



## Junior Counselor

By Pastor Lawrence Boyle

There was one thing in particular that struck me in this past fall's LWML Sunday Service. And that was the difficulty we have in forgiving those who sin against us. What struck me were the words of the opening hymn, "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive." We sang "Forgive our sins as we forgive, You taught us, Lord, to pray"... "live the words we say"... "the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart"... "What trivial debts are owed to us. How great our debt to You"... "bid resentment cease." Certainly those words made us take a look at ourselves. And that look probably was not comfortable.

It is interesting that the theme of the National Convention in Portland and LWML Sunday was "Look to the Hills - God Reigns." We read in Psalm 121, "I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?"

*My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."*

Where does my help come from to forgive those who sin against me? It comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth! In the hymn following the Words of Forgiveness in our LWML Service, we sang the following: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!"

I looked at many Bible verses that talked about healing, health, and the like. The one verse that especially struck me was Matthew 8:7, "Jesus said to him, 'I will go and heal him.'" I looked up the word "heal" in the Greek (language of the New Testament) dictionary, and to my wonderful amazement the word "heal" comes from the Greek word for **therapy!**

In the 100th episode of *On Main Street*, Lutheran Hour Ministries' TV talk show, Dr. Dale Meyer said that the most frequent subject talked about in letters written to Lutheran Hour Ministries is forgiveness. In that video a lady, who had been abused by her father when she was a child, said, "I don't forgive my father because he deserves it. I forgive my father because I deserve it." What she was saying is that I don't deserve to live the rest of my life angry at my father, bitter at my father, and resenting my father. Jesus did not die for me to be angry. He died to set me free from my anger, bitterness, and resentment. He died to set me free to *live!*

A doctor tells of a girl he had treated unsuccessfully for several months for anemia. Finally, he referred her to another doctor. A

week later he received a note from this doctor indicating that the blood figures he had did not agree with the ones the doctor had mentioned. The doctor took a fresh sample, rushed to the lab, and was amazed at the change. He sought information from the girl about what had happened. She replied, "I have suddenly been able to forgive someone against whom I bore a nasty grudge. Now at last I can say 'yes' to life." *Forgiving is therapy! Forgiving is healthy!* You don't deserve to live the rest of your life angry, bitter, and resentful. Jesus died so you can put that behind you by forgiving - and *live!* A Bible verse we are very familiar with is Isaiah 53:5 - "by His wounds we are healed." Christ's wounds heal us from our wounds. His hurt heals us from our hurt. His pain heals us from our pain! When we receive Holy Communion we hear Christ say to us, "Take, eat; this is My body, given for you. Take, drink; this is My blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Christ's body and blood - wounds - were given and shed for you so you can forgive those who sin against you and *live!* His body and blood - wounds - were not given and shed for you so you can be angry, bitter, and resentful the rest of your life. **You are healed by His wounds!** You are healed from the hurt of those who sin against you **by the wounds - hurt - of Christ!** You do not deserve to be angry, bitter, and resentful the rest of your life! You deserve to *live!* That's God's gift to you! I would like to close by quoting words of, once again, the hymn we sang on LWML Sunday - and which you, who attended the National Convention in Portland, sang.

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!*

*O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!*

*Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning*

*And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.*

*Have you not seen All that is needful has been, Sent by His gracious ordaining?*

*Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,*

**Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.**

**What need or grief ever has failed of relief?**

**Wings of His mercy did shade you.**

*Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;*

**Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do**

**As with His love He befriends you.**

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God



Rev. Lawrence Boyle  
Jr. Counselor  
Clarinda  
712-542-3524  
larryboye@hotmail.com

Lutheran Women in Mission

says, “I will restore you to health and heal your wounds” (Jeremiah 30:17). Forgiving those who sin against us is therapy. It is a healthy thing to do. We can do that for our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth!

## Gospel Outreach and Human Care

By Jean Jaskierny

This winter our IDW LWML will set itself to the task of preparing the grant selections for the ballot at next summer’s convention at Camp Okoboji from the submissions that are just now reaching my mailbox. It is the work of our hands set before us by our Lord. It is humbling really to continue the work that our organization has been about for so many years.

I am going to share a brief LWML history with you. It is available on the LWML website ([www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)) at the “history” link. The reason I’m sharing this good news with you is because I want you to know that you are part of history in the making. The prayers you give, the mites you collect so faithfully and dependably, your fellowship and Bible study with the LWML in your societies and zones equip you to do great things for God’s people all over the world and when action in the name of the Lord happens it is notable and worthy and the positive impact is a blessing that can’t be measured.

Thank you for sharing in the worthy tasks set before us. Thank you for being sisters in Christ with me in the Iowa District West Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

### History of the LWML

Written by Marlys Taege Moberg

“There’s no question the church is behind you because in so many ways you are ahead of the church.” With those words, a Lutheran historian applauded the progress of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) since its founding in 1942. Its roots, however, go back nearly a century earlier.

Beginning in the 1850s, women of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) started local auxiliaries to meet the needs of people—mending clothes for seminarians, equipping hospitals, establishing schools, developing convalescent and retirement homes, assisting orphanages and residences for people with disabilities, gathering clothing, furniture and food for indigents, and funding mission endeavors at home and abroad.

Not until the 1920s, however, did members of congregational societies begin to coordinate their efforts by uniting in state and regional leagues. Oklahoma was the first in 1928, but it took more than a decade before official approval was granted for a national LCMS women’s organization.

Although the U.S. was at war and travel was difficult, the founding convention, held July 7 and 8, 1942, in Chicago, was attended by over 100 women from 15 districts. The 28 delegates adopted a constitution, approved a name, chose two projects, and established a Literature Committee to publish books, a national magazine, tracts and programs. They also determined that 1/4 of the mission gifts collected in local societies would be given to the national organization and 3/4 used for district projects.

The purpose of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML), delegates agreed, was to develop a greater mission consciousness among women (“missionary education, missionary inspiration and missionary service”) and to gather funds for mission projects for which no adequate provision was made in the LCMS budget. “Missionary” meant the individual member, who was to “win and hold souls for Christ the Master, visit the sick and the shut-ins, relieve the needy, and cultivate the spirit of sisterly good cheer and fellowship.”

Mite boxes were selected as the vehicle for collecting funds. Those contributions have supported Christian outreach in 42 countries on five continents. They have provided chapels and mission headquarters, hospitals and medicine, Bibles and magazines, schools and equipment, jeeps and radio transceivers, missionary vacation homes and Bible translation centers, airplanes and videos, and the list could go on and on. By 2005, international LWML mission grants (including money for mission in-reach to women) totaled more than \$18,500,000. Adding the 75% in district grants and over \$2,000,000 distributed from bequests and anniversary thank-offerings brings LWML gifts for the Lord’s service to more than \$76,000,000. But, the blessing of the LWML, now also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, goes far beyond the millions raised for missions. Its benefits can be seen in faith deepened through Bible studies, in confidence built through leadership training, in the befriending of career missionaries, in blankets and clothing gathered for the impoverished, in food shared with the hungry and, above all, in the friendships nurtured and the lives changed by sharing the love of Jesus Christ.



**Jean Jaskierny**  
**VP Gospel Outreach**  
**and Human Care**  
**Glenwood**  
**712-527-9681**  
**quiltorama@mac.com**

## **Saving Notes**

By Dorothea Bachman

What do you know about Christmas? Did you know that Christmas was not celebrated by the very early Christian church? The fact that Jesus was born did not seem to impress them. They celebrated Epiphany, the day Jesus was presented at the temple. What about the Christmas tree? Who placed the first Christmas tree inside a church? We can blame Martin Luther for that. What was the first music used when playing Christmas songs and hymns, organs and guitars? Not all churches had organs, and pianos were very few. Do you want more information about this sacred holy day of our present day churches? Go to your computer and search the word "Christmas." Be prepared to do a LOT of reading. There are about a zillion different pages of information about this day, both regular and secular. I keep telling you that history is important. If records were not kept, we wouldn't know some of the things that made our church what it is today. Let us all remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth and that without this event and the church there would be NO Christmas. As the name says, CHRISTmas ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS!

## **VP Servant Resources and Christian Life**

by Mary Lu Mauritz

As I sit writing this article, the leaves are changing colors and the air is cool and crisp. And by the time you read this article, there may be snow on the ground! Seasons change, and so has our own LWML. I have talked to a lot of women from various churches, and they all say the same thing—their LWML active membership is getting smaller and smaller. As a member of LWML, each of us has an opportunity to grow spiritually and to be with women who truly love their Lord. It is a sisterhood of faith, and it gives us an opportunity to join generations of women coming together as one to worship and serve our Savior. Give all women in your congregation this opportunity for Christian growth, fellowship, and service by inviting them to one of your upcoming meetings or LWML Christmas party. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to introduce others to the many programs and projects carried on to share God's Word and His love with people around the world. Here are some ideas that may help you. First, pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you as you approach these ladies. Then make it personal—invite 'in person' and not with a sign next to a stack of Quarterlies. Offer transportation to the activity.

Make contact more than once--people soon sense whether you are interested in them as a person. Be sincere, friendly, and helpful. Pray that the Lord would grant others the desire to also serve Him in the LWML. And accept a 'turndown' lovingly and understandingly—but be ready to invite again! The Lutheran Women's Missionary League's motto is taken from Psalm 100:2, "Serve the Lord with Gladness." Share your LWML joy and enthusiasm with others, and most of all, share yourself. You'll be glad you did!

## **Human Care Vice-Chairman**

By Judi Bruhn

As I am writing this article, the weather is damp and cool, but when you read this, it will probably be much worse! Thank you to all the societies for your collections during this year. Many of you called to say your area did not have a fall pickup for Lutheran World Relief, so you wanted another option for a mission project. We are all missionaries every day. Whether you donate to LWR, to the Orphan Grain Train, or any other place, we would like to know! Keep track during the winter of your donations and list them on the Spring 2010 Human Care Relief Report. Zones are also checking underwear for the "Spare a New Pair" project through Ellie Menz. This collection is for both the IOWAY project in California and for those in need in Iowa District West. At our zone fall rally, we dedicated nearly 400 items and it was very interesting to do an ingathering for underwear! It is wonderful and amazing how the LWML responds to mission needs!

Not only are mission projects important to those both in and outside of IDW, but we have to remember to keep the needs of our own congregation in our prayers also. Recently, we held a night for just the ladies of all ages in our congregation. We hosted a meal served by some of our husbands (including Pastor) and had a short program, including all generations of Lutheran women. It was such a fun night. Our theme was "The Gems of St. Luke's." We need to remember that all women, not just those of us who are members of the LWML, are important gems of God's Kingdom. We had preschool age through 80+ members and each plays a special role in the church. They help with our mission projects, they help with quilting, they put on programs in our church, they clean, they serve, and without them, our church would not exist. To have them in our LWML would be great, but if they don't feel they can right now, at least they know what a gem they are to us. Some of us women may



**Judi Bruhn**

*Human Care*

*Vice-Chair*

*Cylinder*

**515-889-2342**

**[mjbruhn@awcmail.com](mailto:mjbruhn@awcmail.com)**



**VP Servant Resources**

*and Christian Life*

**Mary Lu Mauritz**

*Pocahontas*

**[smauritz@mchsi.com](mailto:smauritz@mchsi.com)**

**712-335-6120**



**Jane Morris**  
**Leader Development**  
**Chair**  
**Clarinda**  
**712-542-8126**  
**[cjemorris@mchsi.com](mailto:cjemorris@mchsi.com)**

be more polished, some may shine brighter, some may sparkle, and some are classic. But through studying God's Word, fellowship and human care for each other and those around us, we all are gems on this earth, put here by God for His purpose. May your "gems" shine through the winter season and remember to keep track of all of your mission projects to report next spring!

### **Leader Development** **Chairman** by Jane Morris

Do you want to bring more people to know Jesus? Does the thought of getting out there and telling them about Him make you nervous? Knowing that God wants me to do this very thing, spreading the good news about salvation, makes me eager to do so. Yet, it is a very nerve-racking thing when you don't feel like you have all the answers. What if the person I'm talking to asks a question, and I don't know the answer? One day I was invited to an LWML event which led to going to meetings, and then I was invited to go to our district convention. From that, a whole new world opened for me. If I don't feel comfortable out there in the mission field, I can be behind the scenes supporting those who are. Being in LWML, I can support local, district and international mission work. I can help by donating time, talent, items, money, or offering prayers for the missions to be a success. If and when I do become comfortable, LWML also has opportunities to get out there and be a part of a mission. Having not been involved in LWML before, I didn't realize how far and wide they reach with their missions. They really do accomplish a lot. Would you like to become more involved and find out what a great organization LWML really is? The young women of the church have a super opportunity to be a YWR (Young Woman Representative) at the upcoming district convention. If you are between the ages of 20 and 35, and would like to apply, you could attend the convention for free, participate in fun activities, and get to know how you can help in the mission field. Two YWRs can attend from each zone. With 20 zones in Iowa District West, we could have 40 YWRs at convention. If you would like to join us "Redeemed, Renewed, and Ready," June 17-19, please visit with any LWML member. They can point you in the right direction for an application. Or if an LWML member invites you to convention, prayerfully consider this wonderful opportunity. Our past YWRs have all been so grateful for the experience and inspired to do more in helping get

the Gospel out to those who don't know Him. Hope to see you at convention!

### **Christian Life** **Vice-Chirman** By Judy Rozek

Are you tired of hearing or talking about the "None Zone"? "None" is the answer many people give when asked their religious affiliation. Only 10% of people living in the Pacific Northwest claim a religious affiliation. Hopefully, all of you who received the fall edition of *The Harvest*, read Rev. Kuhnle's excellent article dealing with the "None Zone." In the *Parade* magazine (October 4, 2009 edition) Christine Wicker reported on an exclusive *Parade* poll dealing with religion and spirituality. First of all, I don't know how accurate polls are and secondly, I don't know who the people are that participated in this poll. Frankly though, I thought the results of this poll were sad and frightening. Satan is really hard at work in this country. Wicker states, "America is generally thought to be among the most religious nation in the Western world. Americans are portrayed as people who believe in God, pray often, and teach their children to do the same." Personally, I would like to know what god they are praying to. Is it my God, the triune God? I dislike quoting statistics, but here are some results of this poll you might find interesting: 45% called themselves religious; 50% rarely or never attend worship service; 27% say they don't practice any kind of religion; and 59% say all religions are valid.

A friend of mine who works in a bank in Fort Dodge told me she works with many non-Christians. That really surprised me as when I worked at Trinity Regional Medical Center I was fortunate to work with many Christian colleagues. One of the women working at the bank told my friend she was "so sick" of religion poured into her by her parents, she said "I can't wait until my children tell my parents (their grandparents) they are non-believers as well." That was really disturbing to me. God expects and commands us to give our children a religious upbringing. I guess President Obama was right when he said, "America is not a Christian nation."

So my dear Christian friends, we have a lot of mission work to do here in the United States. Pray for the unchurched, bring up your children and grandchildren in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," support missions, and be bold in your witness of your faith and not with a spirit of timidity.

## LWML Fall Rally Information

The Adair Zone Rally was held on Saturday, October 3rd at Immanuel, Greenfield with the theme "Look to the Hills, GOD Reigns." Guest speaker was Gary McCall, member of the Board of Directors, Lutheran Bible Translators on his mission trip to Togo, Africa for the dedication of the New Testament in the Moba language. The offering was given to LBT and mites.

The Boone Zone Fall Rally was held on Saturday, October 3rd at Trinity Lutheran Church in Perry with 44 members in attendance with the theme "God's Word in Every Language" with guest speaker Jim Laesch from Lutheran Bible Translators. An ingathering of new undergarments for homeless individuals provided many donations for shelters in Iowa and the Los Angeles area through the IOWAY mission projects.

The Carroll Zone LWML Fall Rally was held on Sunday, September 13 at Zion Lutheran Church, Manning with 64 members and guests present. Guest speaker was Alice Hoffmeier, who spoke about her mission trips to Honduras, Ninilchik, Alaska, Jews for Jesus in New York City and the "Go Ye Into All the World" Mission effort. Alice's most recent mission trip was to the Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Cherokee Zone LWML met on Tuesday, September 2 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aurelia. President Barb Huseman called the meeting to order. The program was a report on the 33rd Biennial LWML Convention held in Portland, Oregon on June 25-28 through a DVD presentation.

The Council Bluffs Zone rally had as their theme Look to the Hills...God Reigns and was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Persia, Iowa, on Sunday, October 4. Becky Snedecker, Special Project Liaison of Children's Square and Heather McCormick the Spiritual Life Coordinator gave a very informative and moving presentation about the many projects carried on at Children's Square, USA. Ingathering items were brought for Ronald McDonald House-pop tabs, plus stamps and eye glasses. A special ingathering for the speakers' Children's Square as towels and twin sheet sets were brought.

The Des Moines East Zone LWML Fall Rally was held on Saturday, October 10 at Calvary Deaf, Des Moines. President Lois Cole presented a DVD presentation of the Convention in Portland. Mission project offering of \$345.23 went to the debt reduction for Camp Okoboji. There were 36 members, two visitors and five pastors and wives in attendance.

The Des Moines West Zone LWML met on Sunday, October 18 at Gloria Dei in Urbandale. Guest speaker was Deb Timmons, a member of Gloria Dei, who shared her story of the "Shining City Foundation." She has helped and served people in Tibet through humanitarian needs and resources during her two mission trips there. An ingathering of mittens was held to be sent to Tibet for the children who live in areas that are 14,000 feet above sea level.

The Emmetsburg Zone LWML Fall Rally was held at St. John's, Fenton on Thursday, September 24 with the theme "The Lord is My Rock." Four ladies from Trinity, Algona presented a video and interesting talk of a mission trip to South Korea attended by eleven members of their church this past summer. An ingathering of "Spare a New Pair" for the homeless was dedicated. The Zone mission project selected was assistance to Rev. Ty Brumwell in Cedar Rapids who lost his library in the flood last year.

The Fort Dodge and Humboldt Zones held their Fall Rally jointly on Saturday, September 19 at Holy Trinity, Farnhamville with Trinity, Fort Dodge assisting with 77 in attendance. Guest speaker was Gary McCall of Ute, who gave an inspiring message about his work with Lutheran Bible Translators. An ingathering was held for the Nehemiah project of school supplies. A joint planning meeting for the 2010 District LWML Convention was held in the afternoon.

The Mapleton LWML Spring Zone Rally was held at St. Matthew, Mapleton on September 17 with 82 in attendance with the theme "Darkness No More." Guest speaker was Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions with the theme, "M and M's: Gotta' Have Em." He used his love for the candy to show how God prepared some of our District supported missionaries for their ministry, as well as helping us realize how God is working in our lives for sharing Christ. A "Spare a Pair of Underwear" ingathering was held for the homeless.

The Northeast Zone LWML met on September 22 for their Fall Rally at St. John Lutheran Church, Burt with the theme "Look to the Hills - God Reigns" with 60 in attendance. A report on the LWML Convention in Portland was shared by Marilyn Bernardo and Jane Bergquist. Guest speakers, Hope Dunbar, Jane Nettleton and Kathy Bottjen gave a talk and video presentation on their mission trip to Korea.

The Northwest Fall Zone Rally was held at Peace Lutheran Church in Rock Rapids



**Adeline Gutz**  
**Editor**

**Pomeroy**

**712-468-2401**

**avgutz@hotmail.com**

(For LWML articles and information to be considered for inclusion in *The Harvest* publication, please send these to Adeline Gutz.)

*Lutheran Women in Mission*

with the theme from Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. . . ." Guest speaker, Pastor Jason Peterson of St. John's, Burt, shared of his participation in the Iowa District West Personal Missions Subcommittee and shared interesting witnessing statistics. He also talked about his auto racing outreach.

The Sac City Zone Fall Rally was held on September 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Odebolt with 95 in attendance. Speaker for the evening was Rich Feilmeier describing his recent mission trip to Haiti. Zone Secretary, Angie Ratcliffe, delegate to Portland, told of her trip to the National Convention. Activity monies were designated for the speaker's project, Camp Okoboji, RAI and the Orphan Grain Train. The ingathering consisted of Christmas gifts, backpacks and school supplies for the IOWAY project.

The Southwest Zone LWML Fall Rally was held on October 10 at St. John, Clarinda with 54 in attendance. Guest speakers were Pastor and Nancy Bekedam and daughter Susanna, missionaries in Japan for 24 years. Nancy shared on quilt groups, Susanna told about using dolls in outreach and Pastor gave the history of Christianity in Japan. The offering went to Mission Central in honor of Chandy Clanton. Ingathering was socks and underwear for four school districts in the SW Zone.

The Storm Lake Zone LWML Fall Rally met in conjunction with the LLL on Sunday afternoon, September 13 at St. John Lutheran Church, Hanover with the theme "Look to the Hills - God Reigns". There were 63 in attendance. Karla Hustedt shared about her trip to the LWML Convention in Portland. Guest speaker, Rev. Phil Andreasen of Immanuel, Spirit Lake spoke of his trips to their sister congregation orphanage and seminary in Kenya. A free will offering of \$203 was taken at the door for the seminary in Kenya.

### Fall LWML Retreat At Mission Central

The LWML Fall Retreat was held at beautiful and inspiring Mission Central near Mapleton on Saturday, September 26th with the theme "Walking with the Lord". Registration was limited this year to accommodate everyone and assure that each guest had a most inspiring day. God again certainly blessed the day as well as gave everyone a picture perfect weather.

22

IDW LWML President Marilyn Schroeder emceed the program, which included lots of singing, a Bible study with Pastor Kuhnle, IDW LWML Pastoral Counselor,

Missionaries Ray and Dottie Huebschman and Robert and Diana Hedtke, who shared most inspiring messages to the group of eager ears;



of course it's always a joy to hear from "ole Missionary Gary", who told of the wonderful stories of Christ's message of Salvation that began through Missionaries at Mission Central as well as many lay people. He also gave several tours of Mission Central to the "first timers" of which there were several! The attendees were inspired by a humorous skit and the HIGHLIGHT of the day's events was a panel of four professional businessmen, who shared "Christ in their Workplace". They included: Jason Schultz, State Representative from House District 55 of Schleswig, Rev. Max Phillips, Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Bouton and Iowa President of Quest, Dr. Robert Lindau, M.D., doctor from Omaha, and Pastor Dan Vogel, liaison for the Hispan-



ics in Denison, Carroll and Storm Lake. An Ingathering of gift cards and monetary donations was held for Mission Central with Pastor Kuhnle leading the ingathering litany. Drawings for many prizes were held throughout the day. The balance of the day's registration following expenses was presented to Mission Central. With joyful hearts we trust everyone went home inspired to live a better life in their daily "Walk with the Lord."

The committee would like to thank those who were able to share in this special day and a very special THANK YOU to Gary and his wonderful staff at Mission Central for taking such good care of all details of the day for our LWML!

