

CHRISTIAN LIFE NOTES

Oregon District LWML

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Get Packing

The Oregon District convention is coming up and I need to get packing. Let's see, what do I want to bring with me?

First off, I need to leave my expectations at home. I may have a wish to enjoy a getaway from the usual grind. After all, McMinnville is a destination town: its quaintness, mixed with tempting attractions, calls to me. My main event is at St. John Lutheran Church, where men and women gather to do business, be inspired, learn from dedicated mission servants, and glorify God in communion, song, and Word.

Secondly, I will leave my ego at home. This is a come-as-you-are party. No need to look extra spiritual or extra witty. I should just be myself, my best self, teachable, humble before God, and considerate of others.

This verse comes to mind:

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1-4).

I find I'm packing pretty light. I have no extra baggage to drag along. If I welcome those around me, I might make a new friend. That would be a treat.

I plan to make a beeline for the vendor exhibits downstairs. This is my chance to meet men and women dedicated to their cause. I want to rub elbows with folks who pursue Jesus and express their discoveries in ministry to others.

I look forward to meeting our special speakers and guests. It starts with bible study by Grace Rao. I love that. A special welcome from Rev. Linneman from the Northwest District office and LWML Representative Marie Chow will bring greetings from the National office. I am ready to listen and learn. I wonder what Quiet Waters Outreach will tell me. I see that Carmen Nagel, our past district president, is our featured speaker and her husband, Darrel will bring greetings from Lutheran Hour Ministries. What a treat!

I bought a purple feather boa for the Saturday evening entertainment.

With all that, the convention schedule is a steady pace, starting Friday morning and ending with us worshipping with the congregation of St. John Lutheran Church for Sunday service. Instead of expectations, I need to pace myself: work when I am needed, listen when I need to, and rest when I can.

Did I say rest? Rest is what you do after the convention. Well, even that isn't true because when I get home, I will have jimmy-dandy ideas for my society meeting and service outreaches.

All I need to take is an empty suitcase and fill it with the encouragement of Christ, the motivation of His love, the blessing of the Holy Spirit, and the unity of the body of believers (Philippians 2:1-2).



The Christian Life Committee