

LWML NID

A COMMUNICATION FOR
WOMEN OF THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS
DISTRICT OF LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN MISSION

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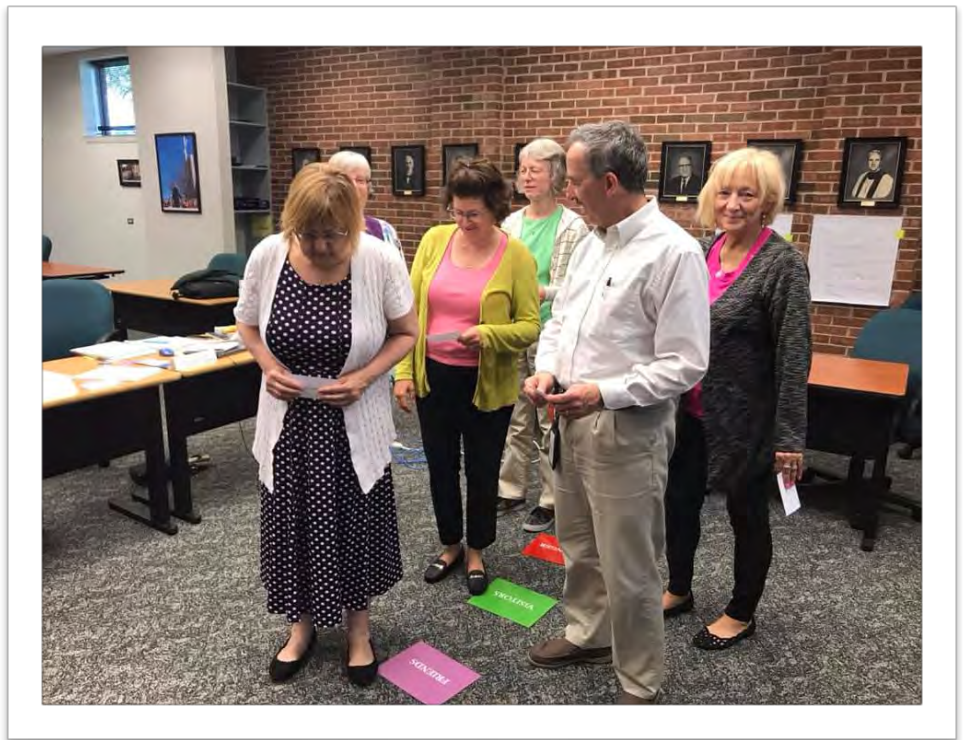
NID-Bits

Featured Grant:

Voice of Care

Adult and Youth training programs for those who are "differently-abled."

See Story page 6.



Serving the Unborn



by Janice Gerzevske, LWML NID President

Serving has been the Northern Illinois District theme for 2019—Numerous examples of serving have been displayed at our Lenten Inspiration and will be part of the Fall Gathering at Holy Cross in Cary on

www.LWMLNID.org

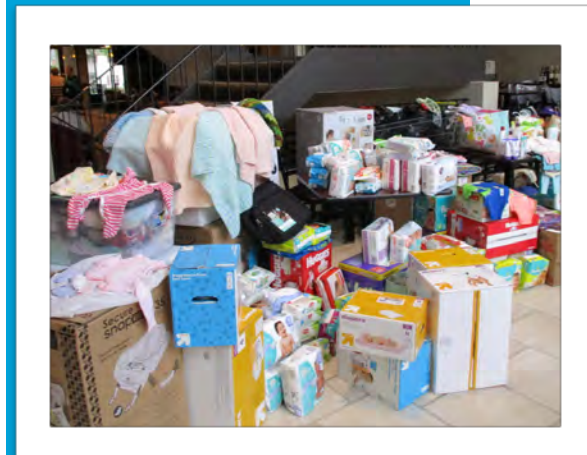
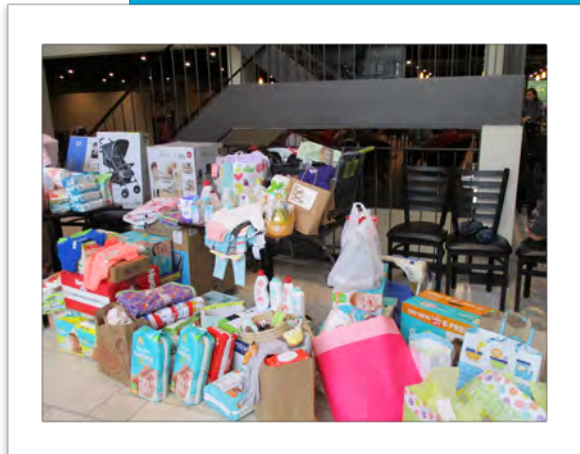
September 28, 2019.

One of the ways to serve others is to serve those who have not yet been born or are new-borns. St John, Wheaton supports Caring Network which is the first step for women facing an unplanned pregnancy. They welcome women with unconditional

love, counsel, and resources that offer the light of truth—changing hearts and saving lives. Over time their team has honed its skills, so that they bring the very best tools into the crisis of an unplanned pregnancy—the latest in ultrasound technology and counselors skilled in intervention, addressing the complex issues that compel a mother to seek abortion as her answer. In almost four decades, Caring Network has been used by God to save many thousands of lives!

To assist those who have made the choice to have their baby, the LWML group held a baby shower for Caring Network. Those who could not attend the event due to a schedule conflict, brought gifts to the church before the shower. The evening of fellowship and education was enjoyed by nearly 50 ladies.

Following the event, it was estimated that approximately \$1800 worth of items were given. If your LWML has held an event to serve the least of these, please share your story and pictures with the ladies of our district in future issues of the NID-Bits. Pictures and short descriptions can be sent to Teena Dorn, vpcommunications@LWML-NID.org before the October 19, 2019 Nid-Bits deadline. Please be sure to send your church and Zone number.



Christ Cares!

Matthew 25:40



Rev. Jeffrey P. Howell
Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran
Church-Grand Crossing,
Chicago, IL

I had the wonderful opportunity to meet with a homeless couple a couple of weeks ago as our church walked the streets of our community. I was deeply touched by their strong, positive attitude toward life and belief in Christ. Now, these were people in need of a second chance, in need of help and prayer, forgotten by many of us who attend worship each Sunday. These two had no church home because they felt unwelcomed in the churches they visited. “All we want to do is worship and give thanks to our Lord,” the man said. They both agreed they were not welcomed because of their present situation. They wanted no pity, they just wanted to worship and praise God for life. Wow! Where is the love of God displayed to “the least of these?” How can we, who claim to have a relationship with God, turn our backs on anyone in need?

While Jesus wants us to be compassionate and caring to all people, this passage is about how we treat those the world seems to think are the least, but whom Jesus values as His disciples. The least, the last, and the left out become the primary ones who come to Jesus and find life, love, and lasting hope.

Jesus' promise is that He would care for us and He is! He is asking us to care for those in His community, no matter their circumstance! This is what Christ does, He cares for His disciples!

Convention : Mobile in Brief

by Donna Gutzler



The spire of the Mobile, Alabama convention center glowed purple, the marquee proclaimed a huge “WELCOME”, and the friendly smiles of the convention volunteers inside were as warm as the temperature outside. That’s how over 3,400 LWML sisters and guests were greeted at the 38th biennial convention from June 20-23. The theme: “In Praise to the LORD!”

- There was a Bible study led by **Donna Pyle** on the Ark of the Covenant being returned to Jerusalem during the Reign of David. The challenge: Do we long after God and desire to be where He is?

- The 544 voting members set a new mission goal of \$2,100,000 for the 2019 - 2021 biennium, choosing 21 mission grants to receive funding include various ministries and mission in Africa, Asia, Guatemala and the U.S. See the complete list at: lwml.org/mission-grants.

- Voters elected a Pastoral Counselor, new officers, and a nominating committee: President - **Debbie Larson** (Rocky Mountain District), VP of Organizational Resources-**Marie Chow** (WA-AK), VP Special Focus Ministries - **Betty Knapp** (North WI), Treasurer-**Karla Koehler** (NE North), Counselor - **Rev. Brian Noack** (Atlantic). The nominating committee is comprised of five women, chaired by **Brianne Stahlecker** (NE South).
- Keynote Speaker Rev. Brent Smith, Mission Development Counselor at Mission Central brought us a report on how mite monies have been spent in places like Sri Lanka, Thailand, Hong Kong and the Syrian Refugees in Germany. Also noting the majority of Christians live in the global South (Africa and South America)!
- For a more complete reporting of the convention, See Donna's article in Our Northern Illinois District.

Young Women at Convention!

by Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator



LWML NID's Young Women Representatives **Caitlin, Hannah** and **Ekatrina** joined 78 other young women from across the United States to experience the LWML convention in a very encouraging, refreshing and enlightening way.

It is exciting to think about the far reach of the ingathering items and servant activity projects. The mite grants voted in by the delegates will reach even farther.

Reading about grant recipients is one thing, but actually hearing their testimonies is something else entirely. Seeing a room full of countries' flags drove home how far the LWML reaches. The exhibit hall provided a visual image of how many organizations operate under the LCMS umbrella.

Seeing the sea of people in the convention hall was a joyful experience. Being in a room full of brothers and sisters in Christ that love the Lord and want to serve-Him lit a fire in the young women to serve others. What fun it was to raise their voices in praise with over 3,000 fellow Lutherans

The convention refreshed their spirits and enlightened their understanding in a way perhaps only possible at a gathering of such scale. Their eyes were opened to see how large and powerful the LWML is.

Our YWR's stepped out of their comfort zones and did new things. They slowed down from their busy lives and took stock of what is important. This experience will bless them for years to come.



Hannah, Caitlin, President Jan G and Ekatrina at the 2019 LWML convention in Mobile, Alabama.

Caitlin, Hannah and Ekaterina are honored to represent the NID on such a joyful occasion. They are thankful for LWML NID's generosity and care. The LWML convention energized them to share LWML's joy and excitement. They pray that God continues to move them to support the missions and serve as devoutly as the amazing women that have paved the way before them. Caitlin, Hannah and Ekaterina want to live their lives in praise to the Lord!

See each Young Woman's story is found following this article.

Ekaterina

Ekaterina Grassmick, LWML NID Young Woman Representative from Trinity Lutheran Church Tinley Park, IL

I stepped into the southern summer heat and instantly wilted a little. My glasses completely fogged over. I crossed the skybridge and entered the convention center. Aah, much better. I perked up, and my vision completely cleared. The convention center air conditioning was much like the convention itself: refreshing and enlightening.

Refreshed: The packed pews on Christmas and Easter are always a little bittersweet; it is wonderful to worship with so many people, but I wish such crowds attended every weekend. The packed convention hall chairs were simply sweet. Looking at the sea of people in the convention hall was a joyful experience; everyone there chose to take the time to travel to Mobile and spend four days celebrating and working to spread our shared faith. It is exciting to think about how far the ingathering items and servant activity projects will reach; even greater shall be the reach of the Mites grants the delegates voted to fund in the coming biennium. And as for the celebrating, what fun it was to raise my voice in hymns of praise with over 3,000 fellow Lutherans.

Enlightened: Like the air conditioning clearing my glasses, the convention helped me see farther afield. While I know most of what my church's LWML does, my knowledge of national activities was more limited. Reading about grant recipients is one thing, but hearing about the ministries from those running them is something else entirely. In the same vein, seeing a room full of countries' flags really drove home just how far the LWML reaches. The brief time I was able to spend in the exhibit hall provided a visual image of how many organizations operate under the umbrella of the LCMS; hearing or reading about one at a time does not do justice to the scope of the Synod's ministries.



LWML NID Young Women's Representative Ekaterina and LWML NID President Jan G at the 2019 National Convention in Alabama.

All in all, the convention refreshed my spirit and enlightened my understanding in a way perhaps only possible at a gathering of such scale, and I was honored to help represent the NID on such a joyful occasion in Mobile, Alabama.



Hannah

Hannah Solyom

LWML NID Young Women Representative from Trinity Lutheran Church – Lombard, IL

As a brand new LWML Young Women Representative attending the 2019 National Convention, I was unsure of what to expect. My experience up until that point with the LWML was some involvement through the women's group at my church and the last district convention in 2018 (which my grandma volunteered me to attend). Clearly, I did not know a whole lot about what the LWML was about or all the amazing missions they lead and provide for. Then I attended the convention and my eyes were opened to how large and powerful this organization is.

Learning about all the service, missions, and giving that takes place because of the LWML's efforts was something that I, along with other attendees and YWRs, got to learn and be excited about. The missions raised and the service done truly amazed me! I never knew how far those mite boxes went. Having fellowship with the brothers and sisters in Christ - especially the young women representatives - with a synchronized objective to serve and love God and His people was an amazing experience. Getting to know many of the young women who share a Christian faith and have a passion for serving others was a blessing that I hope continues for years to come. It was so inspiring and motivating to hear about some of the women who have been involved for several years and are now in roles of leadership in the LWML. I pray that God continues to move me to support and work with the missions as devoutly as the amazing women that have paved the way before me.

After attending the convention in the beautiful and unique Mobile, Alabama, I am eager to bring the joy and excitement home to my church and society, and to share the love of service with those around me. I also would like to thank the Northern Illinois District for the generosity that allowed me to attend the 2019 LWML Convention, along with the wonderful Jan Gerzevske and Sherrie Smith who were especially caring for their YWRs.



Caitlin Escobedo

LWML NID Young Women Representative from St. John's, LaGrange, IL

Driving into Mobile, Alabama for the first time was interesting. Coming from the fast-paced city of Chicago I just imagined that this would be the same. People running everywhere, tall buildings, traffic for miles, but I was pleasant-

ly surprised by the slowness of this beautiful city. The people there move at a slow and relaxing pace, stopping to enjoy the small things. They aren't worried about the time and know that they will get to their destination when they are meant to. When people greet you it is with a smile and a slow molasses-like accent saying "Ma'am" or "Sir." There was hardly any traffic and the drivers were kind enough to let you into their lane if you needed. It was like nothing I had experienced and I immediately fell in love with this way of life in the south.

I had no expectations for the National LWML Conference because I had no idea what to expect. In a way, it was good because I would have to step out of my comfort zone and do things that I hadn't done before. The highlight for me was being able to explore the city of Mobile with other YWR's and friends from our local NID. I loved being in a room with women who love the Lord and want to serve him through mission and this really helped continue to light the fire of service to others within me. Anyone who knows me knows that I am a very busy person, but being in Mobile and being at the convention helped me to slow down and take stock in what is most important to me. The convention energized me to come home and focus on service to others through my work and get more involved with the Young Women in the NID.

I am so thankful that I had the chance to go to this convention and slow down, even if just for a weekend.

Say Yes!

Lauren Olsen, Nominating Committee Chairman nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org

LWML NID Convention 2020 will be here before you know it!

We are still looking for candidates for the following positions: Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Convention Chairman, and Nominating Committee from North, South, East, and West Regions. Please feel free to read the descriptions of each position in our bylaws <https://www.lwmlnid.org/wp-content/uploads/LWML-NID-bylaws.pdf>.

If after prayerful consideration you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please fill out the Nomination Form at <https://forms.gle/QgkJ4XdyuHPimNxbA>. If you prefer to have a paper form mailed to you, please contact me at 815-353-9414 and I will be glad to send you a form.

Voice of Care



Diana Maanum,
LWMLNID Vice
President of Gospel
Outreach

Voice of Care is a ministry helping the church provide spiritual care to people with disabilities and those who care for them. This outreach mission was established in 1976 and incorporated in 2003 as Voice of Care. A recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Voice of Care trains church workers and lay volunteers to serve in five types of disability ministries: Congregational Life, Disability Awareness, Facility Ministry, Outdoor Ministry, and Respite Education and Support Tools (REST). Because 90% of people with disabilities are not connected to a church home, there is a great need to learn how to serve and evangelize those who are “differently-abled.”

Voice of Care, in partnership with REST, offers a volunteer respite caregiver training program for adults and teenagers. This unique service enables volunteers to provide temporary relief to family caregivers in planned settings and emergency situations. REST training prepares volunteers to build caring relationships, handle crises, and overcome communication obstacles. REST participants will learn safety practices, acquire an overview of disabilities, and discover how to create a positive atmosphere in respite situations. Voice of Care can bring REST training and resource materials to interested churches and ministry groups. REST training paves the way to share God’s love through the gift of time and service. Through the LWML NID, Voice of Care can tailor the REST program for Lutheran training, provide personalized data reporting and manuals, and customize training fees within the Northern Illinois district.

2018-2020 Grants Update July 24, 2019

Mites designated for mission grants - \$120,000	Amount	Paid	Remaining
1. Equipping the Church to Reach People with Disabilities	\$17,474	5,468.56	12,005.44 *
2. Life for St. Matthew, Saving a Historic House of Worship	\$18,000	0	18,000.00
3. Haitian Feeding Program, Trinity/HOPE	\$ 2,500	2500.00	0
4. Post Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion	\$10,000	0	10,000.00
5. Grace Lutheran School, Grace Christian Academy, Chicago	\$18,000	0	18,000.00
6. Food & Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne	\$10,000	10,000.00	0
7. Exterior Cabin Renovations, Walcamp	\$14,562.35	11,213.79	3,348.56
8. Native American Youth Program, Washington's Olympic Peninsula, Lutheran Indian Ministries	\$18,000	13,566.91	4,433.09
9. Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with God's Love, Lutheran Braille Workers	\$8,000	0	8,000.00
10. Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (partial funding)	\$3,463.65	0	3463.65
TOTAL	\$120,000		
PAID		\$42,749.26	
Remaining			\$77,250.74

Amount available for funding 9,528.65

* Highlighted in this issue on page 5.

Locations WANTED

Location to host the **February 15, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting** (Hosted in West Region in 2019)

Location to host the **Lenten Inspiration** sometime in February/March 2020 (Hosted in the South Region in 2019)

Location to host the **July 18, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting** (Hosted in East Region in 2019)

Location to host the **September/October Fall Gathering 2021** (Hosted in the North Region in 2019)

Contact President Jan Gerzevske (president@LWMLNID.org).
Prefer to have meetings in a different region than the previous meeting, ie North, South, East and West

Suggestion is to have a zone in the region host an event.

Calendar

- Sept 28th (Saturday) — **LWMLNID Fall Gathering** at Holy Cross in Cary - **SAVE the date!**
- January 17 - 19 — **Young Women and Young at Heart Retreat**, Walcamp
- **LWMLNID Lenten Inspiration 2020** — Looking for a venue/date!
- Sept 11 - 12, 2020— **LWML NID Convention** at Holiday Inn / Gurnee - *Daily Led by the Spirit*
- June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention** in Lexington, Kentucky

Announcements

- Zones can send meeting announcements to be posted on Instagram and Facebook to Teena Dorn at vpcommunications@LWMLNID.org for distribution.
- Make sure you are signed up and encourage your Zones to sign up for Facebook and Instagram accounts so they may receive these notices and the latest happenings in the district! Instagram: LWMLNID, Facebook: www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/ OR you can reach the LWMLNID facebook page through the icon on the www.LWMLNID.org website.
- **NOTICE** - If you have convention pictures to share, send them to webmaster@LWMLNID.org they will be archived in the Flickr 2019 Alabama Convention folder.

Attached:

- **Fall Gathering Registration**
- **GFTH Fall Gathering**
- **Retreat flyer 2020 save the date**
- **LWMLNID Convention 2020 Save the Date**

You can reach NID-Bits Editor, Teena Dorn at VPCommunications@LWMLNID.org