

# Reporter



Volume LVI, Issue 2 Gulf States District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Summer 2011



## ***IT'S NOT TOO LATE***

THE 34<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION

June 23 –26, 2011 in Peoria, Illinois

Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge  
(See [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for details)

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## **SUMMER**

"Rest is not idleness," said John Lubbock, "and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water or watching the clouds float across the sky is hardly a waste of time."

Most of us need more, not less, rest built into our daily routine. Only when we are quiet can we hear God's whisper.

Summer is a great time to find a peaceful, outdoor spot to read, rest, and pray— even if only for a few minutes. God is eagerly waiting for us to make space for him.



Next **Reporter** Deadline:  
August 1, 2011  
E-mail Lana Pratt:  
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780 Gross Road  
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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Jackie Morris

## Jackie's Notes



For some of you, the upcoming convention theme, “Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge” has more meaning than what you would like to have. With the tornado path starting in Mississippi and hitting several areas in Alabama, “living on the edge” has become literal, with no electricity, no phone service, trees on top of houses, and for many, having no house to live in. We can take comfort as Jeremiah says in 17:17b, “...you (God) are my refuge in the day of disaster.” Even when disasters are upon us we can “trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge” (Psalm 62:8b). From what I’ve heard so far, our LWML sisters are safe with no injuries or loss of life. Sadly, others in the storm’s path lost their life and we pray that God will bring their families and friends peace and comfort in this time of sadness.

Can you believe that two years have passed since several of us traveled to Portland for the 2009 LWML Convention? Now we have another opportunity to be blessed at the Peoria Convention, June 23-26, 2011. We will be encouraged by “Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge.”

There we will be energized to confidently share how Christ has made our lives worth living. We will be blessed with new ideas to take home to “spice up” our society activities. We will experience the blessing of seeing how our mite offerings are at work in God’s global kingdom. Through speakers, we will be guided to joyfully respond with a renewed passion for missions and service. Through the Bible studies, worship and singing, we will be compelled to confidently trust our Lord and rest in the security of His Word. We will be blessed with hugs and renewed friendships and make new friends within our LWML family. Finally, after the convention, we will return home “charged up” with motivation to grow in joyful service to our resurrected Savior.

Now the question: Are you planning to go to Peoria? It’s not too late! Registration (with no late fee) is open until May 20th. For more information on what to expect in Peoria, see the insert in the Winter Quarterly, go on line at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org), or contact me. Join us and experience “Being with Jesus--Living on the Edge.”

The two Bible verses that this theme is based on are a testament to what we are instructed to do. The first is Acts 4:13b - “...and they realized they had been with Jesus.” Jesus is with us every minute of every day even though the world’s distractions constantly seek our attention. Our witness is in the next verse, Acts 4:20 - “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

I look forward to attending this convention with the six zone delegates, one YWR (Young Woman Representative), one counselor, and several other Gulf States members.

There are ways that you can help the attendees for the convention: pray for all those involved with the planning of this convention; assist with monetary gifts to help defray the costs for your delegate to attend; or donate mites towards the “Mission in Motion” walk that will take place in Peoria (contact your zone delegate).

Remember that in all aspects of your life, whether or not you will be attending the convention, God Reigns!

*Jackie Morris* / Gulf States District President

## Senior Counselor – Rev. James Endrihs



It has been over 4 years since the March 1, 2007, tornado hit Enterprise, AL. Many homes damaged or destroyed have now been repaired or rebuilt. Treetops taken and forested areas thinned have filled in again. The memorial for the 8 high school students and 1 retired person who died that day has been built along with two new schools. Life is normal again. Right?

However, disasters keep coming. Tornadoes have destroyed parts of seven states. Some, at the time of this writing, are experiencing flooding with the promise of more water to come. For some a disaster arrives without notice while others have days to prepare.

Our community came together well in 2007. By God's grace, Christ the King Lutheran Church played an important role. Lutheran Disaster Response along with Americore volunteers from Mobile turned our fellowship hall into a volunteer coordination center. Those hard working folks (with the help of others) matched the skills of over 4000 volunteers with all kinds of community needs. Much of our congregational effort at CTK was to help out those who were working with the many volunteers in the field.

In the wake of such devastation, it is easy to forget that disasters do not only occur in large areas or come as a result of weather anomalies. Many near and dear to us face more personal tragedies that will not get media attention or receive a federal declaration. Cancer diagnosis, infidelity, unexpected death, addiction, each can play a part in seeking to destroy an individual or family.

While one may want to do anything and everything to help those experiencing trouble, the size and scope of the disaster, as well as physical, emotional, and financial limitations prevent us from accomplishing such a monumental task. Who are we to think we even could!? It can all be so overwhelming. The good news is? God remains in control!

In all the storms of life is it good for us to remember that the word of the Lord is powerful to accomplish the purposes for which it was sent. Jesus', "**Peace! Be still!**" speaks to the troubled heart. His "**Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest...**" brings comfort to the weary body. The Lord's "**Be still, and know that I am God,**" calms the anxious mind.

Our community answered the call and came together well after the 2007 tornado. We were also helped by many who heard the call outside of our town. Thanks be to God! Today, the call for help continues, coming from those who face all types of disasters. As forgiven, redeemed children of God we each can share the love of God in word and deed. What role will you play? Will you bring comfort, compassion, or care to the concerned? Will you contribute time, talent, treasure or toil to the troubled? Will you listen to, learn from, love, or lead the lost? Even though we cannot do everything needed, we can do something and by God's grace and strength we can do it well. Oh let us pray...

Pax,

*Pastor Jim*



# Pastor's Report

# Officer's Reports

## Flo Hofman – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



The Gulf States District Board of Directors has selected a Young Woman Representative to represent the district at the 2011 LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois. Her name is Jennifer Laxson from Huntsville, Alabama. She is a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Huntsville. She has chosen her life verse to be Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”* At the convention, Jennifer will join YWR’s from other districts and will learn more about the mission of LWML. This experience will show her how she can serve God through this amazing organization! Congratulations Jennifer!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Flo Hofman* / 2nd Vice President and former YWR

## Karla Maxfield – Financial Secretary



The response to the "Marathon Mites" was good. Societies promptly sent in monies for our travel and quarterly expense, as well as, faithfully continuing to send in mites. Please remember, if you need mite boxes, please contact me and I will send them ASAP.

Yours in Christ,  
*Karla Maxfield* / Financial Secretary

Karla Maxfield  
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Picayune, MS 39466  
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[kmquiltlady@bellsouth.net](mailto:kmquiltlady@bellsouth.net)



### **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LWML**

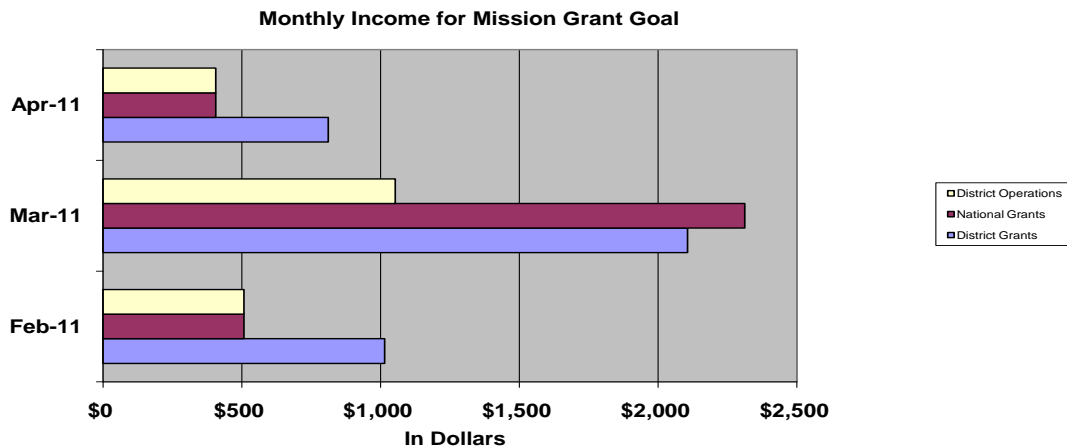
The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

## Judy Lessmann – Treasurer

# Mite Boxes



The grant for playground equipment for Iglesia de la Comunidad foster community of Grace, Huntsville was paid this quarter. We have completed 62.5% of our biennium and have received 66.43% of our goal. May God bless our mission contributions as we bring Him our gifts of thankful praise.



Total for this quarter (February to April): \$9,122.30 This includes \$1,259.68 raised by our district during the “Mite Marathon” all of which went to national grants. Total for this biennium: \$35,871.37. Needed per quarter to reach \$54,000 goal: \$6,750.00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Lessmann, Treasurer

## The Ultimate Destination

Few things are better than the first day of a long-awaited vacation. The excitement of reaching our destination, the anticipation of fun-filled adventures, and the freedom to relax and lay down our burdens for a while – we’ll pay good money for that.

But it’s a fleeting pleasure. Before our bags are even unpacked, the clock has already begun counting down to when we’ll have to return to the pressures of everyday life.

It won’t always be so. One day, we’ll lay down our burdens for good. When we reach our ultimate destination, God our Father will welcome us. Our loved ones, long gone, will gather to celebrate. And every day of this breathtaking adventure will be like the first, because time will no longer rule over us.

The best vacations are just a shadow of what God has in store for his children.

## **Judy Zecher –** **Christian Life Chairman**

“Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge” is the theme for our 2011 National LWML Convention. The theme verse is from Acts 4:13b *“And they realized they had been with Jesus”... (v.20) “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”* What a dynamic that was! To have spent time with Jesus and then to not be able to keep themselves from sharing what they had seen and heard! What about us? The Lord calls us to *“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.”* (Psalm 37:7) And also: *“Be still and know that I am God...”* (Psalm 46:10a). David exclaims *“How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them.”* (Psalm 139:17) Can we say the same thing? Have we spent the time with Jesus that drives us to exclaim how precious he is to us?

We have just recently been through a devastating series of storms and tornadoes in Mississippi, Alabama, and neighboring states. In the midst of it all, where do our own thoughts turn? Prayer for loved ones, for all those in the path of the storms, for those who have lost loved ones and homes, for those who are working the cleanup efforts, or fixing utilities, or providing care in multiple ways? How we need to rely on the Lord for His strength, His peace, His wisdom and direction! He is the one who empowers us to care for those around us - to reach out to those in need.

Jesus regularly spent time with his heavenly Father. *“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”* (Mark 1:35) If Jesus needed to spend time with his heavenly Father, how much more do we need time with our heavenly Father?

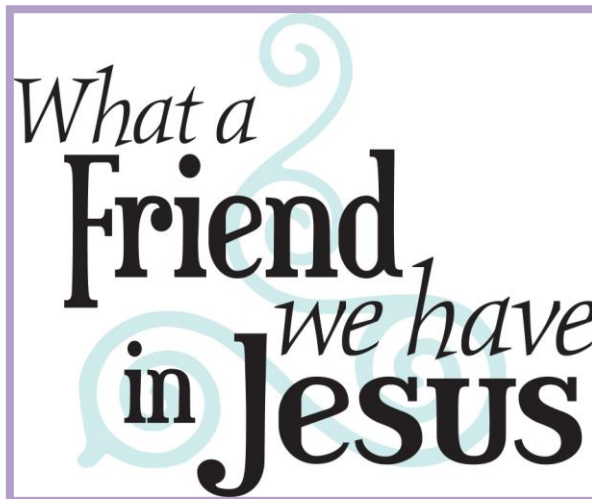
It’s so vital that we be *“rooted and established in (Christ’s) love”* (Ephesians 3:17). It’s through our

having that living union with Jesus that we are empowered and equipped to reach out to others with His love and compassion. *“We love because he first loved us.”* (1 John 4:19) What does that love in action look like? According to Romans 12:9-21, that love is sincere, honors others above ourselves, serving the Lord. It is joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. It shares with those in need, practices hospitality, blesses others, lives in peace and harmony with others. It is humble and forgiving, overcoming evil with good. The Lord opens doors all around us to minister to others. As we spend our time with Jesus, he equips us for sharing his message of love and compassion with others. Be willing to listen to other’s stories. *“Be wise in the way you*

*act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation always be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”* (Colossians 4:5-6) The goal of our National LWML Convention is: *“Empowered by being with Jesus, I courageously speak of Him and live a life transformed by His love. “How fitting this is for us today. And so we pray:*

*Dear Lord, draw us to You to “know” in our hearts Your great love for us and the freedom of Your forgiveness – what You have accomplished on the cross. We need Your heart of love and compassion for others. Open our eyes and ears to see and hear the opportunities that You are bringing to us all around us. Help us to be obedient to the promptings that You are giving us to reach out to those in need. Fill our minds and hearts with Your compassion, so that our words and actions are flowing from You. Give us the boldness of Your Spirit to share the words from our hearts that testify of Your love and all that You have done for us. We love You and we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen*

*Judy Zecher*  
(Grace Lutheran Church, Huntsville, AL)  
Gulf States District Christian Life Chairman



What a  
Friend  
we have  
in Jesus

## **Linda Bailey – Chairman, Nominating Committee**

### **Gulf States LWML Needs YOU!**

YOU may be the very person that God is preparing to be Secretary of the Gulf States District. Have YOU heard that little voice saying “YOU can do that”? Say, “Yes, I can! Yes, I will!” Don’t be shy, step out in faith; the Lord will supply all your needs. Besides, YOU will be working alongside a great bunch of Christian women who are supportive and encouraging. Do YOU have a question or concern about this position? Call or email Linda Bailey, she’ll help YOU with more information.

Ladies, this is a big need for an important job. YOU, with the help the Lord, can do it (through Christ who strengthens me). Put those negative thoughts, fears, and insecurities behind YOU and say “Here am I, send me.”

May God richly bless YOU!

Linda Bailey 256.775.1368  
[baileyfaith@windjammercable.net](mailto:baileyfaith@windjammercable.net)

*The **Reporter** is available online at our website: [lwmlgulfstates.org](http://lwmlgulfstates.org) along with other Gulf States news and resources.*

*There are also unlimited resources available to use for society meetings at [LWML.org](http://LWML.org)*



### **YWR for Gulf States District**

**Jennifer Anne Laxson** has been chosen as the Gulf States District Young Woman Representative. Jennifer resides in Huntsville, AL, with her husband and is a member of Grace Lutheran Church. She participates in a LWML circle at Grace, as well as assisting her mother with her circle group. Jennifer’s has a passion to help her church with the Youth Group (she was a Counselor on one of the Youth Ski Trips). Another passion is to learn Sign Language and begin a Sign Language Ministry at Grace Lutheran. Jennifer is eager to serve our Lord and Savior in the capacity of YWR, and is looking forward to representing the Gulf States District at the Convention in Peoria this summer. A quote which appeared in the Huntsville Times last year during an interview with Jennifer is: “Each morning I give God my day and I watch Him work. I try to make it a point to see Him in all things that happen during the day, good or bad. If we allow Him to be a part of everything we do, and we acknowledge that He is present in all we do, we can experience God in an immeasurable way, a way that makes me awe struck.”

# Zone News

## ***Emerald Coast***

On November 6, 2010 the LWML of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Warrington, Florida held a successful dinner/auction in our new activity center. It was well attended by the members of Redeemer and their friends.

The award winning dinner was prepared by members Karla Heinicke and Cynthia Henderson, known that night as H & H Catering.

Music provided for our listening enjoyment by Amanda Bradley and Melanie Cole with Pastor Cole joining in on the last spirit-filled song. We are blessed to have such talent!

The silent and verbal auctions were a great success and we had our own Vanna White (Robin Wilkerson) with Neal Smith as our Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer. JoAnne First was our roving LWML fun reporter looking a lot like Minnie Pearl.

The LWML would like to thank the members of Redeemer for graciously giving of their time, talents, and gifts.

In celebration of JoAnne First's birthday are from left to right: Diane Drew, Karla Heinicke, JoAnne First, Francis Bower, Charlotte Swanson, June Davis, Lynne Kiser, and Elsie Moody.



Submitted by: Lynne Kiser – event planner.

## **News Release: April 18, 2011**

### **LWML Announces Total Mites Gathered for Biennium**



At the 33rd biennial convention held in Portland, Oregon, in June 2009, a mite goal of \$1,825 million was set for the 2009-2011 biennium. Mite funds received during this biennium totaled \$1,778,273.36.

While the funds raised these last two years resulted in a shortage of \$46,726.64, Lutheran Women in Mission have responded to the need to reach the goal.

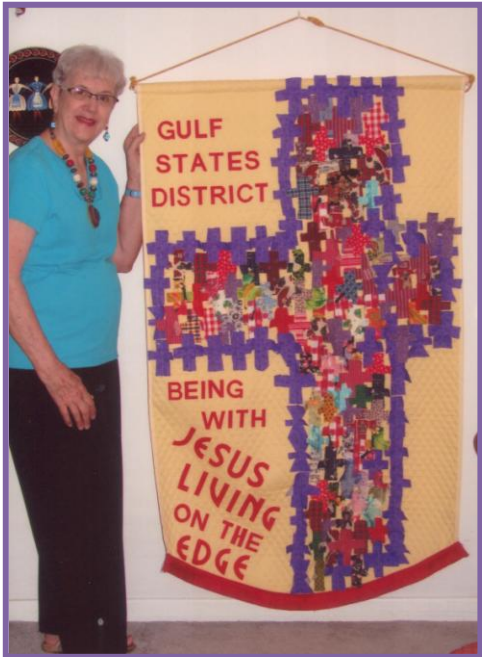
LWML President Janice Wendorf shared, "The joyful efforts of raising mites resulted in an amazing \$255,842.99 donated in the month of March. We need to start strong for the 2011-2013 biennium that has just begun with this same eagerness in order to finish strong. Let's look at the funds needed every month in order to reach each hurdle, as together we continue to steadily support the work of the Lord through the LWML."

At the convention in June 2011, a new challenge will be in place. It will include the shortfall from 2009-2011, plus a new mite goal set for the next biennium that will support the mission grants and work of the LWML for the next two years. Please continue to fill your Mite Box, saying a prayer with each monetary gift that mites gathered will help provide opportunities for others to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Eddie Norris, Public Relations Director LWML Office**

# The Making of a Banner

By Bea Daily



I volunteered to make the banner for our District LWML President, Jackie Morris. I have never done this before! The president of each district carries their banner in the procession during the opening ceremonies of the convention, this year in Peoria on June 21. I was president the previous four years and no one volunteered to make one for me for the Portland convention two years ago. I had the banner from the previous district convention re-made so I would have one to carry in the procession.

I now realize that I was supposed to do this project, for everything just fell into place. I found a design in a banner book that I thought I could make. The instructions said to ask others to donate 4x6 inch pieces of material. After I sent out my request, I received just enough. I then cut them into over 150 small 3"x4" crosses. The convention colors are yellow, red, and purple. When I went shopping at JoAnne's Fabric to look for material (I decided ahead of time to use yellow for the background) I found a light weight yellow quilted fabric with just enough left on the bolt. I needed 5 ½ feet. It already had the interfacing and backing on it!

Before I began looking for the material, I stopped at the register to return an item. The lady working the register saw the book I had in my hand on banner making. She asked, "Are you going to make a banner?" She added, "I make banners for my church all the time." (Could this be the Holy Spirit, offering the help I needed?) When I found the material I thought I was supposed to use I went back to her and asked her opinion. She thought it was a good one, closed her register, and proceeded to help me pick out what I needed for the binding, fringe, lettering, etc. Thank You Lord!

That same evening, I was at our "Relay for Life" cancer walk, doing the opening lap with two ladies from church. I didn't even know the one (Deane) had had cancer. We later sat together at the tent for food and prizes. Deane is a seamstress by trade, so I asked her if she had ever made a banner. She said, "Yes, what do you need?" I told her. She said, "Call me, I will help you." Thank You Lord! The following Monday, I went to her apartment. She taught me how to mark, cut, sew the edges, and how to make the letters. She did the sewing on her heavy duty machine.

At home I pinned all the small multi-color crosses on the banner in the shape of a large cross. I placed the red letters that read: GULF STATES DISTRICT, then the theme: BEING WITH JESUS, LIVING ON THE EDGE. I had to return to Deane's home once more as she helped me sew the small crosses on the banner. After I added the dowel and gold cord it was finished!

Thank You Lord for sending these wonderful servants to help me serve you!

*Bea*

*Bea lives in Ft. Walton Beach, FL and is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Shalimar, FL.*

**Please make copies of *The Reporter* for your Society Members!**

*Serve the Lord with Gladness* ♥

# Newsletter Name Contest

We have a winner for the Name Contest we announced in the spring issue of the "Reporter"! Senior Counselor, Rev. James Endrihs, Junior Counselor, Rev. Allen Kramp, and Nominating Committee Chairman, Linda Bailey so graciously accepted the challenge to choose a new title for the "Reporter." There were 30 names submitted for consideration. After compiling these names, I would have been totally overwhelmed with the task of narrowing it down to five, and ultimately to one single name, that would be a perfect title for the newsletter in description and distinction of the Gulf States District. However, these talented three persons have done just that. The name they chose is "Gulf States Glad Tidings." The person submitting this name is Marlys Kuehnert from Ashville, Alabama. She attends Christ Lutheran Church in Albertville, AL and is the wife of Rev. J. Mark Kuehnert. As the winner of the contest, Marlys is the recipient of a beautifully crafted stained glass angel. A picture is not available at this time, but will be published in the fall edition, hopefully using the new title "**Gulf States Glad Tidings**"! Lana Pratt/Editor

## April's Fury



It had been warned that April 27, 2011, may be a day of thunder showers and storms in the South East. But the fury that awakened the people and caused them to be on constant watch all day was unprecedented. This stormy day resulted in 254 deaths in Alabama and several more in surrounding states. One of the 173 tornadoes was an EF4 tornado and was recorded to have caused destruction over a 130 mile path. An EF4 tornado – the next to strongest of all tornados – packs a wind of up to 190 miles per hour. For the people of Alabama, this will be a remembered day as is September 11, 2001. We will remember where we were and what we were doing as the day progressed. At the end of the day as darkness covered this beautiful state, most people were totally unaware of the complete devastation. No electricity for the northern 2/3 of the state and without news coverage from the always watched television set, the calmness of the night and the brilliance of the shining stars was outstanding. As a cool, crisp, bright morning emerged, it was hard to imagine the fury of the previous day.



Now, three weeks later, there are still thousands of people without homes, many more without electricity. Recovery began immediately with family, friends, neighbors, but as time passed, help came from all over our great nation. Appreciation for these generous donations of time, money, and energy can never be completely expressed. The clean-up will continue for a long time. Because of the extensive damage to TVA power lines, full power will not be restored until late summer. Even with the extreme destruction and devastation, everyone you talk to or hear on the TV is thanking God for His protection, praising Him with outstretched arms, and worshiping Him on Sunday morning, if even on a slab of cement where their churches once stood!

As this publication goes to print several more areas in the mid west have also been devastated by killer tornadoes. Multitudes of additional people are killed or missing. Remember these victims of nature in prayer – prayer of restoration and peace in the God Almighty.

Many stories, pictures, and articles are available online at [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org). Lutheran Church Missouri Synod announces that the tornado season was so bad in 2010 that their tornado disaster relief fund was depleted in that year. You are encouraged to donate to this cause. If anyone desires to assist tornado victims the following information has been given at the LWML website on May 13, 2011, [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

## **LWML Disaster Support Opportunities for the Southeastern United States**

**Women of the LWML are looking for opportunities to support and care for the people of our country who have been affected by the April tornadoes. Some of these immediate disaster support opportunities include:**

**Orphan Grain Train** has posted immediate needs on their website. For a list of these needs go to [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org) and click on *Storm and Relief Update*. Donations to help with the cost of shipping the relief supplies to the South are also welcome. Click **Donate Now** on the home page, or mail your donation to: Orphan Grain Train, PO Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466.

**Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts and Kits** provide essential items that families need to survive in the days and weeks following a disaster. A generous and quick response will ensure that LWR has the quilts and kits needed for the people of the southern United States. For more on assembling these quilts and kits, get started by visiting [www.lwr.org/beinvolved](http://www.lwr.org/beinvolved). Be sure to check their "Ingathering Mat" to find an LWR drop-off location near you this spring. Visit the LWR website for further information on how to support their effort with cash gifts to meet immediate and urgent needs.

**LCMS World Relief and Human Care** is working to assist churches in the region to assess needs, repair damages, and resume worship services in affected areas. You can learn more about the work on the ground and make a gift in support of relief efforts by visiting their page at [www.lcms.org/help](http://www.lcms.org/help).

**Lutheran Disaster Response** [www.ldr.org](http://www.ldr.org), a collaborative ministry of the ELCA and LCMS, has dispatched volunteer disaster coordinators throughout the affected areas to assess damage and has sent emergency funds to aid relief efforts.

**Lutheran Church Charities** is coordinating volunteers and crews to help with clean up and care in the LCMS Southern District. LCC is a RSO (Recognized Service Organization) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, serving the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of those who are hurting. LCC works on initiating, developing, coordinating, and promoting a unified effort of Christian Human Care ministry. [www.lutheranchurchecharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchecharities.org)

The LWML joins our brothers and sisters of **The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Relief and Human Care**, and these agencies as together we pray for and respond to the needs of tornado affected communities.

*"I tell you the truth, that whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me."*  
Matthew 25:40 (NIV).

**LCMS – Southern District includes this agency on their website**  
[www.lcmssoutherndistrict.org](http://www.lcmssoutherndistrict.org):

Lutheran Ministries of Alabama (LMA) is a social ministry organization that supports children and families in Alabama that have been affected by natural disasters, social inequities, or personal challenges. Learn more about their work by visiting their website at: [www.lutheranministriesal.org](http://www.lutheranministriesal.org).

**LCMS Southern District President, Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz sends this message at**  
[www.lsmssoutherndistrict.org](http://www.lsmssoutherndistrict.org).

We continue to pray for all who have been affected. May they know the love of Jesus through our hearts and hands.

The LORD gives strength to His people, the LORD blesses His people with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

**Volunteers:** The Southern District is working to establish a network of persons on the ground to make assessments and to help develop strategies for effective deployment of volunteers. Each community is unique in their expectations about requirements of volunteers. Severely damaged areas are patrolled and limited access is granted unless the volunteers are properly credentialed.

**Monetary gifts** offer the greatest flexibility to respond to need. You can respond with making your monetary gift through the Southern District and indicate if you have a preference to support relief/recovery work in a specific area. The following options in Alabama are offered:

- Birmingham Area** (Fultondale, Warrior, Pratt City, and other cities)
- Cullman / Hanceville Area**
- North Alabama Area** (Harvest, New Market, Toney, Guntersville, and other cities)
- Tuscaloosa Area**
- No Preference

Please send your monetary gifts made payable to the:  
Southern District—LCMS  
100 Mission Drive  
Slidell, LA 70460-5221

All receipts designated for a specific area will be forwarded to be used in that area. If no preference is noted, the District will use the funds where most needed.

We ask for your prayers and thanks for your partnership and support!



## A Prayer for July 4<sup>th</sup>

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources, and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love. Amen