

LWML Events Past and Future

League Introduces New Formats, Outreach Tools



LWML NEWS
Margie Smith
LWML Communicator

Next year, instead of our usual retreat, the Florida-Georgia District LWML will sponsor an event similar to the non-denominational "Women of Faith," which draws thousands of women all over the country. Our version is a group of Lutheran women authors and speakers who have joined together to bring you "REAL JOY . . . a celebration for women." "REAL JOY" consists of women who are well-known to our District: Elaine Bickel, Annetta Dellinger and Jan Brunette are the main speakers. Also included are David Paul Britton, music ministry, and Beth Foreman, dramatist.

We invite women of all ages . . . from teens to seniors . . . to participate in "A Perfect Make-over." "REAL JOY" offers hope in all situations; true, authentic, genuine joy found only in Christ. The event will be held September 28-30, 2007, at the Airport Marriott in Orlando. Put this date on your personal calendar and your church calendar now to save the date. Join us as we celebrate the gift. □

As this article is being written, the LWML District Convention is still in the future. When you read this article, the convention will be past. The next issue of *Lutheran LIFE* will have a report of the convention and pictures.

We are already in the process of planning our next event.



LLL NEWS
Edward A. Wright
LLL Communicator

LLL Executive Director Greg Lewis has announced that a new format has been developed for the League's Advent and Lenten Devotional booklets. Instead a standard printed-booklet form, the 2006 Advent devotional will be in an online format that churches can customize and copy to suit their needs.

Congregations can take ownership of the devotions by creating a unique witnessing tool to distribute in their community. The easy-to-use template will enable churches to include their name, address, worship times and special events during the holidays — then print as many copies as needed using a standard desktop printer. The devotions will be made available online as color or black-and-white booklets, as weekly bulletin inserts in print format.

The devotions will continue to be available via daily e-mail and can now be heard. The devotional is entitled "Love was born at Christmas." The URL is www.adventdevotions.net.



New Neighbor Outreach and *Practicing Hospitality* are training modules now available from LHM. These video-based efforts provide congregations with simple-to-use outreach tactics to reach new members

of the community and increase the welcoming atmosphere of your church. *New Neighbor* provides a weekly list of move-ins to the area, contact tools and an easy tracking plan that help congregations ensure each new family is welcomed by (and to) the church. *Practicing Hospitality* assists congregations in learning to help a visitor feel welcome. Both modules can be ordered by calling 800-752-9636 or visiting www.lhm.org.



Forest Oaks-Spring Hill is hosting an "Equipping To Share" event November 11.

Lutheran Hour Ministry staffer Sarah Reinwald of St. Louis will conduct the program beginning at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Forest Oaks is part of the Suncoast Circuit and has invited Outreach and Evangelism committees from the other six circuit churches to attend.

The "ETS" training consists of three sessions, each about 45 minutes long. Attendees will be served a free luncheon by the church's Women's Guild. A sign-up sheet will be forwarded to the Suncoast churches. Forest Oak is located at 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd; phone number 352-683-9731.

St. Paul-Lakeland is hosting an ETS event on Sunday, November 12. Call the church at 863-644-7710 for more information. St. Paul is located at 4450 Harden Blvd. and is part of the Winter Haven Circuit.



A new statistic that generated headlines revealed that one out of eight people living in the United States today was born in a different country. That

is about 37.5 million people out of almost 300 million. This startling number of newcomers provides us with a huge opportunity to share Christ's message of hope and to invite them into fellowship in our churches.

It's suggested that we make a commitment to pray for the people of a different culture and country every day. A good way to direct your prayers is to buy a pocket-size atlas featuring the country's map, flag and factoids, particularly about the lands that are in turmoil.

A great way for you geography buffs is to visit the CIA -The World Factbook web site and select a different country each day from its drop-down menu. By having knowledge of (and a true concern for) their country, you too, can experience the joy of engaging an immigrant in conversation that can lead to a witnessing opportunity. Since LHM operates in more than 40 foreign lands it would be great to familiarize yourself with the peoples of those countries to start your journey.



Since this past April the following have become Congregational Ambassadors: Margot Sellmann and Irene Murray, Living Hope-Kennesaw, GA; Bill Neimes, Holy Cross-Jacksonville; Virginia Henderson, New Zion-Gotha; Jake Hake-St. Michael's-Fort Myers; Carl Behring, Zion-Fort Myers; Rev. Dan Schepmann, St. Paul-Peachtree City, GA; Phil Larsen, Lake Oconee-Eatonton, GA; Evelyn Ward, Hope-Hudson.

Thanks to our retiring ambassadors: Char Larsen, Hope-Milledgeville, GA; Corinne Zienert, Living Hope-Kennesaw, GA; Earl Grelick, Zion-Fort Myers.



Hymnal workshops start

Pastors and church musicians are not the only ones who will benefit from 280 introductory workshops this fall for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's new *Lutheran Service Book*, according to Dr. Paul Grime, executive director of the LCMS Commission on Worship, which prepared the new worship resource along with Concordia Publishing House.

While noting that the 280 workshops are "really intended for everyone," Grime said he is convinced that church secretaries would especially benefit from participating in workshops. Explaining that secretaries are often responsible for preparing the weekly service bulletin, Grime said "they will be very interested in learning about

Lutheran Service Builder, the electronic version of the hymnal. The Builder provides a powerful and easy way of fulfilling that weekly task."

For a registration fee of \$20 per person, each workshop participant will receive a copy of the new hymnal and a 108-page guide with an in-depth introduction. All workshops are set for Saturdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Dates and location for upcoming Florida-Georgia District workshops include:

- Hollywood - St. Mark's - Oct. 21
- St. Petersburg - Grace - Oct. 28
- Palm Coast - Shepherd of the Coast - Nov. 4
- Naples - Grace - Nov. 18
- Orlando - Trinity - Nov. 18
- Marietta - Faith - Nov. 18. □

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BACK TO SCHOOL ASSISTANCE — Throughout August and into September, members of Hope-Plant City, FL, led by their Human Care Ministry Team, were busy assisting those needing help with school supplies. Dozens of notebooks, pencils, pens, erasers, markers and other supplies were collected to be given to Mike Mueller of Hope Seeds, who will donate the supplies to children in Haiti and other countries. Mueller received the supplies at Hope's annual Rally Day worship, where he was the featured speaker. Shown here are (l-r) Mike Mueller, Director of Hope Seeds, and Cindy Petersen, Hope's Human Care Ministry team leader. □