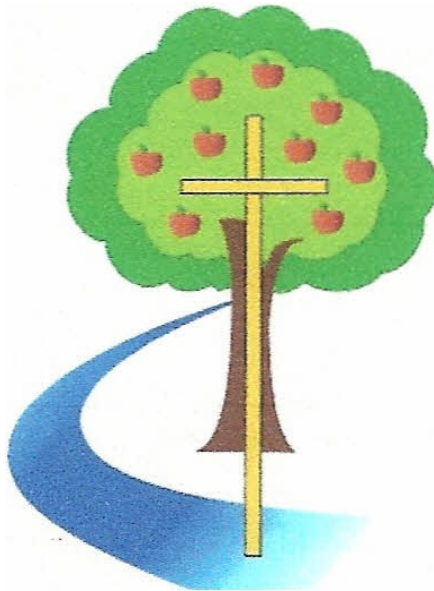


**Plan to  
Attend!**

**COME TO APPLETON!**

**34th Biennial  
N WI @ K A @ District Convention**

June 14-16, 2012



Radisson Paper Valley Hotel

[www.radisson.com/appleton-hotel-wi-54911](http://www.radisson.com/appleton-hotel-wi-54911)

Check their website for a map, and further information

Rooms have been reserved in the LWML housing block, please ask for those when making reservations.

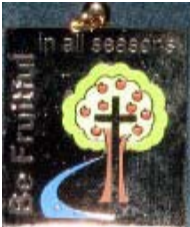
Looking for more to do in the Appleton area? Check the web for things to do in Appleton, WI. Some ideas include:

1. *The Fox River Mall.*
2. *Houdini Walking Tour*
3. *The Building for Kids*
4. *The Paper Museum*
5. *Wriston Art Center Galleries, located in nearby Lawrence University.*
6. *Old Third Ward Walking Tour*
7. *For the quilters in your group, there are several unique local quilt shops, as well as larger brands, JoAnn and Hancock..*
8. *If you enjoy fine and rare tea, Fava teas offers a large selection, it is located in the Fox River Mall Area.*

## LWML District Convention Participants Lodging Information

The Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton, Wis., will be holding a block of rooms for convention goers. Room rates will be \$104 plus tax per night – up to 4 per room. The phone number for the Radisson Paper Valley is 1-800-242-3499 or book online at Radisson Paper Valley Hotel [www.radisson.com/appleton-hotel-wi-54911](http://www.radisson.com/appleton-hotel-wi-54911). Specify LWML to get our rate.

Address of the Radisson is 333 W. College Ave. (2-3 miles from the Fox River Mall). Everyone makes his/her own reservation. Bus transportation will NOT be available for this convention.

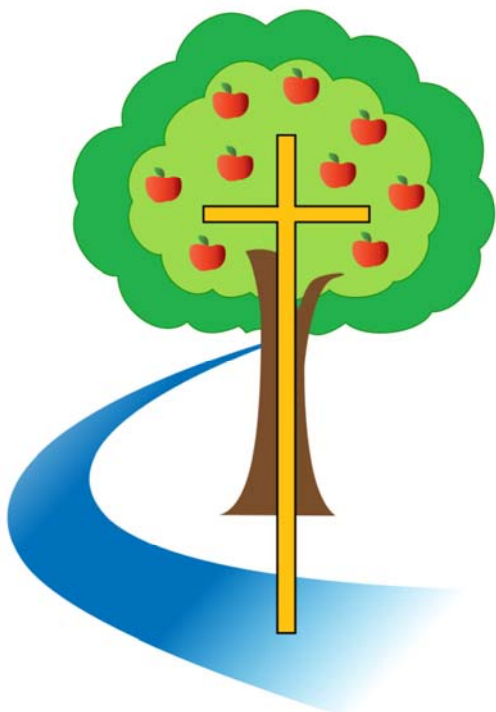


### Convention Jewelry

The jewelry for the convention is so pretty! The convention logo is displayed on a gold background and is available as either a tie tack or as a charm that can be worn on a bracelet or necklace. The cost is \$4.00.

You can order it on your registration form and pick it up when you check in at the convention.

## 2012 LWML Convention Logo



**Be Fruitful  
in all seasons**

The tree starts out as a seed. When planted a root (taproot) grows downward from which lateral roots grow. The taproot stops growing, and lateral roots branch out in all directions away from it. Some of the lateral roots grow to twice the width of the crown of the tree. They are growing to reach moisture and nutrients. In winter the top of the tree goes dormant and the roots grow. When the apple tree begins to bud, root development stops so the tree's resources go toward nurturing leaves and fruit.

On the tree there are 9 apples, they represent "9" Fruits of the Spirit. Which are found in Galatians 5:22 & 23 ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The river is water- moisture for the tree. It is also the River of Life.

We are the tree, growing in all seasons. CHRIST (Cross) is our root, his Word.

(Submitted by Frena Scheid, Faith Lutheran Church, Zone 18)

# 34th Biennial N WI District Convention



## “Joyful Noise” Jan Struck

**J**an Struck’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 two great-grandchildren. She is delighted to have been given a lifetime of bizarre experiences and an ability to see humor and irony in her journey.

Jan recently retired from her career as a trainer/consultant in the field of healthcare technology to spend full-time on her speaking ministry. She is truly blessed to serve 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 California and east as Connecticut. Her involvement with LWML (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League)

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 Portland, OR.

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”!!

## Luncheon A – Jan Struck

**J**an will use the time during Luncheon A to share a little more deeply about her background, how God brought her to this point in her life, and what her plans look like for the future. Enjoy this more relaxed time with Jan to get to know her a little better.

### Friday Convention Luncheon and Speakers

#### Friday Lunch:

Chef’s Salad with ham, turkey and cheeses.

Convention registration form is located on page 12. Be sure to mark your first, second, third and fourth choice for the Friday lunch sessions.

Lunch A: Jan Struck

Lunch B: Brenda Jank

Lunch C: David Baker

Lunch D: Rachel Baker

# Brenda Jank – Bible Study Leader



**B**renda Jank is a speaker, visionary leader and champion of rest. An intensely personal, life-altering journey into personal retreat and Sabbath keeping (beginning 20 years ago) turned into a professional outlet in 1999 when Brenda established the

Personal Retreat Ministry at Camp Lutherhaven (similar to our Camp Luther), in northeast Indiana. As an author, she's written for Focus on the Family, Discipleship Journal, Willow Creek and various Christianity Today publications. The ministry **Run hard, Rest well** launched in 2008. It equips God's people to explore and rediscover the power and purpose of rest within the overload of our 24/7 culture. It also equips Christian camps and retreat centers around the world to launch vibrant Personal Retreat Ministries. As a mother of five (ages 10-17),

her passion for rest is fueled by a home-grown desire to live and love with joy and delight. Brenda is a 1990 DCE (Director of Christian Education) graduate of Concordia University, Nebraska. She and her husband, Tim (also a DCE), have been serving Camp Lutherhaven in Albion, Indiana for 18 years. We are blessed to have Brenda for our Bible Study writer and leader.

## Luncheon B – Brenda Jank Run hard. Rest Well.

**W**e all know how to run hard, but do we know how to rest well? Designed by God, there are rhythms of rest that are restorative and life-giving, yet completely neglected by believers today. Running on the fumes of an empty tank, most believers serve with a self-imposed limp. Personal Retreat, Sabbath Keeping, and Stillness are rhythms of rest that reacquaint us to the peace and quiet that souls have tried to live without. Brenda will use the time in this luncheon to speak more about her ministry – “Run Hard – Rest Well.”

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## Luncheon C

BREAKOUT SESSION WITH DAVID BAKER:

### **G**od Opens New Mission Challenges In Mongolia

Over the past year, LCMS World Mission has begun exciting new work among the Kazakh population living in Mongolia. These Kazakhs are hungry for the Word of God, and are very open to hearing the Gospel message. Pastor David Baker will share a little of the history of our work in Mongolia, as well as describe some of the many highlights of his work among the Kazakh people living there. He will also discuss the future of the LCMS work in Mongolia, including the recent sending of a national Kazakh man and his family to evangelize the Kazakh people of Mongolia.

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## Luncheon D

BREAKOUT SESSION WITH RACHEL BAKER:

### **A**dventures of a Woman In Mission—Balancing Faith and Family in a Foreign Land

Living overseas is both an adventure and a challenge for the Baker family! When David and Rachel moved to Kazakhstan nine years ago they had just had their first child (Julia, then age 2). Since then God has blessed them with three more children (Timothy 7, Daniel 4, and Esther 1). Though the joys and challenges can be a bit different at times, raising a Christian family overseas is at its core much the same as it would be in the United States. Join Rachel Baker for a glimpse into what life is like as a missionary to Kazakhstan, and how this spills over into her roles as wife, mother, teacher and friend.

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# MISSION PRESENTORS AT 2012 DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION

Missionaries David & Rachel Baker

## ***SHARING THE STORY OF GOD'S MISSION IN KAZAKHSTAN***

**P**astor David and Rachel (Selle) Baker, along with their four children, serve the Lord as missionaries with the LCMS in Kazakhstan. David was ordained in 2005 after serving a two-year vicarage in Kazakhstan. David oversees the LCMS' humanitarian and spiritual work in this ninth largest country in the world, and works closely to build up the local partner church. His other responsibilities include leading Bible studies, discipling new Christians, training group leaders and pastoral candidates, and helping develop Christian resources in the Kazakh language, among the Kazakh populations living in both Kazakhstan and Mongolia. David and Rachel both

graduated from Concordia University, Seward, NE, - David with a bachelor's degree in music and Rachel with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a Director of Christian Education certificate with a concentration in music. Their children (Julia 9 years old, Timothy - 7, Daniel - 4, and Esther - 1) are also involved in the mission as they share their faith with their friends and at school. The Bakers ask for prayers that the hearts of the Kazakh people would be open to the Good News of Jesus Christ and that God would raise up leaders from among the Kazakh people.

*Pastor Selle*



Missionaries David & Rachel Baker and their family

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# Living River—Friday Banquet Entertainment

By Dave Koy



Living River glorifies God in word and song—They're called Living River, four former high school buddies who blend country gospel, rock and a cappella styles with their love for four-part power harmony. Their goal is to communicate to their audience, with word and song, the gospel of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And they do it with their own special joy, enthusiasm and style.

The current men of Living River; Perry deJong, tenor; Bryan Niemeyer, baritone; Rich Beilke, bass, and Jeff Gut, lead singer, first met some 31 years ago while attending John Muir Middle School in Wausau, Wisconsin. Their friendships and mutual love for music continued to grow while they were students at Wausau West High School. It was Phil Buch, music director at Wausau West, who encouraged the boys to pursue quartet music. "Phil coached us on how to do the various parts," explained Perry, spokesman for the group. In 1987 a quartet known as Living Water had its debut, with Rich Beilke as one of the members. The name was eventually changed to Living River. Then, in 1994, Rich invited Perry deJong to join him in the group. Five years later Bryan Niemeyer was added to the quartet and in 2001 the current singing group known as Living River came together when Jeff Gut joined his former classmates as their lead singer. Playing 2-3 concerts a month, writing songs and cutting their own music CDs, Living River has become one of the most popular singing groups in Central Wisconsin.

One of the reasons for the growing popularity of Living River music is the manner in which the singers make each performance fresh and spontaneous. "We always have a song list, but nothing is scripted," said Perry, who teaches social studies at John Muir Middle School. "When we're on stage, what you see is what you get." In contrast to their spontaneity on stage, the guys work hard to ensure that their music is not just basic harmony, but what they call, "power harmony," a blending together of their voices to create a unique and vibrant sound. "We try to keep our chords tight and powerful," added Perry. Rich Beilke, a salesman at Applied Industrial Technologies in Wausau, is

the only remaining member of the original quartet. His longevity with the group helps him explain the reason for the unique sound of the present quartet. "I believe it's the closeness and friendship of our current group which accounts for the unique Living River sound that people have come to enjoy," said Rich.

Along with their harmonizing and doing their own musical arrangements, the group enjoys adding a little humor into each concert and into their personal lives as well. "Bryan is always doing something to make us laugh," acknowledged Perry. "When we're together, especially when we travel together, we just continue being silly and laughing together." Staying in harmony with God is also important to the men of Living River. "We pray before and after every performance," said Perry. A prayer box is also available at each concert where fans can place prayer requests to be prayed for by the men. When signing autographs or CDs, each singer adds a personal scripture verse to his signature. For Perry it is Colossians 1:10; Bryan, 1st Corinthians 15:58; Rich, 1st Peter 1:3, and Jeff, Proverbs 3:5-6. Honoring and glorifying God is always paramount to the men of Living River.

Jeff Gut, who works and resides in Little Chute, is the only quartet member who does not reside in the Wausau area. He stays in touch with his 3 brothers in Christ, however, via the telephone and e-mail. Jeff places a high value on his role with the quartet. "In a world of change and uncertainty, my best friends in Living River are an ongoing reminder of the certainty that Jesus died for me," said the group's lead singer. "Singing with them helps me become the man I'm supposed to be."

Living River audiences have generally been middle age to retirement years. Their recently released CD, *Unpredictable*, includes songs designed to reach a younger crowd. Bryan Niemeyer explains the reason for the change. "God's hand has shaped us to be what we now are," said the 5th grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in Wausau. "We believe He is molding us and stretching us to be an even greater voice for him." As one fan recently commented, "Now you have music for everyone." In today's entertainment world it is not unusual to see performers place their own personal gain and glory ahead of everything else. Not so with the men of Living River. For them, it is God first, family second, and then their music. It's those priorities that have helped Living River bring honor and glory to their Creator as they live out Psalm 95:2 and "come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song." Perry, Rich, Bryan and Jeff would have it no other way.

Note: Information about Living River concert bookings, CDs, etc., can be obtained from their Website at [www.livingriverquartet.com](http://www.livingriverquartet.com), or by calling 715-848-1145 or e-mail: [rbeilke1@frontier.com](mailto:rbeilke1@frontier.com)