

NEWS RELEASE:

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Yes, LWML Does Play In Peoria

PEORIA, IL — Delegates to the 34th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) convened in Peoria, Illinois, from June 23 to 26, 2011. More than 4,600 Lutheran Women in Mission from across the nation gathered to conduct business, renew friendships, and rally around God's Word. The LWML is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the second-largest Lutheran denomination in North America.

The theme of the convention was **“Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge”** based on the Scripture passage: *And they realized they had been with Jesus. “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard”* (Acts 4:13b & 20 NKJV). The organization adopted a mission goal of \$1.825 million for the 2011-2013 biennium. The funds raised over the next two years by the organization's 250,000 members nationwide will be used to support the following mission grants:

1. Support for Lutheran Orphanages – Haiti \$70,000
2. Lutheran Braille Workers Plate Embossing Device \$100,000
3. Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) Spread God's Word through Print and Audio \$97,344
4. Outreach to At-Risk Children – Detroit, Michigan \$55,000
5. Cancer Care Package Ministry \$100,000
6. Crow Indian Ministry – Montana \$69,999.64
7. Exodus 2:6 Project: Spiritual Care in Disasters – Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma \$50,000
8. Children's Nutrition and Care – Vietnam \$72,255
9. Grace Place for LCMS International Missionaries \$75,000
10. Pregnancy Center: Newborn Protection – Malaysia, Southeast Asia \$54,500
11. The Lutheran Malaria Initiative – Kenya, East Africa \$100,000
12. Two Graduate Scholarships for International/Minority Students –Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri \$50,000
13. Project JOEL – Outreach to Youth – Central/South America \$75,000
14. Children's Developmental Disabilities Group Home and Rehabilitation Center – Dominican Republic \$100,000
15. Missionary Family Care and Education \$100,000
16. Gospel Outreach Through Open Arms Child Care \$65,000
17. Haskell Indian Nations University Lutheran Campus Ministry Expansion – Lawrence, Kansas \$100,000
18. Financial Support for LCMS Prison and Jail Ministry Conference \$27,500
19. Physical and Spiritual Nourishment for the Impoverished – United States/Mexico Border Partially funded at \$27,970.36

Dr. Ken R. Klaus was the designer and proclaimer for the Thursday evening worship service. Bible study leader Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate School at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, shared insights from Scripture with convention participants.

In her keynote address, Deb Burma, acclaimed speaker and author, inspired and motivated convention attendees to live out the convention theme.

LWML President Janice Wendorf reflected on her four years as president. She encouraged attendees to continue to be in the Word, of the Word, and walking with the Lord. She thanked the LWML for giving her the opportunity to serve as president.

The 585 voting delegates elected Kay Kreklau of Drayton, North Dakota, as the 17th President of the LWML. Other officers elected to help lead the organization for four-year terms were:

- Pat Reichert of Hartford, South Dakota, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries;
- Carolyn Blum of Hartford, Wisconsin, Vice President of Organizational Resources;
- Lois Anderson, Twin Falls, Idaho, Treasurer;
- Rev. John Heckmann, Gatesville, Texas, Pastoral Counselor.

Newly-elected members of the Nominating Committee are Beverly England of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who will serve as chairman; Cheryl Petersen of Elbow Lake, Minnesota; Sheila Lutz of Pekin, Illinois; Marge Bruning of Ashland, Virginia; and Sally Krueger of San Antonio, Texas.

The convention also featured processions with banners from all 40 LWML districts and the flags from countries where the LCMS has missionaries; activities for children and youth; singing led by Lana Gibbons; a “Mission in Motion” pledge walk and exercise; inspiration from speaker Katie Stam, Miss America 2009; presentations by Lutheran missionaries and luncheon speakers; and a performance by Sibling Harmony. The closing service featured Dr. Joe Meyer, Senior Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Peoria, Illinois, as proclaimer.

To interview a local convention participant, contact _____ (your name) at _____ (your phone number.)

***Please remember LWML in your estate plan.
Our legal name is: “Lutheran Women's Missionary League.”***

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

For more information about the convention or the LWML, visit the website www.lwml.org. LWML news releases are archived under News link.