LWML
Indiana District is to assist
each woman of the Indiana
District LWML in strengthening
her relationship with the triune
God so she is enabled to use
her gifts in mission and service
to the people of the world.