

July 2008



## Lutheran Women Gather for 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention

Lansing, MI – More than 700 men, women and children filled the Convention Hall in the Lansing Center for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Michigan District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention July 18 - 20, 2008 under the theme "Jesus, Our Anchor". The convention was hosted by the Evergreen, Macomb South and Suburban Lights Zones of the Michigan District LWML.

Following the opening of the convention by President Anita Beyersdorf, the worship service began with a processional. The Rev. Steve Essenburg, Executive Director of Lutheran City Ministries, and Pastor of Charity and Nazareth Lutheran Churches in Detroit, proclaimed a message of strength and encouragement in Jesus, our Anchor. Lynette Primeau, choir director at Peace Lutheran in Warren, Michigan, directed the Convention Choir, John Horak, Minister of Music and Worship at Our Savior, Lansing, led the Adult Handbell Choir, Thomas Schimm, teacher and music director at Holy Cross Church and School in Saginaw, was organist and the Rev. Thomas Dunseth, Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Milford was the signer. The Rev. Timothy Brand, LWML District Counselor and the Rev. Carl M. Gnewuch, National LWML Pastoral Counselor, served as lectors, the Rev. D. Lee Cullen, Jr., St. Paul's Lutheran, New Boston, LWML District Counselor, served as liturgist and the Rev. Reese, Trinity Lutheran, Warren, served as celebrant. Pastors from the Evergreen, Macomb South and Suburban Lights Zones, and other Pastors from the Michigan District assisted in the distribution of Holy Communion.

A convention offering of \$4,868.00 on Friday night was designated to support L.A.T.I.N.O. Mission Society. The convention offering of \$3,868.10 on Sunday was designated to support Clare County Teen Parent Program (Lutheran Child & Family Service).

The first meeting began with a processional of the Board of Directors, past District Presidents, special guests, zone presidents with their Young Women Representatives, Heart to Heart Sisters and the convention Co-Chairmen. The 371 voting members of the convention adopted a mission grant goal of \$230,000, which is the largest goal in Michigan District LWML history. The goal will be funded by LWML members of the Michigan District through contributions to their mite boxes during the 2008 – 2010 biennium.

The following 16 mission grants were selected by the delegates for the 2008 – 2010 biennium:

- Filling Pulpits by Providing Scholarships to Michigan Men in the two LCMS Seminaries - \$25,000
- Scholarships for Female Students Pursuing Studies in Professional Church Work - \$20,000
- Michigan Women in Mission thru MOST Ministries - \$20,000
- Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Food and Clothing Co-Op – \$15,000
- Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. - \$20,000
- Trinity/HOPE - \$5,000
- "Kingdom Literacy for Kingdom Children" - \$10,500
- The Servant's Heart Economic Development, Guatemala - \$18,000
- Arch Books for Indonesia - \$10,000
- "Worship for Shut-Ins" – Sharing Christ's Love to Michigan - \$15,000
- Open Arms Institute - \$15,000
- Interpreters for the Mission Field, MOST Ministries - \$15,000
- "A Time to Grow" – Expansion of Christian Special Education in Detroit - \$20,000
- "Opening Two (2) New Outreach Centers in Flint & Ann Arbor, Michigan - \$10,000
- Guinea Missionary Care - \$7,187.50
- Support for the Heart to Heart Sisters and their Mentors – 2010 Convention - \$4,312.50

Newly elected officers for the next four years are: Cheri Fish of Bay City as President, Lois Moslander of Cass City as Vice President of Communications, Linda Bruski of Clare as Vice President of Mission Outreach, Susan Gruber of Monroe as Vice President of Organizational Resources, MaryBeth Heikkinen of Warren as Financial Secretary, and Rev. William C. Lahrman of Nunica as Pastoral Counselor. We are looking forward to working with these dedicated people for the next biennium.

Delegates chose the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn for the site of the 2010 convention to be held on July 8 – 11, 2010.

A variety of convention activities included "Feed My Starving Children" servant event, convention Bible studies led by Sandra Eggers, writer, author and speaker, Janis McDaniels, Vice President of Gospel Outreach brought greetings from the national LWML, humorist Jan Struck of Appleton, Wisconsin, singing led by David Paul Britton, *Ministry of Musical Missions and Education (MMME)*, and several breakout sectionals. Pre-service music on Friday was offered by the Lutheran City Ministries Children's Choir under the direction of Dr. Eric Roth, and Saturday's entertainment was provided by L.A.T.I.N.O. Youth Dancers as well as Elaine Bickel, principal of St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington, MI. The convention concluded with a closing praise service led by District Counselor Rev. Timothy Brand featuring the YWRs as Scripture readers, a dedication of the convention Gifts of Love, a blessing of the offerings, and ending with the installation of the new officers and the President's Charge.