

Staying CONNECTED

INFORMATION TO KEEP OUR LEAGUE CONNECTED

More tips & tools at www.lutheranwomen.ca

Winter 2016

This newsletter should have arrived a month ago but with some contributors tied up with planning a Sister to Sister mission trip to Nicaragua and then carrying out the trip it had to be delayed. A bonus: you didn't need to distribute it during the busy Christmas season.

Changes coming to the distribution of this newsletter

Using Mites for missions, not mailings

All the little things add up. Over the course of a triennium we budget about \$6800 to print and mail 12 issues of *Get Connected* plus mailings for three LWML-Canada Sundays. In addition there is the cost of two mailings for our triennial convention that, although in the convention budget instead of our mission program for the triennium, still must be considered. The General Council decided there was need for a change.

We could have almost all that money available to pay mission grants—or in the case of convention, keep registration costs down—if we

were able to make those mailings available via the Internet.

While we know some are most willing to receive mailings in that way, for some it is difficult. Still, where there's a will there's way...or so they say. The majority of societies have an e-mail contact, whether it is a member or the church office. In situations where e-mail access is impossible, let's talk.

How we will do it

Our plan is to post the contents of a mailing (*Get Connected* or LWMLC Sunday information, etc.) on our

LWMLC website and then email a link to the each society contact with a note saying they are receiving it to share with their society. The contact person may click on the link and open the file. Or, if there is a problem with that process, the link can be copied and pasted into your browser.

The link may also be forwarded to any of your members with e-mail so they

can open and read or save and print as they desire. That means you only need to make copies for those women not online. It can, therefore, save your society copying costs as well. And, with the cooperation of your church secretary you don't have to print any copies on your personal printer. Simply forward the link to the church office (unless the secretary is the one already receiving the original e-mail) where it can be printed and copied with the cost covered by whatever arrangement you make with your congregation.

To get us started

We are not sure all the e-mail addresses are for the person you currently want to be the contact person for your society. And there may be other things to troubleshoot.

Therefore, **we are sending this issue of *Get Connected* in two ways**, by mail as usual and via e-mail as described above.

Please send **changes of contact person/e-mail address** to Laura Goerz, data manager at datamanager@lutheranwomen.ca.

If you have **other questions**, please contact Gail Mitchell, VP Communication at vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca [please note there is no "s" on communication].

Somebody Else

There is a clever young lady named Somebody Else,

There is nothing this gal cannot do.

She's busy from morning 'til way late at night,

Just substituting for you.

You're asked to do this or asked to do that,

And what is your ready reply?

"Get Somebody Else, Madam Chairman,

She'll do much better than I."

There's so much to be done in our service,

So much, and the workers so few,

And somebody else is getting tired and worn,
just substituting for you.

So next time you're asked to do something worthwhile,

Just give them this honest reply:

"If Somebody Else can give time and support,

You bet your last dime, so can I!

Adapted from LWML International

Shared by the Member Development Committee

Insights from Iris

January, the beginning of a new year is often a time when we reflect on the past year and set goals for the coming year.

The tradition of New Year's resolutions is said to have been initiated by the ancient Babylonians some 4,000 years ago. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favour on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favour.

Ancient Romans believed their god Janus looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future. They offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.*

Today, the tradition of making New Year's resolutions is largely secular. It might be a good opportunity though to take stock of our life of faith. We might ask ourselves, have I become closer to God since this time last year, or have I let myself slide away a little? Whatever your answer is, the challenge for the coming year is to come closer to God. God craves this close relationship with us and will eagerly bless our efforts to enhance that relationship.

After a break from our usual activities to make room for our Christmas and New Year celebrations, we pick up our to-do lists, hopefully with a renewed energy. As leaders of LWMLC, many of those tasks involve our work in societies, zones, districts and at the national level. LWMLC has a great deal going on this coming year. A new seminar, "Always Called

to Serve," is in the final stages and will be presented across Canada in 2017. The Reflect, Rejoice, Renew plan is being finalized for presentation at our 2018 convention. Plans are also being made for an exciting convention, at which we will celebrate 25 years as an autonomous Canadian organization. These milestone events are exciting to plan and look forward to.

There is much to be done on the "administrative" side of LWMLC. This work is part of our mission and I encourage you to embrace it enthusiastically. Bring this work to God in prayer, ask Him to show each of us how we can best serve. Ask God to show each of us the special tasks He has set out for us. The work we do as we serve on our boards and committees serves to equip and encourage societies and individuals in bringing others closer to God.

Our daily work in our congregations and societies may

seem a little humdrum in comparison. The fact is, the work we as individuals do on a daily basis is the most exciting work of our organization.

God is with us every time we encourage an LWMLC sister or visit a lonely person, or have coffee with someone who needs encouragement in the faith. This is the work of bringing people closer to God, His greatest desire.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

*Information about the history of New Year traditions is from: <http://www.history.com/news/the-history-of-new-years-resolutions>



President Iris

Hold your own Sister to Sister event



Six women from LWML-Canada participated in this mission trip: Iris Barta, Renate Bishopp, Pauline Huth, Barb Jurgens, Judi Luckhardt and Christine Pollex. Each returned with wonderful stories to share and, we suspect (though we haven't asked) they would be delighted to be given the opportunity by societies or zones to do that in person.

Whether or not you hear from one of them personally, most of the materials they used are available via the LWML-Canada website (www.lutheranwomen.ca/events/sister2sister/s2s-studies-stories) allowing your society or zone to hold a local Sister to Sister event. Following are some ideas to get your planning started.

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Sister to Sister, continued

Who would the sisters be?

The women of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, including both deaconesses and lay members of our sister churches and the team from LWMLC formed a rich sisterhood. Here at home, each LWMLC participant could invite a friend from the congregation who is not involved in LWMLC.

The life of a Christian woman

Did you have opportunity to use the same Bible study used in Nicaragua? It explores what scripture has to say about the life of a Christian woman. Each section has a write-up about a particular woman from scripture written by one of

the team members. In Nicaragua each team members presented the information she had gleaned about the woman from scripture assigned to her and then she shared her own journey of faith.

The study is fairly long and worth doing in its entirety. That might mean an all-day event or several evening or afternoon events over a period of time.

A craft with purpose – Pearls of Wisdom

In Spanish the word for wisdom is *sabiduria*. The booklet on our website gives you the opportunity for that little taste of Spanish by using the letters of the Spanish word for wisdom.

The file posted for your use is set up to print the pages double-sided

and fold into a booklet.

Along with this guide for discussion you will find a page about the bracelet you will make. It describes how it was used in Nicaragua and provides some ideas for you in your local event. It also has a few tips for successful bracelet-making.

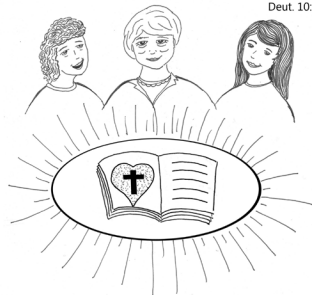
Other possibilities

The team that went to Nicaragua gave each of their new sisters a “Sisters” pin to remind them of the time together. These pins are available from the LWML-Canada Resource Centre in Winnipeg and, while not inexpensive, the LWMLC participants might wish to give the “sister” they invited one to keep.

Calling all women from our congregations

Always Called To Serve

Deut. 10:12



2017 seminar almost ready

You are invited to attend a special opportunity to connect, reconnect and be strengthened with and by our

Heavenly Father and members of His family. And you will see what this connection brings about in your life and the life of others as you explore the theme "Always Called to Serve."

Please watch for the seminar dates in your district, write them in your calendar, and make time to attend. Some are listed below. There are more to come.

You will risk seeing yourself and others differently through the light of Christ. God's blessings in 2017!

Following is a prayer written by

the seminar committee for your use.

Rena Detlefsen, Seminar Committee

Dear Heavenly Father, we ask that You grant us boldness and love as we prepare for our 2017 LWMLC seminar, "Always Called to Serve." May we desire to share this opportunity with women from our congregations and from beyond. We'll be strengthened by Your Word and challenged to see and serve You intimately as You see us intimately by Your grace. In Your Son, Jesus, we pray, Amen."

Confirmed seminar dates, Alberta-British Columbia District

April 22, 2017	Bethel Lutheran Church	Sherwood Park, Alta.
April 28-29, 2017	Hope Lutheran Church	Fort Coquitlam, B.C.
May 27, 2017	Grace Lutheran Church	Calgary, Alta.
June 3, 2017	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	Kamloops, B.C.

Confirmed seminar dates, Central District

May 13, 2017	Mt Olive Lutheran Church	Regina, Sask.
June 3, 2017	St Paul's Lutheran Church	Saskatoon, Sask.

LWMLC supports Mission Effort in Quebec

LCC East District’s Mission Encourager Rev. Ron Mohr recently requested \$5,000 from the **Mission Opportunity Fund**. A Reformation anniversary outreach effort is going on in Quebec and seed money is needed for the development and presentation of this project.

The project has different several components, including a travelling display with the working title of “Martin Luther as Translator” which Rev. Dr. David Somers is developing with the Montreal office of the Canadian Bible Society. The outreach component includes the use of Lutheran Laymen’s League Project Connect booklets (particularly those in French), the French Lutheran hymnal, and other contemporary confessional Lutheran material translated into French, some of which will be made available to those who

visit. Information about our Quebec missions will also be part of the display, letting people know about the work LCC East District is doing in the province.

Although the request is for a total of \$5,000, only \$1,000 is needed right away and has been granted by your General Council. Rejoicing in the grace of our generous God and the love for mission of our LWMLC members we are happy to be part of this important mission in Quebec. May God grant the planting of Lutheran churches in a part of Canada where little is known about Lutheranism and what it stands for.

Sola Scriptura—Word Alone; Sola Fide—Faith Alone; Sola Gratia—Grace Alone; Solus Christus—Christ Alone.

More on Reformation activities and suggestions for involvement is found in the winter issue of *Tapestry*.

Thanks from Kitchener

A **thank you note** from one of our 2015–2018 mission grant recipients, the **Community Cupboard at Historic St. Paul’s in Kitchener, Ont.**, was received. Their card expresses their appreciation for LWMLC as a partner in providing for the physical essentials of the people they see in need. If asked, their spiritual needs are tended to as well. The grant for \$15,000 has received two payments of \$5,000 each.

More grants paid

By the grace of God, the following **grant payments for LCC Missions** have been made.

- Nicaragua Feeding and Education Program – \$720
- Evangelist Deaconesses in Nicaragua – \$900
- Ukraine Seminary – \$3,200

This month another installment will to the Nicaragua Feeding and Education program and the Evangelist Deaconesses.

Mission

GRANTS

2015-2018

<p>\$26,000 Mission Opportunity Fund \$5,500 (21%) paid **</p> <p>\$7,200 Curriculum Needs, Feeding & Christian Education Program, Nicaragua \$2,880 (40%) paid</p> <p>\$ 15,000 Visiting and Site Pastor, Maritimes \$10,000 (66%) paid</p> <p>\$ 16,000 Canadian Teachers, Concordia Seminary, Odessa Ukraine \$6,400 (40%) paid</p>	<p>\$ 5,000 National Youth Gathering 2016, St. Catharines, Ontario \$5,000 - COMPLETED</p> <p>\$ 4,735 Sewing School, Cambodia \$1,735 (36%) paid</p> <p>\$ 9,000 Evangelists/Deaconesses, Nicaragua \$3,600 (40%) paid</p> <p>\$ 15,000 Food, clothing and outreach, Community Cupboard, Kitchener, Ont. \$10,000 (66%) paid</p> <p>**This fund assisted with costs of an Intercultural Ministry conference, Etobicoke, Ont., a Women of Worth conference for First Nations women in Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan and Quebec Reformation project.</p>	<p>\$ 15,000 Technology upgrade, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton \$10,401.54 (69%) paid</p> <p>\$8,532.50 Sister to Sister Seminar, Cambodia 0 paid</p> <p>\$8,532.50 Evangelists/Deaconesses, Cambodia \$2,565 (30%) paid</p> <p>Approx. 45% paid of \$130,000</p> <p>55% remaining</p>
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Strengthening a church/society family—an LWMLC-sponsored event

Check all this out with your pastor and/or worship committee before beginning, of course.

Ask a handyman/carpenter in your congregation to cut out a church-shaped (with steeple) piece of wood and either sand, stain or paint it.

Ask each member of the congregation (all ages) to find a small thin stone (any colour/shape) and put their name on it with a marker. Tell members to bring their rock on a certain Sunday. Set aside a certain day and build a church service around the theme “Christ is the ROCK of our salvation.” Sing “rock” hymns such as Rock of Ages, Christ is our Cornerstone, My Hope is Built on Nothing Less, Built on a Rock the Church Does Stand, etc. Scripture readings should relate to this theme—1 Peter 2:4-6, Eph 2: 20-22 are some examples.

The sermon (or devotion if done at a time other than your usual

divine service) would tie in with the same theme. At a certain point in the service, each member (parents can help little ones) brings his or her rock forward to be laid at the bottom of the cut out wooden church or, if you use a piece of “tacky stuff”, each person could stick his or her stone somewhere on the wooden church until the entire church is covered with stones.

Later you can glue the rocks permanently and hang the church on a wall as a reminder that “Christ Jesus Himself is the Chief Cornerstone.” If you happened to make the church three-dimensional, put it on a counter or window sill.) “In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord and in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit” (Ephesians 2:20-22).

Have extra stones and markers

available for those who did not bring a stone.

Beforehand, find a nice stone and write CHRIST is our Cornerstone on it and place at corner of the wooden church.

This entire service built around THE ROCK can be especially meaningful to a new mission as more people come into the church and it grows. It can also be very meaningful for an older congregation and ties in nicely with an anniversary or a service or a re-dedication. Leave room for new members to put their rocks as they join the church.

This can be adapted for an LWMLC meeting in a society or even a zone rally. Why not use it as a Sunday school activity? Imagine it being used during a new member Sunday to celebrate the new members as well as the entire church.

*adapted from Elaine Wolters,
LWMLC Manual 1996*

LWMLC – Resources for Christian Growth

As the Christian Growth committee did not put together a “Program Planner” for 2016/2017, we want to assure you that there is a wealth of materials available from the LWMLC Resource Centre. Some are also available online.

Treasures on the Internet Devotions

If you’re looking for something to open your monthly meetings with, a new devotion is posted on the LWMLC website – www.lutheranwomen.ca – each month.

Prayer Calendar

You can also print off the prayer calendar and make it available to your women. The prayer calendar

may also be attached to your Church newsletter, posted on bulletin boards or slipped into the mailboxes of the women of your congregation.

Prayer Service

Each year we encourage societies and zones to hold a prayer service. If you’re not sure where to start, one has been prepared by the Christian Growth committee of Central District. The theme for 2017 is “Come Lord Jesus, Rock My World” based on Colossians 2:7: “Rooted and built up in (Christ Jesus the Lord) and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” This service expands on the 2016 Central District LWMLC convention theme, Christ Alone is

our Rock, but is quite suitable for zones and societies in other districts. You can find this service at www.lutheranwomen.ca/central/grow/prayer/.

Fellowship gatherings

We also encourage women to gather together in fellowship by holding renewals, workshops and rallies. Numerous programs have been written that take you from the opening prayer and devotion right through to the final hymn and prayer. Don’t know where to start your search? Call Margaret at the Resource Centre (1.888.596.5226 Ext. 220) and she’ll set you on the right path. Or check out the catalogue at www.lutheranwomen.ca.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE—CANADA FINANCIAL REPORT – April 1, 2015 – November 30, 2016

	April 1/15 - November 30/16	Budget 2015-2018
REVENUE		
Sale of LWMLC Resources	\$10,045.42	\$ 30,000.00
Designated For Mission Grants	1,774.94	7,859.00
Donations	650.00	2,850.00
Endowment Proceeds	958.17	1,200.00
Gifts For Growth - Donations	6,688.04	12,000.00
Gifts For Growth - Interest	-	12,000.00
Mites from Districts	92,034.67	206,900.00
Communication	500.00	500.00
Advertising Income - Tapestry	10,001.55	18,100.00
Subscription Income - Tapestry	37,903.00	66,387.00
Sister to Sister pins	100.00	-
Convention 2015 Revenue	109,722.20	110,503.00
General Council & Intercommittee Meeting	925.66	-
GST Rebate	984.77	4,000.00
Miscellaneous	21.00	100.00
REVENUE TOTALS	\$ 272,309.42	\$ 472,399.00
*General Council & Intercommittee Meeting (funds transferred from Manulife Account originally received in previous triennium)	\$ 16,957.61	\$ 22,400.00
BUDGET TOTALS	\$ 289,267.03	\$ 494,799.00
EXPENSES		
Christian Growth Committee	\$ 289.53	\$ 2,000.00
Resource Centre Operations	9,144.52	30,000.00
Christian Mission Committee	603.50	4,000.00
Gifts For Growth Fund - Seminary Scholarships	800.00	12,000.00
Mission Grants	57,790.39	130,000.00
Communication Committee	8,704.36	24,119.00
Member Development Committee	562.96	2,000.00
Tapestry	40,899.65	84,487.00
Archives	-	250.00
Bank Charges	143.92	540.00
Convention Expenses	93,351.56	110,503.00
Executive Expenses	2,828.32	10,000.00
General Council Meetings	14,428.16	35,000.00
*General Council & Intercommittee meeting	21,063.11	22,400.00
GST (50%)	3,926.51	4,000.00
Master Card/Visa Fees	448.57	3,000.00
Miscellaneous	518.15	2,500.00
Professional Fees	10,819.60	3,500.00
Resource Centre Administration	2,205.82	6,000.00
Resource Centre Rent	2,000.00	6,000.00
Structure Committee	-	2,500.00
Strategic Planning Committee	277.25	-
TOTALS	\$ 270,805.88	\$ 494,799.00

Revenue report prepared by Rachel Kuhl, financial secretary.

Expense report prepared by Lorraine Weir, treasurer.

Please direct any questions regarding the financial report to treasurer,
Lorraine Weir, treasurer@lutheranwomen.ca, 204-269-6737.

Resources, continued

Opening the doors to God's Word in your life

In *Tapestry*, from Spring 2013 to Fall 2014, the Christian Growth Committee published a series of articles under this title. Given the importance Martin Luther placed on God's Word, this would be suitable to use in some way during 2017 as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reformation. You may find them in back issues of the magazine or watch for them to be posted on the reformation page of the LWMLC website.

Publications

LWMLC's own magazine, *Tapestry*, is full of stories, mission project ideas and Bible studies. The three Bible studies found in each issue follow a theme and usually take 30 minutes to an hour to do, thereby making them perfect for meetings.

The newsletter, *Get Connected*, is available to society presidents (via a contact person), though we suggest sharing it with all the women of your society. There may be information contained therein that means nothing to you, but provides something to someone else. Check out the information on page one regarding a change in distribution.

Let us not take it for granted that women know of these publications. Share them with your societies and the women in your congregation.

The LWMLC has always prided herself in providing quality materials—all of which have been reviewed by pastoral counsellors to ensure they are doctrinally sound—to all the women of Lutheran Church—Canada. Please take the time to see what's available to aid you in your Christian walk.

*Roberta Nixon/Irene Kaun
LWMLC Christian Growth*