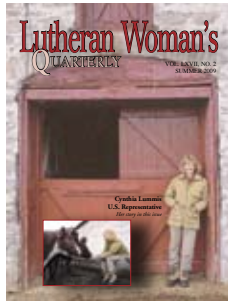


*Who am I? We are each unique, created by God for His purpose. Here are ways LWML women are showing their uniqueness as they live out the LWML motto: Serve the Lord with gladness.*

**News You Can Use!**

Need a quick gift, a token of thanks, or a pick-me-up for a friend? You can now order individual subscriptions to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* online! Go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org), scroll down until you see the image of the *Quarterly*, click on "online ordering" and proceed from there. Subscriptions make great inspirational year 'round gifts for your gal pals —young and old, Lutheran or not — for about the same price you'd pay for a greeting card!



**Unique Events**

**A District First!**

What do you do when members of your district are spread out all over the United States? Host a retreat in **Lancaster, Pennsylvania**, and invite everyone, including neighboring districts! In May, the **SELC LWML District** held their first-ever retreat, joined by LWML sisters in nearby **Atlantic, Eastern, and English Districts**, who, along with the **New Jersey and New England Districts**, will combine to host the 2013 LWML convention in Pittsburgh. The retreat theme, "A Time for ...," helped all the women get to know each other while making health kits for Orphan Grain Train and performing an LWML sketch, "Disciple Stew."

**Mixing It Up**

"As our society grew older and smaller," reports **Jan Bauman**, president of the **Ruth Guild at St. Paul's, Brown Deer, Wisconsin**, "we found it was too much work for us to continue hosting our annual spring salad supper." Jan asked another society at a nearby congregation to join them, supply half the food, and host the event every other year. Com-

binning resources also helped bring in a speaker. This collaboration has been a boost to both societies for the last six years, with average attendance of 75.

**Unique Gifts from the Heart**

**Handbags for Success**

Nearly 100 handbags, filled with grooming items, notepad, pocket calendar, and a Christian devotional booklet were gathered at the **Kansas District LWML Assembly of Leaders** last fall. The purses were donated to Ashby House, a substance abuse rehabilitation center, in **Salina**.



**Showered with Blessings**

The **Dorcas Society of Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church, Houghton, Michigan**, gathered 2,750 diapers, many packages of baby wipes, and other infant items at their Diaper Shower event. Those items plus over \$600 in cash collected in plastic baby bottles were donated to the Salvation Army in Hancock and to a shelter in Calumet. Society president **Cathy Paul** and member **Jean Pemberton** agree, "We are grateful to the Lord for the generosity of our people!"



**Soup and Crackers**

**Concordia Lutheran Church's LWML** society in **Beulah, North Dakota**, collected cans of soup and boxes of crackers, which were donated to the Women's Action Resource Center, a local organization which assists abused families. Member **Marlene Schriefer** shares that "we encourage all members of the church to participate."

## Unique Zone Programs



### Music: A Gift From God

An appearance by bagpiper **Ken Fay** was a special treat at the **New England District's Koinonia Zone** fall gathering in **Newton, Connecticut**. The event included sing-

ing praises to God and sharing a Bible study, *Music: A Gift from God for God*, led by **Pastor Robert Beinke**, who walked participants through the Bible from Job to the Psalms and beyond. **Gail Milke**, zone president, said that "we went on our way with a song in our hearts."



**Marianne Dolson**, one of the hostesses, remarked, "We enjoyed the incredible beauty of God's creation and enjoyed warm Christian fellowship." She went on to add, "We hope that other LWML groups will try something like it, with any theme and any location, even a park. What a witness that would be!"



## Reformation Celebration

*Come, for everything is now ready* (Luke 14:17b) was the theme verse for the circuit-wide Reformation Celebration hosted by **Women of Faith** from **Faith Lutheran Church, Rogue River, Oregon**, last fall. Event highlights included a mass choir with participation from circuit churches, the Divine Celebration led by the circuit's pastors and deacons, decorations provided by Sunday School children, and the meal planned and prepared by Women of Faith. Many of the LWML women dressed in costumes of Martin Luther's era as they greeted guests at this biennial gathering.

### "Mountain Mama" Party

**Women of Faith** society from **Faith Lutheran Church, Rogue River, Oregon** hosted a themed costume "Mountain Mama" party in the nearby beautiful, peaceful mountains of the state. Decorations reflecting the hill country were enjoyed, along with food served on tin dishes. Games included identifying country songs and guessing the number of old buttons in a jar.



## Uniqueness in Celebrations

### Celebrating Baptism!

**Ruth Evelyn Connor** of **Saint John LWML** in **Brunswick, Missouri**, will celebrate the 85th anniversary of her baptism in January 2010. Ruth has two special people in her life who will share her joy: **Frances Grotjan**, one of Ruth's baptismal sponsors, and **Fern Pearman**, Ruth's first Sunday school teacher. The three women will also celebrate the birthdays of Frances and Fern, both of whom were baptized in 1910 and will turn 100 years old in 2010. Fern and Francis

are lifelong members of Saint John, having worshiped under ten pastors, including **Rev. F. G. Walther** (son of C. F. W. Walther) in the early 1900s and **Rev. Glen Drewitz**, the congregation's current pastor.

**District President Jan Dankwardt** said, "People from the various cultures presented their offerings by dancing and singing down the aisle. What a joy to share in that time together!"



### Celebrating 70 years of LWML Service!

**Esther Lombard**, member of **St. John's, Elgin, Illinois**, is celebrating 70 years of service to the Lord as a member of their **Ladies Aid/LWML** society. Esther was introduced to the original Ladies Aid group by her grandmother in 1939 and has held many positions in the group, including president; she has visited countless shut-ins, planned their annual bazaar, quilted, and participated in many other mission projects. Second vice president **Lenore Weidner** said, "St. John's is thankful for Esther and her sister, **Viola** (also a 70-year member), who recently went home to her Lord one day short of her 101st birthday."



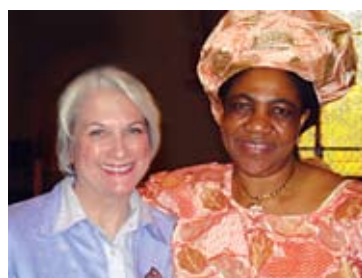
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### LWML Sunday: A Friendship Outreach

International Friendship Weekend is celebrated each year on LWML Sunday at **St. Peter Lutheran Church in Reedsburg, Wisconsin**. Students from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and their families from **China, Taiwan, Japan, Sierra Leone, Peru**, and other nations spend Saturday with Christian host families, sharing cross-cultural fellowship. Sunday most of the families attend worship services and receive a quilt made by the LWML women, followed by a pot-luck lunch.

One guest asked, after hearing about our Lord and His love for all, "Why do not my people know about Jesus?" **Mary Schwenkhoff**, society secretary, shares, "The student ministry group on Madison's campus reports that the seeds planted during these visits have grown. Several students have attended instruction classes, and a few have been baptized."

### Uniqueness in Diversity



### Multicultural Day of Worship and Praise

"Many Nations, One God: Praising God in Different Cultures" was



the theme of the **South Wisconsin District's Heart to Heart Sisters** day of worship and praise, held this spring in **Milwaukee**. Pastors from various ethnic groups led the worship, while a Hmong youth choir and others sang songs of praise. Scripture was read in many languages, including French, Spanish, Hmong, Efik, Yoruba, and Ibo. Led by the District's Heart to Heart chairman, **Joy Ikanih**, participants enjoyed seeing the colorful native dress and dining on foods from many cultures. A special guest was **LWML President Janice Wendorf**.

### Outreach to Soldiers

At their district convention, under the guidance of **Sara Reimer, Shalimar, Florida**, members of the **Gulf States LWML** learned to knit helmet liners to keep overseas soldiers warm. Since then the District has outfitted one whole squadron of U.S. soldiers who serve in Japan, Iraq, and Afghanistan. **Lyn Dorsch**, mother of Major Philip Dorsch, the commander of this unit, is a member of **Christ Lutheran in Albertville, Alabama**, and facilitated the project. Each helmet liner has a note attached to it, indicating that prayers are being offered for the soldiers. Major Dorsch reported back that his squadron is "very grateful for the work of so many giving women."

### Outreach to Those Absent From Worship

The Card Ministry at **Trinity in Gallatin, Tennessee**, sends unique postcards to those who have been absent from worship for a few Sundays. The cards are prints of original watercolors painted by **Rosalie Replogle**, president of their



LWML society. Rosalie [far left in photo] says, "Many of our members miss worship services because of health issues, and this is the com-

mittee's way of saying we noticed you were not there and we care." Their pastor, **Rev. Ken Shaw**, describes the group as "an enthusiastic group of compassionate ladies."

## Unique Witnessing Opportunities



### Witnessing via Parachute

Parachutes, with the words *Dios es Amor* (God is Love) written on them, were stitched by the LWML women of **Good Shepherd, Arnold, Missouri**, for a witnessing opportunity in the South American country of **Colombia**. The chutes were sent to an organization that attaches Bibles and drops them via air. Extremist groups often oppose missionary activity in rural Colombia, "so this is one way we can witness to the citizens," states society president **Judy Hibbard**.

## Call for news items

### Spring 2010 LWQ

SPRING ISSUE: "Faith Talk | Faith Walk"

Send news and photos (electronic preferred, prints accepted) to News Editor Carolyn Blum at [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org) or to 911 Tara Hill East, Hartford, Wisconsin 53027 by September 15, 2009. Please include your name, address, phone, and e-mail address.



## All Because She Wore that LWML Shirt!

After adjourning an LWML Convention Planning Committee meeting in Denver last March, **President Jan** and the committee went to dinner in a restaurant. **PR Director Peggy Turnipseed**, wearing her LWML-logo clothing, was spotted by some LCMS members from **Memorial Lutheran in Katy, Texas**, who also happened to be dining there. They visited, and when the women went to pay their bill, they were informed that their new friends had already paid it!



Peggy sent a thank you note to one of these new friends, **David Weaver**, along with an LWML tie and a liquid cross necklace for his wife, **Carol**. He sent an e-mail to the women, stating how grateful he was for the gifts, and especially for the opportunity to directly support the leadership of the LWML. "It's only because of Peggy's LWML-logo clothing that we made a connection," he stated. "I don't wear a tie every week, but I certainly will wear my new tie on LWML Sunday!"

## Sioux Falls 2007 Convention: Follow-Up News

### The Gifts That Kept on Giving!

Did you know that the supply of health kits donated by LWML members at the **Sioux Falls LWML Convention** has only recently been exhausted? **LSS Refugee and Immigration Center** volunteer **Pat Reichert** shared, "I was moved to tears as I dispensed the very last four boxes of health kits from the 2007 convention at the end of May 2009. These kits have filled Welcome Boxes for new Americans for two years! This reminds me of God's great love ... and how the women of the LWML demonstrate that love."



### R.O.C.K. Around the World

"Rest on Christ the King!" How far did that message go? Materials from the **Sioux Falls** convention were translated into the Russian language and used halfway around the world last winter. Over 100 women in **Kyrgyzstan** met together under the theme "Between a Rock and a Hard Place" where they worshiped using the Prayer Service and participated in the Bible study.

## Tell Us Your Stories

### LWML Sunday 2009

What did you do? Please take photos and send a short synopsis of your event to [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org). Look for these shared ideas in a future issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*!

