

Lutheran Women's Missionary League:

Lutheran women in mission who are in the Word of the Word walking with their Lord.



Rev. Saleska's personal Bible has many marked passages.



IN the Word

Hungering for an in-depth Bible study series, LWML members from **Divine Savior in Hartford, Wisconsin**, regularly attend Bible Institute classes at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Rev. Dr. John Saleska, Director of the Institute, who often teaches the classes, has taken the phrase "in the Word" literally, as he has committed to memory most of the Bible. "It's just

something I've done all my life," Dr. Saleska commented. He says that memorizing Scripture is a great comfort throughout life. Students are amazed that he not only can quote passages verbatim but also name the exact citation!

OF the Word

"A mite (penny) for every candle on your birthday cake" is asked of each person attending youth and adult Sunday school at **Bethel, DuQuoin, Illinois**.

Emily Buetow, like all birthday celebrants, gladly adds her pennies to the mite box held by **Rita Cook**, vice president of their LWML society.



At each monthly LWML meeting at **Our Savior, Paradise, California**, women bring recyclables that can be turned into cash. They've raised hundreds of dollars; all of it is contributed to mites. States **Judy Klaves**, "We

call my husband 'Roger the Recycler' for his willingness to deliver the bags to the recycling center!"



A servant event held by **LWML's Lydia Circle** from **St. John's Green Garden Lutheran Church in Madison, Nebraska**, provided 2,000 meals for hungry children. Working through a volunteer organization, Kids Against Hunger, the women spent several hours packaging protein-rich, vitamin-fortified meals to nourish children around the world. **Tammy Boettcher** indicates, "We definitely learned the importance of looking beyond ourselves and toward serving the needs of others!"



A baby shower to benefit the Hope Pregnancy Center was held by the **Women's Assembly of St. Paul, Montevideo, Minnesota**. **Jodie Schuldt**, society president, reports that the "women played games and told about the items they brought."

Cough pillows, which provide comfort to heart surgery and respiratory patients, were made by women of the **LWML Society at Our Redeemer, Fort Smith, Arkansas**. Home health care workers from Sparks Hospital showed great appreciation for the pillows and assured society members that they would make good use of them.



“Aprons: Symbols of Service” was the theme for **New England District’s Koinonia Zone** Spring Gathering in **Bridgeport, Connecticut**. As they shared stories about each of the aprons they wore, the women realized that the aprons spoke of giving, serving, and encouraging others. In the photo, **Louise Patterson** and **Juanita Bok** admire the oldest apron at the event. It belongs to **Wilma Ricketson** and was made by her grandmother who was born in 1854. The gathering closed with a Bible study on servanthood.



Walking with Their Lord

Ruthie Erslund was undoubtedly the youngest mission walk participant at the **Pacific Southwest District** LWML convention! She is the three-month-old daughter of **Mandy Erslund**. Teen representative **Amy Lasagna** presents outgoing District President **JoAnn Bradley** with a hand-painted tee shirt as **Jackie Hedleston**, the person in charge of the teen group, looks on. Correspondent **Helen Tibbet** reports that Amy later asked if she could contribute some of her own money to the mite box that had been placed on the podium for collecting contributions from the convention speakers!



In 1958, **Lois Kroenke** was elected **North Wisconsin** LWML District President. Fifty years later, she attended their 2008 convention and celebrated the fact that she is still active! In the interim, she and her husband served as missionaries in Papua New Guinea, and upon their return, she spoke to over 200 church gatherings to tell of their experiences. Lois then became the first woman to serve on the North Wisconsin District LCMS Board of Directors,



and she and her husband also spent several years with Laborers for Christ. Lois currently leads Bible classes at **St. Jacobi** in **Shawano, Wisconsin**. She states that “being an LWML District President gave me the courage to live a life of service to the Lord.”

Nine past district presidents, serving the Lord through the LWML since 1964, were present at the **South Wisconsin District** LWML convention this past summer. All of the women remain active either in the LWML and/or in their congregations. In order of their service, they are **Esther Schoessow Bauers, Loretta Gabriliska, Anita Gaede, Barbara Strenger, Edith Mossner, Gerry Burkee, Lauren Beale, Marlys Taege Moberg, and Joyce Kaestner**.



Scherenschnitte, a German silhouette paper-cutting art, was demonstrated by the LWML group of **Trinity, Wausau, Wisconsin**, at a local Hmong outreach center last February. In return, the Hmong participants taught the LWML women how to say “I love you” in Hmong, in honor of Valentine’s Day. Member **Betty Hoerter** shared that “the men and women were so appreciative of their visit, and many hugs were exchanged when they left.”



A new society model — an “E-society” — was initiated by **Atlantic District** LWML leader development chairman **Susan Schumacher**. Twenty-eight members residing in six states encourage their Christian sisters, share God’s love through practical assistance, and provide mission outreach to their homebound sisters. An online Bible study based on the stories behind selected Christian songs is being developed.





Christmas Outreach

Hand-made hats and scarves, toiletry items, and a Christmas tract were packed into 75 Christmas stockings made by the women at **Town and Country LWML, Sacramento, California**, and delivered to Loaves and Fishes — a group that assists the homeless. **Londa Borer-Skov**, society president, indicates, “The project met with such success that this year we will be filling and donating 100 stockings.”

Margaret Schuessler, president of the LWML Guild at **St. Timothy, Edmonds, Washington**, holds a huge Christmas stocking stuffed with 125 pairs of new socks that were donated to a local family shelter. **Patricia C. Jones**, mission chairman, reports that each month the group chooses a different mission project for an outreach effort and that “although our congregation is small, we find doing this service for the Lord’s people a joy.”

An LWML Christmas “cookie walk” at **Immanuel in Alliance, Nebraska**, organized by the **Martha Circle** and publicized extensively in the community by the young women in that group, drew more

than 300 people who selected from a bounty of homemade cookies. **Sharon Hashman**, society president, reports that their “pastor witnessed to visitors by sharing the fact that the proceeds funded mites and other church and community projects.”

Women of the **Metro South Zone** of the **Southern Illinois District LWML** stitch Christmas stockings at their fall

workshops and fill them with mittens, Christmas story books, pencils, puzzles, and small toys. Zone president **Joyce Aukamp** reports that the stockings



are distributed before Christmas through Lutheran Child and Family Service.

A December potluck, cancelled due to bad weather, was rescheduled as a “Christmas in July” salad supper by the LWML group at **St. Andrew, Rockton, Illinois**. Snowmen adorned the festive tables, and attendees were encouraged to wear red and green clothing and bring Christmas gifts of food pantry items. Society representative **Liz Braun** states, “A new tradition may have been established!”

LWML News Makers

Government Issues Purple Currency!



Noticing that the United States government issued its new \$5 bill with a huge purple “5” on it, **President Janice Wendorf** challenged district convention attendees to fill their mite boxes with them! “Is this the government’s way to encourage support for LWML mites?” she queried. She placed a mite box on the podium and planted seed money with her personal purple paper money; others followed, raising thousands of dollars for missions.

Assembly of Leaders Held in St. Louis



“To everything there is a season... this is a time for you to lead,” was the message delivered to new leaders from the LWML’s 40 districts at the Assembly of Leaders held this fall.

Participants were reminded that LWML leaders are women who: celebrate their life in Christ and feed daily on His Word; recognize their mission to all women in the church and intentionally partner for generational, ethnic, and cultural diversity among women; work along side and encourage their sisters in Christ and mentor new leaders; and tell the Good News of God’s grace in Jesus to people around them.

Key presenters were author **Jane Fryar** [see cover story], the mentoring pair of **Virginia Von Seggern** and **Katy Gifford**, the mission team of **Ida Mall** and **Kristy Grannis**, and the **Gospel Outreach Committee** led by **Melissa Salomón**.

Worship — led by **Pastor Mike Mattil** and musician **Bobby Schroeder** — highlighted the busy weekend, along with music from a singing group from **St. John, Ellisville, Missouri**.

An ingathering of craft and art supplies was donated to St. Louis area inner-city schools.

Reaching Out Around the World

Leftover yarn plays an important part in the outreach to “Grannies” in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, according to LCMS missionaries **Robert and Sue Pfeil**. Orphan Grain Train delivers hundreds of boxes of yarn donated by LWML groups in the United States. The Granny groups, originally formed through subsidized meal programs, use this yarn to create mittens, hats, socks and sweaters for children in nearby orphanages. Even though they are poor themselves, the Grannies delight in assisting those who need their help.



The original Granny group.



Grannies who do the knitting.



Nursing home members receiving knitted items.

Several times a year, Sue brings all the groups together for a Ladies Day, often using translated LWML sketches. Ten of the Grannies are now members of



local Lutheran churches, and other groups are studying Luther’s Small Catechism. Says Sue, “They love to pray for their sisters in Christ, including those in the USA.”

Eighty women, leaders in their villages and churches, met with eleven **Northern Illinois District LWML** members in **Kumasi, Ghana**, for an equipping conference. The August mission trip participants taught the women from Ghana how to use a “Divine Plan” pictogram, so they could share the salvation story in their own dialect. Team leader **Linda Arnold** reported, “This event was simply a pebble dropped into the waters. As the women return to their homes, the ripple effect will continue.”

Eyeglasses and Jesus’ love were given to people in **Honduras** last summer by a MOST Ministries team from **Michigan LWML**. A blind man, brought by relatives, also was helped when the team supplied him with a white cane. He quickly learned how to use the white cane and was able to toss away the broken umbrella stem he had been using to navigate the streets. **Sandy Hardies**, team leader, remarked, “It was a simple way of bringing joy to an otherwise hopeless situation.”

