



Peoria Playbill

your ticket to convention news and events

Issue 2
June 24, 2011
34th Biennial
LWML Convention
Peoria, Illinois

Serving Like Jesus

When asked how many people had pre-registered for Servant Activities, the women at the check-in table exclaimed, "Oh, my!" Then, after shuffling many pieces of paper, they decided their total was well over 1,350. Servant hearts and willing hands went right to the tasks at hand.



Top: Peoria area residents will hear about Jesus as they receive their Meals on Wheels. Cindy Schultz, Nebraska, and Gaye Krueger, Texas, enjoy making Gospel Lids with the message "Love the Lord your God." (Mark 12:30)

Bottom: Sandy Maya, Wisconsin, and Emy Seybert, Oregon, painted bird houses at one of the Servant Events on Thursday. The bird houses will be given to area nursing homes, enabling the residents to enjoy God's beautiful creation.

ENGLISH & SPANISH BIBLE MARKING

It's okay to write in your Bible, especially when marking New Testaments that highlight passages about Jesus and His love. These New Testaments will be used for three different missions: Spanish New Testaments at Yselta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, Texas; English versions for cancer victims and at a Chicago mission opportunity.

WELCOME KITS

In less than 30 minutes, volunteers assembled about 300 welcome kits with toothbrushes, notebooks, pencils, erasers and bookmarks for students at Illinois School for the Deaf. Rev. Tom Phillips, Central Illinois Missionary for the Deaf, said this is one way to welcome students, ages 5-21, who will be living away from family for the school year.

FLEECE BLANKETS

The popularity of tying fleece blankets (four very long tables of participants) might be because "we can be as knotty as we wish." The colors ranged from solid beige to bright multi-colored prints. Experienced knotters reminded newcomers to make double knots!

ROLLED BANDAGES

Volunteers quickly showed each other how to use the 24 handmade bandage rolling machines. Just as someone commented that this project could be done by children, a roll was rolled too tightly to end up looking like a candle. Yes, it was still usable!

THE GIFT OF LIFE

Not a scream was heard as 89 units of blood were collected via the blood drive staffed by the Red Cross Blood Bank of Peoria. Three lives can be saved for every pint of blood donated.

JEWELRY WITH A MESSAGE

Gospel necklaces, composed of colored beads representing the story of salvation and a cross, offer a creative way to share the Gospel.

SWAHILI PSALMS IN BRAILLE

"It is fascinating to see the African language in Braille," said Mary Amaro, Northwest District, as she worked on the 2" thick Book of Psalms in Swahili. In an efficient assembly line, volunteers numbered and punched pages, lined up the zinc plates and placed them in the Braille press.

"Being with Jesus — Living on the Edge"

"You live in an age when living with Jesus means living on the edge."

President Janice Wendorf led the procession to open the 34th Biennial Convention. Her two sons, Rev. Nathan Wendorf and Daniel Wendorf, served as crucifers. Thousands of women and men heard God's Word, participated in the Lord's Supper, and lifted voices in song. Music included the LWML choir and soloist, Molly Dallman, whose beautiful acapellas filled the arena.

Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus, Lutheran Hour Speaker Emeritus, shared stories of women who have lived on the edge from the first century to today. "You live in an age when living with Jesus means living on the edge," he said. Just as Mary, Joanna, Mary Magdalene and Salome watched at the foot of the cross, tended Jesus' body and told the disciples of our Lord's resurrection, we should live on the edge with the message of the Savior. Don't be afraid to ask the world, "What do you have to offer that is a better foundation than Christ?" And to the silence that must inevitably follow, extend the invitation, "Come join us. Join this throng of the redeemed, the forgiven, the saved in the Lord Jesus. Join us as we live on the edge."



Greet the 2011 Heart to Heart Sisters

Heart to Heart Sisters are 23 leaders in LCMS ethnic ministries who are learning about the LWML. You can identify the Heart to Heart Sisters by the purple zinnia on their convention badges. These sisters in Christ come from the following countries: Eritrea, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Palestine, Indonesia and Laos. Included in this group are several mother-daughter duos: Graciela and Nancy Parra, Celia and Cynthia Martinez, and district leader Shing Thao Vang and daughter Michelle Olson, a Heart to Heart sister (smiling at left). Take the time to get to know them and listen to their stories and their ministries. It will make an impact on you, and they will love getting to know you as well.

This year for the first time the Heart to Heart Sisters Task Force is hosting a training program for women who will help their LWML districts begin a Heart to Heart Sisters program in their own districts. Sixteen women from 16 different districts are participating. You can recognize them by the orange zinnia on their badges. Five of the 16 women were Heart to Heart Sisters at past conventions, where they learned how they could serve and also invite other

ethnic women leaders to be part of LWML. Two of these women and two of the women on the Heart to Heart Sisters Task Force were part of the very first class of Heart to Heart Sisters in Oklahoma City in 2003. Ellore Mingo Erwin, a trainee from the Carolinas District, summed up her plan to utilize her training: "My goal is to bring a whole busload of ethnic women to the Pittsburgh convention in 2013!"

RECORDINGS OF PRESENTATIONS

Representatives of Manna Recording & Duplication, Inc. will record CDs of major presenters. Look for their booth in the Triangle Lobby just outside the northwest Arena entrance to order and take home your favorite speakers on CD.

A MOTHER'S DREAM COMES TRUE

Natalie Wehrman of Lockwood, MO dreamed of the day she and all three of her daughters could attend an LWML convention together. This is the year! Natalie will attend with daughters Marcel Maupin, Edmond, OK; Stephanie Van Ulft, Greenville, IL; and Denise Hennig, Springfield, IL.

ENTERTAINMENT PASSES AVAILABLE

Non-registered guests may purchase an entertainment pass for just \$10 for Friday evening's Inspirational Evening with Katie Stam, 2009 Miss America, and Saturday evening's Sibling Harmony performance. Purchase passes at the Registration desk, 7 am-2 pm Friday and 8am-2pm Saturday. Cash and checks only.

LEMONADE STAND!

What says summer better than a glass of lemonade? Stop by the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service booth #408 Friday, 5-7pm to enjoy this refreshing treat. Tell your story about ministry with refugees or immigrants and enter to win a chance to have furniture donated in your name to a newly arriving family in the Chicago area.

MISSION-MINISTRY VISION

Mentoring is a major focus of MMV. If you don't know what that is or how to do it, we'll work with you! If you want to increase enthusiasm but aren't sure how to go about it, we'll work with you! There's room for improvement in every LWML group. Invite your MMV Consultant to your society for a brainstorming session.

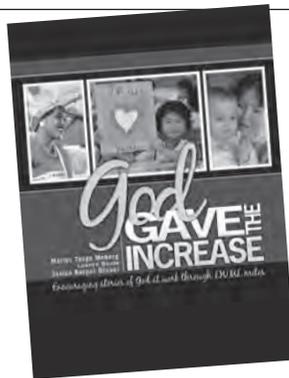
Stop by the MMV booth to learn more and to receive your "We'll Work With You" bookmark. You may also look up your MMV Consultant in our directory if you don't know who she is.

BE SURE TO KEEP NOTES

We need to hear about your convention experience and your suggestions for the 2013 convention. You will have an opportunity to complete an evaluation form after the convention. Watch for details in the Peoria Playbill on Saturday and Sunday.

MEET SPEAKERS AT CPH BOOTH

Meet Heidi Floyd and get an autographed copy of her new book, *in a word*, at the CPH Booth on Friday, 5-7 pm. Ask for the \$1-off coupon. Keynote speaker Deb Burma will also be at the booth 6-7 pm on Friday for her book signing.



God Gave the Increase

The chapel at Eket Hospital (a 1957-1959 mission grant recipient) was dedicated in 1962, but it was initiated earlier. One night a poor woman came to the hospital to deliver a baby. Unaware of the facilities of the medical building, she crept into the half-finished chapel, gave birth to a son on the carpenter's table and wrapped him haphazardly in an old ragged piece of burlap. The baby was found among the sawdust the next morning and given a basket in the maternity ward. The mother was not perturbed about her experience, acting as if she had been given the best of obstetrical care.

Such is the unusual way God chose to initiate Christ the King Chapel in Nigeria. You can read this complete story and many more in *God Gave the Increase*, a new book from LWML that shares encouraging accounts of God at work around the world through LWML mites. Visit the LWML store to meet the authors and get your copy signed.

Thank YOU, President Jan!

In thanksgiving for her service as LWML President, the Board of Directors presented President Janice W. Wendorf with a plaque acknowledging that the board had donated \$2,827 in her honor toward the 2009–2011 mission goal. As a special parting gift, the 40 District Presidents commissioned Central Illinois District LWML Senior Counselor, Rev. Frank Zimmermann, to create a large, framed stained-glass panel bearing the purple LWML logo and President Jan's vision statement: "Women in the Word, of the Word, walking with the Lord."

LWML Focuses on Goals

At their meeting preceding the convention, the LWML Board of Directors adopted three Primary Targets for the 2011–2013 biennium:

- ▶ *Growing in the Lord: Women of today find guidance for their lives, encouragement for their walk, and inspiration for joyful service through intentional study of the Word.*
- ▶ *Valuing all Women: Women of all ages, stages of life, races, locations, and cultures will be welcomed, mentored, and encouraged to be active partners in the shared mission of LWML.*
- ▶ *Living the Mission: As the "Face of the LWML," women will be engaged in opportunities to use their gifts to impact the world for Christ in their daily lives.*

Friday Noon Info Gatherings

The Convention Programming Committee has arranged this opportunity for all convention attendees to attend a gathering at noon on Friday, June 24. You may bring your pre-ordered box lunch or concession food with you and enjoy your meal and then participate in one of the sessions. Most of you have already signed up for these gatherings. There might be some additional space if you would like to attend. Some are for specific groups, as noted below, and others are planned for everyone. When the room has filled to capacity, that session will be closed.

GATHERING	LEADERS	LOCATION
First Timers	Pres. Jan Wendorf & Edie Norris	Ballroom 400
Friends Into Serving Him® Leaders	Carol Fuys & Karen Soeken	402
Gifts of Love	Pat Bilow & Kay Kreklau	222
Heart to Heart Sisters Reunion	Melissa Salomon & Marilyn McClure	135
Men's NetWork	Lutheran Hour Ministries Bruce Wurdeman	212
Mission-Ministry Vision, All Trained MMV Consultants	Diann Higgins & Eloise Kuhlmann	401
Pastors	Rev. Mike Mattil & Rev. Kris Whitby	210
Thrivent Financial Seminar	Barb Hinrichs	404
YWR & Alums	Anne Hartman & Dcs. Sylvia Johnson	405

And the winners are ... All winners of exhibit booth drawings will be posted on the Message Board the morning after their names are drawn. Check each day to see if you are a winner and don't forget to pick up your prize!



Tee Up 4 Mites Golf Tournament

The first LWML Convention Golf Tournament, Tee Up 4 Mites, was played Wednesday, June 22 at WeaverRidge Golf Club in Peoria. Fifteen teams headed out at 7 am on the beautiful 18-hole championship course. The clouds threatened rain for much of the 4½ hours of play, yet everyone stayed dry (and a little wind-blown!).

Committee Chairman Sandy Linse and team worked closely with the LWML Executive Committee to organize this event, from the logo design and hole sponsorships to the door prizes and the 19 mission grant signs displayed next to each tee box. "I hope when we get to Pittsburgh, we'll have another great golf outing," Sandy said. "Next time I'm going to play because I won't have to work!"

Former LWML President Linda Reiser commented, "The golf was a lot of fun, but more importantly, we raised money for mites! It was really great to see all those mission project signs out on the course. The support was phenomenal!"

THRIVENT FINANCIAL INFO GATHERING

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will host an Info Gathering during the noon hour on Friday with a presentation by Barb Hinrichs, Manager of Member Engagement, on the topic "Do One Thing Differently." Small changes can make a big difference! It applies not only to your finances, but to your faith and family, too! During this fun and interactive session, you'll hear ideas of how individuals and families can make changes to help improve their financial wellness. You'll also learn how Thrivent makes a difference every day in the lives of our members, their congregations and communities.

HOTEL SHUTTLE BUSES AND DISTRICT CHARTER BUSES

The hotel shuttle buses are available to those attendees housed in outlying hotels. You need to have a Shuttle Pass noted on your name badge to ride these buses. If you do not have a Shuttle Pass, go to the registration area to receive one. Passengers on district charter buses should ride their charter buses (not shuttle buses) between the hotel and the Civic Center.

LUNCH SHUTTLES

Lunch shuttles will be provided at noon for those wishing to go to outlying restaurants. The lunch shuttle leaves the Civic Center, Fulton Street, at 12 noon and returns by 1:30 pm on Friday and Saturday. Three coaches will be available on a first come-first served basis.

FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL RECEPTIONS

MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term)

Former MOST team members and friends are invited to a reception Friday, 8:30-11 pm at the Pere Marquette Hotel, Marquette North. Come to hear and to share mission stories as LWML women who have served on MOST teams throughout the world.

Concordia University Chicago Alumni

LaSalle Room at Pere Marquette Hotel, 8:30-10:30 pm. Alum should pick up a pass for the reception at CUChicago exhibit booth 217-219; while at the booth, you can receive a gift and snap a picture with Charlie T. Cougar.

Portland Convention Host Committee

Reunion Pere Marquette Hotel Marquette South Room, 8:30-11 pm.

2013 Pittsburgh Coalition Reception

Pere Marquette Hotel, Cotillion Room, 8:30-11 pm.

That's A Lot of Books!

Concordia Publishing House has great news to share: Through their Arch Book matching program, CPH was able to ship over 11,000 Arch Books to Peoria this week to be donated to Gifts from the Heart. Imagine the impact 11,000 Christian children's books will make!



LWML Member for 69 Years Attends Convention

"In the summer of 1942, when women from all areas of the United States met in Chicago to found the LWML, I was delivering my first child, so I was unable to attend," shares 90-year-old Viola Lueck of Reedsburg, WI. "Others from my church in Strasburg, IL did attend, and I've been a member ever since!"



Viola is accompanied by her daughter, Marie Pierce of Mauston, WI. On the way home, they will visit Marie's brother in Decatur, IL—the very child whose birth prevented Viola from attending in 1942!



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