

## Lutheran Women in Action

By Shari Miller, News Editor

Jesus said to his disciples (Acts 1:8): *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Read on to find out how Lutheran women have shared the news of salvation in Jesus Christ in their **communities**, in their **nation**, and into the **world!**

### Witnesses... in the community



Parish Nurse Vivian Bingman of **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midwest City, Oklahoma**, coordinates the schedules of the **Ruth Guild LWML** and **Mary Circle** members who provide help and care on a daily basis for member Laura Doexel who has ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). **Fritzie Rice**, one of Laura's caregivers, says: *Laura is a joy to care for. What a privilege it has been getting to know her more intimately, enjoying Bible studies with her, assisting with personal care and doing housework. I get more than I give!*

For the past four years, the women of **Grace Lutheran LWML in Greenwood, Arkansas**, set up a table for prayer requests and giveaway "prayer rocks" at the Sebastian County Fair. *We believe it is an excellent way to become known in the community*, says **Kathleen Thompson**, Grace LWML Vice Presi-



dent. This LWML group also participated in the Greenwood Relay for Life and made and sold colors of Faith bracelets to support the American Cancer Society.



As part of a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity initiative, six LWML women and other members from



**St. John Lutheran Church, Holbrook, New York** (Suffolk Zone, Atlantic District LWML), put on roof shingles, constructed interior walls, and sorted nails to help a single mother with two children in Mastic Beach, Long Island, New York. **Pam Kennard**, President of the **Mary & Martha Guild** at St. John's shares: *Everyone left there feeling tired but happy that they were able to be part of helping someone get their own home.*

### Witnesses...in the nation

**Past LWML President Betty Duda** received the Witness in the Public Square Award from the Atlantic District Mission Society last fall at ceremonies in New York City, New York. *In presenting this award to Betty Duda*, stated Rev. Dr. David Benke, Atlantic District President, *one word comes to mind — COURAGE. Betty has had the courage to express her faith in love and action from boardrooms to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to living rooms and to highways and byways around the world. She is a woman who is truly "— strong and of good courage."* Past recipients of this award include LWML author Alma Kern and Past President Gloria Edwards.



For five years, a small mission team from **St. John, Beaufort, Missouri**, has been traveling to **Tuluksak, Alaska**, to spend a week in the village doing Vacation Bible School as part of the Alaska Mission for Christ, an LWML grant. Last summer four adults from Tuluksak spent a week observing and interacting at the VBS at St. John's, sharing songs of praise in their native Yupik, and then planning a week of their own VBS.



Visitors from Alaska: Jack Kinegak, Sr., Olga Kinegak, Sarah Owens, Jack Kinegak, Jr.

The Sunday school children at **St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, Minnesota**, wanted to support the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, and the LWML group assisted them by matching funds from their muffin sale. A small paper minnow grew as it journeyed down the Mississippi from the headwaters at Itasca State Park, Minnesota, toward the Gulf of Mexico to symbolize the growing funds that were donated to LCMS World Relief to help a sister church, **St. John Lutheran in Beaumont, Texas**, to rebuild after the 2005 hurricane season.

