

# Rose Parade ... And Beyond!



Have you ever dreamed of being part of one the most beautiful parades in the world? President Janice Wendorf experienced that once-in-

a-lifetime opportunity when she rode in the 120th Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1 as a special guest of The International Lutheran Laymen's League. The Lutheran Hour float, whose theme "Hallelujah!" represented the joyous history of Lutheran choral singing, was decorated with a huge flower-clad pipe organ and included a live choir, of which Jan was a part, singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" along the parade route.

Along with 4,000 other Petal Pushers® from all over the U.S., President Jan spent time before the parade as a volunteer in the Rose Palace building, helping to attach thousands of flowers to the float.

President Jan reports that wearing the red Petal Pushers® shirt around town gave her many



opportunities to witness as people asked her about it. She said, "I caught 'Rose Fever' but was not prepared for the positive interaction with the people who lined the streets." From her vantage point in the float's choir, Jan shares that "many cheered our float, the only Christian float in the parade." Estimates are that one million people viewed the parade live and many more via television.

Also working as Petal Pushers® were LWML members and friends from Iowa District West, who after the parade, traveled to Tijuana, Mexico, where they worked with Melissa Salomón, Director of Lutheran Hour Ministries in Mexico, to witness their faith by conducting a VBS class, painting a church, and making banners while several pastors in the group discussed Lutheran theology with Mexican church leaders. A local TV station videotaped their activities and broadcast a report on the evening news. Ellie Menz, leader of the group, said they were grateful to do "amazing work motivated by amazing love."



## Mission News—Far and Near

### Bringing Joy to the Dominican Republic

Describing those who worked with the **Dominican Republic's** most developmentally-disabled children under the direction of LCMS missionary **Danelle Putnam** from **Oregon**, **Roberta Hilgendorf** of **South Wisconsin** observed, "I felt like I was watching a group of Mother Teresa-type women." Roberta, member of a **MOST** mission team that included LWML members **Barbara Hoffmeier** and **Elise Locke** of **Michigan**, brought the joy of music to the churches and taught Christian music therapy activities to those who work with the severely disabled children, their parents, and caregivers as they partnered with **CALMS** (Central American Lutheran Mission Society), supported by **LCMS World Mission**, **LCMS World Relief/Human Care**, and **Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services** in Watertown, Wisconsin.



Women work in groups of three: the disabled child, the mother, and a caretaker. The mission team led the singing of "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish and shared soft crosses and hearts donated by Danelle's LWML zone in Oregon.



## The Lord is at Work in Guatemala

“We received so much more than we gave,” reports **Debbie Tabisz** from the **Oklahoma District LWML**.

She and 29 other Tulsa-area individuals visited **Guatemala** last fall, sharing Scripture and hope from the Bible as they ministered to men, women, and children by teaching VBS, holding workshops for the teachers, assisting in the medical clinic, conducting English classes, and helping serve meals to people living in a shanty village near the city garbage dump. Debbie writes, “As we prayed with these people and held tiny, needy children on our laps, we saw our Lord at work in Guatemala.”

## Share Your Faith Every Day, Wherever You Are

“What does that logo mean on your jacket?” inquired the convenience-store clerk. As **Oklahoma LWML President, Bev England, Tulsa**, reached for her wallet to pay for her daily cappuccino, she replied, “It stands for ‘Lutheran Women’s Missionary League’ and each day I place all the change you give me from my coffee purchase into my mission box. The money is used to tell others about Jesus.”



“In that case,” the clerk replied, “From now on, your coffee will be free, if you put the total price of the coffee into your mission box!”

## Share Your Faith Everyday, One-on-One

Attendees of the **Michigan District LWML** convention last summer had the opportunity to be Christ’s witness to their professional videographer, who had been hired to project the proceedings onto the screens. As he listened to the choir rehearse, he asked where he might purchase their CD. This started a discussion of the purpose of the convention. He was so impressed with the opening worship service that he asked where he might find the proclaimer’s church! Although he was dressed very casually at the start of the convention, the women noticed his suit, tie, and reverent attitude during the closing worship service. Later, reports **Cheri Fish, Michigan LWML President**, “He shared with several women how much this convention had touched his life.”

## NEWSMAKERS

### “Our” Katie is Miss America 2009

**Katie Stam**, a member of **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, Indiana**, was crowned the 2009 Miss America this past January. Having attended a nearby LCMS grade school, 22-year-old Katie is now a student at the University of Indianapolis, majoring in Communication. Church secretary **Kathy Alberring** reported that “Katie’s rendition of ‘Via Dolorosa’ as her talent in the contest was just a small sample of her strong faith in Christ.” (The song describes Jesus’ suffering on the way to the cross.) Katie’s family is very involved at Immanuel; her mom, Tracy, teaches 5th grade at the congregation’s school.



Photo courtesy of the Miss America Organization

### Society President is a Nonagenarian



When **Ida (Esslinger) Sass** became a member of **The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota**, in 2003, she immediately organized an LWML society and influenced many women to join the group in this unique congregation, developed within the long-term care campus of Good Shepherd Com-

munity. Serving as President of the 21-member society for the last five years, at age 93, Ida also leads exercise classes at the facility. Her pastor, **Rev. Donald Wilke**, shares that “she has worked diligently over her entire life within the church, modeling the life of a Christian woman walking in the servant footsteps of our Savior.”

### Where is She Now?

**Gloria de Jesus Garcia**, a 10-year old girl from **Guatemala**, met **Jim and Edie Jorns**, originators of the **Children’s Christian Concern Society**, in 1964, when the Jorns were visiting her remote fishing village, Zacapa, which had no school. She was the impetus for the Jorns’ starting a boarding school there, funded by seed money from a 1955–57 **Kansas LWML** grant. Her dream was to become a teacher.



Where is Gloria now? She met and married Hector Canjura, a fellow student at the boarding school; he later became a pastor and they were blessed with four children. By God's

grace, the CCCS grew and is now providing Christian education to 17,000 children in 19 countries. Gloria says that "the CCCS scholarship project is the story of my life, and I feel truly honored and blessed to have been in the first group of students."

Gloria has achieved her dream! She teaches preschool at **Grace Lutheran School** in **Chicago**, where she shares the love of God with her students.

## PASTORS SUPPORT LWML

### LWML Convention Inspires Future Pastor

When Iowan **Joan Berquist** and her husband **Roy** attended the **Sioux Falls** convention in 2007, little did she know that in less than a year, they would be living in **Indiana**, where Roy now attends **Concordia Theological Seminary**. Through the inspiration of the mission speakers at convention and by God working through conversations he had with the many pastors in attendance, he felt God's call to become a second-career pastor. Ironically, when Joan was district treasurer for the **Iowa East LWML**, she wrote grant checks to support the food and clothing co-ops at Fort Wayne. Now she shops there!



### A Special Zone Counselor

**Rev. Thomas Decker**, a retired Army chaplain and a member of the **Pacific Southwest District**, was cited by LWML member **Ellie Hovik** at his retirement luncheon. "His enthusiasm and interest in the LWML cannot be exceeded," she reported. "He inspired many women to join the LWML." For many years, Rev. Decker served as their Zone 10 counselor, attending all their rallies and meetings.



## Were you there in '53?

Were you there in '53?

In Portland, Oregon? To see LWML in convention, so fine; And will you return in 2009?

If so,

Let us know!

The "Purple Carpet" we'll unroll.

To honor *you* is our goal!



If you're an alumnus of the 1953 LWML Portland convention and will return in 2009 (or know someone who is), please contact **Julia Riess**, Host Committee Chairman, at [purplecontesa@aol.com](mailto:purplecontesa@aol.com) or at 15902 SE 35th Street, Vancouver WA 98683-3751.

## SOCIETIES: STEPPING OUT

### Witnessing Through a Clothing Give-Away

Proclaiming a Saturday last fall as "Love Your Neighbor Day," members of the **Willing Workers** society at



**Grace Lutheran Church** in **Queens Village, New York**, celebrated with a clothing give-away.

They collected new and gently-used clothing, sorted it, and placed it on display tables in their school's assembly hall. "Baby clothing and men's jeans went like hotcakes!" according to **Anita Friday**, society Vice President. "A high school senior found a prom dress, and another woman found an outfit to wear when she made a presentation at a domestic violence meeting." The area is populated by many immigrants.

In each bag was placed a flyer with church information and a "Today is Love Your Neighbor Day" leaflet quoting Colossians 3:14. The group plans to make this an annual event.

### Conversational English: A Witnessing Opportunity

Using Bible stories, the **International Friends in Christ** group at **Concordia Lutheran Church, Findlay, Ohio**, works with Japanese women in the community to improve their English skills. Many of the church's LWML women are involved with this outreach as either teachers or conversation partners, allowing friendships to form naturally and encouraging personal sharing of the Gospel message. Many of the Japanese women are stay-at-home moms with their husbands being employed at Findlay companies, so child



care is provided during the classes. Other opportunities to practice English and promote friendships include cooking classes and trips to restaurants.



### Happy Birthday, Honorees!

Seniors aged 80 and over are honored by the **Circles of Faith LWML** society at **Faith Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.**

Recently 28 members and guests were in attendance for the entertainment and noon luncheon. Six individuals observed their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays. **Cora Matthes**, Society Historian, reports that “this birthday celebration has become an annual event and always brings rave reviews from the guests.”



### Society Supports Troops

Last July, **St. John's Lutheran Church** in **Midland, Michigan**, held a patriotic outdoor worship service, including prayers for their service men and women. The **Quilters** group presented a patriotic quilt to a local serviceman who had been injured in Iraq. Recovering at **Fort Bragg, North Carolina**, he asked for leave to come home and receive this quilt. As he received the quilt, he remarked that “sometimes we wonder if we're being remembered and cared about. But a gift like this keeps us warm, all the way through.” Quilter **Karen Schulz** adds that “having just purchased a new home, his roof needed to be replaced. Members of the congregation arranged to have this work done for him. The Lord works in wonderful ways!”

## Call for news items: Winter 2009 LWQ



**UPCOMING ISSUE:** “Relationships: Learning the Ropes.” How does your faith play a role in your relationships with family, friends, co-workers, neighbors? How do relationships with unbelievers present opportunities to share your faith?

**NEWS! NEWS!** Please send news of unique and meaningful activities — including mission trips and servant events — 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, WI 53027 by June 15, 2009. Please include your name, address, phone, and e-mail address.



### Purple, 3-seam Turban

Beautiful purple with an LWML tag inside, this turban is the most popular style for chemo patients. Set includes a “Praying for you” card, envelope, gift bag, and tissue. Sold individually, or purchase in sets of 5 (pay for 4, get one free) to be ready if a need arises. A loving and caring way to support those who find getting out to shop difficult.

[accent scarf not included]

1 Set \$20.00 ; 5 Sets \$80.00

### Share the Good News!

Subscribe now to the *Quarterly!* Just \$5.50 per year. Great as gifts for friends, the college-bound, new moms, shut-ins. Call the LWML Office at 800-252-LWML(5965) or order online at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

