



# Peoria Playbill

your ticket to convention news and events

Issue 3  
June 25, 2011  
34th Biennial  
LWML Convention  
Peoria, Illinois



## On the Edge

Keynote Speaker Deb Burma stepped onto stage in a lovely floral dress, a plastic green frog floatie and bare feet. She inched her way toward a diving board. "This edge . . . it's somehow beckoning me . . . a wave of nausea is washing over me now. Facing my fears, my phobias—it's not worth the risk!" Yet, spending time with Jesus changes people and gives courage. Deb shared Scriptures focused on the stories of the woman at the well, the disciples on the Emmaus road and the apostle Peter to illustrate that we are all changed when we spend time with Jesus. "Our once timid tootsies become bold and courageous!" Deb also told stories of 21st century women and men who are living on the edge, encouraging LWML women to do the

same. How do we do this? Deb looked at how Jesus lived with His disciples and still reached out to those in need who had ears to hear the Good News. "Look around you today," Deb said. "Be with fellow disciples. Reach into your communities and to the other side of the world. Meet Jesus on the edge where He is already at work!" The edge is a scary place, she admitted. Stepping to the edge might mean moving away from everything that is comfortable, convenient and common. As Deb stepped back onto her diving board, she pointed out that the edge looks different for each one of us. "Identify your God-given gifts and passions; make a difference in the world. To speak the truth of Jesus is really edgy living!"

## LWML CONVENTION HAS GONE LIVE!

The LWML opening worship service was viewed online by 876 people on Thursday night, and more than 1,400 people watched convention proceedings on Friday!

"The LWML woman may not be able to be a Barnabas, but she can be a Barna-babe!"



## Be Filled With the Spirit

Bible study leader Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing began by having us admit to each other, "It's all Greek to me." Then, as he explained the meaning of key Greek words in Scripture, convention attendees learned how life-changing it is to be filled with the Spirit. It is God who fills us, and when we are filled with the Spirit we must speak—it is a divine mandate, a compelling command. What do we speak? What is the outflow of the Spirit? It is manifest in expressions of praise and thanks. It voices words of encouragement to each other, and it moves us to come alongside others on life's journey.

Dr. Lessing pointed out Barnabas as a great encourager in the book of Acts. "The LWML woman may not be able to be a Barnabas," Dr. Lessing said, "but she can be a Barna-babe!" How do we become people who speak encouragement? Dr. Lessing offered three suggestions we can all take to heart: stay in the Word, tell it like it will be, and demonstrate honesty and humility in all we do.

# Saturday “Special Luncheons”

SPEAKERS	LOCATION
A– Deb Burma	401
B– Dr. Ken Klaus	Exhibit Hall B
C– Dr. Reed Lessing	222
D– Pres. Matthew & Kathy Harrison	Ballroom 400
E– LCMS World Mission & Missionaries	405
F– Dr. Kurt Senske	220
G– Kristine Stout	210 & 212
H– Phyllis Wallace	Exhibit Hall C

**note!**

**Heart to Heart Sisters will meet every night after the convention activities in the Illinois Room at the Pere Marquette Hotel.**



## Smile & Sing!

*Did you see smiling choir members? Director Dr. Martin Dicke challenged the choir to smile, despite the deeply instilled German and/or Lutheran custom of being somber! He said, “We want to scare them with our joy!” Thursday’s choir practice began with unique stretching and bending exercises designed to open the larynx. With just such humor and antics, Dicke congratulated the choir as God’s musicians used to proclaim salvation.*

## Highlights of the Noon Info Gatherings

### TEEN LEADERS: OFF AND RUNNING

“Teens love the LWML, and we love teens!” exclaimed teen leader, Delia Hansen. Friends into Serving Him® Task Force Chairman Carol Fuys told current and prospective teen leaders that teens want to be involved, to get active, and to make a difference. When asked how she first became aware of the LWML’s teen program, Ruth Dodge said, “Through the *Quarterly* and the LWML website, of course!”

### CELEBRATING THIS MOMENT

“Celebrate the moment; it will never come again. Celebrate because God is in this time and place.” That’s the advice President Jan Wendorf offered to more than half of the approximately 1,300 first-time convention attendees. President Jan shared her personal initial experience with LWML and asked the first-timers to share at their tables who influenced them regarding LWML. Then she challenged each first-timer to influence someone else. During the Q&A time, someone asked, “What is the hardest thing you have done in your life?” Having just been through the convention’s long parliamentary procedure challenge, President Jan replied, “You were all witnesses of it!”

### HEART TO HEART SISTERS REUNION

Melissa Salomon and Marilyn McClure led this session where many joyful, hugging sisters in Christ gathered. Many of these Heart to Heart Sisters are past and present LWML officers and committee members at both the district and national levels. Angelina Gomez wins the award for most conventions attended since her first Heart to Heart convention—4 LCMS conventions, 6 national and 8 district LWML conventions.

## God Gave the Increase

*It is the beginning of February and the days are still dark. The children are still wild. And Russian is still impossible to speak, although I am speaking it. Our greatest joy was the Christmas pageant. For many of the children, it was their first one. Imagine never having heard of a Christmas pageant, never having known the story of the birth of Christ! On the night of the pageant, children gathered with parents and teachers. The story captivated the attention of all. When a large part of the audience is made up of antsy, fidgety first, second and third graders, that is indeed a miracle. Yet the wonder of the evening was not simply the celebration but the enthusiasm of everyone involved and their openness of heart and mind to hear the story of Christ and to embrace it as their own.*

This encouraging excerpt is from the prayer letter of an ESL teacher in Russia. The ESL—English as a Second Language—program was supported by an LWML mission grant. This and many other mission stories are told in *God Gave the Increase*, a new book from LWML. Visit the LWML store to meet the authors and get your copy signed.



Debra Lueck-Justin (left) and Becky Shaw (right)



Nikki Tyrrell (mom) and Olivia Tyrrell (daughter)

## YWR Sisters Reunited!

*Standing room only! The YWR reunion luncheon was overflowing with more than 130 women gathered to renew friendships, make new ones and meet Katie Stam, Miss America 2009. Two women from the first YWR program in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1975 shared memories of their first national LWML experience. Debra Lueck-Justin said, "They gave each of us a purple passion plant in a styrofoam cup. I still have that plant, plus cuttings in about nine pots!" Becky Shaw, wife of Dr. Paul Shaw, Light of Christ Lutheran Chinese Ministry, recalled the skit she performed on stage. "They really kept us under their wings and wanted us to have a good time," said Becky.*

*Two mother-daughter teams attended the YWR reunion: daughter Mona Book and mother Cindy Hein (Rocky Mountain District) and daughter Olivia Tyrrell and mother Nikki Tyrrell (North Dakota District). Nikki commented, "I love to see my daughter interact with the other YWRs. It is so encouraging to see the legacy of LWML passed on to the next generation."*

## 2011-2013 Mission Goal

*Delegates approved a mission goal of \$1,825,000 for the 2011-2013 biennium, with 70 percent (\$1,277,500) designated for mission grants and 30 percent (\$547,500) for operations/administration.*

*In spite of the generous response to the appeal for mite donations for the biennium ending March 31, 2011, \$32,708 was still needed to fund the 2009-2011 grants. The shortfall was met from the \$144,777 surplus from the 2003-2005 and 2005-2007 biennia. The remaining surplus, which is temporarily restricted for grants, \$112,069 will be added to the new grant portion total of the new mission goal, bringing the grant total for 2011-2013 to \$1,389,569.*

**Praise God for our first Convention Offering totaling \$45,383.37!**



## Camp BWJ

*Donned with red T-shirts, 74 children of various ages began their day with singing and devotions at Camp BWJ (Being with Jesus). During Camp BWJ, the teens are dividing their time between service and fun. They have carried quilts from the Civic Center to Peoria Rescue Mission a few blocks away, where they spent a morning volunteering. They will also sort, pack and deliver items to Children's Hospital. And they've been able to try out their driving skills at Kartville go-cart race track.*

*Younger children visited a local working dairy farm, complete with opportunities to bottle-feed calves and practice milking a cow. Crafts, as always, are a popular activity at Camp BWJ. The wee little ones receive lots of TLC from camp workers and just enjoy playing together.*



## Beautiful Banners

*Creativity and beauty in one package! Melody Foley Glidden, a first-timer from the Host Committee, said, "I have walked past these banners 20 times and always see something new and beautiful." Each of the forty LWML districts created a unique banner reflecting the convention theme. Greeted with cheers and applause, the banner procession was led by President Jan Wendorf carrying the LWML banner followed by district banners, carried by each District President and accompanied by her Young Woman Representatives.*

### SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER!

Receive a one-year individual subscription to *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for only \$5.50/yr (last year's price). Stop by The Revue in the Verizon Wireless Café at the Civic Center to sign up.

### 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.

### YOUR OPINION COUNTS

We highly value your feedback about this convention and consider this input as future conventions are planned. Tomorrow's Peoria Playbill will have all the information you need to complete an online survey. Please take part!

### DISTRICT PHOTOS READY AT CONVENTION

Remember to pick up the district photos you ordered with your registration at the District Photo Pick-up and Order table outside Exhibit Hall A, Triangle Lobby. If you did not pre-order a district photo, it's not too late. Stop by the table to place a credit card order. Hours are Friday 4–7:30 pm; Saturday 8–9:30 am, 11 am–2:30 pm, 4–7:30 pm; Sunday 8–10 am.



## Original Song "Being with Jesus" Debuts

*Although convention song leader Lana Gibbons and her family own and operate an ice cream and grill restaurant called "Mr. Freeze" in Marengo, Illinois, the songs she will lead at convention are as warm and bubbly as her personality. She has written a special song for convention, with words penned around the theme "Being with Jesus."*

*"I pray that all convention attendees will enjoy singing with me as we praise our Lord," Lana said. "Our selections include favorite hymns, praise songs, a little Gospel music and—by request—a few songs that I've written."*

## Mites in Action

*Dr. Paul and Becky Shaw share the Good News at Light of Christ Lutheran Chinese Mission in Olivette, MO, and the Gospel is spreading as new Chinese believers share their faith with family, friends and coworkers. Becky highlighted several of these stories:*

*Upon returning to China, one gentleman spreads the gospel by teaching parenting classes; another, a governmental official, takes the message of the gospel to other government officials in China. One man endured kidney disease and a kidney transplant. As he recounts his health struggles, he tells of Jesus. A factory worker brings Christ to other factory workers in China. And at Light of Christ Lutheran Chinese Mission, worship attendance has grown to about 100, and 110 people have been baptized.*



## Peoria Playbill

*Peoria Playbill* is published during the convention by the LWML Communication Department.

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