



ACCENT

VOL. LIV, No. 48

On Lutheran Women's Missionary League
English District

Spring 2012



Call to Convention!!!

Ladies are you ready?? It's almost time to start packing because we're calling you to join us for the

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League
English District
35th Biennial Convention
April 20 - 22, 2012 in
Tucson, Arizona**

Convention Scripture Theme

*The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom, it will
rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*
Isaiah 35:1-2a (NIV)

Convention Goal

I will allow Christ to work through me to usher in His new creation.

Convention Objectives

That all attendees will:
Rejoice in His new creation.
Bloom by multiplying in diversity.
Shout for Joy in sharing the works of God.

The Host Zone Invites You:

**Greetings Sisters in Christ!
Rejoice... Bloom... Shout for Joy
Lutheran Women in Mission!**

The Arizona Zone is excited as they prepare to Rejoice...Bloom...and Shout for Joy with you at the LWML English District 35th Biennial Convention.

May peace be with you
as you prayerfully consider joining us.

Let's get ready to go! Invite all women of all ages. Complete your registration forms, get them sent in, and we'll see you in Tucson!!

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10).

ACCENT Deadline: June 1, 2012. Please send current news, zone and society reports, minutes, photos, etc. to: Cherie Voorhees 1305 Lower Ferry Road, Ewing, NJ 08618 or FAX to: 609.896.0341 or send me an attachment through e-mail: voorhees@rider.edu

“Rejoice... Bloom... Shout for Joy!”

Shirley Holle, President
shirleyh@longrealty.com



Today it is 72 degrees and sunny as I write this article! It feels great to be outside. I wish you were all here in Tucson sharing it with me. And you can be when you come in April for the LWML English District Convention. I want to share this beautiful part of the country with you.

More importantly I want to share the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with you! Conventions are a time to recharge our batteries and learn again the joy of serving and walking with our Lord. Conventions are Bible study, mission speakers, servant events, and mission grants. It is a time to shop in the LWML store, vote on by-law changes and elect new officers. It is a time for fellowship and exchange of ideas with your Christian sisters from New Jersey to Arizona and cities in between. It is a time for hugs, laughter and tears. It is a time to renew friendships and make new friends. It is a time for entertainment and relaxation. Enjoy the tours before and after the convention and then return home energized to **Rejoice... Bloom...and Shout for Joy!**

Encourage one another to travel to Tucson in April 2012! I would love to see you HERE! The more people that attend the greater the energy and strength we share with each other. Read all the information in this newsletter and check our web site www.englishdistrictlwml.org for more information including hotel and registration information. The women of the Arizona Zone are looking forward to your visit and joining with you in sharing the Gospel and praising God.

I am happy to announce we are able to pay mission grant number four of \$3,000 for Children's Books for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia through your generous mite donations. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We still have two mission grants left to fund. The fifth mission grant project is uniforms for Nakuru School, Kenya - \$2,400. The sixth mission grant project is Let the Children Come--Let the Children Sing, Detroit, Michigan - \$600. I pray that God will continue to bless our giving and prayers so we can meet our goal by March 31, 2012.

It is a new year – 2012 – and January is history. Remember that just as God has been with us in the past He will be with us every day of this year also. *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8.* His promises are still true! Continue to serve the Lord with gladness for you are the face of LWML. ►

“LWML the Whole Body!”

Susan Fleischmann, Treasurer

suefleischmann@verizon.net (Note that I have a new email address: suefleischmann@verizon.net.)



“From him the whole body, joined and held together by each supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:16

As Christians need to continue to work out God's purpose for our lives even as families, jobs and home congregations remain our priorities. God points us in new directions that help us to grow spiritually, and becoming part of the Executive Committee was definitely a new direction for me. There is no truer adage that God does not call the equipped, but equips the called. As I finish my first biennium as your District Treasurer, I praise God for past treasurers and many other LWML women that have encouraged and supported me. I would especially like to thank departing Executive Committee members, Sarah Reinstadtler and Jan Simmons. Their many years of combined LWML experience have proven to be invaluable. They had confidence in my ability, lovingly nudging me in LWML's direction, and our friendship grew stronger and deeper as we served together on the Executive Committee for the past two years. Attending rallies, conventions and volunteering for zone offices or committees are all ways to cultivate meaningful friendships with other sisters in Christ as we continue to grow and do God's work. The LWML is a whole body, each part doing its work to the glory of our Lord and Savior.

REMINDER: Please continue to send in Mites! Your prayers and continued support for mission projects are greatly needed to complete our remaining two grants prior to March 31. Also, Quarterly & Accent changes and payments are due no later than March 15.

Honorariums

Harriet Appel's 90th Birthday—Helen Gienapp's 90th Birthday

Departing Executive Committee Members, Sarah Reinstadtler & Jan Simmons

I look forward to seeing many of you in beautiful Tucson, AZ April 20 - 22, 2012! ►

“We Have the Opportunity to Help!!”

Margaret Stuenkel, Vice President Gospel Outreach
rstuenkel@aol.com



*“The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.”*

Isaiah 35:1-2

Just moved to Arizona and I can envision the above verse coming to life when the women of the LWML English District come to the desert for the 2012 convention. The desert will bloom with the beauty of Christian women who love their Lord. The parched land will rejoice and shout for joy at the tremendous work that mites can do in our world. And we will all be glad.

We have some exciting new mission grant proposals to present to the convention. Lutheran Christians are doing some wonderful and unique mission work that needs funding. And we have the opportunity to help. I can't think of anything more motivating for attending this convention in Tucson than to have the privilege of voting to fund these mission endeavors.

And while I'm on the subject of mission grants, I want to urge and encourage you to send your mites in to fund the last three mission grants voted on at our last convention. They are the children's books for Latvia, uniforms for school in Kenya, and “Let the Children Come - Let the Children Sing” in Detroit, Michigan. Our national LWML website had some fun suggestions to motivate our mite giving. I'd like to repeat some of those here with slight variations of my own.

- ✦ **Add \$1 to your mite box in thanksgiving for each of your LWML sisters in Christ.**
- ✦ **If you are a grandparent, add \$1 to your mite box in thanksgiving for each of your grandchildren.**
- ✦ **During Lent, if you are giving up something, put \$1 in your mite box each time you don't do or eat that thing.**
- ✦ **Turn off your TV for a week and spend more time with your family and in God's Word.**
- ✦ **Put \$1 in your mite box for each day you turn off your TV.**

I'm sure you can come up with more ideas of your own. Challenge your LWML sisters to join you in one of these worthwhile motivating activities. And let's approach our district convention with all mission grants paid in full. Let's finish **strong.**▶

Live simply... Love generously... Care deeply... Speak Kindly... and, Leave the rest to God.

Our Mission Goal for the 2010-2012 biennium is \$15,000

1. **Trinity/Hope (Feed Lutheran Children in Haiti) - \$3,000—PAID.**
2. **Bible Translation at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria - \$3,000-PAID.**
3. **Concordia Seminary Food Bank—\$3,000. PAID**
4. **Children's Books for Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia—\$3,000. PAID**
5. **Uniforms for Nakuru School, Kenya—\$2,400.**
6. **Let the Children Come—Let the Children Sing, Detroit, MI.—\$600.**

ATTENTION ZONES AND SOCIETIES EQUALIZATION FOR DELEGATES DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2012!!!

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT!! Delegates are needed for our District convention in Tucson and their travel expenses can be paid through Equalization if they participate!

Equalization is \$200 per delegate. Checks should be made payable to EDLWML and remitted to:

Elsiena Velazquez, 2121 S. Pantano Rd. #326, Tucson, Arizona 85710. Forms are available on line on our LWML English District website (www.englishdistrictlwml.org). Also, you can contact me at elsienavelazquez@juno.com or by calling 520-731-9475.

Each zone is entitled to one delegate and societies two delegates. We must all participate for the Equalization Fund to work properly. Those delegates who live close to the convention site and have minimal transportation expenses must pay the \$200 per delegate, to help defray the cost of those far away. ***That's what makes it equal!***

“Rejoice. Bloom..Shout for Joy!”
in Tucson, AZ – April 20-22, 2012
I am looking forward to seeing many old friends and making many new friends!▶

“Get in the Game!”

Rev. Robert Rogner, Jr. Pastoral Counselor
pastorbob@peacewinghaven.org

“Great Servant Events at Convention!”

Sarah Reinstadtler, Vice President Human Care
srein8@verizon.net

In the movie Chariots of Fire runner Eric Liddell knows he has been called to be a missionary to China, and his sister Jenny confronts him about his love for running instead of already going to China to serve. Eric Liddell responds, "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast, and when I run, I feel God's pleasure." Even something like running can be done to God's pleasure if we are using our God-given abilities for His glory.

The God who knows our frailty, who allowed his own bones to be broken and his blood bled is the God who gave us the ability to run and the ability to serve and the ability to feel His pleasure. As Eric Liddell said, "When I run I feel God's pleasure." So where do you fill in the blank, "When I _____, I feel God's pleasure." For many it is "When I serve, I feel God's pleasure." Or, "When I do what God shaped me to do, I feel God's pleasure."

The key for Eric Liddell to say, "When I run I feel God's pleasure" was his next statement, "I **'Get in the Game'** by running for Him!"

How do you **"Get in the Game?"**

A chance to do this waits for you in Tucson, Arizona from April 20-22, 2012, when the 35th Biennial Convention of the LWML English District convenes under the theme "Rejoice. . . Bloom. . . Shout for Joy!" based on Isaiah 35:1-2a, "*The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.*" – (NIV)

1. Get in the Game . . . Use the gift or gifts God has given you to serve others. You can use your gifts by participating in one of four Servant Event opportunities.

Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10, "*God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.*" – (New Living Translation)

2. Get in the Game . . . Draw on the strength God provides through His grace. Times of worship and Bible study will allow us to see God's power in our lives!

Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:11, "*Anyone who speaks should speak words from God. Anyone who serves should serve with the strength God gives so that in everything God will be praised through Jesus Christ. Power and glory belong to him forever and ever. Amen.*" – (New Century Version)

3. Get in the Game . . . Find where God is working in your life and join Him there. There will be prayer and praise to an

awesome God! Our typical prayer is God bless what I am doing. Instead our prayer should be, "God, help me to see and do what you are blessing." David says in Psalm 23:3, "*He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*" (New King James Version)

Notice the connection between soul restoration and God leading me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake, not my name's sake. God will truly be leading the English District – LWML.

Looking forward to **"Getting in the Game"** with you... see you in Tucson! ►

“Great Servant Events at Convention!”

Sarah Reinstadtler

I'm looking forward to some fun in the sun and fellowship with all the warm loving women at the LWML English District convention in Tucson, Arizona. And I hope you are TOO!!

There are some wonderful servant events planned that we hope you will take the time to participate.

- ✦ How about a Prayer Walk at 9:00 a.m. to get your heart pumping both physical and spiritual? What a great way to start the convention!!!
- ✦ Or if sorting and wrapping yarn is more your style then the Prison Outreach servant event is the way to go. Not only will you be helping the inmates but also local shelters.
- ✦ Or, creating a shower caddy for the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB). Once assembled each student at ASDB will receive the caddy full of toiletries.
- ✦ And if you can't resist baby items this is the perfect servant event for you. You will sort and wrap in-gathering layette items for the Family First Pregnancy Care Center and Family Diaper Bank. Once bundled up they will be given to new moms in great NEED!

WOW! And this is all on Friday morning.

So, pack your sunscreen and hats, it gets warm in Tucson, and let's get ready for some fun and fellowship in THE SON ! ►

“Proposed Bylaw Changes.”

Jan Simmons, Vice President Servant Resources
simmfarm@comcast.net

“Driven in the Desert by the Spirit.”

Pastor Tim Holzerland, Pastoral Counselor
pastortim91@yahoo.com

Well, its here, the news you have all been waiting for! The proposed bylaw changes that will be voted on at the 2012 English District Convention, in Tucson, are now available for you to read and study in this issue of the ACCENT!

Our LWML district bylaws require any proposed changes to be published prior to convention so you can discuss the changes with your society, and have your delegates ready to vote at convention.

I know to most people bylaws is synonymous with boring, but it is very important to our District and the LWML organization that we keep them current with national. So please take the time to read them and more importantly come to convention and experience the democratic procedure of amending our bylaws.

We hope you plan to join us at convention and experience the church service, Bible study, election of officers, voting on grant proposals, and Christian fellowship from women all over the country as we meet in the beautiful Tuscon Desert to Rejoice... Bloom...& Shout for Joy!►



Mustard Seed DEVOTION

Friendship is one of God's greatest blessings. Friends are there when we need to share our pain and sorrow, joy and laughter. Friends come in different shapes, sizes and colors, but they all have one thing in common: they like us! *A friend loves at all times ...* (Proverbs 17:17a).

The writer of Ecclesiastes gives a wonderful description of a friend: *If one falls down, his friend can help him up..* (Ecclesiastes 4:10a)

Friends listen to each other, comfort each other and look for ways to spend time with one another. Our very best Friend accepts us, wants to spend time with us, shares joy with us and, because He wants to spend eternity with us, He gave His life for us. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

This special Friend does ask one thing of us, *"Come, follow me"* (Mark 1:17a).

How can we refuse His invitation?

This is a Mustard Seed Devotion. You can receive daily Mustard Seed devotions in your email everyday by going to www.LWML.org and sign up. Lutheran women of all ages, stages of life, races, locations and cultures find guidance, encouragement and inspiration from these daily devotions.

How many times have you read about the “desert” in the Bible? I know there are two events that immediately come to my mind when I think about the Biblical desert. I remember the people of Israel wandered in the desert for forty years and I remember Jesus was driven into the desert by the Spirit to face the devil.

When I traveled to Tucson for the first time I was captivated by scenery I never saw before in my life. I was stunned by its beauty and dangers which were present when I tried to walk through a patch of land behind my room. I could visualize our Lord and Savior walking through this type of land. I went back to reread all the portions of Scripture where the word desert was used in the Old and New Testament.

The theme for the 2012 LWML English District Convention is from Isaiah 35:1-2 “The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.” The theme of the convention is; Rejoice, Bloom, and Shout for Joy. I pray the Spirit will “drive you into the desert” of Tucson as you think of this theme in the following way.

The first word is **Rejoice!** Like a second exodus, the dispersed people return to the Promised Land through the desert. Everything in the nature of the desert which is troublesome for the journey of God’s people will be transformed into a condition insuring a safe passage. When you come to the LWML convention you will grow in the Lord, through Bible study, while you see the wonders of the desert. You will return to your church with a renewed sense of God’s mission for our world.

The second word is **Bloom!** Isaiah, the prophet, calls to mind one of the many species of small flowers which turn the desert into a place of beauty almost instantly after any substantial rainfall. God wants to share His glory with His creation. It is as if Isaiah were saying, “If you want to understand the abundance of God’s promises, you will have to imagine a desert turning into a garden. That is the kind of thing God can do, especially with the human heart. When you come to the LWML convention you will experience a diverse group of women who will inspire and teach you to serve the Lord in new ways.

The last words are **Shout for Joy!** We may ask why? Isaiah keeps us in suspense until he gives the answer, it is the Lord. He is the author of all joy. We may keep thinking we can produce joy on our own. But we never can (at least not for long) because joy is always a product of the Holy Spirit. When you come to the LWML convention you will see in a multitude of ways where Christ is working through us now. You won’t be able to contain the joy!

Let the Spirit drive you into the desert this April! Come see its beauty and leave a new person in Christ..►

Rejoice... Bloom... Shout for Joy!

Rejoice...Bloom...Shout for Joy! Sunrise Service

All convention participants will board the bus early Sunday morning for travel to Saguaro National Park West (disability accessible). The creative power of God will be clearly evident to all in the beauty and majesty of the Sonoran Desert. A sunrise service will take place followed by time to quietly walk the desert paths and reflect on the majesty of the Triune God in whom we are free to Rejoice....Bloom....Shout for Joy!

Rejoice...Bloom...Shout for Joy! Gifts from the Heart - In-Gathering

The convention in-gathering will provide layette items to benefit **Family First Pregnancy Care Center, and Family Diaper Bank** in Oracle, Arizona, and yarn suitable for hats, scarves and prayer shawls to benefit **Prison Outreach**. The majority of items requested are soft and lightweight so will fit easily into the extra spaces in your luggage.

**Receiving Blankets—Onesies - Footed sleepers— Lightweight Nightgowns
Knit hats—Booties—Sweaters—Socks—Undershirts
Burp Cloths—Bibs—Hooded towels—Pacifiers**

Prior to the convention's opening, early arrivals will have the opportunity to tour Tucson and to participate in on-site servant events. Starting Wednesday, April 18 there will be several tours to participate in for a nominal fee. On each excursion, individuals will discover the beautiful sights of the Tucson area.

The Festival Worship Service will be conducted Friday evening by proclaimer Rev. James Buckman and liturgist, Rev. Ian Pacey, LWML English District Convention Pastoral Counselor. This worship event is to be hosted by Catalina Lutheran Church, Catalina, Arizona and will be held at the hotel in their convention hall.

LWML English District President Shirley Holle will officiate at all business sessions, which will include the election of officers for the next biennium: Vice-President Servant Resources, Vice-President Christian Life, Vice-President Human Care and Nominating Committee. There will also be balloting for mission grants.

The ten missions proposed for support include: University of Arizona Campus Mission, Tucson, AZ; Nepali Refugee Ministry, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; Redeemer Crisis Center, Cleveland, Ohio; The Discipling of Christ's Kids (D.O.C.K. Ministry), Western Michigan; Hospitality: From Detention to Release, Baltimore, Maryland; Lutheran High School Library Project, Pittsburgh Zone; *Ablaze!* Mission and Ministry Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

Rev. James Buckman, Urban Mission Strategist for the New Jersey District, will be the Bible Study leader. Speakers will bring news from the mission fields in which they have served: Rev. Ian Pacey, LCMS Campus Pastor at University of Arizona; Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner, current English District LWML Junior Counselor and former Executive Director of LCMS World Mission; and Diane Zellmer, Director of Redeemer Crisis Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Patti Ross, Vice-President of Christian Life, will be the national LWML representative. President/Bishop Rev. Dr. David Stechholz will bring greetings from the English District. Special luncheon interest sessions will permit attendees to interact with speakers in a small group setting.

At the Saturday evening banquet the ladies will be entertained by Los Diablitos, a local high school mariachi group.

The convention will close with a Sunday Sunrise Worship Service in the Sonoran Desert lead by Rev. Timothy Holzerland, LWML English District Senior Pastoral Counselor. The installation of new officers will also take place.

Registration materials were published in the Fall/Winter *ACCENT*, and sent to all congregations. Also, they are available on our website at www.englishdistrictlwml.org.

Questions about the convention should be directed to Convention Co- Chairs Ruthann McGowan at 520-297-4686 or Diana Honebrink at 520-400-3967.