

ROSE

This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

"The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid."
—Martin Luther

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34th Biennial LWML Gulf States Convention

Ladies of the Emerald Coast Zone (4) are hosting the 34th Biennial LWML Gulf States District Convention on April 27-29, 2012, at Grace Lutheran Church in Destin, Florida. The theme is "Come to the Water, Let His Love Flow." (Isaiah 55:1a) The Keynote Speaker is Annetta Dellinger, The JOY Lady. The scheduled Mission Speaker will be Chaplain Michael P. Moreno, USNR. He has been called by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to serve as Facilitator for Operation Barnabas. Our LWML Representative will be LWML Vice President of Organizational Resources, Carolyn Blum. She has held numerous positions within LWML and is now a full-time volunteer. Check out more details inside **Glad Tidings**.



Next *Gulf States Glad Tidings* Deadline:
February 1, 2012
E-mail Lana Pratt: bpratt780@charter.net
or
780 Gross Road
Guntersville, AL 35976

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Jackie Morris

Jackie's Notes



We are always looking forward. There are many things that happen in our lives that we look forward to...birth of children and grandchildren, baptisms, confirmation, participating in sports, graduations, job opportunities, gatherings with friends and family.

This 21st century is much different from centuries past. We have instant everything—texting, instant messaging, e-mail, photos, food. How things have changed from the stories that we heard our grandparents and great grandparents share! Have you noticed that it is unusual for children to know what it is like to have two parents who live together, know Jesus, and support each other? Many school activities and social events are taking place that interfere with family time together.

Relationships and the way we communicate have changed. It is easier to e-mail or text. Face-to-face communication is limited. Talking on the phone is being replaced by text messages. However, face-to-face communication builds relationships, care, and concern for others. It lets us see the person we are relating to—their verbal and nonverbal communication.

You may ask, “What remains constant in our lives and what can we look forward to?” Jesus. Yes, Jesus and His Word are the constant stabilizing face in our lives. We need to continue to look to Jesus and trust in Him. *“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”* Psalm 18:2 (NIV). *“But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”* 2 Peter 3:13 (NIV).

As sisters in Christ in the Gulf States District, we have so many things to look forward to. We have the opportunity to pray for each other and those that Jesus brings into our lives, our churches, our societies, and our communities. We can respond by reaching out to others with Jesus' love in so many ways. Maybe it is:

- providing transportation to an older adult who cannot drive to a doctor's appointment
- tutoring a school-aged child who is having difficulty learning
- spending time listening to and encouraging a friend who is having problems
- taking a meal to a family in need
- babysitting for a family so the parents can have time together
- encouraging a teen to go along with you to select snack items and let them help you put a special basket together to give to a family waiting for a loved one on the day of surgery

I pray that you will look forward to setting aside a special time each day to spend with God in His Word discovering those precious gems He has for us. Then, walk with Him each day as you pray and reach out to touch the lives of others. Share YOUR stories of how God works in your life. As LWML Sisters may we reflect the love, grace, and mercy that comes to us through our Savior, Jesus. I am thankful for each of you and the things that I have seen and heard as you are reaching out to share the love of Jesus with others.

Another event I want you to look forward to is “Come to the Waters...Let His Love Flow,” the Gulf States District Convention in Destin, FL, April 27-29, 2012. There, we will be energized to confidently share how Christ has made our lives worth living. We will experience the blessing of seeing how our mite offerings are at work in our district and overseas. Through speakers, we will be guided to joyfully respond with a renewed passion for missions and service. Through 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 renewed friendships and making new friends within our District LWML. That's a lot to look forward to!

So...look forward to walking with the Lord boldly, and with confidence, reflecting the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to the world around us.

Jackie Morris/Gulf States District President

Senior Counselor – Rev. James Endrihs

I Believe



On October 10, 2011, I experienced something for the first time: I had two funerals. One was for a 94 year old member of our church. Mildred was a Christian, a member and “attender” of our church for many years. She was still sharp and independent and even able to drive up to a couple of months before her death. To live as long as she did – independently – and to die as a Christian, what blessings! Still, her life was not without heartache. Through the years, she lost her husband, as well as their two children. She, however, was not overcome by grief. She had some relatives nearby – as well as her church family. And most importantly, the Lord promised to never leave nor forsake her (or any believer!). Her funeral was in the morning.

The second funeral came later in the day. Graveside only. It was for a stillborn child, a great-granddaughter of a recently deceased member of our church.

The weather was overcast and the contrast sharp. Mildred had lived over 34,000 days, this child – not even one. The young couple who lost their baby had named him Kreed. I told them that in the church a “creed” is a statement of faith from the Latin *credo*, which means “I believe”....

What we believe is so very important. It can bring comfort, peace, and hope. It can lead to anger, fear, and resentment. It can mean life or death. Why we believe is just as important. In John 8:31-32, Jesus said, “...*If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*”

What do you believe? Why do you believe it? Such questions may arise at a funeral, but are best answered before experiencing such loss. We believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, because the Spirit working through his word has revealed that truth to us. His word is truth! May we by God’s grace abide in it.

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son
And bring to nought all he has done.*

From “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” By: Martin Luther

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Jim



While They Were Sleeping

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.



God’s work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he’s there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we’re sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.

Merry Christmas

Officer's Reports

Flo Hofman – 2nd Vice President



Trinity Lutheran Church in Panama City, Florida, received a grant in the 2008-2010 biennium. Work has been completed on the handicapped accessible restrooms for the Center for Youth Ministries at Trinity. The building has been named Westher Hall, in recognition of retired Pastor Wes Toncre and his wife Esther. They are current members of Trinity Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted,
Flo Hofman / 2nd Vice President

WESTHER HALL

Karla Maxfield – Financial Secretary



Mites should be sent in on a regular basis, so that the Mission Grants can be paid in a timely manner for both the District and National Mission Grants. Here are some suggestions for collecting mites - monthly mite Sunday for the church, extra mites for birthdays, anniversaries, or holidays. It could be any special occasion for you or loved ones. If you need Mite Boxes, contact me. They are 15 cents each.

The Quarterly & Travel Fund Reminders for 2012 are in the mail. Please note that the deadline is Dec. 31, 2011.

Yours in Christ,
Karla Maxfield / Financial Secretary
525 Moeller Road
Picayune, MS 39466
601 798-6051
kmquiltlady@bellsouth.net



Marlys Kuehnert -- Parliamentarian



We will have the LWML Store open at the convention in April. You will be able to purchase items available in the catalog without the shipping charges. Please consult the LWML catalog and advise me of any items you would like to see available at the store. I will be glad to order special items for you to be picked up at the convention if they are prepaid. You may contact me at 205-472-3806 or marlyskuehnert@yahoo.com.

Marlys Kuehnert



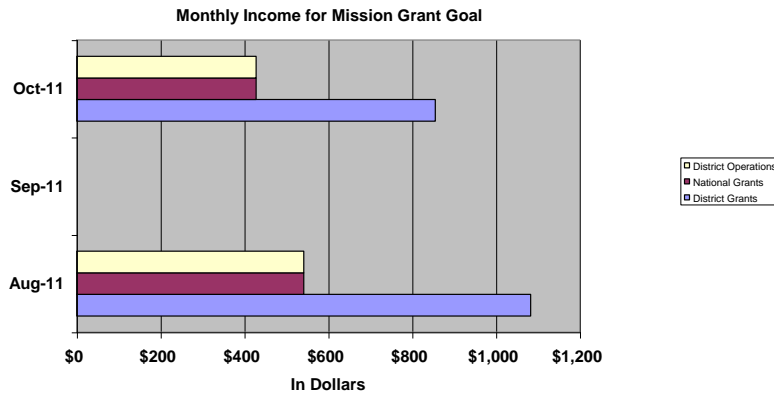
Judy Lessmann – Treasurer

Mite Boxes



It was a jubilant and exciting occasion. When I was in St. Louis last month, President Kay Kreklau announced that during its lifetime, the LWML had collected \$100,000,000.00 in mites! That is a lot of zeroes and it is read ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS!!! What an incredible blessing from God. But there is much work still to be done. As you can see below, we need almost \$10,000 to reach our goal in the Gulf States District. And the mission goal set by the delegates in

Peoria is also falling short. Check the LWML webpage (www.lwml.org) for mite prayers, progress, and information. And pray that the Lord of all will provide the funds to send workers and provide facilities for the harvest field.



Total for this quarter (August to October): \$3,875.67. Total for this biennium: \$44,320.80. We have November, December, and January to fulfill our commitment to the goal set at the convention in 2010. This will require about \$3,226 *each month*. Pray that the Lord will speak to the hearts of our ladies to make them generous in their love and their mites.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Lessmann, Treasurer



LWML Celebrates \$100 Million in Mites

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has gathered \$100 million in mites since the founding of the organization in 1942! By the grace of God, faithful supporters from across the nation have given their mites to achieve the LWML's ongoing mission goal. This amazing total combines funds from the forty districts and the national level of the LWML.

Supporters today are linked with the founders of LWML who gathered in Chicago nearly 70 years ago and have supported Christian outreach in 42 countries on five continents through the years. As Lutheran Women in Mission today celebrate this milestone, they join with those women of the past, as they continue to fill Mite Boxes to encourage the ongoing spread of the Gospel into the future.

LWML President Kay Kreklau shared, "Today we look forward to the mission work of the Lord set at the 2011 LWML Convention with a mission goal for the 2011-2013 biennium of \$1.825 million to support 19 grants. While the amount of funds raised has increased over the years, the mission today is the same – helping to reach out to share the joyful news of Christ around the world. Lutheran Women in Mission today share the same mission consciousness – mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service as they join the early leaders to joyfully serve the Lord."

Judy Zecher – Christian Life Chairman

Sonshine

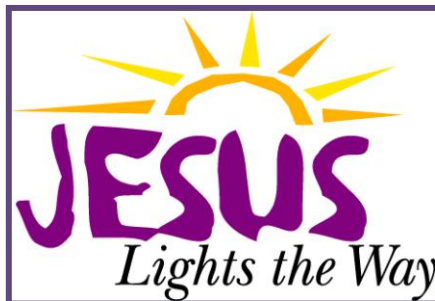
We are entering the time of the year when days are growing shorter, and the darkness of night comes so much sooner. I like the bright sunny days, when the sun is shining through the colored leaves of the trees, a soft breeze is blowing, and it is crisp and cool in the mornings and evenings. I like to walk around the house in the morning opening the blinds to let the sun shine in and to go walking in the warm sunshine. The warmth of the light brightens my spirit. The light reminds me of God's light and the parallels in Scripture to our daily experiences of light and darkness.

There is comfort in the words that **"God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."** (1 John 1:5b) Can you imagine that **"He (God) wraps himself in light as with a garment"**? (Ps. 104:2) And what a privilege we have that **"every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."** (James 1:17) What an awesome God we have! In addition, there is the hope that Jesus brings. He said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** (John 8:12)

How many times do we walk in the darkness of our own or other's struggles, problems, crises, depression, and hopelessness? King David said and felt at times that **"the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me"**, but then proclaims that **"even the darkness will not be dark to you (God); the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."** (Ps. 139:11-12)

When we spend time with the Lord, we can say with David, **"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light."** (Ps. 36:9) Time with the Lord helps us to lay down our burdens, to put things into perspective, to evaluate our priorities, to confess our sin and receive the light of His forgiveness. He

calls us **"out of darkness into his wonderful light"** (1 Peter 2:9) We **"were once darkness, but now (we) are light in the Lord."** He calls us to **"Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)"** and to **"find out what pleases the Lord."** (Eph. 5:8-10) Our loving Lord delights to fellowship with us and bring His light into our dark places. He knows that as we experience His presence, walking with Him in the light, we will also have fellowship with one another that is blessed by the light of His presence. (1 John 1:7) As we walk in the light of His presence, we will also be blessed as we learn to share His love and light with others. (Ps. 89:15)



Jesus tells us **"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."** (Matt. 5:14-16) We are called to **"do everything without complaining or arguing,"**¹⁵ so that you may become **blameless and pure, children of God**

without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe¹⁶ **as you hold out the word of life..."** (Phil. 2:14-16a) It's so vital that we share the "word of life", because **"the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God...For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."** (2 Cor. 4:4,6) This challenge may seem too big for us. It is! That's why we need to spend time in the light of the Lord's presence, allowing Him to transform us, our thinking, our habits, our words, so that His light will shine through us to bless others in this dark world. When you see the lights of the city, or night sky, or Christmas lights, let that be a reminder that you are His light to those around you. Shine! Let God be glorified through your "Sonshine." **"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."** (Num. 6: 24-26)

Judy Zecher

(Grace Lutheran Church, Huntsville, AL)

Gulf States District Christian Life Chairman

Zone News

Mountain Lakes Zone

News from Trinity Lutheran Church -- Gadsden, AL



As a special fundraiser project, the Ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church, Gadsden, AL, sold fresh lemonade at their church's annual "Family Night Vintage Car Cruise-In" to purchase items for donation to the Etowah County Pregnancy Testing Center (EPTC). With matching funds from Thrivent Financial, they raised \$250, which they used to purchase diapers, baby care products, footed sleepers and maternity clothes, to help replenish the EPTC stock.

The EPTC is a non-denominational, non-profit Christian organization dedicated to women and teens in crisis pregnancies, providing them with a support system which offers counseling and assistance as an alternative to abortion. The center provides needed information and materials for each client based on her needs and her decisions. All services are free and the EPTC receives no government funding. They employ an "Earn While You Learn" program whereby young women can earn "Mommy Bucks" to spend on items from the EPTC storeroom, while learning parenting skills and/or studying their Bible.

The Trinity Ladies Guild supports the important work of the EPTC as an ongoing project by regularly collecting congregational donations of baby care items, new/gently-used baby clothing, maternity clothes, and recycled baby furniture/gear.

Central Alabama Zone



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Prattville, AL, hosted the Central Alabama 2011, LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, October 15, 2011. Forty-two LWML members attended along with two pastors: Rev. James E. Endrihs, of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Enterprise, AL, and Rev. Stewart Marshall of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Ozark, AL. Ms. Octavia McBride led the opening devotion, A Devotion on Prayer. Rev. Wendell H. Edwards, Pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, conducted an inspirational bible study session, From Pain to New Life. LWML

members shared their personal stories and triumphs in overcoming difficult life experiences through prayer and belief in the Lord. Ms. Dolly White provided the closing devotion, Shine Through Me, Lord.

Zone 5 officers were elected at the business meeting. The new officers are: Pearl Howard, President; Pearl Parrish, Secretary-Treasurer; and Cherise Endrihs, Christian Growth Chairperson.

The Ingathering-gifts brought in by members were toothpaste/denture cleanser, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, and comb designated to the Green Springs Assisted Living Home in Prattville, AL. Pastor Endrihs sent the ingathering-gifts off with a prayer.

A delicious lunch was served and many gifts of appreciation were given to the members. Pastor Marshall gave the benediction and a prayer for safe travels on a great day of fellowship.

Submitted by Pearl Howard



Gulf States District Convention Update

CONVENTION SPEAKERS



Annetta Dellinger --Keynote speaker and workshop leader

The JOY Lady, PHD - Perky Happy Disciple Joyologist - Contagious with the real source of JOY, Jesus Christ Encourages and equips others with practical insights and creative solutions for their busy lifestyles

An international speaker for more than 25 years, she speaks to small intimate groups, large conventions, keynotes, workshops, and cruise ships.

Annetta customizes her JOY-filled inspiring topics to fit your event for audiences - Women of all ages. She has been a Talk Show Host.

Annetta has authored more than 30 books with contributions to many more and authored numerous magazine articles.

New Releases: JOY-spirations for Caregivers, Blessings and Prayers for Caregivers (co-authored), Blessings and Prayers for Those with Cancer (co-authored)

Annetta is an Advocate: I am a re-energized caregiver, committed to *talking my walk* to bring hope and encouragement to caregivers and passionate about bringing awareness of the care giving challenges to others. Together we can make a difference!



Chaplain Michael P. Moreno, USNR--Mission Speaker

Chaplain Moreno has been called by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to serve as facilitator for Operation Barnabas. Operation Barnabas has been created in direct response to a resolution from the LCMS in convention to address the needs of our military Chaplains and other military members. His responsibilities include: creating a support program for reserve Chaplains and their families; serving as liaison with their congregations and districts; and educating non-military partners in mission of the issues and pressures faced by reserve Chaplains and their families

Chaplain Moreno graduated from St. John's College in May 1985, with a BA in Biblical Languages and from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1990, with a Master of Divinity degree in Theology. He was commissioned as a naval officer in May of 1989 in the Chaplain Candidate Program and completed officer training, Basic School for Chaplains, August 1996, at Newport Rhode Island.

Chaplain Moreno served as Associate Pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY from 1990-1992; Pastor to St. John's Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi, TX from 1992-1996; and Pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison, NE from 1996 to 1999.

Carolyn Blum, LWML Vice President of Organizational Resources-- LWML Representative.

Carolyn is from Hartford, Wisconsin, and a part of the South Wisconsin LWML District.

She has served the LWML (national) as *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Associate Editor and News Editor, Board of Directors, MMV Consultant. District – President, Planner, Renewal Chairman, Faith Talk presenter, convention co-chairman, Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Events PR Chairman, Endowment Fund. Zone/Local – Convention delegate, PR Chairman, speaker, officers' mentor.

Church – LCMS District Volunteer Coordinator, Parish Media Team Coordinator, Ablaze! presenter, choir, praise team, Evangelism Board, prayer tree coordinator, LCMS district convention delegate, Sunday school, VBS, Bible study leader, newsletter editor.

Community – Wisconsin Lutherans for Life secretary, high school parents board president, LHM Living for Tomorrow Regional Coordinator, Milwaukee Lutheran radio choir, mission trips presenter.

Education – B.B.A. (Personnel Management), University of Wisconsin-Whitewater; Bible Institute, Concordia University Wisconsin.

Occupation – Full-time volunteer.



Lodging

The Official Hotel site is **The Comfort Inn & Suites**, 19001 Emerald Coast Parkway (Highway 98), Destin, FL. Please plan to use this facility, as they have given us a good rate and reserved a large number of rooms. I am including a map to show how to get to Grace Lutheran from the hotel. Facing the street, out the front of the hotel, go right to the stop light, go to Commons Drive, and follow the arrows to the church on the left side of the road. **Important:** When you leave the church, turn left, take your first right, and right again onto Emerald Coast Parkway to get back to the hotel. This is the best route to take because of the divided highway and median. (See Figure 1 on page 10)

2 Queen Beds room includes: Free High-Speed Internet, Coffee Maker In Room, Hair Dryer, Iron and Ironing Board. \$125 for up to 4 people in a room. Guests will enjoy full-service amenities, including **free breakfast with hot waffles, free weekday newspaper, free coffee** in the lobby, **gift shop, fitness center, indoor and outdoor pool.**

The hotel is minutes from fishing docks and walking distance from the beach, several shops, a variety of restaurants, and Henderson Beach Park is across the street (**Admission Fee:** \$6.00 per vehicle. {Limit 2-8 people per vehicle} \$4.00 for a Single Occupant Vehicle. \$2.00 for each Pedestrian).



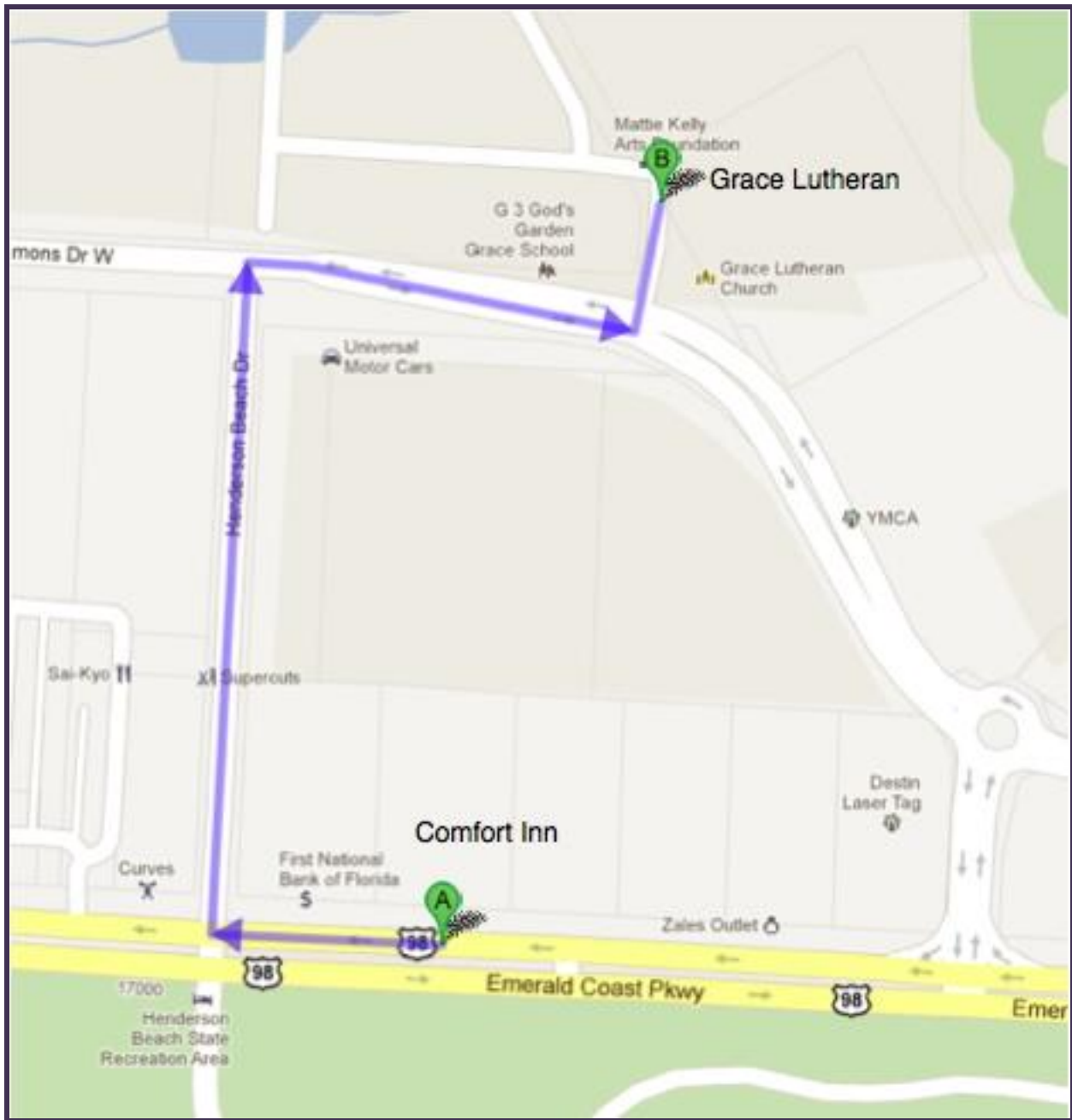
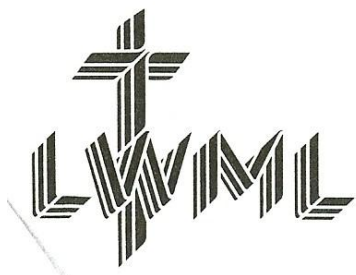


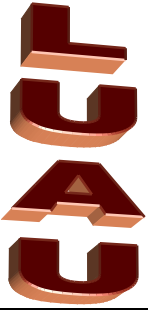
Figure 1-- Directions from Comfort Inn and Suites to Grace Lutheran



*The **Gulf States Glad Tidings** is available online at our website: lwmlgulfstates.org along with other Gulf States news and resources.*

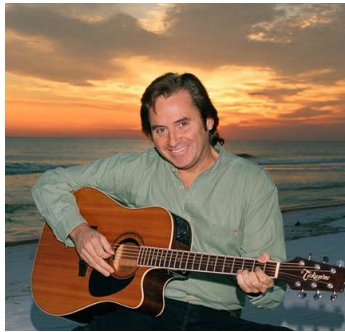
There are also unlimited resources available to use for society meetings at LWML.org

LUAU---This is a first for a Gulf States District convention!



For the Saturday evening meal, we usually have a banquet. This convention we will have a luau! You will be greeted by the host committee with the island greeting "Aloha" and the lei, which is the Hawaiian word for welcome and love. Leis are the symbol of "Aloha"! Muumuus, Hawaiian print dresses, have been worn by Hawaiian women for generations. So put away that fancy dressy dress and find a muumuu to wear for this special event! For men, how about a Hawaiian shirt, that has been popular in the Islands for nearly a century? You don't have one? You can go on line to find one, or they are easy to make if you are a seamstress. The fabric stores have plenty of bright colorful print material.

We have some wonderful entertainment of tropical music lined up for you.



The Tropical Island Man, Chuck Lawson.

Chef Nasri, who is one of the best, has been highly recommended by "The Pampered Chef." He has an outstanding menu lined up for you, with a **guarantee** of not running out of food. He states: *"We will be honored to cater your event (as a rule, my first love is to the Lord and His Church), so I will make it very special for all of us."*



Chef Nasri

Bea Daisy, Publicity Chairman

LWML Convention Registration Form
34th Biennial Convention - Gulf States District
April 27-29, 2012

Friday registration 12:00 pm—Saturday registration 7:30 am
Grace Lutheran Church
4325 Commons Dr. W, Destin, FL 32541



Please Print or Type

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Congregation/City: _____

Zone: _____

Check One Category

- Delegate
- Alternate Delegate
- LWML Member
- District Board Member
 - Voting member
 - Non-voting member
- Past LWML President
- Clergy
- Guest (spouse, non-member)
- Program Participant
- Young Woman—Age 18-35

Convention Fees

(Check must accompany registration)

Registration before April 1, 2012	\$40.00	\$ _____
Registration after April 1, 2012	\$45.00	\$ _____
Saturday Box Lunch	\$12.00	\$ _____
Circle one (Ham Turkey Veggie)		
Saturday Evening Dinner	\$25.00	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ _____

Friday Enrichment Sessions

Number 1-3 in order of preference

1. _____ Identity Theft by Thrivent
2. _____ What's New With LWML shared by Carolyn Blum, LWML Rep.
3. _____ 101 Ideas of Showing You Care by keynote speaker Annetta Dellinger

(sessions assigned as registration is received)

_____ Will sing in the Choir----
 Circle One (Soprano Alto Tenor)

*Please make check payable to: **LWML Convention Treasurer***
*Mail registration and check to: **Sandra Fogg, 4496 Rice Rd, Milton, FL 32583***
*Phone **850.623.3177** — E-mail: **sandrafogg@bellsouth.net***

No refunds after April 13, 2012

\$10 processing fee will be retained for all cancellations. Meals nonrefundable after April 13, 2012.

Comfort Inn and Suites

19001 Emerald Coast Pkwy Destin, FL 32541 850-654-8611

Rooms: \$125.00 (plus tax) Per night for one to four persons

Reservations must be made directly with the hotel. Check-in time: 4:00 p.m. Check-out time: 11:00 a.m.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM UNDER "LWML" FOR CONVENTION RATE

Room reservation deadline: March 20, 2012