

# Reporter



Volume LVI, Issue 1 Gulf States District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Winter 2011



## SAVE THE DATE

THE 34<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION

June 23 –26, 2011 in Peoria, Illinois

**Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge**

(Further detail on Page 9)



## Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

On Palm Sunday, many congregations sing a hymn written for children but loved by adults, too. Jeanette Threlfall, an Englishwoman, composed “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” in 1873.

Threlfall’s parents died when she was still very young, so she was sent from one relative to another. She also had two serious accidents during childhood, leaving her disabled.

Threlfall handled her difficulties by developing a beautiful, cheerful character. She was more concerned about others than herself. People loved to visit her because they left feeling uplifted and joyous. Threlfall became known for her sacred poems and hymns. Many are considered classics, filled with sound doctrine and fervent devotion.

Here is the first stanza of her Palm Sunday anthem:

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;  
Through pillared court and temple the lovely  
anthem rang.  
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his  
breast,  
The children sang their praises, the simplest and  
the best.

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Next **Reporter** Deadline:

May 1, 2011

E-mail Lana Pratt:

[bpratt780@charter.net](mailto:bpratt780@charter.net) or

780 Gross Road

Guntersville, AL 35976

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Jackie Morris

## Jackie's Notes



What a winter, wouldn't you agree? Not just for us here in the South but all across the country. More snow, more storms, and colder temperatures than we've seen in a number of years. One of those storms prevented me and the other 39 District Presidents from traveling to Peoria, Illinois, for the Board of Directors Meeting. While we were all disappointed, we knew God was in control and had a different plan for us. We were thankful the Board made the decision to cancel the District President portion of the meeting. As I'm writing this article, I await all the information that President Jan and her Board have to share with us about the convention and other important LWML business which will come by e-mail, snail-mail and video. Thank you, Lord, for these tools of modern technology.

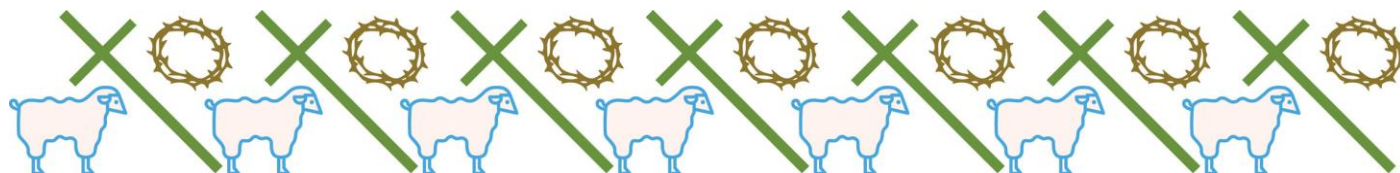
The Place--**Peoria, IL**. The Date—**June 23-26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Why remember this place and date? The 34<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention is the reason. You don't want to miss it. All the information, registration forms and details are featured in the Winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. The convention objectives are to

- **Praise the triune God**
- **Encounter Him in His Word**
- **Live boldly as His children**

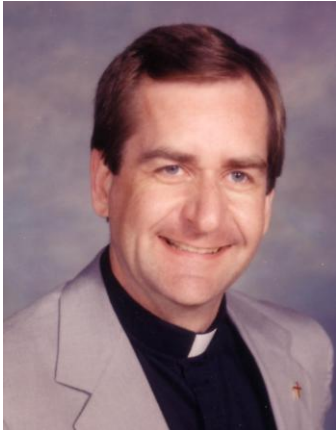
How is the Mite Marathon going? Please continue to keep praying that God will help us meet our mite goal for the biennium. If you haven't done so already, consider giving an extra mite contribution to enable us to keep our commitment for the remainder of our unpaid grants for Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Ohio, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Peru, and North Korea. I know we can do this for we are "...a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:14b).

Your sister in Christ,  
Jackie Morris  
President

*You live by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7*



## Junior Counselor – Rev. Allen Kramp



From the Junior Counselor –

Sisters in Jesus Christ of the Gulf States District – LWML,

***“Arise, shine, for your Light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you”*** **Isaiah 60:1.**

A popular song in American culture in the days leading up to Christmas is: ***“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.”*** Many-a-Christian shares that sentiment, listing Christmas as their favorite church season. Annual observances of our Lord’s nativity certainly stir in so many of us a special passion, one readily evident in so many of our congregations as we sing the joyous hymns and carols of Christmas, honoring Jesus’ birth.

Christmas is likewise uplifting for me. But I dare say the church seasons that follow – Epiphany, Lent, and Easter – draw me closer to God. In these seasons, the Word of God places Jesus, our Light and our Life, before us, carrying out the work for which He was sent – to accomplish our salvation. A little nugget of Scripture, Psalm 118:30, sums up the great work God is still doing in our lives, showing forth His Son to us: ***“The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.”***

Two Epiphany events, Jesus’ baptism and His transfiguration, each include what most people hunger for – awe-inspiring signs that God is present and doing great things. On each occasion, remarkable things occur – the Holy Spirit descends as a dove on Jesus – Jesus is transfigured before His disciples, as ***“His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light”*** (Matt. 17:2). On each, the Father thunders from the clouds above: ***“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased!”*** On the latter occasion, the LORD God pointedly adds these crucial words. ***“Listen to Him!”*** (Matt. 17:5b).

After the Transfiguration, Jesus led His followers Peter, James, and John down the mountain. Almost immediately He sought to bring light to His God-given mission as He said: ***“So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands”*** (Matthew 17:12b). Soon thereafter, Jesus told all His disciples of events to come, saying to them, ***“The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”*** (Matthew 17:22b-23a).

And in those events that followed, God sheds light on the truly remarkable. His incarnate Son lays down His life, only to pick it up and share the light of His life with us. With joy of faith, Peter later spoke these words of truth and wisdom: ***“we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’ We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain. And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts”*** (2 Peter 1:16b-19).

God’s message for us remains the same as it was for His Old Testament people. ***“O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD”*** (Isaiah 2:5). The house of Jacob looked with faith’s hope to the future coming of Messiah. For us, the Morning Star has arisen in our hearts, and He radiates His love and grace to us through His Gospel Word and the Sacraments tied to that Word. The ***“glory of the LORD has risen upon”*** us! What great understanding and light ***“the unfolding of God’s words”*** has brought to our lives! The LORD is our light, our life, our salvation! Jesus is our Guarantor of that truth! God the Holy Spirit imparts life to us by that Word of life, bringing it to light in us! Share His light!

Basking in the light of Christ, **Pastor Allen Kramp**

# Officer's Reports

## **Flo Hofman – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**



The Gulf States District LWML has scholarships available. Applicants must be a member of a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregation within the Gulf States District. The applicant must also be enrolled, or have applied to enter, a Synodical school to prepare for full-time church work. Please let people know about this scholarship opportunity! The scholarship application can be found on the website, [www.lwmlgulfstates.org](http://www.lwmlgulfstates.org), under the documents link. The deadline for submitting the application is March 15, 2011. If you have any questions, please contact Flo Hofman, 2nd Vice President, at [huskerhofman@cox.net](mailto:huskerhofman@cox.net).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Flo Hofman*/ 2nd Vice President

## **Karla Maxfield – Financial Secretary**



The response to the Travel/Quarterly Reminders has been good. There will be a second notice sent to the societies that have not responded. The mites have been coming in faithfully. There has been a special request to do a "Marathon Mites" for the biennium for National Mites. Be sure to mark your "Marathon Mites" separate from the regular mites when you send them in. If you need mite boxes please let me know and I will send them ASAP.

Yours in Christ,  
*Karla Maxfield*/ Financial

Secretary

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## **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LWML**

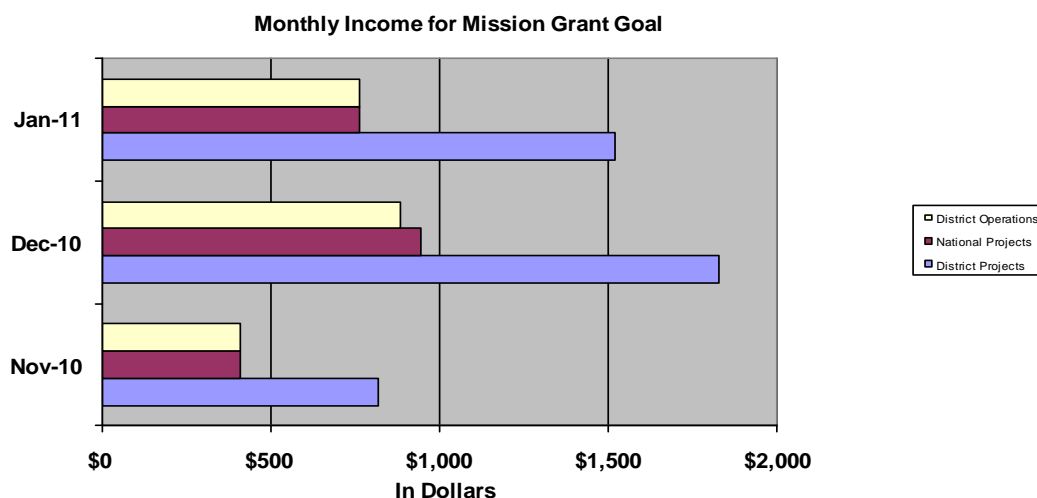
The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

## Judy Lessmann – Treasurer

# Mite Boxes



The two scholarships have been paid for the spring semester. We have completed 50.0% of our biennium and have received 48.12% of our goal. Praise God for His continued blessing on our district and your continued faithful contributions.



Total for this quarter (November to January): \$8,314.04, including gifts given in memory of Pastor Harold Hermetz. Total for this biennium: \$25,985.64. Needed per quarter to reach the \$54,000 goal: \$6,750.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Lessmann, Treasurer

## Mission Grant Presented to Iglesia de la Comunidad

Treasurer, Judy Lessmann, (right) is shown presenting the mission grant check to Pastor Blair Clark of Grace Lutheran Church on February 13, 2011. The money will be used for playground equipment at Iglesia de la Comunidad, the foster community of Grace. Also shown are Becky Heffelfinger (left rear), Grace coordinator and Susy Rodriguez, Sunday School Teacher at Iglesia de la Comunidad. Her children Melissa and Steven are holding the mite box. It was an exciting time for the congregation to see tangible results of their mite giving. To God be the glory!



## **Linda Bailey – Chairman, Nominating Committee**

### **Ready, Set, SERVE**

Have you felt God tapping you on the shoulder lately, to serve Him? Perhaps the LWML is where He has need of you; the Gulf States District, to be precise. There are some great openings available that will give God glory AND give you the opportunity to get to know other Christian women, utilize your gifts and talents, and grow spiritually. The positions that are open are Secretary, Treasurer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (mission grants) and Nominating Committee (5). Names of Pastors are also needed to fill the Jr. Counselor position.

If you feel that tap on your shoulder and are interested in serving (please, don't be shy), call or e-mail Linda Bailey at 256-775-1368 or [baileyfaith@localnet.net](mailto:baileyfaith@localnet.net) for more information. Elections will take place at the 1012 District Convention.

*Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do,"*

*While the multitudes are dying and the  
Master calls for you.*

*Take the task He gives you gladly,  
let is work your pleasure be.*

*Take the task He gives you gladly,  
let His work your pleasure be.*

*Answer quickly when He calleth,  
"Here am I, send me, send me"*

*LSB 826, stanza 4*

## **Ruth Ann Balzer – Human Care**

After much prayer and research, I am slowly learning more about my job. As yet, I have not selected a committee. If you or someone you know would enjoy this experience, please contact me, Ruth Ann Balzer at 251-937-8299 or [bbalzer11@aol.com](mailto:bbalzer11@aol.com).

Our LWML Human Care Chairman, Donna Gruel, is looking for human care stories of women in our district who are reaching out to people in need locally, nationally, and internationally to share inspiration with other women in LWML. The articles can be from 175 – 250 words with pictures, if possible. So far under Human Care in Action they have shared stories of women collecting items for Haiti, someone going on a mission trip there, and how a group collected jewelry so that children at a mission could give a special gift to their mothers at Christmas. If you know such a story you may submit it to [mandd\\_gruel@msn.com](mailto:mandd_gruel@msn.com). If you need help, you may contact me and I will help you submit your story.

Check out our web-site, [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) for Human Care suggestions. The newest item available is "Bedside Devotion." You may purchase them at 5 for \$1.00. And don't forget the "Gifts from the Heart" ingathering at the Convention in Peoria.

With Care and Compassion,  
Ruth Ann Balzer

## **LWML Store**

I am excited to announce that we no longer have any items available for sale in the LWML Store! We closed the store with a profit of \$88.15. The store is operated as a service for our LWML members as it provides items available in the LWML Catalog to you without the shipping charges. We will have the store open again at the Convention in Destin. I would like to hear from you as to items you would like to have available in Destin. You can e-mail me at [marlyskuehnert@yahoo.com](mailto:marlyskuehnert@yahoo.com).  
Marlys Kuehnert /Bookstore Chairman

# Zone News

## Central Alabama Zone

The Fall Rally was held on October 16, 2010, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Dothan, with 61 members in attendance (including 3 pastors). The theme was "Whose Hand Are You In? - Jesus the Living Word." The guest speaker was the District Chairman of Servant Resources, Diane Plotz. She spoke about recruiting new members to local societies and ways of keeping them involved.



The Spring Christian Education Workshop in Central Alabama will be held on April 9, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Selma, Alabama. The tentative theme will follow the Peoria's Convention Theme of "Being With Jesus: Living on the Edge."

## Women of Vision



Christ Lutheran Church, Tuscaloosa, hosted the "Women of vision" – Zone 2 Fall Rally on Saturday, September 25, 2010. Mrs. Sadie Mallisham gave a presentation on the theme "Steps of a Virtuous Woman." Ms. Eleanor Allen conducted the Bible Study, "With Gladness We Serve the Lord." The closing devotion and communion were conducted by Pastor Anthony I. Robinson of Christ Lutheran.

Hospice of West Alabama in Tuscaloosa was the recipient of the "Gifts from the Heart" project. Donations included paper products, bottled water, and personal care items needed by the agency. Mrs. Susie Smith is the president of Zone 2; Mrs. Beverly Wilson is president of Christ's LWML.

Submitted by Mary S. Davis

## Mountain Lakes Zone

The Mountain Lakes Zone Fall Rally was on September 25, 2010, at Faith Lutheran Church in Madison, AL. Judy Jankens led an interesting and inspiring Bible Study. Everyone enjoyed a humorous shopping skit. Individual lunches were served in various colored, shaped, and sizes of baskets, which were gifts for each woman to take home. After the election of officers, Pastor Broussard conducted their installation and closed the meeting with prayer.

The Spring Christian Workshop will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Florence, AL on April 9, 2011.



# FLAT JAN

A “Mite Marathon” challenge is the “Flat Jan” poster. There are four posters of President Jan Wendorf traveling around the country, the goal is to see how many miles “Flat Jan” can travel, and how many mites can be raised before she arrives to “Play in Peoria” at the convention on June 23. At each visit pictures will be taken with her friends and someone will record a highlight from her visit. The Gulf States District Board of Directors met in Montgomery, Alabama, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on February 21. Everyone gathered around Flat Jan for a photo. From the Gulf States District Flat Jan will then travel on to the LA-MS District. Pictured left to right – front row: Lana Pratt, Marlys Kuehnert, Bea Daily, Karla Maxfield, Ruth Ann Balzer; middle row: Beth Hornish, Jo Anne First, Marilynn Jacobs, Sandy Fogg, Diane Plotz, Carol Shaw, back row; Ellyn Collett, Jackie Morris, Maggie Johnson, Flat Jan Wendorf, Flo Hofman, Judy Zecker, Judy Lessmann, and Senior Counselor, Rev. James Endrihs.



## Newsletter Name Contest

**What is in a name?** A name is a noun used to identify someone or something. A name will often draw interest and attention. The Gulf States District newsletter has long been identified as the *Reporter*. There is a contest to give it a new name which will identify it with our area and create interest. If you have a catchy name you would like to see used for the title of our newsletter submit it to the Editor of the *REPORTER* by April 30. The District includes the panhandle of Florida, the gulf area of Mississippi, and the entire state of Alabama. Judges will be the Senior Counselor, Rev. James Endrihs, Junior Counselor, Allen Kramp, and the Nominating Committee Chairman, Linda Bailey. There will be a nice prize given to the person submitting the name chosen. Please send the following information to Lana Pratt/Editor, 780 Gross Rd., Guntersville, AL 35976 or submit by e-mail your chosen name to Lana at [bpratt780@charter.net](mailto:bpratt780@charter.net).

Submitted Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

# 34<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention Update

Check the Winter Issue of the *Lutheran Women's Quarterly* for the latest registration information on the 34<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention being held in Peoria, Illinois, from June 23 – 26, 2011. Registration begins on March 1, 2011. The theme is "Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge." The Convention Keynote Speaker is Deb Burma, who will challenge you to live on the edge in many ways. Leading a dynamic Bible Study is Dr. Reed Lessing, also centered on the theme "Living on the Edge." Katie Stam, Miss America of 2009, will be the Inspirational Speaker. Come listen to Worship Leaders, Rev.



Matthew C. Harrison, President of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and Dr. Ken R. Klaus, past speaker of The Lutheran Hour. Several mission speakers demonstrate how they "Live on the Edge." Check out the information about Friday and Saturday special lunch gatherings, as well as the schedule of several special events and sight-seeing trips. Your children will enjoy spending time at Camp BWJ (Being with Jesus). Begin collecting articles for the "Gifts from the Heart" ingathering. Check out all these and other details at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

## Update from Treasurer, Helen Miller regarding our mite goal:

We still have a ways to go to "finish the race." We all need to keep working together to accomplish the goal that Lutheran Women in Mission voted to support in Portland in 2009. I have recorded and balanced deposits through February 22nd. In February we collected \$62,483. With 5 weeks to go in the biennium, we still need \$315,000 to meet our mission goal. If possible, donate extra funds in answer to meeting the challenge of the "Mite Marathon."



## **Body and Soul**

A physically strong woman exercises her body regularly. A spiritually strong woman prays throughout the day as she works or serves or sits quietly in the presence of God. Some women keep both body and soul in the best shape possible. This behavior sets an example for everyone. –Source unknown

# Gifts from the Heart

**P**articipants attending the Convention in Peoria will be able to reach out with care and compassion with Gifts from the Heart. Orphan Grain Train and Agencies in Peoria have been chosen to receive gifts from the heart. You may bring unlimited quantities and will be directed where to place your donations at registration.



Men's, Women's and Children's Underwear in the Original Packaging, 1 Christian Tract or Bible Verse (securely taped to package)



Kits – Men, Women, or Children (Mark which one) all items are to be NEW and regular size...not travel size (pack in clear plastic zip lock bag)



Men – Men's socks, Stick Deodorant, Disposable Razors, Toothbrush, Bar of soap, 1 Christian Tract, or Bible Verse (inside the bag)



Women – Women's socks, Stick Deodorant, Hand or Body Cream, Toothbrush, Bar of Soap, 1 Christian Tract or Bible Verse (inside the bag)



Children – Children's Socks, Box of 8 Crayons, Safety Scissors, Christian Coloring Book, Christian Story Book, Toothbrush



New Bath Towel/Hand Towel/ Washcloth (pack in clear plastic zip lock bag) 1 Bath Towel, 1 Hand Towel, 1 Washcloth, 1 Christian Tract, or Bible Verse (inside the bag)



New Children's Picture Bibles (English) or Arch Books



Quilts – any size for Orphan Grain Train (packed in clear heavy duty plastic bag)

## My Life and My Faith – Mother Teresa of Calcutta (Acts 20:13-38)

The meaning of my life is the love of God. It is Christ in his distressing disguise whom I love and serve. Jesus has said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me..." (Matthew 25:3-35)

Nobody can take my religion from me. Therefore, nobody can refuse me the right to practice it.

Nobody can take it away from me. It is something within me. If there is no alternative to persecution and if that is the only way that Christ wants to come among his people, by radiating his love for them through my actions, I would stay to serve them, but I wouldn't give up my faith.

I would be ready to give my life, but not my faith.

I am nothing. He is all. I do nothing of my own. He does it.

That is what I am, God's pencil. A tiny bit of pencil with which he writes what he likes.

God writes through us, and however imperfect instruments we may be, he writes beautifully.

Women's Devotional Bible - 2 -