



# MINNESOTA NORTHERN LIGHT

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE  
MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS! PSALM 100:2



FALL 2009

## *Convention: Come to the Living Water*

**When?** June 28-30, 2010

**Where?** Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center,  
Alexandria, MN

**Keynote Speaker:** Phyllis Wallace, host of "Woman  
to Woman" radio program

**Bible Study Leader:** Rev. Terry Finnern, Zion,  
Alexandria

**Entertainer:** Jan Struck, "Struck with Laughter"

**Nominations:** See page 11

**Mission Grant Applications** are due February 15,  
2010. For more information, check out the web site at  
[www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org) or contact Dorothy Abrahamson  
at 218-885-2368 or [gospeloutreach@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:gospeloutreach@lwmlmnn.org).  
Think of worthy mission projects we can support with  
our Mites.



*Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes,  
let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

Revelation 22:17b NIV

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*The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman  
of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship  
with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world.*



## Thankfulness

*Give thanks unto the Lord, Call upon His Name! Make known His deeds among the people.*

These are words from 1 Chronicles 16:8 and also Psalm 105, but it also reminds me of a choir piece that I have sung. It's one of those tunes that I find myself humming as I go about my day. As I catch myself humming, I think, "What are the words?" and then it comes to me - GIVE THANKS! I am thankful for the opportunity that we have within the LWML to help make known God's deeds not only within our communities, but within our country and the world.

We, LWML members, have been challenged by President Jan Wendorf, to go on Short Term Mission trips. Our MN North district accepted that challenge by adopting a mission grant at our 2008 convention to assist our members with \$500 grants to go on a short term mission trip. Some of you may be feeling the nudge and 'call for workers in the harvest fields'. If that is you, please contact Dorothy Abrahamson, Gospel Outreach chairman, for more information.

I am thankful for technology that helps us to be able to share the Good News with more and more people. Some of the ways that we, the MN North District LWML, are reaching out:

\* MN North LWML Web Site - [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)

\* E-newsletter - our *Minnesota Northern Light* delivered by e-mail. (Also posted on our Web Site and mailed via Postal Service)

\* E-Prayer Chain - you can contact our Christian Life chairman, Joan Johnson, to sign up for this

\* E-mail - you can contact any of the board members via their LWML e-mail address - (mine for example is - [president@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:president@lwmlmnn.org))

I am thankful for the freedoms we have in this country that we *can* share about Jesus both in our daily conversations and through our many forms of media. I love that we can pray together and worship together in a church, a building, or even outside as I had the opportunity to do in Portland before the start of convention.

I am thankful for the many men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, protecting our nation and freedoms. Please remember to keep them and their families in your prayers. One of our MN North Mission Grants is to support Ministry to Armed Forces - Ministry by Mail (\$5000).

I am thankful for *all* of the women who are leaders within our congregations that 'Serve the Lord with Gladness.' God has called each of you for such a time as this: '*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven*'. Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Thank you, women who **are in the Word, of the Word, and walking with the Lord.**

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer for all things living, created good. Harvest and sown field, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown field, blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord, the labor we bring to serve You that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with You, harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for Your children, by Your wise guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know Your care.

Text: Albert Bayly, Copyright 1987 Oxford University Press. From Lutheran Service Book #789.

## Fall Retreat

'Compulsions of the Heart – Something Awful is Happening' was the focus for the weekend retreat at Lutheran Island Camp in August. Sixty-nine women were in attendance on Saturday.

Pastor Seter challenged us to live out our faith by doing acts of Christ-style mercy for those in need. He spoke of his experiences with the African people and how their witness to what they were doing, i.e., telling the good news of Jesus, in some cases risking their lives to do it, filled him with AWE.

He cited II Corinthians 5:14-15 as 'Christian motivation in a nutshell.' *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."*

"Christ died for you so that you can live for Him. You live for Him by living for others. There is a compulsion in the hearts of believers that causes them to 'look to the interest of others.' Acts of mercy may be opportunities for us to get our foot in the door to tell others about Christ, but primarily they function as our response to what we are in God: Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit. We do good works because that is what we are in Christ."

Pastor Seter led us in song during the weekend. Many of the songs were ones that he had composed.

Saturday evening we were entertained by the Great Adventure Gospel Band. David and Chris Garms and their seven children are all very talented in singing and playing a variety of instruments. It was wonderful entertainment.

Closing worship was led by Pastor Seter. Parents and children attending other camps that weekend joined us for worship.

A few comments from the survey sheets: Very good topic and presenter. Good fellowship. Thought-provoking Bible study. Challenges me to think outside myself. It was a blessing to me. I like the idea of entertainment on Saturday night – it was great! I haven't been to a retreat for a long time and it was exactly what I needed. The retreat gives me an opportunity to relax and reflect on God's love and blessings, and making and renewing old friendships.

Next year's retreat will be held the weekend of August 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It's not too early to mark your calendar.



## CHANGE IN NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

Trying to practice good stewardship, the LWML Board of Directors adopted the following change:

"Beginning with the spring 2010 issue in April, the *Minnesota Northern Light* will be sent as an e-newsletter to all members who have a valid e-mail address. Those members who are entitled to a complimentary copy [society presidents, society secretaries, zone presidents, zone pastoral counselors, district board members] will receive a printed copy if they request one. Paid subscriptions will also receive a printed copy. Others [all society officers, all zone officers, district committee members, convention delegates] will receive an e-newsletter." Contact Kristin Olsen, Editor, if you have further questions.

**Status of Mission Grants for the 2008-2010 Biennium**

PROJECTS	GOAL	PREVIOUSLY PAID OR ALLOCATED	PAID OR ALLOCATED THIS QUARTER	BALANCE
Scholarships for Seminary Students Preparing for Ordination	\$11,000	\$6,875	\$1,375	\$2,750
Scholarships for Full-Time Church Worker Students	\$55,000	\$34,375	\$6,875	\$13,750
Summer Staff Training at Lutheran Island Camp	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$1,325	\$3,675
Ministry to the Armed Forces- Ministry by Mail	\$5,000	\$2,750		\$2,250
Outreach to Muslim Women	\$4,000	\$2,200		\$1,800
Orphan Grain Train	\$8,500	\$4,300		\$4,200
VBS for Native American Children White Earth Res.-Nebraska Youth	\$4,000	\$2,450		\$1,550
Food & Clothing Coop Fort Wayne Seminary	\$5,000	\$3,500		\$1,500
Medical Equipment for Haiti Clinic	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$1,325	\$1,175
Food Bank at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	\$5,000	\$3,500		\$1,500
Recruitment, Training & Equipping of Native Americans for Full-Time Church Work & Ministry	\$6,000	\$3,000		\$3,000
Window at LSF Ministry House, St. Cloud	\$5,000	\$3,000		\$2,000
Go! Share Jesus! Mission Grants for LWML Volunteer Missionaries	\$4,000	\$2,000		\$2,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$132,500	\$80,450	\$10,900	\$41,150

4 Mite calendars for this quarter are available on the web site: <[www.lwmlmn.org](http://www.lwmlmn.org)>

***Mission in Focus: Recruitment, Training & Equipping of Native Americans for Full-Time Church Work & Ministry***

We are so thankful to the Minnesota North LWML District for their recent gift toward the grant proposal from 2008 for Native Training. The LWML has been very supportive of the ministry of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. and for that we are grateful and give thanks. At the recent convention in Portland, our grant request for Native Training through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program was awarded.

God's Blessings,  
*Sue Gebel*  
Development Specialist

**LWML Partners with Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. in reaching Students at Haskell Indian Nations University**

At the 2007 LWML convention, a \$95,000 grant was awarded for ministry at Haskell INU. Will and Patricia Main began working with students on that campus through the Haskell LIGHT Ministry. Will is now enrolled in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program and is taking online courses to become an ordained minister. At the 2009 LWML convention, a \$100,000 grant was awarded to provide scholarships for Native students in training, such as Will. God is using "mites" to touch the lives of many in a "mighty" way. Will shares how God is at work and what a "Mighty God" we serve. Read more...



<http://www.lutheranmissionariesandpilots.org/ourministry/TextMessaging.htm>

## ***PowerPak for LWML Mission Grants Now Available***

Information on the mission grants adopted at the 2009 LWML Convention in Portland is now ready for sharing through the latest edition of the PowerPak, a free downloadable resource. This special collection of 19 distinctive 8 ½ by 11 inch posters features attractive photos, along with a prayer, for each of the mission grants for the 2009-2011 biennium. PowerPak is offered to encourage support and commitment to the work that will be accomplished through the funding of each of these LWML supported grants that are a part of the 2009-2011 biennium mission goal of \$1,825,000.

Each colorful poster may be printed, distributed and shared. The design of the posters also allows for printing attractive black/white copies. Some suggested uses for the PowerPak include:

- creating or accentuating themes for school bulletin boards and Sunday School displays;
- incorporating into a Power Point presentation;
- using for personal and family prayer and devotions;
- placing printed sheets on fellowship hall bulletin boards; and
- using as newsletter inserts.

The PowerPak is available as a free download from the LWML Website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)



## ***God, our Creator, reigns***

SUMMER (did we really ever have much summer?) flowing into the beautiful FALL season is always time to rejoice in the miracle of creation. How can anyone deny the “planning” God has done to give us the beauty of the colorful, falling leaves! It brings out the life of Christ---He died (as the vegetation does in the fall), He rose again (as spring comes and everything comes back to life), He “blossoms” as does ALL His creation in the seasons of the year. And so the cycle goes---He planned so perfectly for us and continues to bless us. And are we grateful? Do we care for His creation as He would like for us to do? We try and because we are sinners- and not so perfect - we have to work at this each and every day.

In Matthew 6:25 Jesus reminds us: “*Do not be anxious about your life, what you*

*shall eat---Look at the birds----your Heavenly Father feeds them.*” He will always be there to sustain us----every day is a gift from God.

Excerpts from a familiar song “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” remind us that He has brothers and sisters...sun, wind and rain...moon and stars...tiny little babies,...rivers and mountains...oceans and seas...you and me. EVERYBODY and EVERYTHING are in HIS hands. (written by Forrest, Hamilton/Stephens Lyrics by: Tim Hughes Copyright: Unknown.)

Gracious God, let us be thankful for everything You have given us. You entrusted it to our care and you continue to provide us with all we need. Amen.

**GOD IS IN CONTROL---THIS IS HIS WORLD.**

## ***Stamps for Missions***

For many years the Minnesota North District has been collecting stamps to raise money for missions. You can, too! By clipping and sending us your canceled postage stamps or bringing them to any LWML event, we are able to auction them off in batches for sale by weight to collectors and club auctions. The money raised goes towards our Mission Grants.

It has taken me a while, but I have finally found someone who will take our Stamps for Missions. Please continue to follow the suggestions on the Stamps for Mission page, ESPECIALLY keeping 1/4 inch or more around any of the stamps you send me. He will take any stamps, even the regular ones for now. If you have any other questions, please contact me. Stamps for Missions Guidelines:

- Do save all foreign stamps.
- Do save all commemorative stamps (larger than standard size).
- Do save all stamps with a value of \$1 or more.
- Do save entire postcards.
- Do not pull, soak, or otherwise take stamps off the paper.
- Do not reglue stamps.
- Do not save torn or creased stamps, or stamps with damaged perforations.
- Do not save stamps on red or green envelopes.

(Continued on page 7)

## *A Time to Lead*

*“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven.”*

Ecclesiastes.3:1

For a whole year you have been hearing about AOL (Assembly of Leaders.) As I am writing to you today, I am **anticipating** our upcoming AOL meetings.

When you are reading this letter, you may have already attended an AOL session. If not, you may still have an opportunity to take part in a meeting. I pray that God will move you to have the desire to attend.

May you become energized in your commitment to serve the Lord as a leader in your local societies, **Serving the Lord with Gladness.**

Now that we have attended an AOL meeting or will soon attend, it is time to do a review.

We all have special gifts from God and one of those might be leadership. People aren't born leaders. They are women who have

stepped forward in faith and let the Lord use them in whatever way He chooses. When they are elected or appointed, they continue to trust God to give them guidance, wisdom and strength. That's how they develop leadership skills.

### **A Christian leader will be:**

1. Praying - connected to Christ
2. Committed to LWML
3. Enthusiastic
4. Forward thinking
5. Open to new ideas
6. A good listener
7. A servant leader
8. An encourager
9. Organized

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4: 10-11.*



## ***Stamps for Missions....***continued from page 6

If you have any questions, you can call me at 218-891-4465 or email me at <humancare@lwmlmnn.org> Send stamps to: Joanne Beiswenger, 500 Kittson Place #106, Fisher, MN 56723

You can save postage by giving sorted stamps to your Regional Vice President at the rallies. She can then pass them on at the quarterly Board of Directors meeting.

Stamps in albums, older postcards and envelopes (from 1930 or earlier) and first day covers should be sent as they are. It is helpful if you can trim and sort the stamps before bringing them to meetings. REMEMBER: Cut the stamps from envelopes with a margin of no less than 1/4 inch around the stamp. This provides a "handling area" for the collector. (Trimmed too closely the stamp may be damaged and become worthless.)

Sort them into separate plastic bags and mark them: Foreign, Commemorative, High Value, Mixed (if you are not sure about a category), Common.



## *District LWML awards scholarships*

Scholarships for students pursuing a career in full-time church work has been selected by the district LWML conventions for many years as one of the projects to be funded with offerings of Mites. The women of the LWML hope to support and encourage future workers of the church.

The following scholarships have been awarded for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Concordia, St. Paul, Minnesota
  - Amanda Jacobsen, Little Falls
  - Mandy Kuhnau, Alexandria
  - Mark Langon, Akeley
  - Adam Myers, Moorhead
  - Dan Schield, Two Harbors
  - Kyle Sorkness, Fergus Falls
  - Zach Van Vleet, Mora
  - Kayla Vrundy, Finlayson
  - Rachel Vrudny, Finlayson
  - Caileen Wagner, Elbow Lake
  - Andrew Wischnewski, Esko
- Concordia, Seward, Nebraska
  - Katherine Deterding, Fergus Falls
  - Julia Mueller, Swanville
  - Lindsey Schmitz, Moorhead
  - John Koopman, Ortonville
- Concordia, Mequon, Wisconsin
  - Katie Timm, Sauk Rapids
- Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne
  - Chris Horton, Aitkin

**Adam Myers** of Moorhead, a pre-sem student at Concordia St. Paul, writes to MN North LWML: Thank you for your continued generosity in granting me your scholarship. Your financial support is an answer to prayers regarding financing my education because my dad is no longer living. Thank you again and God's blessing to you. Grace and Peace.

**Visit the LWML web sites:**  
[www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) & [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)

The school year is definitely moving along. We LWMLers continue to prayerfully drop Mites into our personal Mite boxes. Students in full-time church work curriculums are most appreciative of our support. Chris Horton and Julia Mueller (see page 14), two students who are nearing completion of their preparation for working in congregations, took time to send you and me these insightful letters. Obviously our Concordias are providing opportunities to put book information from the classroom into "see how you can do this with God's guidance." This DCE student and this seminarian give us a glimpse of their Walk in the Light, as they, too, serve the Lord with gladness.

Anne

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From **Chris Horton:**

I have returned to Fort Wayne and have been sorting through a mountain of mail that accumulated while we enjoyed a lengthy summer break back in Minnesota. In that mountain of mail I found ... your letter informing me of the LWML scholarship. This is great news for me, yet somehow I am having mixed emotions about it...

The support from the ladies' Mites is so very helpful and much appreciated. The mixed feelings that I mentioned having are caused by the fact that I am the only [seminary] applicant. Where have all the Minnesotans gone? I trust that this is only an oddity this year and that men will continue to answer the call to serve...

It was wonderful to get to return to Minnesota for part of the summer... [God] continues to bless our family beyond measure and the scholarship is another great example. Thank you very, very much. God's peace be yours in Christ.

## News from our YWRs

Hi, my name is Christine Hall and I am a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Frazee, Minnesota. Last fall I was given an application by my society president to become a YWR. Not knowing anything about being a YWR, I took the application home and neatly tucked it away in my junk mail pile. Little did I know that application would later change my life!



One day I pulled out the application and started answering the essay questions and eventually got the application sent in by the December 1st deadline. In January I learned I was chosen to represent our district as a YWR to Portland in June. I had no idea what I was committing myself to other than thinking how great it would be to get a little vacation away from my family and home. However, experiencing the LWML convention as a YWR was far from being a relaxing vacation. It was an amazing, inspiring 4 days of being moved by Christ!

I will touch on the highlights of the convention from my own personal experience but will not take time to elaborate on the fabulous speakers and amazing Bible studies.

I arrived on Thursday, June 25th at about 11a.m., rode the Maxx light rail from the airport to my hotel and went over to the convention center, which was 5 blocks away. The weather was beautiful. My first assignment was helping pack and count things that were donated for "Gifts from the Heart." I counted over 1000 pencils and other schools supplies and boxed them

accordingly. What a great gesture for the people in need in the surrounding Portland communities.

Following this we had a district caucus meeting where I met President Cheryl for the first time and also met the other YWR for Minnesota North, Nicky Kuhn. Nicky was also my roommate and we shared many laughs and tears together throughout the convention. We received our YWR pin at this time and it was then that I realized being a YWR was going to be a very special memory in my life.

The first evening I got to experience the amazing opening worship service. I have never seen communion given to over 3000 people in such an efficient manner. Nor had I ever seen so many clergy dressed in their beautiful robes. I had goose bumps throughout the whole service!

Friday morning we were up bright and early for a brief devotion time for the YWRs and then proceeded to line up for our banner procession showcasing the banners representing each district. It was a great honor for Nicky and I to walk behind President Cheryl. It was an emotional experience and once again goose bumps erupted - and not because I was cold! Sitting with Cheryl in the delegate seating was very helpful. She was so kind to us and eager to answer our questions, which only broadened our experience. We appreciated the treats she gave us too!

Friday evening the YWRs had the pleasure of dining with the LWML president, Janice Wendorf. President Janice is truly a lovely and down-to-earth lady. It was an honor to meet her. President Jan gave each of the YWRs a signed copy of *Today's Light Bible*, a two year devotional journey through the Bible.



Saturday morning my roommate and I participated in the pledge walk. Portland is nicknamed “The City of Roses,” so walking in the park enabled us to see some of the beautiful flowers blooming in Portland. Following our walk, the YWRs met and lined up for another procession before opening session on Saturday. This time we had the privilege of carrying flags representing all the countries LWML mites have served. I carried the flag of Norway, which was a personal honor for me because of my familial ties to Norway. During the sessions on this day we heard from several missionaries who have experienced our mite money in action.

The closing entertainment for the convention was the “Pride of Portland” chorus. What an inspiring group of women to listen to! Saturday night ended with YWR devotions, where we had the honor of meeting Cynthia Khan, who was on the cover of our spring issue of the *Lutheran Women’s Quarterly*. Her story is amazing and I would encourage people to pull out their spring issue and read her story if they haven’t done so already.

Sunday morning ended with closing worship and lots of tears and goodbyes.

Once again, I have not touched on any of the inspiring speakers or thought provoking Bible studies, even though they were a huge part of the convention experience. I wanted to give a taste of what my personal experience was like. If I was to single out one highlight, I would have to say it was learning about the missions and mites and how they work. This was a “light bulb” experience for me.

Being a YWR was truly an honor and an experience I will never forget. I would like to thank my district from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity and I will encourage other young women in the future to apply for this as well.

Thank you and God bless!

### *One Mountain Down...or Up?*

In June I had the privilege of attending the 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial LWML convention. The theme this year was Look to the Hills God Reigns. Let’s just say I have a new-found “Purple Pride”. What an amazing display of love for our Lord and for humanity!



My journey to the hills began with fellow Young Women Reps gathering Gifts of the Heart. Women from all over brought teddy bears, socks, school supplies, personal hygiene products and truly gave from their hearts. It was an uplifting feeling of hope and compassion. Many hugs were shared as well as words of encouragement and appreciation. The view was beautiful on my hillside.

Later that night I met up with Cheryl, our District’s President, and Christine Hall, the other MN North YWR. Christine and I participated in the District’s meeting. It was very interesting to see the LWML at this level. When I first joined the League it was for fun, support, and becoming “a part” of something. I had no idea how large an organization LWML was or how structurally sound it was. I learned quickly.

After this meeting was over Christine and I went to join the other YWR’s. We talked about the agenda of our brief stay, and discussed further the inner working of the League. It was very interesting to hear how other societies functioned. Some had few members, others flourished. Most of all, I realized how my passion for serving the Lord was shared. I found myself in a place where I could just feel the Spirit’s love and “a peace that surpasses all understanding.” It is a phrase I had heard many times, but this time I felt it. It was peaceful.

The convention kicked off with a worship service I will not soon forget. President Janice Wendorf began with an introduction. It was Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, President of the Northwest District LCMS 1994-2009, who touched my heart and thousands of other sisters and brothers is Christ. He was so passionate his eyes shone and a smile never left his face. His words touched everyone's heart and soul: "Our God Reigns". Would you believe they had 30 communion stations set up?

The next days (hours really) were filled with meetings and some amazing, empowering speakers. The meetings were very professional. By-laws were passed, offices filled. The energy was intense, laughter was contagious, and tears were shed. We discussed the mite goal and how we surpassed it. We voted on how to distribute these resources. Because of LWML mites 19 missions will be supported; nineteen - in a time of struggle we reigned because "Our God Reigns!"

We learned to speak up thanks to Dr. Mary Hilgendorf, our Bible study leader. She says "You have to break a few eggs to make an omelet. Speak up! You have something to say!" She paralleled the relationships of Naomi and Ruth as the voice of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As Ruth mentored Naomi, we too can become mentors to the young women in our congregation. Mary tells us to start small: have a coffee club or provide a meal with childcare. Anyone can be a mentor if only for a moment. Take those

moments to influence young moms. Tell them they are not alone and that the Lord is near. Offer patience, an ear, a heart and a message from our Creator. Reach out to all members with the same open heart and hands.

Ruth N. Koch, mental health educator and National Certified Counselor, shared with us her reflection on a journey to a hill top in her life. She reminded us that we will get tired, annoyed, lost, and probably get some blisters, but getting to the top will be worth it. She encouraged us to start planning our next trip, while we're still on one. We all have hills or mountains in our lives. We are reminded that great things happen at the top of these mountains. The Bible illustrates Jesus' mountain-top experiences. We, too, need to keep "Looking to the Hills" to our reigning God for answers, guidance, and peace.

This experience for me could not have been possible without the encouragement, support and love of the women in my own organization. I will be thankful forever for this honor and privilege to serve our Lord with gladness. I learned so much and took in every word, hug and smile. I am happy to share my experience with you. I hope you, too, will conquer your mountains with the help of our Lord and your sisters in Christ. I hope to hug you in Alexandria, MN next June or in Peoria in 2011.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

*Nicolle Kuhn*

## WANTED: THE LWML NEEDS YOU!

Servants of our Lord are needed to fill these positions on the LWML Board of Directors:

- Executive Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Regional Vice Presidents for Arrowhead II, Lakeland II, and Park II
- Pastoral Counselor for Arrowhead Region

For more information or to volunteer as a candidate for office or to suggest a nominee, contact Fran Wittnebel, chairman of the Nominating Committee, at 320-568-2381 or [fwittnebel@yahoo.com](mailto:fwittnebel@yahoo.com).

# STRUCTURE

*Julia Peery*



## *Aids to leadership*

As a follow-up to the Assembly of Leader meetings this fall, you may be looking for guidelines to help the members of your society improve their skills as leaders. LWML has produced a series, *Helping You to Lead*. Each guideline costs \$1.00 or the set of all twelve can be purchased for \$12.00.

Guidelines are given for:

- Archivist-Historian
- Structure Committee
- Christian Life Committee
- Financial Officer
- Leader Development
- Mission Grants
- Nominating Committee
- Parliamentary Basics for Everyone
- President
- Secretary
- Vice President
- Individual Membership

More information is available on page 16 of the *LWML 2009-2010 Catalog*.

All these are wonderful tools to use, helping to keep your business meetings running at their best!

# EDITOR

*Carol Benson*



It is my pleasure to introduce to you the new editor of this newsletter and the LWML Lutheran Witness supplement, Kristin Olsen of Little Falls. Kristin is a member of Zion Lutheran Church and is currently the secretary of the Little Falls Zone. She has had other editing positions, including being the current editor of the newsletter of the Morrison County Genealogy Society. We pray that God will bless her work among us.

Kristin will begin with the January issues of both publications. The e-mail address will remain the same, so continue to send

information and subscription items to <editor@lwmlmnn.org>

As I leave this position after four and a half years, I am grateful to God for the many Lutheran Women in Mission that I have met and worked with.

May God continue to bless the LWML and keep us all serving the Lord with gladness wherever and whenever He has need of us.

Blessings,  
*Carol*

## *Developing meaningful ministry*

Members of the LWML developed the **Mission-Ministry** Vision Program to help the organizations (societies, zones, and districts):

- Meet the needs of today's women! (Mission)
- Nurture spiritual growth! (Ministry)
- Involve more women in meaningful ministry! (Vision)

*Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.... let us encourage one another.* Hebrews 10:24,25

You are God's servant when you...

- Are open minded to new ideas
- Look for someone to invite to LWML
- Listen to what others are really saying
- Proclaim the greatness of God; sing; pray
- Use your arms to give hugs
- Lend a helping hand; fold hands in prayer
- Open your heart in Christian Love
- Move your feet to visit others
- Bend your knees to pray

**Mission-Ministry Vision is to assist local women's groups to reach out:**

### **The Mission:**

From Matthew 28:19-20: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations*

*baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of age."*

### **The Ministry:**

Are we, as a society, willing to make sacrifices – to walk the extra mile?

Matthew 26:39 Jesus said, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me, Yet not as I will, but as you will."*

We need to make it our main goal to encourage **others** to discover Christ in His Word. Hebrews 12:2: *"Let us fix our eye on Jesus..."* and Romans 1:16: *"I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."*

### **The Vision:**

You are responsible for the depth of your study in God's Word. God is responsible for the **breadth** of your growth and ministry. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, seek Him first in your life and He will take care of the rest.

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."*

--taken from "You are God's Servant" by Louise Rickey



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## MEMORIALS

Parkers Prairie, Immanuel LWML in memory of Leonard Hardekopf  
Sauk Rapids, Zion Women's Society in memory of Pauline Rueckert

*Memorials are to be sent to the Financial Secretary, Donna Scheif.*

*If you wish, you may designate the memorial for Mites or Minnesota North Mission Grants.*

## THANK YOU

### *Gratitude for scholarship grant*

Thank you so much for your support in all ways. I especially want to thank you for the scholarship that you have invested in and extended to me, as well as others who are preparing to serve as full time church workers! Everything you do is greatly appreciated.

I wanted to share with you a little bit of what I have been up to, as I am training and gaining experience to be a DCE and an ecclesiastical artist.

In the 2008-2009 school year I was a practicum student at Messiah Lutheran in Lincoln, Nebraska. I was able to gain a great deal of experience teaching and leading as well as doing a lot of helpful observation.

This summer I was blessed with an opportunity to do an ecclesiastical art internship at a NLOMA camp out in Felton, California--Mount Cross. I was the arts and crafts director for the summer and was also able to design and make a piece of art that will stay at that Camp. This was an especially great internship, because I was very clearly able to use my background and understanding of DCE ministry as well as doing faith-based

art. God certainly is good!!!! He never ceases to be faithful, and His blessings are abundant.

I am headed back down to Seward to begin my last year at ConcordiaNebraska. After this I have a year of internship for my DCE education and I will have completed my coursework! I am very excited to see and experience what God has in store for my future.

Thank you again for everything! You are a significant part of my being able to attend a fantastic school and to achieve my goal of becoming a professional church worker! GOD'S PEACE! John 14:27

*Julia Mueller*

From the parents of Julia:

Dear LWML,

We want to thank you so much for your prayers and monetary support for our daughter, Julia Mueller, who is attending Concordia, Seward. We can't tell you how much of a difference your help makes! May God bless each and every one of you as you have all blessed Julia!

Sincerely,

*Jeff and Ruth Mueller*

## MITE UPDATE

In order to fully fund the Minnesota North District mission grants for this biennium, a **total of \$54,867** must be received by March 31, 2010. That is ***\$9,145 per month!*** Please prayerfully consider how you can support these worthy projects.

Our Mite offerings are divided between the national LWML and the district mission grants: 25% goes to the national LWML Mite goal and 75% funds our Minnesota North Mission Projects.

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Please send your articles, information, and subscriptions to

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