

New Online LHM Shopping

COMMUNICATOR'S CORNER



by Edward A. Wright
International LLL
Communicator

LHM products are now available on a convenient online site. From topical booklets to apparel and CDs to "Project Connect" displays, you can find it all on the 'Lutheran Hour Ministries Online Store.' The Online Store allows you to browse LHM's selection of products at any time that is convenient for you. You can view pictures of the products (and more products are coming), fill a virtual shopping cart with the items you want and even save your shopping cart for the next visit if you're not ready to finalize your purchase.

On the Online Store you can shop by category or topic, or view products alphabetically, so you can quickly find the article you are looking for. Categories include apparel, Bible studies, DVDs, Fair Booth items, and much more. The LHM Online Store also offers a link to available free resources that you can order, such as pamphlets addressing the

issues like alcoholism, cancer, addiction, and Alzheimer's Disease. Please, browse and buy products from the LHM Online Store at www.lhmgift.org/storefront

Enter LHM's Christmas Writing Contest

Do you have an interesting story to tell about the true meaning of Christmas? Then LHM wants you to enter our writing contest by submitting an original children's Christmas story expressing the real meaning of the season by January 6, 2006.

If your story is selected, LHM will award you a cash prize of \$100 and may choose to develop the story further for use in our ministries. For rules and details about the writing contest, as well as descriptions of Christmas traditions around the world, a Christmas quiz, holiday video ordering information, downloadable Christmas music, and more, log on to: www.christmasjoy.net.

Setting Asia on Fire!

Rev. Ken Klaus, speaker of *The Lutheran Hour* preached at the Asia *Ablaze!* Summit in Hong Kong, November

25-27. LHM's is cooperating with LCMS World Missions in *Ablaze!* and the historic gathering of partners in ministry in Asia was to further develop the spirit of working together.

"The hope for this gathering was to fan the flame of *Ablaze!* so it will spread from this event to every part of Asia, inspiring their church members, students and co-workers with the love of Christ," stated Greg Lewis, LHM Executive Director. The Summit began at the Hong Kong Int'l. School and ended with a celebration worship service hosted by the Lutheran Church-Hong Kong Synod for all the congregations in Hong Kong.

Klaus was not only the keynote speaker but served as the devotional leader for the Summit. Attendees included people from the Asian World Mission community, Asian ILC Lutheran Churches and seminaries, teachers from the Asian national and int'l. schools, and LCMS Human Care staff from across Asia (including the tsunami relief teams.)

What's in a Name?

Under the leadership of our new Int'l. Volunteer Services Manager, Andrew Fitzgerald, who assumed

the position formerly held by Rudy Schaser, a new title for our international operation is now known as 'Global Care Packages,' and 'Global Work and Witness' programs. Do we still have 'By Kids-For Kids,' (BKFK) 'A Mothers Touch,' (AMT) and 'Teacher to Teacher?' (TTT) The answer is You Bet, but they are now a part of the encompassing 'Global Care Packages.'

You'll be glad to know that the Uganda 'BKFK' project has been successful and the next country to receive school supplies will begin with another 'U', located in South America, called Uruguay during the League's 2006-07 year, and will include the "AMT" and "TTT." aspects of reaching mothers and teachers.

Manager Fitzgerald is extending the program to include not only schools and Sunday schools, but also

congregational volunteers. Watch for more announcements. The former "Servants to the Nations" title is now the "Global Work and Witness" program. 2006 opportunities include Almaty, Kazakstan, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Nairobi, Kenya and Guat-emala City, Guatemala. For more info e-mail: www.lhmint.org.

Odds and Ends

Remember the Suncoast Circuit Youth Organization is having its second Retreat at the Lakewood Retreat Center, January 20-22, 2006. Get in your reservations.

The dates of April 21-23 have been selected for the 2006 Florida-Georgia District Convention at Our Redeemer-Jacksonville, chaired by Rev. Bill Reister.

A welcome to Harold Vest, Jr., new Ambassador at Zion-Tampa. □

LIRS Grants Announced

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, in partnership with Wheat Ridge Ministries, is offering financial assistance to Lutheran congregations to encourage the development of new services for and with immigrants and refugees.

The Good Samaritan Fund was established in honor of August Bernthal for his dedicated leadership in serving refugees and immigrants. Seed grants up to \$5,000 are available to enable congregations to develop vital support services needed beyond the initial stages of resettlement.

In 2005, the Good Samaritan Fund awarded grants totaling \$83,400 to 23 churches across the country to help implement a variety of innovative programs including computer classes, literacy programs, a health project, driver's education, employment and entrepreneur training.

The Good Samaritan Fund is comprised of donations from congregations and individuals committed to assisting refugees, asylum seekers or immigrants through the development

of local programs by caring congregations.

Good Samaritan seed grants will be awarded to congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Applicant congregations will be expected to contribute at least 25% of the project cost, either through cash or in-kind support. Funding priority will be given to projects that demonstrate at least one of the following services to immigrant communities: social ministry projects, joint projects between community members and new residents, public education or advocacy, and leadership development within the ethnic groups served.

The application packet and guidelines are available at www.lirs.org. For more information on the Good Samaritan grant program, please contact Pam Bloom, LIRS Senior Consultant for Organizational Capacity Building, at 410/230-2875 or pbloom@lirs.org. □

District LWML Unveils New Website



LWML News

By Margie Smith
Communications
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District LWML

District who wish to become more active leaders in their own congregations. Additional workshops are planned for:

- January 21 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-Melbourne,

our District LWML has a new website! Although it is still a work in progress, there is already much information available, including a directory of the board of directors, copy of the bylaws, a list of the current mission grants, upcoming District events and Zone events.

The website is linked to the LWML website and the Florida-Georgia District LCMS website. Soon there will be information about the 2006 convention, including a downloadable registration form. Please visit our site often for the most up to date information on LWML district and zone events. The website is www.flgalwml.com.

Leaders For Tomorrow

The first workshop for "Leaders For Tomorrow" will be held January 14, 2006, at St. John Lutheran Church-Ocala. This workshop is intended not only for zone and unit leaders, but also for any women in our

FL

- March 11 in the Atlanta area (location not yet determined)

- March 18 at Lake Wales Lutheran Church-Lake Wales, FL

Plan to attend the workshop nearest you. For more information, visit our website at www.flgalwml.com or contact our District President, Lois Ford, at lwml-loisford@yahoo.com.

Mission Grant Proposals

It is time to begin preparing your mission grant proposal for the LWML's most important work: providing grants to further the gospel at home and abroad. Do you have a mission outreach project in need of funding? The deadline for submitting District LWML grant proposals is *March 15, 2006*.

You can get guidelines and forms from our website, www.flgalwml.com or contact Desiree Crawford,

Vice President for Mission Grants, at 904-388-7668 or dmm0926@bellsouth.net. Grant proposals accepted for ballot will be selected at our convention in September.

Nominations Deadline

A reminder that the nominations deadline for the positions of Vice President for Mission Service, Vice President for Leadership Development, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee is February 15, 2006. Please submit names for nomination to Carol Alberts, 352-854-5507 or lwmlcarol@atlantic.net. □

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