

IMPRESSIONS

February 2007

Impressions is a tool to encourage Young Woman Representatives after their convention experience as they serve in their home districts. It can be used as an instrument to educate and inform other young women about LWML.

From the Heart of a YWR

Me & the LWML

For as long as I can remember, I've been a member of the LWML because my mother always told me every woman in the Lutheran Church is a member of the LWML, no matter their age. Ever since I was an infant and toddler, I've been attending meetings and functions. However, having been a member for roughly a third of a century now, I truly have to say I've finally felt able to contribute more in the last few years than ever before.

I have put my energies and talents into the LWML in many ways: as president (and presently treasurer) of my society, by chairing different society social functions, as a biology student cloning as a panel member at a zone rally (with a theme on life and death), and by attending district conventions (as a YWR, delegate, and coordinator of zone staff) and national conventions (once as a YWR and twice as a delegate). God has truly enriched my life by allowing me to put my energies and talents to good use, but also allowing me to see His love in action.

National conventions and district conventions are great places to see the work of the LWML on a greater scale and still know that it is all for Him. Everyone coming together to share His Word and their love for the Lord in every way possible: delegates and officers determining where the next biennium's treasures will be best put to use; YWRs sharing their talents through helping

hand projects, an early morning walk/jog to add to the mites being collected, and in donating blood. Everyone attending a convention gives time from their busy or hectic schedules to share their love and faith with others, both Christians at the convention and non-Christian in the surrounding community.

Sharing one's time, talents and treasure is never lost in the Lord. He can even enable you to learn about yourself as you help Him. In this way, I have been able to learn about the strengths and weaknesses I have — both as a Christian and otherwise and more importantly to work on them. By sharing with others, I've been able to see in what areas I have great potential to do more for Him, to help others to share His love.

I have also learned in what areas I need improvement. As I learn, He provides me with others who can fill the need, and allows them to use their assets to share His love in their own God-given way.

No matter who you are or what you may be able to accomplish, God knows what you can do and where to place you when He has need of you. Following His lead has taught me a lot about Him, about myself and about the others that He has entrusted me to work with for the good of His Kingdom and for bringing the lost and erring home to Him.

Nan Mueller

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Vestal, NY
Eastern District

We Want to Hear from You

The Leader Development Committee takes great care to be sure we are informing you more what you need to know regarding LWML. Please tell us how we are doing with this newsletter. We would love to

hear how you are using *Impressions* to share with other young women in your congregations and zones. Please e-mail us at amhartman@charter.net and let us know what you think. Those replying and sharing with us will receive a free gift.

We can't wait to hear from you!

What's Happening

While it seems like summer is far away, it is time to start planning for the LWML 2007 Convention — ROCK! Rest On Christ the King. The convention will be in Sioux Falls, SD, June 21-24, 2007. Start watching for information regarding your Districts plans for travel and registration. Some of your districts may already be in the process of selecting the YWRs for South Dakota. Be sure to connect with these women and encourage them as they prepare to leave family and experience LWML at this venue, some of them for the first time. Please be sure when you are at the convention to stop by at the Leader Development and YWR booth. We'd love to meet you and hear about the great things Young Women are doing for LWML in your district.



Did You Know ...

Here's a little bit of information that can be helpful when telling other young women about LWML. Did you know we have a "doing business name?" The dba for LWML is Lutheran Women in Mission. This can be a great way to let women know what we are all about. Let them know you are a Lutheran Woman in Mission and tell her more about LWML. Use the Web site too — it can be a very helpful tool when introducing women to the purpose of LWML.

Resource/Product Promo

It seems we never have enough time for the things we need to get done in one day. Check out this planning and organizing resource that LWML has in the catalog — *Tapping the Time Treasure* (Code # 71550). This valuable resource will help you make the most of your time. It offers six ideas for organizing and 25 ways to get more things done. Who wouldn't value from these tips and ideas?

A Message from ... the VP of Human Care

During the winter months I become a mall walker for a couple of reasons ... I work fulltime and it is just about dark by the time I arrive home; and I'm really wimpy when it's cold outside. As I walk the mall I make it my duty to say "Hi" to all I meet.

The Saturday after Thanksgiving I was walking and saw this elderly couple in front of me ... he was using two crutches and she was strolling by his side. As I passed them and said "Hi," they greeted me in the most friendly way ... made me wonder if I was the only person that had spoken to them that day ... it also made me think that something so simple is really human care.

Human care is a huge area ranging from anything so simple as saying "Hi" to someone you see as you pass by them in the mall to making and sending quilts to people "across the ocean." Human care is also something both the younger and the older women are able to do ... sometimes side by side and sometimes individually.

The Human Care Committee of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League has compiled

... with *Care and Compassion*, a comprehensive resource filled with service ideas and relevant agencies to help you care for yourself and others. Under the subtitles of "Health & Wellness," "Social Ministry," "Outreach," "Inreach," "Spiritual Resources," "Love in Action," and "Addresses" you will find information and new ideas that will be useful in caring for yourself and others. If you have not had the opportunity to see this resource, I encourage you to order it for yourself or for your society.

As you visit the LWML Web site, please visit the Human Care section as new ideas for human care are shared every two months.

... as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12 NIV).

Kaye Cairns

LWML Vice President of Human Care

YWR Devotion

Resolution Solution?

Happy New Year! I can only wonder how many of us have made New Year's resolutions. To be honest, within the first week of January, I will have already changed, broken, and thrown out at least a dozen resolutions I attempted to make for 2007.

Breaking New Year resolutions seems to be as normal as making them, and for the first time I think I know the reason why. It's not that we aren't earnestly striving to make ourselves better, but I think we break our resolutions because we think we possess the power within ourselves to change, which sadly, we don't.

Romans 7:18-19
I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

We don't have the strength to change. If we did, we would not desperately need a Savior to redeem us from our sins. So rather than declaring breakable New Year resolutions, why don't we turn to the solution — Jesus — to make our lives better this year

Sounds like a great idea? It would be wonderful if we were actually willing to let Him take charge in our lives and not try to tell Him what we think should be done. In order for Jesus to do His amazing work, we need to relinquish total control to the Master and let Him make us all we can be.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to

prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We may think our weight needs to go down, but Jesus knows that our obedience needs to be built up. We may think more knowledge will help us get a higher paying job, but God knows that what we really need to do is conserve the resources we already have. We may want to pick and choose the things that on the surface may need change, but God wants to change us from the inside out—digging deep within our souls with His faith giving power.

Truth be told, the biggest faith building experiences I have had have come from the situations I wish I could have avoided. Sitting bedside with a sick loved one, dealing with a rebellious teenager, or making uncomfortable changes in areas of my life that I didn't think needed to be different—during

all these situations God has helped me grow in my faith and love for Him. When we allow God to bend our will through His Word, Jesus makes life-enriching changes that bring us closer to Him.

Accept a challenge to ask Jesus to show you what should be worked on this year. Work with His Holy Spirit instead of against Him, each and every day. God is the one solution we can count on to make this year the best it can be.

May you be richly blessed throughout the year.

Linda Guteres

December 2006