

IMPRESSIONS

April 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: God's Design for You

Do You Know What God's Design For Your Life Is?" Those are the blessed words that flowed from ILWML President, Ida Mall. They changed my life forever. I must have been the only young woman in the room that night with a bewildered look on my face. I became her reference point for the evening.

In her loving way, Ida began to inquire about what filled the time in my life. She deduced from my replies that hospitality was at least part of the plan for me. Looking back now, she was correct and that whole weekend of events was just the beginning of service for me in LWML.

A few weeks prior to this, I had asked my friend and pastor's wife if there was a way for me as a young woman to become more involved. That friend invited me to an overnight retreat, which was actually the 1994 Southern Illinois District LWML Convention. My friend, Mary Gray, was elected as district president, while I was there as a YWR.

After the convention, I started attending local LWML meetings, and the wonderful women accepted me with hugs. Later I proudly represented the district at the 1995 national convention as a YWR. Wow! What an experience. I had a front row seat before the stage of which Ida Mall presided. As I looked around and saw or listened to 5,000 Lutheran women singing praises to the Lord, I felt I knew

the answer to that question Ida had asked me about 10 months earlier.

The "design" God had in mind for me was to love Him and His servants, show others His way and use my talents to help this organization continue to offer opportunities to women like me. That uncertainty in my life became purpose and drive.

Two months after the national convention, I was asked to serve on a national committee. What a humbling feeling I carried with me as I learned of the large scale of work this organization is committed to doing.

Later I served the district as a vice president and convention chairman. After moving to a new town and LWML zone, I was blessed with two LWML ladies ringing my doorbell to greet and welcome me. They had heard through the LWML grapevine that I was certain to be interested in joining their group.

Several years of LWML hugs and service later, my family relocated to Kansas. A dear LWML friend and mentor helped me get acquainted with the congregations and LWML leadership in my new home. I have served as society president for three years now and was recently elected as a district vice president. What a blessing to be able to serve the Lord in LWML wherever I go! My joys in life certainly include many

LWML events and the women that I have met. I hope that list continues to grow as God provides opportunities for me. I still consider myself one of the younger ones, but I'm not the YWR anymore.

Lutheran women young and more experienced continue to have the misconception that they don't need LWML activities in their lives. Yet, in multiple conversations, I have heard them say they enjoy Bible study, fellowship and doing mission work. We often hear of the statistics about the rising age of this organization and the questions about how to get young women involved. I feel we need to begin with prayer. Beyond this, we just need to talk to the younger women in our lives.

The larger congregations have so many programs going on, it may not be that another women's ministry event or meeting is what they need. We can ask them to participate in small ways. It seems in this day, we all find time to go to "events" but rarely want to go to a meeting. Someone recently told me, "creating a reason for me to come, gets me to care more about being involved in the future."

Tammy Songer

VP Member Resources, Kansas District
Former YWR

Join Us in Sioux Falls!

Were you a YWR at a national LWML convention? Come and share your YWR story at a YWR Reunion, to be held during the lunch hour on Friday, June 22, at the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls. Pick up your pre-ordered box lunch or purchase your lunch from the concessions, and join us for a YWR Rockin' Reunion. Bring your experiences and bond with other YWRs. Fun and fellowship provided. The location of this event and more details will be in the convention daily newspaper. Let us know if you plan to attend so we can have an idea how many to prepare for. E-mail Anne Hartman: amhartman@charter.net



We Need Your Help

Will you be at the Sioux Falls Convention? The Leader Development committee needs your help at their booth! We will have some times that the booth needs to be "manned" but the YWRs to Sioux Falls will be in their programming. We would love to have you fill one of those time slots so please contact Anne Hartman at amhartman@charter.net and she will let you know a time we could use you to help out at the booth.

Christian Life Equals Fruit-full Living

What's your favorite fruit? Bananas, apples, oranges? I love blueberries! All are delicious and beneficial for our health. What a blessing for us that someone takes time to plant the seeds, water them, and provide everything needed to make them grow and produce fruit.

There's another kind of fruit important to our life, spiritual life, that is. It begins with planting the seed, the seed of God's Word in our hearts. At Baptism we receive the gift of faith in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What we do afterward affects the fruit that is produced. Are we feeding our faith what it needs to grow — God's Word — by regularly reading the Bible, attending church, receiving His Body and Blood at Holy Communion?

No matter what age we are, the Holy Spirit nourishes our faith through God's Word so we may live fruit-fully. If you haven't read the entire Bible yet, my challenge to you is to get started and make that your goal. What better way than following the routine provided in your LWML purple *Today's Light Bible*!

If God's Word lives in our hearts, what happens? We treasure it. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also* (Matthew 6:21). What should we do with that treasure? Live it. Share it. The fruit will grow and show! *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control* (Galatians 6:22a).

Others may put you down because of your faith. Don't be discouraged. Young Timothy had the same problem. His encouraging words are, *Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity* (1 Timothy 4:12).

Something to consider: What fruit is evident in your life?

Virian Ernst

LWML VP of Christian Life

YWR Devotion

Family Foundations: What's IMPORTANT?

Lois & Eunice knew!

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." — II Timothy 1:3-5

What's really important? For ourselves? For our children? Is it money? Creature comforts? Success? Fame? Fun?

Looking back at my childhood, I didn't have much in the way of material things. But yet I had what was really important in life! At night, as I drifted off to sleep, in our drafty old farmhouse, I could hear my parents praying aloud in the next room as they interceded for each of their five children, by name, and then spoke the Lord's Prayer.

Years later, as a young minister's wife and a busy mother of five small children, I often drew strength, knowing that my parents prayed for me every night. Also, they regularly fed the family on God's Word through nightly Bible readings. **What a treasure these**

nightly Bible readings were! Timothy found this treasure as his mother, Eunice, and

grandmother, Lois, read to him ...from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (II Timothy 3:15) Not only did I learn about God's grace, but also, with the shield of God's Word, I

was able to "extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (Ephesians 6:16)

My wise parents gave me the one thing **most important—the weapons of the Spirit and the Word of God!**

What's really important? Knowing your Savior, Jesus, and sharing Him with your children and those you love!

Hymn 201 TLH

*Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate to life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense,
Jesus is my confidence!*

Jeanette Stohlmann

Jeanette Stohlmann lives in St. Paul MN, is a teacher and author of devotional books

Did You Know ...

The LWML has a wonderful catalog full of resources to help you. Some of the areas covered in the LWML Catalog are Bible Studies, Mission and Mites, Program Resources, and Planning and Organizing. These are many wonderful products available in the LWML Catalog to help you promote LWML too — clothes, jewelry, aprons, bags, and the list goes on. If you haven't taken the time to check out the LWML Catalog, be sure to contact the LWML Office to get a copy. Call 1-800-252-LWML (5965) or visit <http://www.lwml>.

