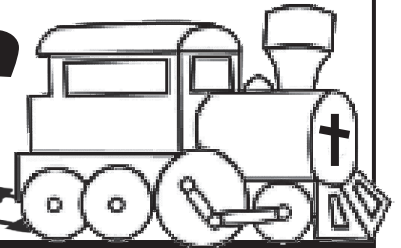


PRAISE EXPRESS



38th Biennial LWML Convention

• Mobile, Alabama

• Saturday, June 22, 2019

• Issue #3

Keynote Speaker

The Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Keynote Speaker, brought special greetings from Mission Central, found in the heart of the Midwest in Iowa West District, where he has served as Mission Development Counselor since 2016. “Yes, I have letters after my common name, but I don’t want you to remember me: I want you to remember the Lord Jesus,” he said in his opening. “In all the chronicles of our lives, we can be sure that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of Christ Jesus our Lord. Not floods, not tornadoes, not hurricanes nor earthquakes nor volcanoes; nothing can take our praise away.”

He shared stories and video clips from mission work in Sri Lanka, Tawain,

and Tanzania where, even in the midst of tragedy and death, they continue to praise God. Rev. Smith reminded us we are the Lutheran Women’s MISSIONARY

league, chronicling God’s mission through each of us – maybe even to our neighbor two doors down. We must keep our focus on our Boss and tell others of His salvation and proclaim His glory. Thank you, Rev. Smith, for encouraging us to press on and continue our praise!



2019-2021 Biennium Mission Goal

Delegates approved a mission goal of
\$ 2,100,000

This is an increase of \$25,000 from the 2017–2019 goal. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Encouraging Word

Tell of his salvation from day to day (1 Chronicles 16:23b).

How many smiles and hugs will you share today? A simple gesture can make a huge difference for and to someone.

May you be a blessing to someone as you drink in the opportunities God gives. In Praise to the LORD!

Jaclyn Rychel Mites in Action

After seeing the devastation of the earthquake in 2010, the dream of a Lutheran village was born for Jaclyn Rychel. With funding provided by the \$100,000 Mission Grant, land was cleared and construction of an eldercare home was started.

A year later, the Jacmel Lutheran Home was opened to offer simple medical care

and nutrition in a safe environment to the forgotten elders of Haiti. A team of volunteers from Lutheran Family Service helped unload and arrange the furnishings in the home. A few months later, an elderly gentleman was baptized in the home shortly after his arrival. “That’s what it’s all about,” Jaclyn said. “Our calling is to bring Christ to all nations.”

Communion Ware Pottery

LWML communion ware pottery was created by Steven Dark, a local artist from Gulf Shores, AL. It was created to depict the beautiful white sands all along the Gulf Coast and the beautiful blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Each piece of communion ware depicts the primary logo adopted at the 75th LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM in 2017. This

logo was created to represent both the members of the LWML and the church.



The heart represents the love and giving nature of the members; the drop symbolizes the blood of Christ and a tear of compassion. The cross, above all else, proudly shows the purpose behind the efforts of the LWML.



Watch the 2019 LWML Convention via Livestream! Scan this QR code for live video streaming during convention. Share with your friends at home!

More online coverage throughout the convention can be found at www.lwml.org.

Serving in Reverence and Awe

Author Donna Pyle led an uplifting Bible study based on the convention verse, 1 Chronicles 16:23-24. Her theme for the study was "Tell the Story of His Glory." Donna opened with the history of King David bringing the Ark of the Covenant back into Jerusalem, noting that history matters. She said, "We want to know who we came from and what they did."

Donna noted that we have the Spirit of the living God in us. She asked if this is momentous to us — whether it wows us. Look at what He does through us and our mites!



In bringing the Ark to Jerusalem, David worked with a team, much like the ladies of LWML working together as a team. David had the authority to say "Go and get it," but he didn't. He was very involved, and this is the kind of leader people want to follow.

To conclude, Donna revisited a point from earlier, regarding the reverence of the Word's daily presence in our lives. Does this daily presence lessen its reverence in our lives? We must be mindful of this, carrying the message to others.



Young Woman Representative ... and Beyond?



Kendra Schuettpelez, a YWR from FL-GA District, is attending the 38th Biennial LWML Convention with her mother,

Cydne Albers from Knoxville, TN. Kendra grew up as an "LWML kid" seeing the example set by her mother who held society offices and is actively involved in LWML and church projects. They treasure the time they can spend with each other which makes convention time extra special for them.

Kendra, 31, is an electro-optical/infrared engineer in Melbourne, FL, where she is actively involved at Hope Lutheran.

She says, "I am beyond excited to be a YWR at such a large event! As a YWR, my goal is to learn from the current leaders so that I can grow and maybe one day be a leader, too." *Do not be anxious* (Phil. 4:6) gives Kendra strength and encouragement in letting God have full control over her life.

Cydne knows her daughter is full of energy and positivity. She said, "I believe Kendra is a true child of God." She went on to tell, the before Kendra's birth, her umbilical cord had been wrapped around her neck and tied in a knot. Thankfully God's timing allowed for Kendra to be born early and in the care of the right physicians. "I can't wait to see what God has planned for her future." And neither can we!

Banner Procession

The second meeting of the convention began with a bright display of banners. President Patti led the procession carrying the official LWML banner followed by the district presidents along with their banners, Heart to Heart Sisters leaders and YWRs. The banners are on display in Jubilee Junction Exhibit Hall until 2 p.m.



Camp Insta Friends Update

The kiddos were busy yesterday at Camp Insta Friends! The teens started by going to Kaleidoscope Carnival to help with games, food, and events for mentally disabled adults. They also got to go to the Maritime Museum! The primary and intermediate school ages went to the Exploreum Science Center and toured various areas, including technology and future space exhibits. The nursery-aged children played onsite all day.

Blood Drive

Eighty-seven registrants indicated the intent to donate. Of that, 71 checked-in, including 18 walk-ins at the blood drive Thursday. According to results from the American Red Cross, 34 units were collected.

First-Timer

First-timer Louise Smith, who drove 1,230 miles from Vestal, NY, brought two other ladies from Grace Lutheran in Vestal and caught up with her Floridian mother here at the convention. Her favorite part of the convention has been the fellowship and thought the choir at the first meeting was excellent.

Sign Language

Two American Sign Language experts, David Bush, who is an LWML Missionary from Hong Kong and has been signing for 45 years; and Lynda Nix, from Christ Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD who has signed for 31 years. They have participated in LWML conventions since 2003. *Praise to the Lord!*

VOICES of Mobile

You're invited to another evening of inspiring and uplifting entertainment. We are blessed to welcome VOICES of Mobile to our convention **tonight from 7:30–8:30 p.m.** You will be thrilled as they lift their voices and sing praises to the Lord. They truly honor God with their lives and praise Him with their voices.

Free LWML Rain Poncho

Don't forget the coupon you received in your registration bag to get your free LWML rain poncho with any purchase at the LWML store. Come browse the new merchandise. Save on shipping by purchasing by 2 p.m.



Correction: The \$40,000 received from Mobile was given to the overall Convention budget and not the Mission Goal. Gwen Dixon is the ServentConnections Co-Director not the Chairman of Lutheran World Relief Servent Activities.

Friday Special Luncheons

YWR Luncheon: The luncheon was attended by more than 100 Young Women Representatives and alumni of the YWR program. There were attendants representing YWR classes as far back as 1987! The key speaker was Christina Gibson from Thrivent Financial who led a discussion in being more aware of our personal finances. The 2017–2019 YWR committee members each shared their personal journey of becoming involved with the LWML. The luncheon finished with a group discussion on how we can continue to include young women at the local level.

MOST Ministries: Mission Opportunities Short Term is an accredited agency through Standards of Excellence in Short-term Mission. Clean water and vision care are two of its flagship objectives. Water filters provide clean water so babies can survive, children can go to school, and parents can go to work to provide for the family as they are not experiencing intestinal difficulties. Vision is screened and eyeglasses provided.

Witnessing in response to the Great Commission is a core value. MOST Ministries teams have impacted over a quarter-million lives in 50 countries with 511 teams to date.

Clergy Connections: Pastors and LWMLers met over lunch to discuss the concern of how to connect clergy with with LWML groups at all levels. Pastors were encouraged to reach out to their groups and to use LWML resources including the *Lutheran Woman's*

Quarterly, the LWML App, and the LWML website. Invite personally. Report personally. Encourage personally. Schedule together. The key is communication.

LCEF Lunch: Do you remember the scene in “It’s a Wonderful Life” when an angry crowd makes a run on the bank, and George Bailey pleads with them not to withdraw their money? He reminds them that their money is tied up in the homes and businesses of fellow townspeople. LCEF invests in churches and churchworker needs supported by the “fellow townspeople” of LCMS. And, unlike your local bank, LCEF provides advice seeking God’s guidance. Like the LWML, LCEF is fully integrated into the LCMS. Check out the LCEF booth ... right beside the comfort dogs.

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly: Attendees were introduced to past and present staff members, and learned the role each play in producing the magazine. A highlight was meeting two special guests who had been featured in past *LWQ* issues.



Entertainment Passes

Non-registered guests will be able to purchase a \$10 pass at the convention center for tonight’s entertainment with VOICES of Mobile.

Spanish Bible Study

The early Friday morning Bible study, led in Spanish by Deaconess Marta Luna, was attended by native speakers and those wanting to practice Spanish. The LWML study focused on Psalm 100, ‘Serving the LORD with gladness.’

Gifts From The Heart Preliminary Count:

8,436 Arch Books
228 Baby kits
242 Sheet sets
1,160 Hygiene kits
926 Bibles
214 Quilts
43 Miscellaneous supplies
\$29,765 in Gift card donations

Get Your Book Signed!

The new LWML history book is available for purchase in the LWML Store. Author Carolyn Blum and LWML Past Presidents will happily autograph your copy in Jubilee Junction’s Magnolia Merchantile **Saturday from 7:30 – 8 a.m.**

2019 Mobile Convention Offerings

CONVENTION OFFERING #2 — 50% TO EXPANDING THE DISABILITY MINISTRY IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC for children in group homes and government institutions where God’s love thrives and 50% to **MEDICAL MISSION TEAMS** to provide medical care for the impoverished in developing countries.

CONVENTION OFFERING #3 — 50% TO JAMES STOREHOUSE LOUISIANA to aid in caring for foster-care children and youth and also empower communities to be active in improving the foster-

care crisis and 50% to **SPIRITUAL CARE FOR UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE CHILDREN** to help break the cycle of child abuse by improving children, families, and communities by introducing the Gospel of Jesus.

CONVENTION OFFERING #4 — LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE/ COMMUNITY RELIEF to be used for supplies and necessary needs for U.S. communities devastated by natural disasters (tornadoes, fires, hurricanes) during 2018.

LWML Committee Booths – Jubilee Junction



Information Technology Committee

(ITC) – Play Jubilee Jeopardy and win a Stylus Pen with 5 correct answers! ITC members are available to answer questions about lwml.org and social media sites.

Mission Grants – ‘Where In the World?’

Locate past mission grant recipients on the world map and win a chocolate globe! Information is also available on how to apply for an LWML Mission Grant.

Leader Development – “Christ is Our Foundation” is our booth’s theme, where we are building balloons around the cross to show how we work around Him and through Him together. Add your balloon today!

Graphics Team – Special photo-op props at the Selfie Station! Meet the designer of the 2019 LWML Mobile Convention Logo!

Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly – meet our team of writers and share your stories and ideas for upcoming issues. Pick up a free magnet and enter to win one of our free giveaway baskets – an Artisan Basket art supplies or a Food for Thought Basket of delectable items from our staff members’ home states.

Gospel Outreach – Reach out in your communities with Toolkit Ideas for new moms, new babies, nursing home/shut-in care, and homeless/shelter kits.

Growth & Development – Make a mailbox or take a template for a mailbox home with you. The Mailbox Project connects women to LWML who can’t attend or join in traditional ways. Learn more about this new ministry at our booth!

Christian Life – Stop and take a seat at our booth to make a card for a missionary. And while you’re there, leave your name and phone number for a chance to win one of four LWML Bible studies or the new Christian Resource booklet!

Gloria May

Gloria May, AKA Jan Struck walked onstage as she needed a private minute to call her friend Martha Lee with a convention update. She was concerned that some of the ladies were going to casinos when she heard them say, “you betcha.” She did say she would be back for more singing even though the six songs their church sings is plenty. She thought the diversity of attendees meant individuals from Savannah — not northerners and those from around the world.

Jubilee Junction

Today the hours are **7:30 – 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.** There are many opportunities in the exhibit hall: pet the Comfort Dogs, learn about mission activities, register for booth drawings, and more.

Recordings of Presentations:

Manna Recording & Duplication, Inc. will record and produce CDs of major presenters. Look for their booth in the Upper Level, near Registration Info Tables to order and take home your favorite speakers on CD. This is one way to share the convention excitement with those at home.

Saturday Luncheons and Locations

Did you know that you can find our convention schedule in the LWML app? Make sure you check out all of our app’s wonderful features!

- A. Jan Wendorf, Melanie Gibbons, and Lutheran World Relief.....Upper Level, Room 204A/B
- B. Lynn Corker and Jean Jaskierny.....Upper Level, East Ballroom
- C. Rev. Peter Kirby, Lutheran Hour MinistriesHotel, Second Floor, Bon Secour Bay II Ballroom
- D. Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, LCMS Black Ministries.....Hotel, Second Floor, Bon Secour Bay I Ballroom
- E. Rev. Craig Muehler, Chaplain, Ministry to the Armed ForcesUpper Level, Room 201A/B/C/D and Mrs. Susan Knowles, wife of Army Reserve Chaplain Alex Knowles
- F. Rev. Kevin Robson, LCMS Chief Mission Officer;Hotel, Second Floor, Bon Secour Bay Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte and Lauren Awe,III Ballroom West African Missionaries; and Laura David Hemminger, Lutherans for Life
- G. Jaclyn Rychel, Director of Haitian Ministry,Upper Level, Room 203A/B The Evangelical Lutheran Church, Haiti
- H. Rev. Dr. Leopoldo (Leo) Sánchez, Director of the Center.....Lower Level, Room 106A/B for Hispanic Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- I. Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission CentralLower Level, Room 107A/B
- J. Jan StruckUpper Level, West Ballroom
- K. Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, New York.....Hotel, Mobile Bay Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Behind The Scenes On The Convention Floor

Lights, camera, action — the AV crew is highly skilled and on the ready. Electronic voting devices are double-checked and prepared for the delegates. Ushers prepare the main floor area for the VIPs, delegates, guests, and attendees. **Thanks to ALL the behind-the-scenes workers.**

What gain has the worker from his toil (Ecclesiastes 3:9), is answered by, As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).

The **PRAISE EXPRESS** is published four times during convention.
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