

THE NID BITS

MAY 2011

L U T H E R A N W O M E N ' S M I S S I O N A R Y L E A G U E
N O R T H E R N I L L I N O I S D I S T R I C T

Janet's Jottings

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MAY AND MOTHERS

Here we are in the merry, merry month of May! The rains of April have produced beautiful blooms of every color, shape and size. I love driving through our town with its beautiful trees, rows and rows of daffodils, tulips blossoming and knowing in a few weeks we will have peonies galore. God has certainly blessed spring with beauty and every flower is a reason to honor Him.

May is also set aside to celebrate mothers. Over the past week or so, every email, newspaper and magazine advertisement has offered us an opportunity to share food, give flowers, purchase gifts or in some way honor mothers. We are given every opportunity to show them the special recognition they deserve. After all they put up with us through diapers, the terrible twos, the teen years, the rebellious years, they helped plan our weddings, baby sat for our children

and most of all loved us even when we weren't very lovable. He has truly blessed us in the gift of mothers.

Mothers come in all ages, sizes, shapes and colors. Just like the flowers that bloom each May. And today's mothers are everywhere and doing everything. They are caring for families and their homes; they are building careers; they are shuttle drivers; and in the midst of all this they are involved in church activities, school activities and who knows what else. Sounds like chaos (and sometimes it is) and in the middle of it all Jesus is there, wanting to take care of them.

How can we help Him care for mothers? As women of the LWML, our mission statement asks us "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".

A mother's world can stretch from her own home to the farthest corners of the world. At different stages in her life the boundaries will grow and shrink. Let's be there for mothers and women of all ages and in all stages of life, giving loving encouragement, a smile and enthusiasm for the work she is doing as a mother and as a child of God.

Jan Mauer
President, NID LWML

*"A mother's world
can stretch from her
own home to the
farthest corners of the
world."*

From Pastor Erik



Miraculous?

Do Miracles still happen? Is God still active in the world today like He was in the Bible, or is He standing back and watching? These are valid questions, and not infrequent, but what is a "miracle" anyway.

Some say a miracle is when a baby is born. Childbirth is certainly amazing and maybe even miraculous, but it is more like an everyday miracle (or 7 million times a day). What about water to wine, raising someone from the dead, or making a blind man to see? Don Piper might tell you he experienced a miracle. Don was dead instantly during a horrific car accident. He had been dead for 90 minutes before a pastor laid hands on him, prayed and sang and Don came back to life! He spent years in recovery and has written a book describing his 90 minutes in heaven and the years of recovery.

"A miracle is anytime that God intervenes in the normal order of things and does something we wouldn't typically expect."

The thoughts you have in your mind right now are what has happened to miracles. We "think" them away; we rationalize anything that doesn't make sense and try to fit it into our capability to understand. Thinking is good, but when we believe that we already understand everything than we don't have room for miracles.

A miracle is anytime that God intervenes in the normal order of things and does something we wouldn't typically expect. Notice, when God intervenes. When we explain away items that have no good explanation we ignore God at work in this world and we ignore miracles.

Everyday people who are sick are healed; everyday hopeless marriages are restored, everyday people who are dead come back to life, everyday people who have no

water find a drink and people with no food find a meal. Everyday people all over the world give up the comfort of their own life to make a positive difference for someone else. Everyday, every one of us sins, and every time God intervenes with forgiveness we do not deserve.

If the normal order of things were allowed to occur, each of us sinners would obtain death (Romans 6:23), but God intervenes and miraculously makes us, sinners, holy and righteous (Romans 5:6). That truly is a miracle. Miracles are occurring all the time, big and small because God remains active in our world today (Matthew 28:20). Let's give credit where credit is due, to our all powerful, all amazing God. After all, He is Risen!

His servant and yours,

Pastor Erik Gauss

Peoria Convention Updates

So far there are 203 Northern Illinois District people registered to go to our Peoria Convention. This is an exciting number! Our District Caucus will be held Thursday, June 23rd from 4-4:50 pm in room 400. Our District Photo will be taken Thursday, June 23rd at 5:30pm in Exhibit Hall A. Please arrive 10 minutes beforehand for the photo session. Please let others you know are attending the Convention about both the Caucus as well as the photo session. The Caucus will be a good time to meet and greet women you might not know, and also meet our YWR (Young Woman Rep) and our Heart to Heart Sister. This will also be a time to ask God's blessings on the Convention and all who are attending. Let us also be in prayer for the Convention now as we make our room and travel plans.



R a m b l i n g s o n R a l l i e s

Over the past two months I, and many of you, have attended Spring Rallies. They have been fun, interesting, informative and most of all a chance to fellowship with our LWML sisters.

We have heard our pastors, lay-ministers, deaconesses, missionaries, men and women speak of their ministries. They have challenged us to get involved with their ministry or another ministry that speaks to our heart.

We have studied God's word and even received Holy Communion as part of the rally worship time. Officers have been elected.

We have heard skits that were humorous and still had a message for us. Some spoke to Mite offerings, others to getting involved and volunteering to be a leader in your society, zone and even the district LWML.

We have eaten breakfast, lunch, supper and snacked on wonderful homemade goodies prepared by the women of the LWML. Rallies have taken place in the morning, the afternoon, on weeknights, Saturday, Sunday and week day mornings. We have met in sanctuaries, fellowship rooms and sometimes in both.

And at the end of all the rallies, no matter the time of day, no matter what refreshments were served, no matter who spoke, we the women of the NID LWML, once again, joined together to praise our Risen Savior Jesus Christ and affirmed each other as women of faith. We recited the LWML pledge and prepared to go out and reach others with the Gospel of Christ. We are the LWML, and we are ready to serve.

Thanks to all who planned, baked, spoke or attended a Spring Rally. You are the LWML.

Jan Mauer, NID LWML President



"We are the LWML, and we are ready to serve."

G R A N T D I S B U R S E M E N T R E P O R T

NID 2010-1011 Biennium Grants	Grant Amount	Paid	Balance
Voice of Hope Behind the Wall	\$15,000.00	\$1,081.19	\$13,918.81
Concordia FW Food Pantry	\$15,000.00	12,000.00	3,000.00
Trinity/Hope	\$ 5,000.00	5,000.00	--
Voice of Care	\$20,491.00	9,555.84	10,935.16
Furnishing Group Homes	\$22,000.00		\$22,000.00
Morningstar Mentoring Program	\$10,000.00	3,928.32	6,071.68
Textbook Acquisition for Seminary Students	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Special Needs Classroom/Diaconal Center South Sudan	\$ 8,900.00	1,332.96	7,567.04
Hymnals for Ev. Lutheran Church Kenya	\$ 8,409.00		\$ 8,409.00
TOTAL MISSION GRANT GOAL	\$124,800.00	32,898.11	\$ 91,901.69

Our Lenten Inspirations

Held at Resurrection, Chicago, and Cross, Yorkville

By Madlyn Johnson, District Publications Editor

*"We gathered as
sisters united
with one heart,
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glorify God our
Father and our
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Savior, Jesus
Christ."*

The 2011 Lenten Inspiration days were held at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 9349 S. Wentworth, Chicago and Cross Lutheran Church, 8609 IL Route 47, Yorkville, IL.

We gathered as sisters united with one heart, soul, and mind to glorify God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The devotions, skits, Bible studies, and musical encouragement truly strengthened us anew as we enjoyed a like-minded fellowship.

Kathy McCoy did a thought provoking Bible study at Resurrection's Lenten Inspiration. When was the last time you read Psalm 91? Did you know that there are 6 glorious promises from God? God promises to rescue us, protect us, answer us, be with us in times of trouble, deliver & honor us, and satisfy us and show us His Salvation. All because He loves us!

Rev. Jared Eggebraaten presented an inspiring devotion at Cross Lutheran. It was about time and how to use it wisely. Bells called monks to prayer. Bells evolved to clocks and clocks now call us to work instead of calling us to prayer. God has given us the gift of time as a gift. Let's not get so busy that we become neglectful and not wisely use our clocks. We need to remember to "bell" ourselves to prayer and Sabbath rest. Each day is like the manna the Israelites received from Heaven - once the day is gone, you can't get it back! We are not saved by our works but by the gift of Christ-**No Strings Attached!** Take the time to honor the Creator and the Sabbath Day.



A hilarious, yet thought provoking skit from "Radio LWML-Mite Box Theatre of the Air" entitled "3 coins in a Mite Box" by Janet Hassler was done at both locations. We even sang a song composed about mites.

Lenten Inspiration is just that-**AN INSPIRATION!** Next year, I encourage all that can, to take part in the Lenten Inspirations – you won't be disappointed. This article cannot end without thanking the host churches for their gracious hospitality, uplifting devotions, skits, and music.

Kathryn Ann Teske, Zone 27S President was called to her eternal rest on April 20, 2011.

Kathy faithfully served Zone 27S for many years and was an inspiration to all the women she touched as she served through LWML. She had a passion for music and teaching and used these talents at her home church, Zion, Beecher. Our prayers are with her family and friends.

L W M L Women to “Stuff the Truck” at C o n v e n t i o n !

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) has traditionally been motivated by the gospel to share the care and compassion of Jesus Christ with people in need throughout the world. Lutheran Women in Mission will get this opportunity once again as they prepare to bring their ***Gifts from the Heart*** to the LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois from June 23-26, 2011.

LWML President Janice Wendorf confidently states, “I anticipate that the generous and caring LWML women gathered for the convention in Peoria will do their very best to ‘stuff the truck.’ With all the recent natural disasters the need for these items is great.”

The excitement is building as women, men, and children from across the nation are getting ready to “stuff the truck” from Orphan Grain Train until the semi-truck is overflowing! Convention participants are assembling care kits, and making quilts to be sent to needy areas in Peoria and around our world, to shelters for the homeless and for victims of disasters such as tornados, earthquakes, floods, and fires. Items that are needed for ***Gifts from the Heart*** include:

- **Quilts** = (any size for Orphan Grain Train truck packed in heavy duty plastic bag)
- **NEW Bath Items** = (pack new items in a clear zip lock plastic bag) 1 bath towel, 1 hand towel, 1 washcloth, 1 Christian tract or Bible verse (in bag)
- **NEW Underwear** = (in original packaging and labeled correctly) men’s, women’s and children’s underwear needed, 1 Christian tract or Bible verse taped on package
- **NEW Children’s Picture Bibles** (English) or **Arch Books**

For every Arch Book pre-ordered before **June 1, 2011**, Concordia Publishing House will donate an additional Arch Book to the ***Gifts from the Heart*** initiative. Go to www.lwml.org/conventions for more information.

- **Kits – Men, Women or Children** (NEW regular sized items, marked clearly and packed in a clear zip lock plastic bag, 1 Christian tract or Bible verse in each bag)
- **Men** = men’s socks stick deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrush, bar of soap
- **Women** = women’s socks, stick deodorant, hand or body cream, toothbrush, bar of soap
- **Children** = children’s socks, box of 8 crayons, safety scissors, Christian coloring book, Christian story book, toothbrush

The quantities of these items are unlimited and can be sent with those who will attend the convention.

For more information on the ***Gifts from the Heart*** and the LWML 34th Biennium Convention June 23-26, 2011 in Peoria, Illinois, go to www.lwml.org/conventions

Mark the Date for our NID LWML Fall Gathering

Saturday, October 15, 2011

St. Peter, Schaumburg

Featured Speaker: Tim Hetzner, Lutheran Church Charities

This special day will include Bible study, fellowship, lunch, and speakers from ministries supported by NID LWML Mission grants. There will be no business meeting.

Cost is \$25

Mission Help Wanted : Inquire Within

Join the Paraguay Eyeglass Team

Eyeglass clinics provide daily vision testing and distribution of eyeglasses in a poor country. Training is provided by a MOST Ministries team leader. Dates are being finalized for a trip to Paraguay to conduct eyeglass clinics Jan. 3-15, 2012.

Would you like to join them? Contact Jan G for more info.

For more information on any of these projects, please contact Jan Gerzevske at jgerz@netzero.com or 630-294-5014.

Make Sunglasses Your Next Mission Project

MOST Ministries wants to provide sunglasses to everyone who comes to the eyeglass clinics they sponsor. You can help. Collect sunglasses for children as a mission project for your church's Sunday School and/or day school children.

Help with Relief Efforts in Japan

Lutheran World Relief needs quilts and kits which provide essential items that families need following a disaster. Visit lwr.org/beinvolved for details. Be sure to check their Ingathering map to find a drop-off location near you.

The Orphan Grain Train is ready to begin shipping humanitarian aid to Japan as soon as security measures are in place there. Visit www.ogt.org and click on Special Projects: there you will find instructions for making and shipping Mercy Kits to their warehouse.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Japan Earthquake Relief help page at www.lcms.org/help, offers a variety of information and resources.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Join Volunteers assisting Cedar Rapids in rebuilding their city that was flooded three years ago. The goal is to rebuild 16 city blocks. Plan to join the team the week of August 7-12, 2011. Contact Jan G for more info.

T H O U G H T S O N M O T H E R ' S D A Y B Y C A R L I Z .

What do you remember about Mother's Day? I remember:

My children giving me wonderful little cards that they made in school that I've kept all these years, the little pottery pieces they made, the early morning breakfasts that tasted so yummy, and all the hugs and kisses and "I love you Mommy" that I received from them.

What a wonderful feeling that was, surrounded by their love and joy. I also remember the wonderful meals that my mother and grandmother would make, or the times we would go out to brunch at a nice restaurant with the whole family.

It was also a time where at church the youth group would hand out carnations to all the ladies (we should do that on LWML Sunday); also, it was the signal to start planting all your Spring flowers.

What is the greatest joy in the world? Being a mother! I can look around and see examples of wonderful mothers all around me. My grandmother and my mom were great role models of strong, intelligent women who always relied on God. The best thing they gave me was a Christian education, and a Lutheran heritage. My mom always told me that children are a gift from God and they are to be cherished and loved and brought up in the Lord. Now as a mother myself and a grandmother of nine, I know that to be true. We are certainly not perfect, but as long as we put our trust in the Lord, everything will be fine. The youth of today is definitely not as straitlaced as we were. Sometimes I think we as parents, we have given them way too much and they want more instead of working hard and earning it like we did. Then I remember, we

didn't earn our salvation, but our Heavenly Father gave it to us anyway. That's what a good parent does! There are so many wonderful mothers out there that have sacrificed so much for their children; I see that when I travel on mission trips-that it humbles me. We all love our children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, and nephews because somewhere we had a great mother as an example. So to all of you wonderful, Christian, women out there, give your mother, grandmother, aunt or godparent a great big hug and say thank you for being you and have a wonderful and a very blessed—HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY this month!

CARLI ZYGOWICZ

CO-PARLIMENTARIAN

NID/LWML

2010 - 2011 Executive Committee

****President: Jan Mauer,**

janmauer@sbcglobal.net, 708-798-0691, Leads district in living out the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission; will help with any questions you have about LWML.

**** V.P. for Servant Resources: Carol Sheppard,** sheppardnurse@att.net, 773-881-8126; Assists societies in leadership and member development; has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog.

V.P. for Christian Life: Elvera Ruff, eruff6311@aol.com, 630-904-0310 Assists societies with Christian growth resources; has items for Christian life from LWML catalog; plans Lenten Inspirations; prepares Speakers List.

V.P. For Human Care: Carol Fuys, cfuys14@comcast.net, 630-319-0551, Coordinates servant events and gatherings; provides information on service projects and events.

V.P. for Gospel Outreach: Marilyn Hess, marilynness@yahoo.com, 630-510-3055, Encourages development of mission grant proposals; presents reviewed grants to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

V.P. for Communication: open Coordinator of all district LWML publications, print and electronic. Contact District Jan Mauer for more information on this open position.

Treasurer: Nancy Suhs,

carlsnansuhs@aol.com; PO Box 1135, Homewood, IL 60430; Makes all authorized payments.

Financial Secretary: Barbara Etter, PO Box 4254, Naperville, IL 60567, 630-420-0626, barbetter@comcast.net; Receives all Mites, special donations, Quarterly donations and memorials.

Recording Secretary: Laura Latzke, lauralatzke@sbcglobal.net, Records and distributes minutes from EC & BOD meetings and convention.

****Corresponding Secretary: Kris Blackwell,** nidlwmlcorrespondingsec@gmail.com; Receives changes of addresses, changes in the amounts of Quarterlies, handles correspondence and loaning of LWML videos.

Convention Chairman: Jewel T. Sims, jsgrand5@aol.com, 773-277-2690; coordinates district gatherings and convention.

Nominating Committee Chair: Janet Mueller, ram533@yahoo.com; receives nominations for NID LWML officers for elections.

****Archivist-Historian: Ruth Pralle,** rdpralle@yahoo.com, 847-255-1713; Preserves historical materials from district and zones.

Sr. Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Erik Gauss, egauss@hiscross.org; Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Robert Bartz, Jr, revrob8@sbcglobal.net. Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

**** Public Relations Director: Barbara Copeland-Belinski,** mokenaliving@comcast.net, 708-995-5375; Coordinates PR activities for District LWML.

District Publications Editor: Madlyn Johnson, madlyn57@yahoo.com, 708-785-6449; Produces the monthly LWML page in "The Northern Illinois Light". Send her LWML events you want publicized.

NID-Bits Editor: Nancy Glissman, lwmlgirl@comcast.net, 630-715-4351; Produces the NID Bits newsletter at regular intervals.

District Webmaster: Wendy Johnson, nidlwmlpr@msn.com, 815-874-2304; Posts information on the district web page, www.nidlwml.org

Planner: Jan Stantus, jlstan21cen@att.net, 630-208-7353; Serves as planning director for NID LWML.

Short Term Mission Committee Chair: Jan Gerzevske, 630-294-5014, jgerz@netzero.com; Encourages awareness and provides opportunities for participation in short-term missions.

Mission Ministry Vision Consultants: Pauline Brunke 630-393-6380, psbrunke@yahoo.com and

Darlyne Watts-Jurgens, 815-762-0546, darlyne-lark@aol.com. Assist Zones & societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

****send Zone minutes to these officers please.**