

## NID-Bits

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

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Always  
Pray  
and Never Give Up




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## Exploring Prayer in 2021



by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske

In 2021 we will explore prayer. Our theme is “Always pray and never give up,” based on Luke 18:1 (NIV). As we transition from our theme of Led by the Spirit, let us remember that it is the Spirit who is our comforter and our intercessor when we throw up our hands and say “What do I Pray?”

The ESV version of Luke 18:1 says we “ought always to pray and not lose heart.” Have you been praying that the pandemic will end so you can return to a normal life without a mask or social distancing? Are you to the point that you are tired of praying and wonder what you should pray? Paul reminds us in Romans 8:26-28

that the Spirit “helps us in our weakness” and “intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” and, best of all, reminds us that all things work together for good for those who love God.

Do you feel like Paul when he wrote about his thorn in the flesh? *“Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me”* (2 Corinthians 12:8-9).

Jesus follows Luke 18:1 with the parable of the persistent widow who continues to take her case before the unjust judge, who finally tires of her bothering him and gives her justice. Jesus concludes the parable by telling us that God will “give justice to his elect who cry to him day and night” (18:7). So let us not lose heart or give up; God hears our prayers and He will answer in His time.

## Guard Your Heart

*“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”* (Luke 18:1 NIV)

There is a difference between continuous prayer and continual prayer. The first is one that never ceases; the second is one that occurs with regularity and in perseverance. Luke points us to the second one. We are to be in prayer with regularity and with perseverance. Luke also identifies what is critical to a continual prayer life—not losing heart.



Rev. Jim Buckman  
Pastor  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Lake Forest, IL

Oh, there is so much evil and disappointment in this world! We must guard our hearts in Christ Jesus. The evil one prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour. And let’s be honest—what Isaiah said of himself, is true of ourselves and our country also, “Woe is me, I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips.”

Three things make the Christian—prayer, Scripture, and the tests of this world. The storms of life will come upon us all, but be of good cheer; Jesus has overcome this world. Keep your eyes focused on Jesus. He is the author and the perfecter of our faith; He is our soon and coming King.

As 2020  
draws to a  
close,  
we are



to

Always  
Pray   
and Never Give Up

When you pray, remember that Scripture encourages us to cast our anxieties upon God because He cares for us. When those same anxieties return, as often happens, cast them upon God again.

Pray continually. 😊

My name is Jim Buckman and I serve at Faith Lutheran Church in Lake Forest, IL. I grew up in Nigeria, W. Africa, where my parents—Al & Carol Buckman—were missionaries. My wife Cathy (nee Herr) and I have five Godly children—Jacob, Jim, Sarah, John, and Grace. I look forward to sharing more with you this year about Prayer and how it is such a blessing!

## News from the Committee on Young Women



By Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator

Mark your calendars for the **Young at Heart Virtual Retreat** on Friday evening, January 15 and Saturday, January 16. "Always Changing... Always the Same" is the theme for the Young at Heart Virtual Retreat. "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*" (Hebrews 13:8) is the theme verse. Grab a cup of hot cocoa and plan to join the virtual Pajama Party on Friday night. Saturday will include Bible study and ways to minister to others in changing times in their lives. Email [ywchairman@lwmlnid.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwmlnid.org) for the link to the retreat.

A virtual scavenger hunt was a great way for Young at Heart participants to be connected. This became a fun, intergenerational family activity as young children, a high school junior, and a husband helped find items. We got to see ticket stubs from Paris and *Godspell* at the Marriott. Other interesting items were a cross made at Walcamp and Christmas socks. The participants didn't give up, but found the answers to the Household Items Riddles. They also found words using the letters in SCAVENGER HUNT. A virtual scavenger hunt is a fun activity that can be used with different kinds of groups.



Finding Crosses in Our Homes  
Virtual Scavenger Hunt — October 17

The Young at Heart women do not give up but pray daily. Prayer requests continue to be shared and prayed for at 3:16 p.m. The next Zoom Prayer Meeting will be on Monday, November 9, including prayers for LINC. Watch for the next Zoom Prayer Meeting featuring a mite grant.

Even though the Young Women have not seen each other since March, they have not given up but continue to pray together and have fellowship together. We thank God for the Young Women of LWML NID!

# Your Mites Hard at Work!



Diana Maanum  
LWML NID  
Vice President of  
Gospel Outreach

## 2020-2022 NID Mission Grants

Worship Anew Ministry to the Aging and Unchurched	\$17,600
Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage	\$15,000
Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center Food Pantry	\$18,000
Phil's Friends — Christian cancer care packages	\$10,000
Dorcas Project — leadership training for women in Ghana	\$17,000
Lutheran books for Buddhist Southeast Asia	\$15,000
Salam Christian Fellowship	\$ 1,500

## The Biennium's First Grant Highlight!

### **Salam Christian Fellowship \$ 1,500**

The ongoing missionary project of Salam Christian Fellowship, based at Peace Lutheran Church, Lombard, is to spread the Gospel among Middle Eastern and North African Muslims by bringing people together from different tribal and cultural backgrounds. This involves creating new relationships and confidence. Relationships or "community" are an essential part of Middle Eastern cultures where people tend to associate with specific family or tribal units that visit daily. Salam's goal is to move Salam attendees from individual tribes to the one new tribe, the tribe of Jesus Christ.



Above: A baptism at Salam



Above: Celebrating U.S. citizenship

Below: Salam Bible Study



**Promote Mites!**  
Find a printer-friendly poster about Salam Christian Fellowship on page 8.

## 2020 NID Convention Recap

Just as inclement weather cannot stop the Post Office from delivering mail, an inability to gather in person cannot stop the ladies of the LWML from having a convention! Though physically apart, the women of the Northern Illinois District gathered on the morning of September 12<sup>th</sup> for our 75<sup>th</sup> biennial convention. A two-hour video replete with hymns, Bible study, biennial reports, mission speakers, and new Mite Grant recipients stood in for the two-day convention.



Our District Pastoral Counselors, Pastors Swanson and Howell, guided us in a study of the convention theme: Led by the Spirit. We looked at God's leadership in Exodus, Psalms, Matthew, and Galatians. (You can find the [Convention Bible Study](#) in its own video on the LWML NID YouTube channel.)

LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske presented her report on the biennium, exhibiting dozens of photos of LWML and mission activities. NID President Rev. Dr. Buss and LWML National President Debbie Larson offered their greetings to the convention. The two mission speakers are both Deaconesses; Christel Neuendorf works in Puerto Rico alongside her husband, a church-planting pastor, and Katherine Rittner is the Director of the Food and Clothing Co-op at Fort Wayne Seminary.

The LWML NID 2020-2022 Mission Grants, on which the Zone Delegates voted in late August, were presented in a [video](#), which is also available separately on YouTube. For a list of the new Grants, see page 4 above.

New LWML NID officers, elected in August, were installed and are ready to serve!



From left to right: Hannah Russell, VP Special Focus Ministries; Lauren Olsen, VP Communications; Marilyn Hess, Convention Co-Chair; Kirsten Smith, VP Christian Life; Jane Webster, Nominating Comm.; Gayle Thanepohn, Nominating Comm.; Teena Dorn, Nominating Chair; Rev. James Buckman, Pastoral Counselor (Not pictured: Kris Blackwell, Convention Co-Chair; Pamela Christensen, Nominating Comm.)

The convention closed with a tribute to Jan Mauer, who served as LWML NID President, among many other positions over the years.

If you missed the convention, it's not too late! You can find the [whole video](#) on the LWML NID YouTube channel, and the electronic [convention manual](#) can be downloaded from the LWML NID website. Join the over 400 individuals and groups who have viewed the convention!

Thank you to the Convention Committee for putting together our first (and hopefully only) virtual convention: Barbara H., LeAnn H., Barbara P., and Loretta P., led by Beverly B.

## Dear Lucy Leader,

How can I stay involved in LWML during this pandemic?

— Isolated Izzy

Dear Isolated Izzy,

The first and foremost thing you can do is pray. Prayer is a very important part of the life of the LWML. Pray for the women in your local group and your zone and district leaders. It is very important to pray for our LWML grant recipients. You can find this list and a little about each grant at [www.lwml.org/mission-grants](http://www.lwml.org/mission-grants). You can find the list of your district grants on your district website. Remember to support those grants financially by prayerfully continuing mite contributions as you are able.

Prayer is vital and praying individually is a good thing. Praying with other people is another blessing. Consider asking your church's group to pray with you at 3:16 every day. This time keeps us focused on John 3:16 which is fundamental to our faith. Sharing prayer requests with each other encourages bonding among us.

Study the Bible with your LWML group. Hold each other accountable. Have phone conversations or video conferences about what you are studying. Find free downloadable LWML Bible studies at [www.lwml.org/bible-studies](http://www.lwml.org/bible-studies). Read the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* together.

You can find ideas for activities you can do while you are at home at [www.lwml.org/mission-service-activities](http://www.lwml.org/mission-service-activities). This link provides guidelines and directions for making masks, marking Bibles for prisons, and other ideas.

Stay connected with LWML women all over the country on LWML's Facebook page [Lutheran Women in Mission -- LWML](#). I am very excited to tell you that Donna Snow is leading a Facebook Live Bible study on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. Central Daylight Time through November 24, 2020. Donna has the gift of making the Word come alive in her LWML study *Your Strong Suit* (Ephesians 6:10-18). A wonderful thing about this is that you will be studying the Word with more than 700 people from around the U.S. You will experience a special fellowship as you see the comments of many of your fellow viewers. Non-Facebook users will be able to download the study a day or two after each Tuesday event at [www.lwml.org/bible-studies](http://www.lwml.org/bible-studies).

We are certainly living in challenging times. Yet Christ is still the Lord of all. We are still His church and we can find new and different ways to come together to serve, pray, and be inspired. May He bless you as you remain involved in LWML!

— Lucy Leader

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Do you have a question for Lucy Leader?

Write in to [depor@lwml.org](mailto:depor@lwml.org)!

Find Lucy Leader's answers to more questions at <https://www.lwml.org/dear-lucy>.

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2019-2021 LWML Leadership Development Committee Members

Marie McNary  
Sherrie Smith

Lois Teinert, Chairman  
Marie Chow, Vice President of Organizational Resources, Advisory



## Lexington, Here We Come! (hopefully)



So much has changed in such a short time. We learned what it takes to have a virtual convention here in the NID. **We don't know what 2021 will bring but we know that we at least have to register our Zone delegates and provide a way for them to go to the convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 23-27.** In case this convention turns virtual, those delegates would still "attend" by voting electronically! However, so many more of us have enjoyed the fellowship, worship, and speakers of our national conventions and are planning to go! While going by bus may not be a safe option, there still will be travel by plane and car. Kris Blackwell is willing to make a repeat performance in the "Car Pool to Convention" that we did for the 2013 convention in Peoria, Illinois. All the convention information will be in the Winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, and we will probably be making hotel reservations around the first week of February. Once you have done your part, pass that information on to Kris Blackwell at [kbwrk123@gmail.com](mailto:kbwrk123@gmail.com) so that she can start the spreadsheet. Then we will try to find rides for everyone who wants to go. If you are willing to drive a rental 15-passenger van, let Kris know this too.

## Calendar

- January 15–16, 2021 — **NID Young at Heart Virtual Retreat**
- Lent 2021 (date TBA) — **NID Lenten Inspiration** — more information coming soon
- June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention** in Lexington, Kentucky

## Announcements

- Mask patterns available: <https://www.lwml.org/posts/mission-servants-activities/april-2020?month=4&year=2020>
- MultiCultural Committee will share more events when they become available.
- Zones can send meeting announcements to be posted on the LWML NID website, Facebook, and Instagram to [president@LWMLNID.org](mailto:president@LWMLNID.org) for distribution.
- Follow the District on social media for the latest updates! Use the links below, or click the icons on the [www.LWMLNID.org](http://www.LWMLNID.org) website.
  - Facebook: LWMLNID — [www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/](http://www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/)
  - Instagram: LWMLNID — <https://www.instagram.com/lwmlnid/>
  - Twitter: LWML NID — <https://twitter.com/LWMLNID>
  - YouTube: LWML NID — Subscribe to the District's new channel! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChA9AnqU21h2no7Q7QMiazw>

You can reach the NID-Bits Editor at [publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org](mailto:publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org)



## **SALAM CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Based at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard, Salam's ongoing mission is focused on spreading the Gospel among Middle Eastern and North African Muslims and bringing them together into the "tribe" of Jesus Christ.

(Partial funding of \$1,500)