

Winter 2008

GOOD



INDIANA DISTRICT

NEWS

As We Have Opportunity!

At our recent convention, I had the opportunity to speak to many very interesting Christian women. One particular conversation stuck in my mind in regards to how we teach our families and children. A lady (whom I will not name) spoke to me about her family and in doing so mentioned that over the past 20 years it was always changing because she and her husband were foster parents. I've always enjoyed talking to foster parents because they seem to approach their calling in a very Christian way. This beautiful lady was no different.

As we talked, I asked her how she and her husband dealt with returning most of these children back into the situation they were removed from. (Perhaps this was why my wife and I adopted, but found fostering very difficult.) This very wise mother then informed me that it took a change in the way she thought – the world tells us it's about what we can do for the children, but isn't it really about what God does for us all. She continued by explaining that her favorite verses to remember each day were from Galatians 6:9,10:

9Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Like foster parents, we as Christians should give thanks daily for the time we are given to teach and serve one another. Whether it's for a day, a month, a year or several years, God provides us opportunities every day to tell others about Him and the blessings He gives to us. Our task is truly a simple one – with God's purpose in mind He will make our efforts successful to inspire, energize and empower. Thanks be to God for the opportunities we receive!

Pastor Jeff Geisler
LWML Counselor, Indiana District

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...

I have just returned from a dentist appointment. It was just a regular checkup and cleaning so there was no need for me to be concerned about any cavities because I have good teeth, I take good care of them and I wasn't experiencing any discomfort. As I thought about this, I realized there are times in my life that I may be afraid or anxious of "cavities" appearing and that I may endure pain while that cavity is filled (although it really doesn't hurt ... it's only in my mind that it will).



This could apply to my life as a child of God. I can proceed in life living day-to-day with a few "cavities" or "bumps" in the road ... with everything seemingly okay ... at least on the outside it appears okay. But what happens when I have a "cavity" and it needs to be "filled"? Do I "stew and fret" over the situation or do I face it with the knowledge that my Lord is with me? *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* (Phil 4:6) And God will give you and me peace.

What happens when you are asked to lead a Bible study, serve on a committee or serve as an officer in your LWML society or zone or even in the district? What excuses do you give? We may feel incapable and unqualified or we may tell ourselves that I just don't have the time. But how does God look at you and me? He sees us as a child of His who is capable of anything with Him! *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.* (Phil 4:13) Remember ... God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Newly appointed leaders and committee members have answered the call and are willing to serve you. Their gifts and talents will plan the spring retreat (April 17-18 at Clifty State Park, Madison) and the Treatshop (August, 2009). These events, along with the LWML convention in Portland in June 2009 will provide spiritual growth, leadership training, and fellowship as we "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." (Indiana District LWML Mission Statement)

May God bless each of you as you serve Him joyfully whenever and wherever He calls you.

Serving Him together,
Ruth Thomas

Scholarships Available!

Do you know someone who is preparing for full-time church work at one of our Concordia Universities or Seminaries? You could help by informing them of the availability of \$500 Indiana District LWML scholarships to be given to help defray educational expenses for the 2009-2010 school year.

In order to be eligible for a scholarship, the student must have been a communicant member of an LCMS congregation in the Indiana District for at least 18 months prior to filing. They must be accepted at one of our synodical universities or seminaries and be preparing for full-time church work. They also must show a need for the financial aid and have a good scholastic aptitude in previous schooling.

Application forms may be downloaded from the District LWML web-site at www.lwmlindiana.com or secured from Scholarship Chairman, Kathy Eisenbraun, 3106 16th Street, Columbus, IN 47201-5555.

Completed scholarship applications must be returned to Kathy Eisenbraun by March 31, 2009.

These scholarships are funded by contributions and by the use of the "Memorial" and "Joy" cards. These cards, which are also available from Kathy, are a way for you to express comfort or joy to those people being remembered, and also help students who are preparing for full-time church work. We are grateful for many who are using the cards, giving contributions, and for the convention offering which will provide additional scholarships for the next two years. Your help is still needed both in supporting the funding of the scholarships and by informing students preparing for full-time church work about the availability of these LWML scholarships.

Check on your Neighbor

The Mission Statement of the Human Care Committee is: **Demonstrating God's love and concern by extending a helping hand to all in need.**

As I write this, the trees still have green leaves on the branches, which means the changing of the season is still to come. The beautiful fall colors will happen in a couple of weeks and then the snow will fly and with that the ability to get out and about for some will stop.

Do you have someone you talk with on a daily basis good weather or bad? This phone call is important to many people. Not only do you check in on them as to their needs, but it also cheers them up. Do you end your conversation with a prayer?

During the winter months we all need to check on our neighbors even more than during the rest of the year, especially the older people. Do they need a ride to church or the doctor's office because they don't want to drive in the ice and snow? We are all busy people but in the few minutes it takes we are demonstrating God's love and giving a helping hand. I am confident that you can find a unique way to extend a helping hand to someone on a daily basis.

Mary Ellen Fuller, Human Care Committee



LOOK! Look at your Christmas card list and extend a personal invitation to your LWML sisters (and brothers) in Christ to join you at the LWML convention next June 25-28, 2009, in Portland, Oregon. The Host LWML Districts (Oregon, Utah-Idaho, and Washington-Alaska) will roll out the purple carpet to welcome you!

Dr. Mary Hilgendorf, Director of the Women's Leadership Institute and Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin, will serve as the Bible study leader and share with us her insight into God's Word.

Check out the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for information and registration forms for the convention. Look for updates at www.lwml.org and sign up for LWML e-News to receive the latest convention news in your e-mail inbox.

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

Give Freely

In Matthew 10:8 Jesus told his followers "*Freely you have received, freely give.*" God has truly blessed us with many good and perfect gifts. The best and most important of all is the gift of His Son, Jesus, who suffered, died and rose again so that we can be assured of eternal life with Him in heaven when we die. He has also blessed us with an abundance of earthly gifts. Even the poorest people in our country have been blessed. Out of gratitude for these many gifts which we freely received, we should freely give. Our gifts of mites are above and beyond the portion we set aside to put in the offering on Sunday morning. Give them with joy and generosity so that God's Word can be spread to many people who have not yet heard of God's goodness and to strengthen those who know Jesus but need some encouragement.

Leader Tip #4

Competencies of a Christian Leader

As I work on the Internet to gain insight on the use of technology, I have come across many thoughts and ideas that fit perfectly with our goal of becoming **Christian Leaders**. With the Lord's guidance we can all become more capable leaders. See where you fit into this list.

1. Identifies and attempts to follow God's call on her life.
2. Mentors and develops leaders—a must to be visionary.
3. Develops and communicates strategies—plans for the future.
4. Motivates people to become involved—realizes she can't do it herself.
5. Cooperates and coordinates with others—for a good working team.
6. Identifies needs and obtains resources—to fill those identified needs.
7. Reinforces success of others—strives for quality.
8. Objectively evaluates all programs—looks for improvement.
9. Models Christian character and commitment—sets faith affirming goals.
10. Allows for expression of faith and issues prayers for all participants.

Leadership is the skill of influencing people to fulfill God's mission among his people. With God's guidance, powerful results happen. **Christian Leaders** make a difference in their realm of influence. **Christian Leaders** live by faith and lead by example. (Hebrews 11:1-39)

Peg Brettin
Leader Development Committee

Indiana District LWML
Mission Grants Update
2008-2010 Biennium- \$117,500

	Disbursed	Balance
American Bible Society	\$ 1,000	
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op		\$ 10,000
Worship for Shut-Ins		\$ 10,000
Cambodia Battambang School & Outreach		\$ 10,000
Lutheran Disability Outreach		\$ 10,000
Lutherwood Spiritual Growth Program		\$ 3,500
Kentuckiana Zone Prison Ministry		\$ 1,000
Hands of Mercy Training Center		\$ 10,000
Word & Sacrament Outreach		
S. Central Indiana		\$ 10,000
Blind Mission Outreach		\$ 4,500
Ligonier Hispanic Ministry		\$ 9,000
LDM-Missionary Intern Matching Grant	\$ 5000	\$ 5,000
Indiana District LWML Guatemala Trip	*\$ 6000	
LCMS World Relief		
Deaconess, MME's to ELC Latvia		\$ 9,000
Missions and Outreach Ellettsville, IN		\$ 9,999
St. John's Church and Pre-school Improvement		*\$ 3,501
Total	\$12,000	\$105,500

- Only \$6000 of the \$8000 was needed for the trip to Guatemala. The grant stated that any unneeded funds be returned to mites. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors voted to add the remaining \$2000 to St. John's Church and Pre-school grant.

\$2500 has also been sent to the Indiana District Flood Relief fund.

Using a Remittance Form, send mites and donations to Iris Whittman, Financial Secretary, 10601 North CR 1200 East, Evanston, IN 47531, 812-529-8250, iris@psci.net. Need mite boxes? Contact Iris.

.Grants at Work In Indiana

Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op

Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op has been established to help seminary students and their families by providing food for them at no cost. The only thing that is asked of these families is that each one volunteer time to work in the co-op “store.” Many churches contribute non-perishable food items at in-gatherings. The \$10,000 grant will be used to purchase perishable items as they are needed.

The Servant’s Heart in Guatemala – 2008

(A report from the Indiana District LWML Mission Trip)

The members of the Indiana District LWML Mission Trip to Guatemala – 2008, Penny Letterman, Sharon Warner, Karolyn



Carpenter, Marcia Huffman, Kris Hodge, Marge Gruber, Iris Wittman and Lea Ann Fifer, would like to thank all the ladies of the district for their support through prayer, through the commissioning at convention and for the grant received.

The trip required much preparation and kept us all very busy doing Bible studies with children, leaders, adults, doing home (shanty) visits, and giving out food and supplies. It was challenging, but so rewarding!

If any zone or society would like to hear more about our mission trip

and the Servant’s Heart ministry in Guatemala, please give us a call or email us. We would be so happy to share. The members of our group are from all over Indiana.

Lea Ann Fifer, Mission Trip Communicator, 260-623-3166,
mikefif@verizon.net

2009 Indiana District LWML Retreat



“Come to the Water”

Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters. Isaiah 55:1a

Clifty Falls State Park – Madison, IN
April 17 – 18, 2009

“Come to the Water” at Clifty Falls State Park
for an inspirational journey that begins and ends with Christ.

Our Bible study leader will be **Jan Struck**.

Jan is a mother of six who shares her lifetime of bizarre experiences with a sense of humor. With more than 35 years of experience in teaching, motivating and entertaining, Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and is sure to bring laughter and inspiration to us all.

Our weekend will also include singing, devotional time, and fellowship opportunities with other Christian ladies.

Registration forms are due by March 12, 2009. Registration forms are available from your society president (News & Notes and SRD newsletters) or online at www.lwmlindiana.com

Prayer is an Everyday Occurrence

Looking out the window I noticed a chipmunk busily collecting some goodies. As I continued to watch, the chipmunk looked up and saw me watching. Instantly he ran to the log pile. A few seconds later I saw him come out close to the top of the pile. There he felt safe. He could quickly duck under the logs and get away from the danger I represented.



Isn't that what we do when we feel anxious? We go to a place where we feel safe. We also start to pray asking God to help us? Philippians 4:6 says *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God"*. We know that God is always there for us.

Prayer is an everyday occurrence for Christians. We go to God to ask for guidance and many other things. Guidance sometimes comes in unexpected ways. Recently I was asked to take a leadership position in the LWML. Not being all that certain that I could handle the responsibility I requested a week to think and pray about it. Several of the daily devotions I read that week seemed to be telling me yes, this is what you should do. Don't be like the chipmunk and seek a safe place, instead trust in God's help and take a step of faith!

When you are asked to help on a committee or a project, take some time to pray about it. Join the rest of us who were not sure we could do the job. *"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"*, [1Peter 5:6}. When you get the answer that seems to be, yes, step forward in faith and trust in God to lead you! I am stepping out in faith, trusting in God's help. I hope to meet many of you who are doing the same thing!

Caroline Kindsvatter, Christian Life

Worship for Shut-Ins

"Worship for Shut-ins" originates in Ft. Wayne but is now being televised in other areas of the District. Although its original purpose was to provide a means of worship for those who are unable to attend church, it also is a tool for bringing the Gospel to those who don't know Jesus. This grant will assist Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. to televise this program to the cities of Vincennes and Terre Haute and surrounding area for one year.

Fitting in?

My neighbor, Mrs. Z, is from Afghanistan and we have become friends. Each year during December, I invite Mrs. Z and family to my house for a Christmas Dessert time and we talk together about many things, including Jesus. My Muslim friend told me the first year that "We celebrate Jesus' birthday also because he is a great prophet." I pray daily for this family to come to believe in Jesus as Savior too. One day, Mrs. Z invited me, my daughter and 2 grandchildren to her home for dinner. Since she is a great cook, I was very happy to accept. I brought a small hostess gift for her. I looked forward to interacting with Mrs. Z and her family. Imagine my surprise to find a house full of people and to discover she had invited me to a birthday party for her "American Mom". I had brought a gift, but for the wrong person! I felt very out of place! After a little while, I felt more relaxed, but I have not forgotten the feeling of "not fitting in."

It is possible that there are women in your own congregation who feel like they "don't fit in" with your LWML group. Perhaps it is because the active women in your society are all "white" and the "African-American" or "Hispanic" women feel out of place. Or perhaps the active women in your LWML are "African American" and it is the "white" ladies who feel out of place. Perhaps the issue is "older" vs. "younger", or "on welfare" vs. "successfully employed", or "divorced" vs. "intact family"... We know that these barriers are not pleasing to God. He loves each of us the same. Galatians 3:28 is clear, *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."* But because we are human beings, Satan can use any excuse such as ethnicity, age, employment or marital status to create division among God's people and weaken our witness about Jesus and hinder God's work among us.

In addition to outreach to non-Christians, one of the goals of the Christian Outreach Committee is to help break down the barriers between Christian sisters of diverse backgrounds so that we, together, can serve the Lord with one heart and mind in evangelism, as Jesus Himself prayed in John 17: 21, *"That they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me."* We welcome your ideas and suggestions for "breaking barriers" and look forward to serving you in the next biennium.

Michele Yamanaka, Christian Outreach Chairman

2008 Convention Notes

For your information:

Rockin' for Mites generated \$3,395.36

Convention Offerings were:

#1 LWML Scholarships \$2,174.83

#2 Latvian ministry in Ireland \$1,859.25

#3 Tuition Assistance for Burmese children to attend

Lutheran Schools in Fort Wayne \$2,195.55

Note: This information is recorded at the end of the 2008 convention minutes which were mailed to each delegate and society.

Thank you notes received from Ingathering recipients reads in part:

From Wings of Hope - "Dear Sisters in Christ Jesus, Thank you for your contribution of paper products and laundry supplies. You have blessed us, more than you could know, to help us help others. Words cannot express our gratitude.

Gal. 6:2. May the Lord continue to bless you, for you have truly helped meet our needs." Linda Kluczinske and The Board of Wings of Hope

From Hope Alive - "Dear Ladies, WOW!!! We are absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity displayed through your missionary league. You gals were amazing.

How do we begin to say thanks for your generosity other than to let you that it is a phenomenal encouragement to the women here that other women love and care about their situation? Again, thank you." Betty Kahlenbeck, Executive Director, Hope Alive

Note: These thank you notes are not only for paper products, laundry supplies, etc., but also gift cards.

The On-site Servant events on Friday afternoon were Hats for Cancer Patients, Assembling of Kits for Sudan/Kenya Ministries and Marking Bibles for Prison/Homeless Ministry. There was also trimming of cancelled postage stamps.

Deadline for the Spring issue of

Good News

December 10, 2008

Theme: "Fork in the Road"

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