

GET CONNECTED

TIPS AND TOOLS TO GET AND STAY CONNECTED

More tips & tools at www.lutheranwomen.ca

Spring 2015

PHOTOS----PHOTOS----PHOTOS----PHOTOS----PHOTOS----PHOTOS----PHOTOS

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands (2 Timothy 1: 6).

Who fanned your flame? Who continues to blow gently on your embers of faith so the fire stays alive in you? Who do you look to for spiritual guidance; who shares their wisdom with you? Who is your example of the "face of Christ"?

We are looking for photos of you with the person described above. It may be a family member; it may be a friend; it may be your pastor. Whoever it is, we want to see!

We want to celebrate those who "Fanned the Flame" in you.

Please send your photo to us at vpchristiangrowth@lutheranwomen.ca. If you don't have access to email, please send your photo to Roberta

Nixon, 107 Weekes Crescent, Regina, SK S4R 6Y1. Please indicate who is in the photo with you. If you would like to, feel free to give a brief history of how they were, or are, your "gentle breeze."

* Please note: As these photos will not be returned, you should send copies.



A sample picture – from left to right, Roberta Nixon, Goldie Anne Engel, Cindy Gellner and Patty Bell.



CONVENTION NOTES

The clock on the website is counting down the

days to the 2015 convention in Waterloo on July 10-12. You will find information items regarding the convention throughout this issue.

Business bulletin and convention manual

The convention manual will be completed about the end of April. It will be posted on the LWMLC

website (www.lutheranwomen.ca) for those who wish to see it in advance. Print copies will be given out at the convention.

To enable societies and delegates to discuss the business of the convention, a Business Bulletin outlining this business will be in the mail to societies by April 1. Included in this mailing will be: nominations, the proposed mission program, mission grant proposals, bylaw changes and resolutions.

The *Renew, Refocus, Rejoice Today* discussion paper from

the strategic planning group (see article page 3) will be mailed separately near the end of April.

PR package and forms

The second mailing of detailed information about the convention itself should be sent to societies and others about March 31. It will also include the registration form, hotel information and other needed forms.

The convention forms will also be available from our website, www.lutheranwomen.ca.

Facing an exciting future together

The 9th national convention of LWMLC is fast approaching. In the midst of the preparations I paused to consider what a convention is, what an LWMLC convention is. A quick google search tells me a convention is a large meeting of people who come to a place, usually for several days to talk about their shared work or other interests or to make decisions as a group.

That information applies to our convention. We will meet for three days to discuss the work of our organization and how that will continue not only for the next three years but well into the future. By now you have elected delegates who will represent you at convention. These women will vote on resolutions, mission grants, and budgets. They will elect new members to our national executive. By now each society will have received some information about the convention. A detailed business bulletin will follow so you can all discuss and have input

into the decisions to be made.

Our convention body will not only be made up of delegates but will also include other members and guests who have a very keen interest in our mission. This is a forum we have every three years to meet in person and talk about our mission and how it will be accomplished. For our organization this is crucial. LWMLC is made up of women in congregations across Canada. It is the faith and service of every woman that makes LWMLC successful. The combined efforts of every woman who has devoted time to personal study of God's Word, has made a quilt or donated a coin, are what make LWMLC successful. It is the voice of every woman at convention that will help us chart a course for success well into the future.

A convention is a time where



Iris Barta, president

people come together because of a shared interest. What a blessing we have in our "shared interest." We will come together in July to celebrate our Christian faith. We will be together in worship, in Bible study, in servant events, in prayer and in fellowship.

We are bound to each other in our faith, with the goal of bringing others into the fellowship of Christ. Our success can't always be measured in quantitative values. Our success is in every woman who is brought to faith, encouraged in her faith and equipped to share that faith.

At this, our 9th national convention, we will be talking together about becoming an even stronger organization. This is a wonderful opportunity for your voice to be heard as we shape our future. I pray as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

President Iris

Follow the convention blog. Sparks from Waterloo

A convention blog is up and running. Connect from a link posted on the LWMLC website or type sparksfromwaterloo.wordpress.com into the address line of your browser and receive the latest information about the convention. The plan is for those involved in preparations to also share their thoughts as they prepare.

It is easy to receive a blog in your

email inbox. Unlike Facebook or Twitter, signing up to follow a blog doesn't put you "out there" in public. It is private between you and whoever is running the blog which, in this case, is a member of the LWMLC communication committee.

Here's how. Access the blog as indicated. In the lower right hand corner watch for a box with the word

"Follow." Click on it and enter your email address when requested. You will receive an e-mail asking you to confirm that you wish to receive postings to the blog. If you agree, each time there is a posting you will receive it in your inbox. It is that easy to get connected with "Sparks from Waterloo."

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Refresh, renew and rejoice

Building a stronger Lutheran women's organization

We don't know what the future holds but we know our LORD holds the future. That important truth keeps the small strategic planning group energized as the members work very hard to respond to all the needs of Lutheran women across Canada to support a vibrant and growing organization. Many possibilities are being considered to simplify our structure while at the same time making it stronger, reaching more Christian sisters and supporting more missions.

The Refocusing for Mission task force asked our membership for feedback and has taken the survey results very seriously. Here's what you said:

We need to continue offering women an opportunity to:

1. Study and grow in God's Word with Bible study at each gathering
2. Reach out to those in need with servant events/projects
3. Gather mites for mission work in Canada and around the world through our mission grants
4. Experience fellowship and spiritual growth developed at the

rallies, renewals, workshops and conventions

We want to find ways to:

1. Direct more mite money to mission projects and spend less on travel and meetings
2. Lower the cost of conventions, making them more affordable for every member to attend and to attract other women of the Church
3. Conduct less business at conventions and provide more uplifting messages and interaction
4. Reduce the many layers of structure
5. Give each member a voice in voted issues

The strategic planning group met once face-to-face last December and since that time has been meeting via computer every two to three weeks. A framework of potential changes will be presented for discussion and feedback over the next few months. After that, it will be back to the task of finalizing a proposal to launch our women's organization into the next decades—stronger and more resourceful.

The world has changed since the formation of LWMLC in 1993 and so must we. The process of change, however, is difficult and we must seek God's help to give us the patience and understanding to determine a path and then accept and support the required changes.

Every member of our women's organization will have an opportunity to consider the suggested changes. At the convention in July there will be a presentation with a question and answer period, followed by small group discussions to hear all ideas, concerns and benefits of change. For those of us unable to attend the convention, a discussion paper, draft of a new structure and the financial benefits of the changes will be shared with every society in Canada and an opportunity provided for feedback.

Take all opportunities to prayerfully consider how you can support strengthening our organization and helping your sisters in Christ grow in faith while spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ around the globe.

Tapestry – stories, news, renewals, new subscriptions

Forms for renewals and new subscriptions to *Tapestry* were sent out with the last issue of the magazine. While our volunteer packers do an excellent job, from time to time they may miss putting a form into the occasional envelope. If you didn't receive a copy, please download one from our website or contact the editor-in-chief.

Renewals and new subscriptions are due May 15 and begin with the fall issue.

We encourage you to give gift subscriptions or invite other women to subscribe. It is important to keep

our circulation numbers up. Don't forget the digital, audio and large print editions for those who would appreciate something other than the regular print version.

Of late, news from societies and zones has been in short supply. Consider that what might seem everyday stuff to you might be something another society hasn't heard about or tried. We encourage you to take some photos as well and please send the original, not one reduced in size. If you think there might be a problem doing so, contact

the editor-in-chief to find out.

Theme for the fall issue of *Tapestry* is *Alive in the Spirit*. Do you have something on that topic to share with readers? Something related to Thanksgiving or Reformation would also be welcome. Deadline for submissions is May 1, 2015. Send it to the editor-in-chief.

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Something old is new again or Refreshing an old idea or???

When LWMLC was first formed, each biennium began with an inter-committee meeting. Elected general council and appointed committee members met in person for two days to talk about the mission, vision and goals of LWMLC. They met as a whole group and as committees. They charted out the plans for the new biennium.

For the last several years we have tried a different approach. Newly-elected general council members and district presidents met in the fall after the national convention to talk about mission, vision and goals. After the initial meeting each vice-president arranged a meeting with her committee, the LWMLC president and a representative from the communication committee. Based on the initial meeting each committee

determined their goals and plans for the triennium.

The change was made, in part, to save the cost of the large meeting.

General Council has determined that in the fall of 2015 we will move to a way of initiating the new triennium that is similar to the original. Elected members of General Council and their district counterparts will meet for two and a half days at a retreat centre near Edmonton.

There are a few reasons:

Upon review of the cost of the initial general council meetings followed by committee meetings in separate locations, the cost of bringing everyone to one spot at one time is not significantly more.

The value of having everyone together, to meet each other, and have

discussions where we all have input and start out the triennium on the same page will far outweigh the cost.

At our convention in July we will be discussing our future. This intercommittee meeting will be an important step in developing a detailed plan and timeline for our renewed look.

Funds previously budgeted for the initial general council meeting and committee meetings will be used. Additional funds required will come from our Manulife Bank account.

Thanks be to God who gave us the insight and courage to try a different approach with these meetings and to now be flexible enough to do what we feel will work today.

We're on Facebook and Twitter

LWMLC has been expanding into social media, including Facebook and Twitter. We know that not everyone involved with LWMLC are interested in social media but it is important we be there, not just for women in our organization but for many women outside the group.

On Facebook, we have 285 people "liking" our page which means they will be notified when we post something. Most of these people are from Canada, we have quite a few likes from the United States, plus from various other places around the world. Even though the majority following our LWMLC Facebook page are female, about 15% are male.

On Twitter, we have 150 people "following" us which again means they receive notification of our postings. Here too, the majority are

from Canada, but we have people following us from around the world. When I began looking after Twitter I had never used Twitter before, but now I feel like I know what I am doing. So if I can learn, so can you.

What do I post on Facebook and Twitter? I post every day from the monthly prayer calendar. On Mondays a saying or a picture is posted. On Wednesdays, I post various projects societies can do – highlighting the ones from our Resource Centre or from our LWMLC website. On Thursdays, I post a Resource of the Week, highlighting a different resource from our Resource Centre. In addition, I post information from our website, Get Connected and Tapestry.

We would like to expand our reach. Here are a few simple ways you can do to help us:

- At your next society meeting, spring retreat or fall rally, remind ladies we are on social media.
- In your church bulletin mention that LWMLC is on Facebook and Twitter and invite congregation members to visit the sites. For those who want to know more about LWMLC but may not have time to come to a meeting, point out that they can find information on Facebook and Twitter.

If you are already on Facebook or Twitter, please "like," share or retweet our posts to your family and friends.

Here's what you need to know for any of the above:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/LWMLCanada

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LWMLC>

Melissa Henke

Be a servant at convention as you serve others

My grandmother had a saying, “Many hands make light work,” and her words come to mind when our society has a work day, or when a task is needing to be done and so many of the women volunteer. We will be coming together with “many hands” at our national convention in July by participating in the servant events that are planned. Each district is organizing one activity.

- The Ontario District: With this district’s help we will be cutting and folding gauze bandages which are needed for medical emergencies in many places. The words of our LWMLC pledge remind us to pledge to God our willing service and our hands to work for Him.
- The ABC District: We love sharing God’s Word and joy with the people around us. One way is making tray cards that have special Bible verses or encouraging words on them. This reminds me of a

quote, “Give someone one of your smiles, it may be the only sunshine they see all day. It can change the world. Maybe not the whole world, but their world.” Another way to give joy and share God’s Word with the people around us is using tea bags. Give a tea bag with a special message attached during the holidays or as a random act.

- The Central District: This district will be hosting the assembly of birthday kits for children living in shelters. The kit includes party hats and favours, napkins/cups/plates, cake mix, icing and candles. You are also welcome to pick up the kit list for your society.
- The Laurentian District: We will be making pillowcase dresses with the help of this district. Most of the materials including pillowcases, pins, scissors, thread (and of course a few sewing machines) will be supplied. We will need donations of 1/4 or 1/2 inch

elastic and 1/2 inch double bias tape. This has become an ongoing project for many members in the Laurentian District as well as many others in their congregations.

Even if you don’t know how to sew with a machine, you can help out by cutting and pinning material, cutting elastic and bias tape and labelling the dresses. Many dresses have already been sent to Haiti Lutheran Mission Society and CLWR. Thank you to all who will help us with this servant event.

We look forward to this convention featuring each district sharing one servant event. It is such a blessing to have all the districts collaborating on this. We look forward to the convention and the wonderful opportunity to get to know our sisters from across Canada and to serve the Lord with gladness!

Melissa Henke

One hundred reasons...

The young women coming to the convention have much to look forward to: the meeting of LWMLC ladies from across Canada, participating in Bible studies, shopping in the LWMLC store, singing with a large group of ladies, seeing what mission grants get chosen, learning about LWMLC and visiting all the exhibits at The Hearth.

In addition, there are special activities planned just for young women. Every morning, they will gather for morning devotions over breakfast. Each evening, they will join together for a project and to learn about LWMLC.

There are a hundred reasons why a young woman should attend the 2015 LWMLC national convention. Here are just a few:

Reason 14 – Meet new people from all over Canada

Reason 23 – Hear great stories from fellow LWMLC women

Reason 39 – Learn from amazing guest speakers

Reason 41 – Discover new and exciting opportunities

Reason 48 – Enjoy a shopping trip to the LWMLC Store

Reason 57 – Learn something new at the interest sessions

Reason 65 – See firsthand what mission grants can do to spread the Gospel

Reason 71 – Dig into God’s Word with sisters in Christ

Reason 85 – Sing with close to two hundred other women

Reason 91 – Participate in special events just for young women

Reason 100 – Make great memories

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Hope to see you there.

Melissa Henke
henke.melissa@yahoo.ca

LWML–Canada Sunday 2015

As there always is in a convention year, there will be a delay in preparing some items for LWML–Canada Sunday as we want to incorporate the mission grants selected at the convention.

Because pastors like to plan ahead, please let your pastor know that LWML–Canada Sunday will be October 4 this year and that materials will be available in late summer.

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE-CANADA
FINANCIAL REPORT – April 1, 2012 – February 28, 2015**

**A fresh idea for planning next
year's society gatherings**

Heart Melody – Discovering More...

A Christian lady came up to me and said, "I'm reading the Sams." The Sams??? What could this be? Dr. Seuss' *Sam, I Am?* Or could it be some mysterious book I'd never heard of? What were the Sams? "Well," the lady continued, "The Sams give me joy and comfort, especially Sam 23; The Lord is my Shepherd." Now I understood. The Psalms! Of course. Sams, psalms, psalter. Whichever way we say it, the psalms are the ancient song book of Israel.

The Bible provides us with the Psalter. David, Moses, Asaph (a musician under David) and others wrote these masterpieces of spirituality. First century Christians continued to use the psalms to sing to the Lord a new song. Throughout the Christian church, the psalms have been the inspiration for hymns and spiritual songs. Hymn writer, Isaac Watts, based *Joy to the World* on Psalm 98. Martin Luther's *A Mighty Fortress* is based on Psalm 46. Songwriter, Martin J. Nystrom, based *As the Deer Panteth for the Water* on Psalm 42. There are many other hymns and spiritual songs that you can discover. Ephesians 5:18 – 19 says, "Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

As in the Heart Melody seminar, the Christian Growth committee wants you to continue making melody in your hearts to the Lord.

The program planner for 2015/2016 will offer devotions on some of the psalms and hymns and prayers in *Lutheran Service Book*. For those who use Creative Worship, we hope that your Heart Melody will add some spiritual songs. The planner is in the final stages of preparation and will be available soon.

"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any among you cheerful? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13). May your Heart Melody

continued next page

**Revenue from Districts and Donation
***Recoverable

Please direct any questions regarding the financial report to treasurer, Linda Horton, treasurer@lutheranwomen.ca, 403-984-2508.

	April 1, 2012 - Feb. 28, 2015	Budget 2012-2015
REVENUE		
Sale of LWMLC Resources	\$22,054.07	\$50,000.00
Credit Card Fees Refund	\$264.74	\$720.00
Resource Centre refund	\$527.99	\$-
Designated For Mission Grants	\$25,135.12	\$10,000.00
Mites From Districts	\$181,920.76	\$225,000.00
Gifts For Growth - Donations	\$13,099.11	\$2,500.00
Gifts For Growth - Earned Interest	\$19,295.43	\$3,000.00
Anniversary Offering	\$4,711.70	\$-
Convention Offerings	\$8,311.32	\$10,000.00
Mission Walk	\$11,116.41	\$15,000.00
Convention Registrations	\$30,906.33	\$-
Endowment Proceeds	\$1,173.91	\$-
Convention 2015 Revenue	500.00	
Advertising Income - Tapestry	\$14,790.25	\$14,500.00
Subscription Income - Tapestry	\$59,742.50	\$64,210.00
Communication (reimbursement)	\$1,100.00	\$-
GST Rebate	\$3,784.71	\$5,000.00
Leadership Training/Seminar	\$-	\$11,950.00
Task Force	\$2,500.00	\$-
Donations	\$6,350.00	\$-
Miscellaneous	\$73.31	\$3,480.00
Recover from LWMLC Conv. Committee	\$650.60	\$2,000.00
Convention 2012 Hotel Advance	\$-	\$4,500.00
TOTALS	\$408,008.26	\$421,860.00
EXPENSES		
Christian Growth Committee	\$1,464.35	\$2,500.00
Resource Centre Operations	\$20,740.69	\$35,000.00
Christian Mission Committee	\$1,945.63	\$5,000.00
Convention Offerings	\$8,311.32	\$10,000.00
Gifts For Growth Fund	\$21,781.56	\$10,020.00
Mission Grants	\$108,000.00	\$130,000.00
Mission Grant 2009-2012 Carryover	\$405.15	\$-
Mission Walk Money	\$11,116.41	\$15,000.00
Communication Committee	\$13,118.36	\$18,100.00
Member Development Committee	\$1,198.49	\$5,000.00
Tapestry & Internet	\$78,775.46	\$88,890.00
Bank Charges	\$417.40	\$250.00
Convention Advance ***	\$2,030.89	\$2,000.00
Convention 2015 Hotel Advance ***	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
Executive Expenses	\$9,430.68	\$10,000.00
General Council Meetings	\$44,715.40	\$45,000.00
GST (50%)	\$3,173.80	\$5,000.00
Leadership Seminar/Training	\$5,551.00	\$11,700.00
Master Card/Visa Fees	\$4,382.55	\$6,000.00
Master Card/Visa Fees - 2012 Convention	\$1,009.42	\$-
Miscellaneous	\$1,932.32	\$2,100.00
Non-budgeted Items	\$155.84	\$-
Professional Fees	\$3,075.00	\$2,500.00
Resource Centre Administration	\$5,143.52	\$9,000.00
Resource Centre Rent	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
Structure Committee	\$-	\$300.00
Task Force**	\$2,945.80	\$-
Convention 2012 credit card payments	\$29,336.59	\$-
TOTALS	\$386,157.63	\$421,860.00

fresh idea, continued

resonate within you in worship and praise to God and join with your sisters in Christ to raise a joyful sound to our Lord.

And if anyone tells you they are reading the Sams, you'll know exactly what they are talking about!

So here's the list:

Read a psalm

Sing a hymn

Sing a spiritual song

And add to that: prayer.

Lord, As we meditate on Your Word

Mission grants near completion

First of all, a big thank you to all who have so generously donated extra mites this past year. You have made it possible to pay all the mission grants selected at our convention in 2012 that have been requested. We still have \$22,000 remaining in the Mission Opportunity Fund for which we have yet to receive requests.

In the spring issue of *Tapestry* we reported that the grants to Concordia Seminary in Ukraine and to support evangelists to women and children in Cambodia were recently completed. We also reported that \$1,000 was provided from the Mission Opportunity fund to repair sewing machines at the sewing centre

in the psalms, give us a teachable spirit to learn and to grow in our relationship with You. By the power of the Holy Spirit, give us opportunities to reach out to our neighbours in love with the message of salvation in Your Son, Jesus Christ. As the psalms bring us joy and comfort, may we share that joy and comfort with others. Thanks. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Jill Munoz

Christian Growth Committee

in Nicaragua. Since then we have paid \$5,000 from the Mission Opportunity Fund in support of Lutheran Church-Canada's Foreign Student Fund. This money is being used to support Rev. Alexey Navrotsky, his wife Vika and his two children as he furthers his studies at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. Rev. Navrotsky is a missionary for Lutheran Church-Canada in Ukraine, where he serves with the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU). His graduate studies in Edmonton will prepare him to serve as an instructor at the Odessa seminary in Ukraine in the future.

What's needed?

Immediately after the convention the new General Council will be selecting new committees. Then the committees will need to meet and begin planning for the 2015-2018 triennium. Because that takes some time the current committees will continue their work for a number of months after the convention.

To help the new committees get off to a good start, we are asking for your assistance. While they will come with fresh ideas, what is really helpful is knowing what types of current resources societies are using and what resources are needed that aren't being provided.

For example:

1) Are the materials for LWML-Canada Sunday useful? How could they be improved?

2) When prayer services were discontinued, some districts or zones took on the task of writing their own. Do we need to re-consider? Central District shares their prayer service? Are there others that might be shared?

3) Does your society use the program helps from the Resource Centre? How - print? CD? E-mail? Is everything satisfactory? What topics do you wish were there? What types of program helps, for example, does

Mission GRANTS

2012-2015

\$35,000	Mission Opportunity Fund (\$13,000 paid)
\$10,000	Street Ministry & Police Chaplain, Rev. D.J. Kim, Regina COMPLETED
\$15,000	Sewing School, Nicaragua COMPLETED
\$ 9,000	Evangelist Deaconesses, Nicaragua COMPLETED
\$12,000	Camp Lutherland, Qu'Appelle Lakes, Sask. COMPLETED
\$ 5,000	Social Outreach Programs, Our Saviour, Etobicoke, Ont. COMPLETED
\$16,000	Concordia Seminary, Odessa, Ukraine COMPLETED
\$ 6,000	Evangelists to women and children, Thailand COMPLETED
\$22,000	Evangelist Deaconess, Cambodia COMPLETED
TOTAL GRANTS:	\$130,000
TOTAL PAID TO DATE:	\$108,000
BALANCE NEEDED	\$22,000

anyone use the litanies? The skits?

You get the idea. Feedback regarding anything available through our Resource Centre or online would be very useful.

The Vice-president, Communication will gather your input in whatever form you wish to send it. Feedback is welcome from both individuals and societies but please indicate your society and community and provide contact name and information in case we want clarification. Please send it to Gail Mitchell, 28 Strathcona Avenue, Riverside Estates, SK S7T 1A4 or vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca.