



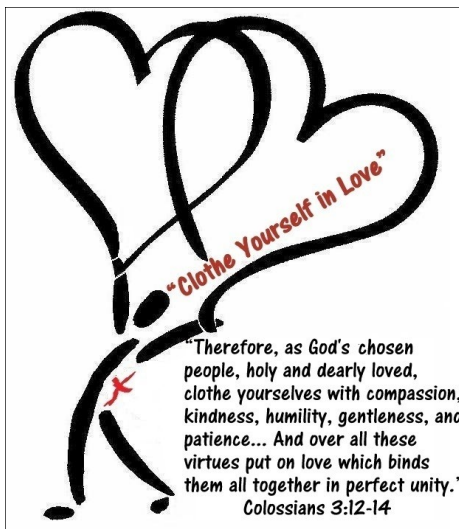
The FL-GA District Mission Statement:

The mission of the Florida-Georgia District LWML is to share the love of Christ with women of all ages and diversities and to foster a recognition that the mission field exists both at home and abroad.

Mark your calendars...Save the date!

The Florida-Georgia District Retreat will be held September 30 - October 2, 2011 at the Lake Yale Retreat and Conference Center near Leesburg, FL.

An early registration fee of \$170 is all-inclusive for the weekend, including two nights lodging and six meals (Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner; and Sunday breakfast and lunch).



Registration forms will be available in March on the website (www.flgalwml.com) and also in the Summer issue of the Evangel.

Our retreat leader is Jan Struck. Many of you already know Jan from previous retreats and conventions. If you don't know Jan...you are in for a treat!

See more about Jan Struck on page 3

Lake Yale Conference Center

The Lake Yale Conference Center, located near Leesburg, Florida is the place for our district retreat September 30-October 2, 2011. By far, the 4,000-acre lake is the most popular recreational resource at Lake Yale. You will enjoy the calming effect of the lake's views and breezes, and walks along its shores or through the hiking trails.

If you want a place to meditate or relax, the docks with scenic views of the lake, swings located by the fountain or the gazebo under the majestic oaks provide wonderful places for reflection. On the other hand, head to the fellowship center to visit with other guests, watch TV or browse our bookstore or café.

Lodging rooms are motel-like rooms (but no TV), and meals are served cafeteria-style.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marilyn H. Treanor



PROMISE

According to Webster, *promise* means: "...a declaration that one will or will not do a certain thing; a sign of future excellence or success; to pledge or offer assurance..."

The *promise* of eternal life with Jesus in heaven because He willingly went to the cross and rose from the grave is our hope in life. We read in Matthew 28:20 "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Following a harsh, cold winter, we look forward to the season of spring. As days warm, flowers start breaking through the soil bringing the *promise* of newness of life.

When *Lutheran Women in Mission* are installed into leadership roles of their church, zone and the FL-GA District LWML, they *promise* to faithfully fulfill their duties as God gives them grace, strength and wisdom to the glory of Christ our Lord.

Several years ago, at my Confirmation service, May 17, 1959 to be exact, I *promised* that I would remain true to Him in faith, word and deed. My confirmation verse is Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation – of whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"

*Serve the Lord
with gladness....*

Psalms 100:2

On this special day, our class of eleven sang a song titled "Our Promise." I remember the first verse to this day and thankfully, I recently found all the words to the song:

*Today we make a promise –
A promise to be true,
a promise we'll remember
in everything we do.*

*We promise God, our Father
we'll always walk His way;
we'll follow Christ, our Savior;
we'll never go astray!*

*O Lord, please hear our prayer,
thy blessing to us give;
please help us keep our promise
as long as we shall live!"*

Unfortunately, I have not kept this promise 100%, but thankfully, my Lord and Savior forgives my sin and gives me strength to begin anew to do His will. I have been blessed greatly in my faith and serving the Lord through the LWML. I have had many experiences and challenges over the years and thank the Lord for His guidance.

As a *Lutheran Woman in Mission*, may you know the love of Christ and fully rely on Him in all that you do. Remember His *promise* "I am with you always..."

COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Trish Aamoth

It has been through participation in the studies, fellowship, prayer groups, retreats and conventions of LWML that God has grown me, strengthened me, guided me and richly blessed me since my confirmation as an adult almost 34 years ago.

How God uses LWML in our lives is what I want to communicate through this position you have elected me to. However, communication is a two-way street. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors need to effectively communicate with the zones and the societies within the churches – and with each other, too. AND individuals, societies and zones need to communicate back to us as well!!

Many of our churches are struggling to keep LWML going, including my own. When I see societies and zones doing things I haven't seen or heard of before, I get so excited and think – if only we could get more ladies doing these things, if only we could get this news out to everyone! One zone had a servant event for their spring rally; one society hosts a candlelight advent for ladies every year; another zone holds a zone-wide LWML prayer service. Let's share what we are doing with each other! Let's fill our Evangel with news of activities and events! It may not seem like much to you, but what your society/zone is doing could inspire and encourage another one.

With the advent of the e-Evangel this coming June, the FL-GA District LWML will have the ability to get information out quickly, in color and with no limit on the number of pages. We are very excited about the Evangel going electronic!! We want it full of what's taking place on every level of the FL-GA District LWML. Let's fill it up with photographs, too!

I look forward to hearing from you and pray God will "make me diligent in using my energies to full capacity, help me to be zealous in all my work...prompt me to serve Him and those around me for His sake." (Prayer for diligence, Lutheran Book of Prayer)

STRUCK WITH LAUGHTER

JAN STRUCK



Our retreat leader this fall will be Jan Struck. Jan's earliest memories revolve around her church home in Indianapolis, Indiana where she

experienced her elementary education in a two-room, Lutheran school. Her strong Christian background led her to Valparaiso University where she received her theater degree.

Jan's "Life Story" has included the blessing of mothering three children, teaching school, working in secretarial and administrative job positions, and experiencing single parenthood after divorce. Additional "surprises", from a

loving and delightful Creator, have brought the joy of a second marriage and a combined family that totals six grown children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. She is delighted to have been given a lifetime of bizarre experiences and an ability to see humor and irony in her journey.

Jan's work career is as a trainer/consultant in the field of healthcare technology. She has assisted clients in Washington, DC, Dallas, and Houston to implement systems of electronic medical recordkeeping systems. Her ministry is the blessing of serving the Lord as a popular speaker leading Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats, Jan has traveled extensively in the Midwest,

as well as far west as Idaho and east as North Carolina. Her involvement with LWML has enabled her to bring the gift of laughter to numerous district and national conventions. Most recently, Jan was a presenter at the national LWML convention in Tampa and the LWML-Canada convention in Regina, Saskatchewan.

With over 35 years of experience in teaching, motivating, and entertaining her audiences, Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and uses her sense of humor as she shares her life with fellow travelers and leaves them laughing. Her trust and faith in Christ is her reason to make a "joyful noise unto God"!!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Vice President Chynsia Fowler

I cannot begin to list all of the things that I love about the spring season, but I can share that its spirit of renewal is by far one of my favorite things. As the world begins to wake from a deep sleep and everything presents itself in full color and rejuvenated forms, I cannot help but see the everyday miracles of the Lord. I see spring as a reminder that we are to reset, reevaluate and recommit ourselves to the promises that we are to follow God's commands. As we prepare for our upcoming event which will be my final retreat, I look forward to the gathering of LWMLers at Lake Yale. It promises to be a time to remember.

Our guest speaker will be Jan Struck - we all know what an entertaining personality she is. We will once again be surrounded by the beauty of God's work with nature in a setting that is calming, encourages rest and relaxation and best of all, we will be together again to share our faith in song, Word and fellowship. What more could you ask out of a weekend?

While you are getting ready for your cleaning and growing seasons, make plans to culminate it with attendance at the 2011 FL-GA District LWML Retreat. The theme: "Clothe Yourself in Love" (Colossians 3:12-14). The date:

September 30 – October 2. The location: Lake Yale Baptist Convention Center, Leesburg, Florida. Now you will need to bring a few things with you, so make a list. (1) Your favorite pajamas; (2) a T-shirt that represents your church, unit, zone, or district; and (3) a purple outfit of your choice (pants, shirt, dress). You will be asked to wear these items, so chose wisely.

I look forward to seeing you there and I am certain that you will not want to miss this one!

Be blessed and know that you are loved.

WEBSITE

Carol Alberts

Our Florida-Georgia LWML website (www.flgalwml.com) is always a work in progress. Not only are our Mite donations updated regularly, but Mission Grants are updated as well, when funded.

Zones and Societies: If you would like an article on the Zone Spotlight page, please



send me the information AND be sure to include photos. Just send them as a separate .jpg attachment..

We are excited that the Summer Evangel will be available on line as soon as it is published and sent out by email to all subscribers. So be sure to subscribe!!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Pastor Eric Eichinger



Upon installation at my first call, I found it a good fit in that my new church had never emphasized mission trips before, and that I considered missions to be one of my strengths. Planting seeds within the congregation for missions from the pulpit was a joy to share on a regular basis. Over the first few years, through trial and error I learned not to prop up volunteer missionaries too quickly. Often times a young adult can feel passionate about mission work after they return from a short term trip. They may even consider long term, or even career mission work, for an extended time. However, their enthusiasm can fade after a short while and sometimes they even lose their vision entirely when they realize just how much "behind the scene" work goes into missions. Or worse, they can develop an entitlement attitude if they don't realize how much work goes into supporting them. So

when Michelle Turner first came to me, having no prior mission experience, yet wanting to dive into long term mission work as a response to my preaching and reports from others about their respective mission trips, I was both excited and cautious. I wanted to handle this developmental process with the care it deserved.

My goal was to set before her different levels of commitment to missions. As she began her extensive application process for LCMS World Mission, I first encouraged her to try a short term week-long mission event. She enthusiastically served as a chaperone for the District high school servant event, and lived to tell about it! Then I suggested she get involved with the Mission Committee at our church, and be involved with the fundraising efforts that goes into short term mission trips, as well as consistently supporting our career missionaries. She not only participated with several events and meeting discussions, she brought new ideas and a spirit of excitement to our existing group. She learned what it feels

like to support others before asking others to support her. Then I asked her to try a short term overseas mission experience, to really get a flavor for culture shock and how it affects the missionary. A perfect opportunity came up quickly with our District LWML trip to Nicaragua, and she readily and publicly committed to it with our congregation. Along the way she faced numerous logistical challenges and there were several times we discussed how easy it would be for her to back out of this trip as World Mission was assigning her to Asia. However, we kept talking and praying about how that first overseas mission experience will serve her for a year long commitment and the importance of follow through with her relationship to our congregation. She completed that trip with no regrets and was the stronger for it. My work with Michelle from the pew to the mission field has been an extremely rewarding journey, and my wife and I could not be more proud of the work she is currently doing in Southeast Asia.

(See Michelle Turner's article on page 6)

Need a devotion, Bible study, or skit, for you LWML meeting? Check out www.lwml.org for all the resources you need!



LWML
34th Biennial
Convention

Peoria, Illinois
June 23-26, 2011

RECORDING SECRETARY

Joan Koch

I still don't know how it happened that you elected me as Recording Secretary at the District Convention, but I do believe that God has something in store for me that I am not yet aware of. I do have to tell you that I am very excited to be in this position.

A little bit about myself: I moved to Florida in 1975. In 1989, I married Alan R. Koch, who was, at the time, a Lutheran school teacher, music director and organist. Two years later, we found ourselves in St. Louis at Concordia Seminary. I loved our two years at the seminary. As part of the Colloquy program, in 1993 we headed back to

Florida, to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, in South Daytona; then in 1995, we found ourselves on the move again - this time to California. Our last eight years in California were spent at Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church in Sherman Oaks. We came back to Florida and in 2009 we headed down to Clewiston to serve a small church in a small town right at the south end of Lake Okeechobee. What a great community and what a great church - we might be small, but we are mighty.

The Lord certainly has blessed us in all that we have done and accomplished.

North Central Florida Zone held their second annual zone-wide Prayer Service on March 5th, in the newly dedicated sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran, Summerfield. Praise God!! Zone Pastoral Counselor Henry Lubben officiated at the Prayer Service.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Karen McCarthy

As of November 30, almost 60% of our units have sent in mites for the 2010-2012 biennium. Along with convention offering #1 and pledge walk funds, the mighty mites total \$31,476.10 and are already hard at work in the mission fields. What a great start toward our \$163,000 goal!

The following gifts were received from September 1 to November 30, 2010, in loving memory or in honor of faithful LWML sisters and brothers in Christ:

Barbara Maas - Love Scholarships
Marilyn Treanor
East Central GA Zone

Ron Nolde - Love Scholarships
East Central GA Zone

Also received September 1st to November 30, was the following thank offering:

Endowment Fund
Marilyn Treanor

Memorial and honor gifts, Love Scholarship donations, mites, and other monies should be made payable to "FL-GA District LWML" and sent to: **Karen McCarthy, Financial Secretary, P. O. Box 2098, Stuart, FL 34995.** For memorials and honor gifts, please provide the family's contact information so an acknowledgment of the gifts can be sent to the family members.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sharlene Miers

The Scholarship recipients for 2010-2011 are:

Pastoral recipients:

Mark Adrian - Warner Robins, GA
Eric Carlson - Montverde, FL
John Ninke - Columbus, GA
Gary Koltz - Ocala, FL

Non-pastoral recipients:

Rachel Davis - Mt. Dora, FL

Amanda Cone - Holly Hill, FL
Kristen Martin - Ft. Myers, FL
Rebecca Schaff - Ft. Myers, FL
Janis Thiemann - Jacksonville, FL

Please remember to keep these individuals in your prayers. They are our future pastors, teachers and DCE's.

Applications for the 2011-2012 year will be mailed to the churches by the end of

March. Please remind your pastors to make these applications available and remember to remind students from your congregations who are attending one of our universities to submit an application.



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

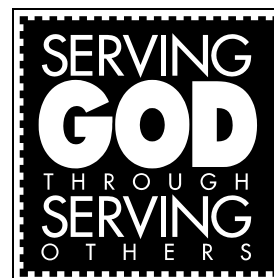
Margie Smith

"Wait a minute – I just got elected, and now you're asking me to consider serving on a district office?" Yes, it is not too soon to consider putting your name, or the name of someone else you know in for nomination for a district office. One of the things we must always consider as elected officers in the LWML, whether at the district, zone or society level, is to find someone to replace us when our term is up. Look around – there is a woman in your congregation who has leadership potential. Have you talked

to her, invited her to LWML events, asked her to serve through LWML? I applaud the women who have held together LWML societies by serving many years, but wouldn't it be better to train up leaders to take our place? We've talked a lot about mentoring in the past – it's time to put it into practice. Mentoring is simply being a friend or "mom" to a young (not necessarily in age, but in LWML) woman who can take the reins of leadership. Show her what you do as a leader, encourage her to serve on a committee,

or even chair a committee, encourage her new ideas, even if your group has "never done it that way before." Then, when she takes a position, encourage her even more and let her know you are there for her if she needs help. And then as you have given up that position of leadership, you have the experience to take another role, perhaps at the zone or district level! No, it's not too soon to consider serving at the district level. Find your replacement now, so you will be ready to say YES when asked to serve the district LWML!

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
-- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Report from the mission field

Michelle Turner



Greetings from Southeast Asia! My name is Michelle Turner and I am currently serving as an English as a Foreign Language Teacher and Relationship Builder.

one of the worst in an already bad situation. I had to give up my apartment and move in with my grandparents. I was left with little direction so I turned to The Father. I spoke to Him at great lengths about my future. I also had the opportunity to speak with Matt Wasmund, a career LCMS missionary from our congregation, who encouraged me to look into sharing His Word abroad. So, I went to Pastor Eichinger and told him my story. He was very encouraging and enthusiastic. I began the application process

with Saint Louis but did not hear anything right away. So, I continued to talk with The Father but also got involved locally. Over the summer, I joined my church committee and I took part in the district high school servant event. While I was unsure whether I would get the opportunity to go abroad, I wanted to serve locally in the

December 15 will mark my fourth month here and what an experience it has been so far! While I have already so many new experiences from my time here, how I got here is just as important.



In 2006 Pastor Eichinger was called to our church, Faith Lutheran in Eustis, FL. Almost immediately he began sharing his love and passion for proclaiming The Word beyond our own backyard. He began taking teams to places such as China, Haiti, Texas, and New Orleans. These teams served others while also sharing the love of Christ. I always was intrigued and moved by such events but was not able to go because of the restrictions placed by my job at the time. In 2007, a team traveled to China. Again, I was not able to go. Each time I heard another person from one of those mission teams speak, I would feel a tug at my heart. I wanted so badly to be a part of what they were doing. Due to my work circumstances, it always ended up being a desire that was quickly squashed – at least temporarily.



meantime- especially since He had given me the chance to be released from the bondage that was my job.

After a few months, I began to feel

as if St. Louis would not be sending me. So, I looked into the district trip the FL-GA LWML were planning to Nicaragua. Again, I approached Pastor Eichinger. He was incredibly supportive of this trip, but also urged me to stay in contact with St. Louis. So, I did. On April 1, 2010 I received the call that would change my life forever. St. Louis offered me the call to serve here in Asia. I was excited, nervous, and relieved all at the same time. I finally knew that my life was on the path that He wanted for me. While I was going through that part of my journey I struggled at times to keep my confidence in His timing. However, I can now see that, yes, His Timing is PERFECT. There is a quote from the movie “Eat, Pray, Love” that describes my journey perfectly. “Ruin is a gift. Ruin is the road to transformation.” I thought my life was ruined in 2009. Turns out, it was just The Father placing me on the road to transformation- transformation into one of His called servants.

In the spring of 2009, my world came crashing down – or at least I thought it did. I was ill for the second time in two years. I had to have minor surgery. Unfortunately, the job I had become so loyal to was not so loyal. They would not hold my job for me while I attended to my health. So, while I recovered quickly, I was left jobless in a recession - with Florida’s job market being

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Faith Lutheran Church
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Young Woman Developer

Stacy Lessman

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but sent as an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12.

The willingness to serve the Lord with gladness starts at a young age! As a preschool teacher, it is easy for me to see this. In our daily devotions, I often talk about the way to share Jesus’ love to others is by helping each other.

When one student in the class drops their workbook and has markers and crayons all over the floor, I often end up having too many people willing to help and not enough crayons and markers. It is amazing to see these small children so excited about Jesus and His love.



I have another student who was done with her school work and proceeded to draw hearts all over her paper, so I walked up to her and asked what she was doing. She said with great excitement, “I’m making hearts because Jesus loves me!”

Each day I look in the eyes of these young children and I see that the way to make a change is in the hearts of the small ones! So, keep encouraging the young women of this world to serve the Lord with gladness because they are the LWML of tomorrow!

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Beginning with the next issue of the *Evangel*, you will receive the *Evangel* by email. Every LWML member can subscribe and receive the *Evangel* directly to her personal email address. Each LWML society should subscribe, so the president or secretary can make copies for those who do not have email.

It’s easy to subscribe, just email Karen Gott, Membership Resources Chair and include the following information: **your name, your email address, the name of your**

church, and the name of your zone. The subject line of your email should say “subscribe to the e-Evangel”

Sign up now - don’t miss a single issue! And the best news of all is ...it’s FREE!!

FROM THE EDITOR

A new biennium, and a new Evangel Editor. I am privileged to be in such special company, to follow in the footsteps of Pat Kubicek, Jane McDonald, Edie Turner, Jan Ruff, and yes, even our President, Marilyn Treanor !

Of course we know that the editor cannot produce the Evangel alone...it takes many people submitting articles, news items, and photos to make YOUR Evangel an

interesting read. So, I am asking YOU – individuals, units and zones as well as the district board members to take photos, jot down interesting things happening around you that might be of interest to other LWML women and send them to me: margiesmith@windstream.net.

**Deadline for the Summer
EVANGEL is June 1st.**

SPRING RALLY DATES

Atlanta North	No report	Sarasota	No report
Atlanta South	No report	South Palm Beach	No report
East Central Georgia	April 9, Hope Lutheran Church, Milledgeville	Southwest Florida	March 19, Hope Lutheran Church, Bonita Springs
First Coast	No report	Space Coast	TBD, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Melbourne
Gold Coast	April 9, Shepherd of the Coast, Ft. Lauderdale	St. Petersburg Suncoast	No report
Heartland	May 7, Faith Lutheran Church, Sebring	Tallahassee	No report
North Central Florida	April 9, Our Redeemer, Ocala Theme: <i>Here am I... send me</i>	Tampa	No report
Northeast Georgia	April 9, Good Shepherd, Gainesville – All day retreat	Treasure Coast	No report
Orlando East	No report	Tropical	March 19, Nassau Lutheran Church, Nassau, Bahamas Via 3-day cruise on the Carnival Imagine
Orlando West	No report	Winter Haven	January 15, Grace Lutheran Church, Winter Haven Theme: <i>Love, Laugh, Lemonade</i>



Florida - Georgia District LWML Remittance Slip

Make all checks payable to LWML FL-GA District

Mites	\$ _____	LWML Sunday	\$ _____
Prayer Service	\$ _____	Delegate Fund	\$ _____
Scholarship Fund	\$ _____	Endowment Fund	\$ _____

Check # _____

Name of Church Unit City State Zip

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Mail to:

Karen McCarthy, Financial Secretary
LWML FL-GA District
PO Box 2098
Stuart, FL 34995



2010-2012 Biennium