

The Mission Voice

Louisiana–Mississippi District LWML

*Introducing the NEW LAMS
Newsletter!*

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The President's Corner

It is difficult to believe that six months have passed since you placed your faith in my leadership abilities and elected me as your district president. Much has happened since then that is God-pleasing and exciting, and I wanted to share a few of them with you.

The district executive committee met on Friday, September 23 in Monroe to do some short and long range planning and visioning. It was exciting to see everyone working in small groups led by each vice-president to plan their committees' role.

A new technology and communications committee has been formed. Communication is key to growing our district as well as supporting and encouraging each other. There are now three means of keeping up with district happenings and each other. Melissa Meeks maintains our Face Book page and is committee coordinator. Daisy Olmstead established and maintains our district website. Kimberlea Lessman is our new *Mission Voice* editor. You can find the Face Book page and website easily by searching for LA-MS LWML district. Once you locate them, bookmark those pages for ease of use in the future. Make use of these opportunities to tell others in the district what is happening and to stay informed.

You are hopefully already making plans to attend the national LWML convention in June 2017. There are two very important reasons to attend: it is in Albuquerque, NM, which is drivable, and it is the 75th anniversary of the LWML. More about this is on the website and in this newsletter. A related huge piece of news is that your board of directors voted to co-host the 2019 national convention in Mobile, Alabama! The two other hosting districts are Georgia-Florida and Gulf States. What an honor and privilege to be such an integral part of the convention. There will be much news within the next two years regarding our roles. Plan to attend now. More information will be available after the 2017 convention.

I am aware we are very blessed to have dedicated and faithful district, zone, and society leaders who love the Lord and who serve Him willingly and selflessly. We cannot do it alone, so your leaders need to be lifted in prayer daily by each of you, asking God to give them the strength and wisdom to do the work He would have them do. Pray also for yourselves, that God will show you the right paths and lead you to where He has need of you. God's richest blessings be upon you as you serve Him with such joy and gladness

Your sister in Christ,

Anita



HOW TO BE A PILLAR IN YOUR GROUP.

1 Peter 4:11 says, If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so 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 (NIV).

St. Peter is often called a pillar of the church. He gives us some great advice in the previous passage to help us define how we, too, can be pillars. A pillar is an object used to support a structure. In organizations such as the LWML, “pillars” are members who are prominent supporters that set an example for the others in their group to follow. Strong groups need strong members. Here are some ways you can help build up your LWML and support the work God has given them to do:

- **Be in the Word. God’s Word is our strength. Servants need to be nourished by the Word in order to be strong. Being in the Word as a group and as an individual will strengthen your bond as sisters in Christ.**
- **Connect.** Find ways to connect personally with others. Ask questions and identify common areas of interest. Do something outrageously kind for a sister in Christ with no expectation of anything in return. Your positive, genuine efforts will have a lasting impact.
- **Pray. Praying is a bit like blogging. With blogging we pour**



"Be Confident in God. God doesn't send the equipped..... He equips those He sends!"

our hearts out in online entries, which in itself is cleansing. We then hope someone will read the entry, and may even look to see if anyone has offered advice. With prayer, we don't need to wonder if anyone is listening; we know God always hears us, and He offers us direction and guidance in His Word to inspire us with ways to address our

problems. He of course delights when we share our joys with Him!

- Collaborate. Your sisters in Christ are an excellent support system. Ask for their opinions and listen to what they have to say. Incorporate their input into your decision making. Work on inclusion and resist exclusion.
- Put yourself out there. Go out of your way to greet a sister you haven't talked to in a while. Never ignore someone because you think she ignored you first; she probably never even noticed you were there because she was trying to decide whether the oven had been left turned on or not. And that's the way it starts – once you begin to do it, others try it too, because they see it's safe and enjoyable.
- Do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. Demonstrate integrity and stand up to unethical comments or decisions. Often all it takes is one brave soul to ask a sensible question, "Do we all really believe that this is the right thing to do ... that this is what God would have us do?" Then more people will feel strong enough to say that they, too, don't agree. That one brave soul can be anyone. With God's help, it can be you.
- **Be Confident in God. God doesn't send the equipped ... He equips those He sends!**

Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Helping Organizations Participate Effectively www.lwml.org/resources/hope-committee/ March 2012

Grant Spotlight

BIBLE STORYBOOKS FOR ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN

At our 2016 District Convention we approved several grants to be funded over the next two years totaling \$27,500.00! One that we voted to fund was the “Bible Storybooks for Ethiopian Children” for \$3,000. This grant will serve to further the spread of the Gospel and the well known Bible stories to children in Ethiopia that may not otherwise hear the story of the creation, Noah and the ark, Moses, Ruth, the virgin birth of Jesus, Jesus’ life and most importantly, Jesus death and resurrection that has provided our salvation.

Praise be to God that we can spread His Gospel to these children. We continue to work hard into the 2017-2018 years to fund grants such as these.



*We voted to fund
\$27,500 in grants over
the next 2 years!*

Lams Happenings

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
Philippians 1:3-5

Give thanks to the Lord for blessing us with called and lay church workers. Continue to pray for these church workers who are in our congregations, zones, districts and around the world. Speak kind words of support to them as together we serve the Lord with gladness.

Enjoy these pictures of you bountifully sowing, nourishing and reaping service at the 38th Biennial LA-MS District LWML Convention. Included are Thank you letters from the folks who were recipients of your generous giving.

Michelle Zollinger, LA-MS District LWML Vice President of Human Care





A LETTER FROM THE LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

January 15, 2016

Dear Friend's of LA-MS District LWML,

Thank you for your generous donation of Quilts and Kits for LWR's distribution overseas. These gifts of your hearts and hands are beautiful expressions of God's grace and love to people all around the world.

As the civil war in Syria continues, the number of civilian casualties, internally displace people and refugees also continues to grow. Millions of people have been displaced from their homes. Without work for many months, parents of displaced Syrian children lack any source of income to purchase school or basic hygiene materials for their children. Because of your support, LWR has been able to respond to this crisis, by shipping Mission Quilts, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits to Serbia to distribute to refugees and migrants. In helping meet the basic needs of displaced youth, you are helping children to succeed in their academic and personal pursuits while alleviating some of the financial burden on displace families.

Your quilts and kits both provide important necessities during this crisis and remind our Syrian neighbors that they are not alone or forgotten. In the first part of 2016, we have also shipped quilts and kits to India, Peru, Honduras, Georgia and Uganda to distribute to people in need. On behalf of our neighbors in villages, schools, hospitals, and refugee camps around the world, I extend deepest thanks for your contribution and pray God's richest blessings on your life and work!

In Christ,

Melanie W. Gibbons
Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager

*Lutheran World Relief Received 36 Blankets
from LA-MS LWML District*

**A LETTER FROM TERREBONNE CHURCHES UNITED/GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD
BANK IN HOUMA**

**“Whatever you did to one of the least of My brothers and sisters, you did to Me.”
Matthew 25:40**

May 10th, 2016

Dear Members of The LWML,

We are deeply grateful for your donation of 559 pounds of food items to families-in-need during the month of April, 2016.

Because of your help, and that of many others, during April we served 299 families consisting of 263 children, 434 adults and 24 elderly (a total of 721 individuals) by distributing 42,714 pounds of food and supplies which should last about three weeks; this allows our clients time to apply for Food Stamps, or as a supplement to food stamp allotments.

Our ministry is made possible through the generosity of people, churches, schools, businesses, social and civic organizations of Houma/Terrebonne, the United Way, Second Harvest and Feeding America and the work of our Volunteers who donated 487 hours of their time during the month.

Thank you for all that you do for the less fortunate of our Houma/Terrebonne Community.

With you, in service to others,

**Darwin Lafont,
Board President**



**WHATEVER YOU DID
FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE
BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE
YOU DID FOR ME**
MATTHEW 25:40

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Zone/Society Events

SOUTHWEST ZONE FALL RALLY



TO HAVE YOUR SOCIETY/ZONE EVENTS INCLUDED PLEASE EMAIL PHOTOS AND INFORMATION TO KIMBERLEAL@ME.COM

NATIONAL CONVENTION



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

37th Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 22-Sunday, June 25, 2017

Albuquerque Convention Center | Albuquerque, New Mexico

Theme: "Jesus Christ Above All"

The convention theme is based on the Scripture verse, *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name* (Philippians 2:9).

Convention Goal

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament,
I will proclaim Jesus Christ above all.

Convention Logo Explanation

The simple yet powerful design allows the viewer to find personal inspiration. The strong vertical lines may represent tall western mountain ranges, compass points, or skyscrapers. The cross, in royal purple, evokes Jesus as King, above all of man's striving for the heavens, while the blue lines embody sky and sea - Jesus rules even the earth. The vertical lines are broken by the word Jesus Christ, reminding us that Jesus is not only above all things, but in all things.



LWML 75th Anniversary

Come be part of the celebration of God's blessings through the work of LWML over 75 years of service (1942-2017). Special exhibits and a special 75th Anniversary Diamond Dazzle event Saturday night highlight our past and look toward our future.

For up-to-date information, see the 2016 winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, or visit the website: www.lwml.org.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD DESIGN!

We're having a contest to pick the design to represent our district at the 2017 LWML National Convention!

Submit your design to Madam President Anita Granger by December 31st, 2016 to be considered. Winner will be announced in the next issue of the Mission Voice and online.

We are also looking for a few good women to make the banner. If you would like to help please reach out the Madam President Anita Granger also.

Banner details are included below.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
37th Biennial Convention • June 22–25, 2017
Albuquerque, New Mexico



2017 Albuquerque Convention Banner Guidelines

Banner specifications are noted below.

1. Finished banner size is to be 3' X 5'. Added fringe may be longer.
2. You may **not** use the convention logo on your banner, but do base your design on the convention theme, "Jesus Christ Above All." You may use the convention colors (note the letterhead) or other colors if you wish. **Heavy fabric or bulky items are discouraged**, as your banner should be relatively easy to manage when carried.
3. Your district's name **must** be on the front of the banner, though it may be abbreviated. Use any size letters you wish. **Place a small identifying tag naming your district on the lower left corner on the backside of the banner**, to help identify your district banner when rolled up.
4. **Attach two ties to the back of the banner.** One of the ties is to be at the center of the banner width, about 10–12" from the top. The second tie is to be at the center of the banner width about 10–12" from the bottom. These ties should be long enough to tie a bow around a 2" pole, and are necessary to help hold the banner to the pole. Note: Do **not** use Velcro to hold banner to pole, as it has proved to be ineffective. Please use ties as described.
5. Dowels used at the bottom of banners must be tacked in place to prevent them from slipping out of the casing.
6. Attach the banner to a 1" dowel with a screw eye on each end of the dowel. **Please use a strong quarter-inch or 8 mm cord.** Make a small loop at the center for hanging. Secure the cording through each eye screw, laying the cord flat along the dowel, with the small loop at the center of the banner. Knot the cord on the outside of each screw. Be sure to attach the cord tightly because it will stretch when the banner is hung. We encourage you to hang your banner before sending it to the convention, to allow time for stretching.
7. The Host Committee will provide poles and stands for the banner.