

**LWML Quarterly ECHO**  
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*Address Correction Requested*



## Nourished by the Word – Guided by the Spirit

**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1**

We face many changes in our life and world, recognizing that nothing stays the same. We may wonder if we can be certain and confident about anything.

There are many things about which I'm confident. I'm confident that the Holy Spirit will use my pastor's sermon to touch my heart with exactly what I need to hear. I've made a practice of writing sermon notes on the back of my bulletin and then filing them for future reference. Who knows when those words will strengthen me again? I'm also confident that my days go better when I start each one with prayer and God's Word. Most importantly, as Christians, we can be 100 percent confident of the salvation Jesus won for us through His suffering, death, and resurrection.

***“Most importantly, as Christians, we can be 100 percent confident of the salvation Jesus won for us through His suffering, death, and resurrection.”***

One of the LWML primary targets is: “Christ-centered living; being nourished by the Word and guided by the Spirit, each woman is actively demonstrating Christ's love.” Some ways we're nourished and guided are through worship, Bible study, and prayer. As we focus on Bible study, I recall the reminder we received at the Assembly of Leaders: God's Word isn't fast food; it's a full course meal!

Be in the Word! Why not challenge yourself to read through the Bible in a year? Of course, if you don't get through it in a year, that's fine too. God's Word is meant to be studied and digested, not rushed through. A quote from a perpetual calendar titled *The Life You've Always Wanted* featuring excerpts from John Ortberg's books says, “The goal is not for us to get through the Scriptures. The goal is to get the Scriptures through us.”

Why is reading Scripture so important? Romans 10:17 tells us “. . .faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.” The Holy Spirit works through that Word, bringing faith, peace, and strength.

At the Assembly of Leaders, Kristy Grannis and Ida Mall encouraged us to share that faith with others because we get to, not because we have to. They also reminded us to pray for opportunities to share our faith, being intentional in that sharing. Let's rejoice and reach out, responding to the opportunities the Lord gives us, serving Him with gladness!

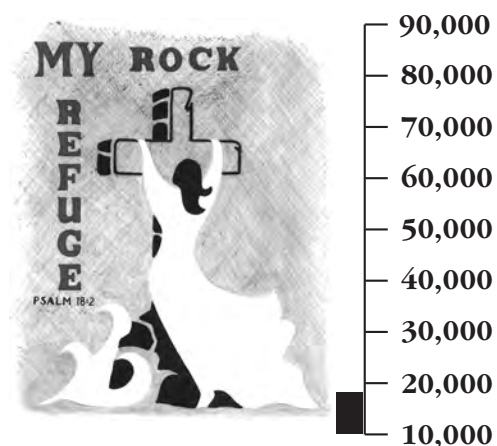
Jesus Christ, my sure defense and my Savior, now is living!  
 Knowing this, my confidence rests upon the hope here given.  
 Though the night of death be caught still in many an anxious thought.  
*(Lutheran Worship #266 verse 1 – Public Domain)*

**Sharon Goertzen**  
**District President**

## Give a Little (or a lot!)

### 2008-2010 Mission Grants

	Grant Amount	PAID
Scholarships for Nebraska Dist. South Students	\$30,000	\$6,250
Slovakia Family Center	7,200	\$7,200
Mission Outreach School in India	4,800	
Themba Girls High School in South Africa	7,500	
Lutheran Bible Translators Computers	7,500	\$3,750
Team China	6,500	
Lutheran Blind Mission	5,000	
Church Planter Training in Nebraska	9,000	
Children's Ministry, World of Life Lutheran Church, Lincoln	5,000	
Outreach to Unchurched, Family Shield Ministries, St. Louis	7,500	
<b>2008-2010 TOTAL MITE GOAL</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>	



	Grant Amount	PAID
<b>Young Women Reps Selected:</b>		
Bicycles for International Students in Lincoln	\$1,500	\$1,500

# Top 10 Reasons to Retreat with Us September 25-27 Aurora Leadership Center Aurora, Nebraska

10. Bible studies with Pastor Dobbertien and Pastor Neidow
9. Opportunities for fun, food, and fellowship
8. Being inspired in sessions by Blenda Keylon, Pat Bilow, Cyndi Hallet, Glenda Dobbertein and Rev. John Reehl
7. Warming to a bonfire at the lake on a beautiful fall evening
6. Following Jesus' footprints as you 'Walk in Love' for the Lord
5. Participating in Virginia VonSeggern and Katy Gifford's 'Mentor to Mentor' presentation
4. Relearning 2 John 6 and living it
3. A chance to make new friends and 'Walk in Love' as sisters in Christ
2. Taking time away to be with our Lord
1. Seeing Marilyn Bader in her crazy 'Walk in Love' navy blue visor...and being a little crazy yourself!



Retreat Committee: Back l-r; Rev. Dobbertien, Donna Gockley, April Sekutera, Molly Dixon, Rev. Neidow. Front l-r; Joan Mahnken, Ruth Wright, Marilyn Bader

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." *2 John 6*

## Come, Follow Me



*"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step."*  
Ancient Proverb

In the early chapters of each of the four gospels one reads the words of Jesus, "Come, follow Me." They are words of invitation extended to people from various walks of life and life experiences. They are words challenging them to leave behind life as they had known it and to experience a journey of a lifetime. Each disciple who heeded the invitation of Jesus began his journey with a single step. A step of faith. A step of trust. A step of not knowing where they were going or what was to come, but a step toward

someone they desired to go with.

And because these disciples took that step they did experience a journey of a lifetime. They experienced joy in seeing people healed and fed with so little. They experienced amazement in tasting wine that once was water and seeing raging seas calmed by a few words.

They experienced a different way of life, a life of forgiving and loving one's enemies as well as one's friends and family. They also experienced opposition from those who would not accept the message and challenges of Jesus. Ultimately their journey brought them to a place they could never imagine going to: a cross. There they experienced the crushing blow of helplessness, separation and death as Jesus was crucified. What looked like the end of the journey was, in reality, a necessary stop. There Jesus would and did overcome the cross and death. After three days He rose victoriously, because our journey was never meant to end in death but in eternal life.

We too have been called to journey with Jesus. We have been invited to experience life with Him and although we won't literally go to the cross on this journey, during these weeks of Lent we have an opportunity to go there by faith. We can once again remember that Jesus journeyed from the halls of heaven to the cross of Calvary so that we and all who believe in Him will be able to complete the journey with Him to heaven. May your Lenten and Easter journey be a blessing to you and yours.

Encouraging you in the journey!

**Rev. Mike Neidow**  
**Junior Pastoral Counselor**

**"Our journey was never meant to end in death but in eternal life."**

## Hands to Serve

The 39 members of Trinity Lutheran LWML of Blue Hill, Neb., volunteered 7,526 hours in 2008. Thirteen members are 80 years young, with one member over 90. They made 32 quilts for the needy, plus 17 nursery caps to be used at the local hospital. They participated in the "In Gathering" for the Convention and the Fall Rally. Food was collected for the local food pantry. Some members decorated a Christmas tree for their organization at the Webster County Museum. The members help to entertain at the local care center with Bingo and sponsoring a birthday party one month out of the year.



Members of Trinity Lutheran LWML of Blue Hill, Nebr.

Nebraska District Web site.

The Mission Grants page lists the detail of the mission grants for the current biennium and the payments made to projects.

Add [www.lwmlnesouth.org](http://www.lwmlnesouth.org) to your favorites so you can easily get to this valuable information or use Good Search to find the district site and earn a gift to the LWML.

**Nancy Newman,**  
**Webmaster**



Members of St John Seward LWL served 140 athletes from Concordia University Chicago, Concordia University Wisconsin, and Concordia University, Ann Arbor during the 58th annual Concordia Invitational Basketball Tournament, January 29. Working in the kitchen are l-r Marian Faszholz, Elaine Luethke, Emma Lutringer, Della Miers, Mary Ann Kruse, and Glennie Duensing.

## Did You Know?

The Nebraska District-South has a Web site [www.lwmlnesouth.org](http://www.lwmlnesouth.org). The site is available 24x7 and contains communication from our president, Sharon and information on upcoming LWML events.

The LWML Web site [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) has links to each LWML district.

Good Search is an internet search engine similar to Google which pays the charity you designate .01 each time you use it to search. As of February 10, \$9,925.63 has been raised for LWML, St Louis.

The Resources page of the [www.lwmlnesouth.org](http://www.lwmlnesouth.org) contains forms for Mission Grant Proposals, Scholarship Applications, and Special Gifts Fund requests. Agendas for upcoming meetings and minutes from past district board meetings may be found on this valuable page.

The Contacts page lists the name of each elected and appointed officers and the appointed committee chairs. The person name is a link to open an e-mail to contact this person. There are also links to neighboring LWML districts and our LCMS

## District LWML Calendar

- April 18, 2009 ..... Executive Committee Meeting, Christ Lutheran, Juniata
- May 1, 2009 ..... Deadline for Spring Echo
- June 13, 2009 ..... Board of Directors Meeting, Peace Lutheran Hastings
- June 25-28, 2009 ..... LWML Convention, Portland, Oregon
- Sept. 19, 2009 ..... Executive Committee Meeting
- Sept. 25-27, 2009 ..... District Retreat - The Leadership Center - Aurora
- Sept. 24-25, 2010 ..... District Convention, Ramada/Convention Center, Kearney

## MARY MARTHA GUILD 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Mary Martha Guild of Zion Lutheran Church, Kearney, Nebraska celebrated its 50th Anniversary on November 23, 2008 with a Zion Family Thanksgiving Meal, a program presenting the "Fashion for Followers Pageant," and the selling of the Mary Martha 50th Anniversary Tasting Tea Keepsake Cookbooks. Charter members, past presidents and past and present members were invited to the celebration.

On October 12, 1958, at the Voters' Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE permission was given to organize the Mary Martha Guild for working women and young mothers. It was suggested that the circles devote their meetings to the study of the Bible and then the combined group would be devoted to programs of culture.

Beginning on November 11, 1959, the Mary Martha Guild closed the year with a special Christmas celebration which they called the "Tasting Tea". Members and guests met in the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas program to honor Christ's birth. Following the program, members wrote their recipes on slips of paper and offered them for ten cents per recipe. In 1966, the recipes submitted by each member were compiled in a five by six inch cookbook, which was offered for \$1.00. The members prepared the recipes and everyone had an opportunity to sample all the recipes in the cookbook as well as purchase the cookbook for themselves or for family and friends.

On April 24, 1961, the Mary Martha Guild became a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Belonging to this LWML organization has helped us in developing a great mission consciousness.



Charter members l-r: Genevieve Wietjes, LaVeda Schroeder, Janice Predoehl, and Ruth Glanzer.



Former Presidents, back row l-r : Carolyn Westman, Linda Luhn, Lana Stickney, Margaret Smith, Dorothy Harmony, Wanda Glanzer, Judy Ahrens, Shirley Oertwig, front row seated left to right: Sara Schmidt, Janice Predoehl, LaVeda Schroeder, Mary Lou Brunkhorst, and Mary Fiddelke

Many of our Mary Martha Guild members have served as officers of the zone and district and even at the International level. Helen Morris, a former member of our Guild served as International LWML President from 1975-1979. Also, Linda Reiser, one of the past presidents for the Mary Martha Guild served as President for the Nebraska District South 1999-2000 and as our National LWML President 2003-2007.

Our Mission Statement is "To grow in the Triune God through Bible study and Christian fellowship and to proclaim to all Christ's saving grace, love and forgiveness." We enjoy the fellowship of sisters in Christ and the joy of reflecting the love of Jesus to all the world! *May we "Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalms 100:2.*

### Congratulations! Young Woman Representatives Are Chosen

The young women chosen to represent the Nebraska South District at the 33rd Biennial LWML Convention in Portland, Oregon are:

**Shelley Eisele, St. Paul Lutheran, Beatrice**  
**Tabbatha Cornelius, Zion Lutheran, Grant**

The alternate delegate is **Kelsey Lambrecht, Christ Lutheran, Juaniata.**

We pray that you and all attendees will be nourished by the Word, inspired with songs of praise, and encouraged in service to God and others through the many speakers and convention activities. *"Look to the Hills...God Reigns."*

## We Are Servants

Have you ever said or thought . . .

Oh, I just can't do that. Why me, Lord? I'm not interested. No, not now - maybe later.

What if Jesus had given these responses when He was sent as our Savior? What if He had simply said, "No way! That's not fair!" He'd have been right. It wasn't fair that He paid the price for our SINS. Yes, I wrote it in capital letters because every sin, from that little white lie to hatred in our hearts, is a BIG thing in God's eyes. Even one small sin is enough to keep us from eternal life in heaven.

Of course, God doesn't want us to respond out of guilt to His gift of complete forgiveness of our sins. He doesn't want us to serve others feeling we owe Him because of all He did for us. Instead, He wants us to respond to Him the way He did to us - in godly love.

Even though it wasn't fair that Jesus suffered and died for our sins, He gave us that gift in love. Through the Holy Spirit, we in return reflect His love when we care about and serve others. Love makes it easier for us to answer, "Here I am Lord. Make me a servant" when we see a need.

As LWML sisters, we are servants at different levels doing different things in His service. We're here not only to serve one another but also to reach out to our communities and the world mission. God, who always gives us more than He asks, has given us responsibilities as well as privileges.

And don't forget to take time for daily devotions and Bible reading. Even though we're busy people, our souls need to be nourished by the Word. The love of God comes to us through that Word, and we in turn become enabled to pass that love to others. Allow that special quiet time as an opportunity for God to bless you - and He will.

In His service and yours,

**Sandy Eickhoff**

**Christian Life Chairman**

*"Here I am; send me." Isaiah 6:8b*

## Submit Grant Proposals

Don't forget to submit new proposals so they can be voted on at our 2010 convention. Your society should have received a proposal application via your zone president. The deadline to submit these grants is December 15, 2009. The applications are easy to fill out, and either a society or an individual member can submit a grant. Grant applications will also be available on the Nebraska District South LWML webpage this year. All grant applications should be mailed to Deanna Dowding, 154 East Moffitt, Seward, NE 68434. Please give this matter your thoughts and prayers. The deadline will be here before we know it.

Serve the Lord with gladness!

**Deanna Dowding**  
**VP Gospel Outreach**

## Postage Stamps for Missions

This has indeed been a challenging job! I've not been very successful in locating stamp dealers for the LWML zones and societies that want to continue to collect and work with stamps for missions. I followed up on several leads, but was not able to locate active stamp dealers. To me this has been a trial as I tried and tried, but was not able to get answers that could help.

There is one active stamp buyer that I did find. His name is Terry Holdridge in Ankeny, Iowa, and he is interested in buying bulk stamps (pays by the pound), trimmed and not sorted. You can contact Terry at [iowasc@netins.net](mailto:iowasc@netins.net), PO Box 77, Ankeny, IA 50021-0077. However, by the time you would ship the stamps, your profit would be almost non-existent. He doesn't live far from I-80, so if you are driving that way, perhaps you could make a connection without using the proceeds to pay shipping.

I heard that Lincoln societies have taken stamps to a business located in the Havelock area of Lincoln. I was unable to locate this business in Lincoln using the Lincoln phone book or internet. If any of you could share that name, address, phone and/or e-mail, I would appreciate that!

I thought a lot about all of the hours we've spent getting stamps ready to meet certain specifications. My, I'm glad we are not stamps. God doesn't request that we be trimmed, sorted and packaged according to size and kind. We are not paid for by the pound. God takes us as we are, sinners who look to the hills with faith. *We are blessed. John 3:16.*

God Reigns!

**Mary Babcock**

**Human Care Chairman**

## Student Scholarship Applications Deadline June 1, 2009

The Nebraska District South LWML encourages all students who are going into fulltime church work to apply for an LWML scholarship. The scholarship forms may be obtained from your congregation's society president, from the scholarship chairman, Elaine Royuk, 334 N. 1st St. Seward, NE 68434 - 402-646-9024, or you can download the forms and criteria from the LWML web page at [www.lwmlnesouth.org](http://www.lwmlnesouth.org).

# Zone Officers Meet at Holy Cross in Kearney



## Christian Life

Back l-r: Kay Kreutzer, Kearney; Fay Harre, Seward; Carol Quandt, Grand Island; Susan Thomas, Beatrice  
Middle: l-r: Sharon Schukei, Hastings; Thelma Miles, Ogalalla; Eileen Zentner, Falls City; Glenda Schubert, Holdrege  
Front: Judy Fritz, Christian Life committee member; Sandy Eickhoff, Christian Life committee chairman



## Human Care

Back l-r: Gloria Glynn, Grand Island; Vickie Hegeholz, Seward; Bev Nixon, Hastings; Pam Hoffman, Kearney  
Front l-r: Mary Babcock, Human Care committee chairman; Mona Vitosh, Beatrice; Yvonne Junge, York; Virlene Grafelman, Lincoln



## Archivists / Historians

Janice Warneke, Hastings; Rachel Niemeier, District Archivist; Faith Wiemer, Lincoln



## Zone Presidents

Back l-r: Carolyn ten Bensel, Holdrege; Jan Beck, Lincoln; Diane Johannes, Grand Island; Pauline Niedenkeln, Beatrice  
Front l-r: Nadeen Derban, Hastings; Denae Kuhl, Kearney; Carolyn Rottman, York; Lois Pohlmann, Deshler; Doreen Mohr, McCook



## Pastoral Counselors

Rev. Dobbertien, district senior counselor; Rev. Charles Schmidt, Beatrice; Rev. Dale Hedstrom, Holdrege; Rev. Mike Neidow, district junior counselor; Rev. Jeffrey Bloom, Lincoln



## Leader Development

Rosie Schroeder, Hastings; Julia Thomas, Lincoln; Carolyn Westman, Kearney; Laura Pierce, Leader Development committee member