

But seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well (**Matthew 6:33**). How are women and men putting God and the message of salvation in Jesus Christ **first** in their Christian service and fellowship across the nation? Read on to learn more!



For the past several years, the **South Wisconsin District LWML** board has been comprised of women with many interests and experiences. Twenty-nine-year-old **Kendra Wagner**, the district's Young Women's Retreat Committee chairman, works part-time as a dental receptionist and a lifeguard/swimming instructor, teaches CPR, and studies for her Master's degree in counseling. Ninety-two-year-old **Esther Schoessow Bauers** — former district president, newsletter editor, zone president, and ILWML recording secretary — currently serves the district as parliamentarian, gives mission talks at her church, and leads Bible studies at her assisted living facility. *Both women work together on the district board to share the Gospel of Jesus*, shares **Carolyn Blum**, SWD LWML President.

**I**n **Kyrgyzstan**, an LWML rally was held at the **Bishkek** church. Over 130 women traveled (up to six hours!) to attend the day's events. The LWML Prayer Service, *Let There Be Light*, was translated into Russian and used as the opening worship. A Bible study on the Proverbs 31 Woman, lunch, fellowship, exercises from God's Word, and a sketch completed the day. Three orders of business were discussed, and the \$20 offering collected during the service was designated for four orphanages. LWML women in the United States made the gathering possible by contributing monetary gifts that paid for the rally, the food served, folders, pens, and transportation for the attendees to make the trip to Bishkek. Missionary **Sue Pfeil** (far right in the photo below) organized the day and proudly displays her LWML scarf.

**R**eal joy is given through the making of quilts in **Augusta, Georgia!** Twenty women at **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church** send completed quilts to Lutheran World Relief, the Augusta Abuse Center, and to hurricane victims.



*An LWML rally at the Bishkek church in Kyrgyzstan.*



certificate, a welcome letter from the pastor, a cross wall hanging and some books. **Maribeth Penningroth**, LWML member, notes: *After an infant is baptized, our group sends cards and messages from the CPH Cradle Roll Packet during the first three years of life.*

The quilts are artfully displayed for dedication on pews in the church.

Special things are done for baptized children and their parents by the **Grace Lutheran Women's Eve Circle in DeWitt, Iowa**. Circle members make a baptismal napkin, a baby bib with the initial of the baby stitched on it, and a small book bag (stenciled with the words "Jesus Loves the Little Lambs") that contains the baptismal



*Millie Nolte, coordinator for the Cradle Roll Program, displays a baptismal book bag, baby bib, and a baptismal napkin.*



*Texas "High Tea" in Rockport, Texas*

Texas "High Tea" was sponsored in the middle of winter by the **Peace Lutheran LWML in Rockport, Texas**. The tea featured finger sandwiches, scones, jams, assorted pastries, and, of course, tea! Winter guests to Rockport were invited, and a total of 48 women attended. One of the attendees remarked: *The waiters were great, the cooking incredible, and we all felt like queens!*

## Holiday Fun!

Christmas and holiday ideas come from groups across the nation that want to *keep Christ FIRST* in their celebrations:

**Zion Lutheran, Norridge, Illinois** — Faithful Hearts and Hands is the name of the women's group at Zion that painted the figures for an outdoor nativity set that includes sheep, shepherds, wise men, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and a



*The outdoor nativity set up on Zion's lawn* donkey. The beautiful outside nativity acts as a witness to the community that Christ's birth is the center of Christmas.

The LWML group at Zion in Norridge, Illinois, also puts up a **Mission Christmas Tree** every year in the church narthex. In lieu of members giving Christmas cards to each other, they write their name on one of the decorated cards, put a donation into a miniature church on display, and hang the signed card back on the tree. All cards and donations are given to a mission endeavor or church.

**Mount Olive Lutheran, Billings, Montana** — This LWML group traditionally begins the Advent season with a "Gifts of Love" devotional service, special offering, and finger food buffet. Invitations are extended to other LWML groups in the area. A Christmas tree is decorated with children's socks or mittens that are filled with offerings and given to local charities.

**Redeemer Lutheran, Highland, Indiana**



*Part of the "Gifts of Love" devotion was making a human "candy cane."*



*A chocolate table decorated around a "love" theme*

— Christmas (or Valentine's Day or any holiday) is a great time for chocolate! The **Ladies Society of Redeemer** hosted a Chocolate Café event to share information about mites and the missions that the mites support and to share the love of all things chocolate. Monies donated were given to LWML mites.

## READERS' CALL



Five LWML members from **Christ Lutheran in Rancho Palos Verdes, California,**

attended the Pacific Southwest LCMS District's President's Commission on Women held in **Costa Mesa, California.** The title of the workshop was "Love Your Shoes" based on Isaiah 52:7 and featured **Mrs. Terry Kieschnick** as guest speaker. *We were inspired!* exclaims **Ellie Hovik**, one of the attendees.

**Redeemer LWML in Claremore, Oklahoma,** displays Lutheran World Relief Mission Kits in the church narthex and asks for support from the congregation. Samples of layettes, quilts, school kits, health kits, and sewing kits are displayed.



*Hand-knitted sweaters and hand-sewn quilts are part of the LWR Mission Kit display.*

The members of the **Mary and Martha Circle** at **St. Paul Lutheran in St. Joseph, Missouri**, have donated \$1 for every year of life to mites in honor of two very special members: **Edna Glahn**, who turned 109 in April 2007, and **Margaret Lenz**, who turned 100 in May 2007. Although Mrs. Glahn has since gone to be with the Lord, both women had been active in the sewing group at their church, and Mrs. Lenz continues to “serve the Lord with gladness” in her daily life. *Edna and Margaret are wonderful Christian role models*, Circle member **Susan Walters** shares.

The LWML Lilac Zip Front Jacket was a big hit with the LWML women at **Hope Lutheran in Virginia Beach, Virginia**. They saw **Bev Sweeney**, chairman of the **Tide-water Zone** in the **Chesapeake District LWML**, wear hers and ordered ten for their group! They all wore them to the next LWML retreat.



*Women at Hope Lutheran, Virginia Beach, Virginia, sport the LWML Lilac Zip Front Jacket.*

## News! News! News!



News and pictures from *your* society are needed for the Summer 2008 issue of the *Quarterly*. We will be focusing on “**speaking the unspeakable.**” Ideas to

consider: sharing a serious medical diagnosis with family and friends; telling the truth in love; admitting a wrong you’ve done; defending a friend who is wrongly accused; stopping a gossip; praying aloud to comfort others with God’s love; sharing your faith; and knowing when not to speak.

Please send all information and original or electronic pictures by **December 15, 2007**, to: *Quarterly* News Editor **Carolyn Blum**, 911 Tara Hill East, Hartford, WI 53027, e-mail: [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org)

**Holy Cross Ladies Guild** in **O’Fallon, Missouri**, has an outreach ministry making Diana’s Angels outfits (suitably small burial outfits for infants) and distributing them in their community. Societies from across the St. Charles Zone have helped; recently members of **St. John’s Ladies Aid of Warrenton, Missouri**, gave 41 outfits to Holy Cross for distribution.



*Diana’s Angels outfits*