



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

**CONVENTION UPDATE**

THE LATEST NEWS AND VIEWS FROM LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE—CANADA

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May 17, 2018

### Young women encouraged to attend

The young women coming to the convention (both official Young Women Reps and any other young women attending) have lots to look forward to—meeting LWMLC ladies from across Canada, participating in Bible studies, shopping in the LWMLC store, singing with two hundred ladies or more, seeing what mission grants get chosen and taking part in servant events.

In addition, there are special activities planned for the young women. Thursday and Friday evenings they will join together for a Random Act of Kindness Project, devotions and, of course, learning about LWMLC.

I remember my first convention, where I was both nervous and excited at the same time. I wondered, “What I am getting myself into?” But it was the best experience and I enjoy coming back every three years to reconnect with friends and make new ones.

At every meal we encourage you to please sit with someone you do not know. You never know who you will get to meet. My first convention in Ottawa, I sat down with a lady who shared the history of Ottawa with me, (I am a big history lover, it was great). At that same convention, I sat down at a table and starting talking to someone who turned out to be the president of the US LWML, another great talk.

Take the leap, and register to come to Winnipeg. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me – [henke.melissa@yahoo.ca](mailto:henke.melissa@yahoo.ca)

Hope to see you there,  
*Melissa Henke*

### Changes to servant events

The Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank unfortunately double booked for our date so that servant event has been replaced by a tour of and presentation at Ronald McDonald House.

If you wish to make Sock Monkeys, please bring a pair of socks that have a contrasting heel and toe colour.

### Like to take pictures?

The convention committee is looking for a photographer or two for the convention in Winnipeg.

Photos are usually taken of the districts and other groups. That will be especially important to document if we move to the new structure.

Also, candid photos of convention activities are needed for *Tapestry* and other print and online media.

Since Central District is hosting, it would be nice to have volunteers from this district but if you like to snap photos and you belong to another district you would be a welcome addition to the team.

To volunteer, contact convention chair, Annette Borchardt at [annette442010@hotmail.com](mailto:annette442010@hotmail.com).

### Interested in singing in the choir?

Choir director Karen Appler shares a bit about herself:

I grew up in a musical family: singers on my mom's side; they would sing hymns all the way from Rhein, Saskatchewan to Winnipeg and instrumentalists on my dad's side; grandpa Brennenstuhl would play the violin

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Gail Mitchell, VP Communication, LWML—Canada  
[vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca) 306-373-4781

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for his building crew after their daily church building efforts. I started playing the piano at a young age as the piano was already part of our home. Once I learned some basics around the age of 7 or 8, I was given a hymnal to learn to play hymns. I developed my skills as a sight reader and by the age of 10, I was sitting at the church organ playing for the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School services and also playing the preludes before the regular church service. When I was around 16 I had to make a choice: play for the Winnipeg Jets or become the organist at Lutheran church of the Redeemer. It was at Redeemer, that I was introduced to the old dance rhythms of the 16th century used in our hymnal. Being able to play these rhythms effortlessly helped me become a church organist that could lead the congregation in hymn singing. While I was at Redeemer, I worked with two amazing choir conductors. James Whan was a choir conductor from Ireland who was able to get quality, balanced sound from our choir. It was so much fun working with him and learning from him. It was also a delight to work with the dedicated choir that still sang some hymns in four part harmony. I learned so much from Helga Anderson who became the choir conductor after Jim. A new choir era was dawning. From Helga, I learned how to choose appropriate music for a « smaller » choir and how to use « new music arrangements » to bring out the best in the smaller choir. I had always conducted or accompanied school choirs but, Our Savior's church was the first church where I was church organist and choir director. While at Our Savior's, I put together a mass choir for a fund raising effort for Winnipeg's downtown missions.

Music was also a focal point when I went to South America as a missionary. It was fun to share choral music with countries that had a different musical background. I returned to Lutheran Church of the Redeemer as their organist/ choir director and regularly used CD accompaniments to support the smaller sized choir. It is too difficult to conduct and accompany at the same time. With CD accompaniment I found I could really enjoy conducting the choir. Singing in a church choir is so enriching and the word of God is highlighted. When I was in high school I accompanied a lot of singers in the Manitoba Music Festival. It seemed evident to me the singers who sang in a choir. They were more confident and they had a better idea of the musicality of the song they were singing because of the musical training they had received in choir from a young age.

Choosing music for the LWMLC service has not been an easy feat. There seems to lack quality arrangements for S/A choir and the size of the convention choir is unknown. Nevertheless, the convention choir anthem

chosen: One Spirit, One Church (music by Kevin Keil) was matched with the convention's theme: One in Spirit, One in Purpose (Philippians 2:1-2). The S/A parts flow mainly in thirds and there is a contrapuntal part written for baritone that can be sung by a small group of ladies an octave higher. The anthem can be accompanied by organ and there there are other instrumental parts available. In my search, I found a congregational hymn that was also appropriate for the theme of the convention: One in Purpose, One in Passion arranged by Ken Bible. I am now looking forward to the opening service of the convention and the declaration of God's word in beautiful music at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd which is now my home. I joined my husband Mr. Richard Appler who is the organist/choir director at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd when we were married there in 2016.

*Karen Appler*

### Walk for Missions

The Christian Mission Committee is preparing their display booth for the convention. Please, come and visit us. This is the place to take your completed Mission Walk pledge forms and monies and pick up a treat. You are walking to help pay for LCC's Continuing Education Fund for pastors and deaconesses in Central America. Pledge forms are found on the LWMLC website: <https://lutheranwomen.ca/events/conventions/forms>.

If you held a local Roll and Stroll Mission Walk are there photos and stories you might share with us? Send to *Tapestry* editor, 2816 Calder Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 1W1.

The route of the Mission Walk mapped out for us by the convention committee is scheduled to go from the hotel to the famous Forks in Winnipeg where participants will have opportunity to survey the many quaint shops and find their supper on Friday night. Let's hope for pleasant weather to enjoy the surroundings! Even if you are not participating in the walk you may still want to visit Winnipeg's little gem.

The committee has elected not to use any scarves or T-shirts for the walk at this convention. Please, remember to wear as much blue as possible, especially during the walk! President Iris would be happy to see "a sea of blue." Let's give her an ocean!

