

LWML NID

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

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Jesus is the Same Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske

Our world is certainly different due to the coronavirus pandemic. Yesterday it was “stay at home” while today the watchword is “social distancing”. What we hear today may change tomorrow. Remember when masks weren’t necessary—now they are required.

What is on the horizon for tomorrow? Only our Heavenly Father knows.

We can be sure of one thing however, according to *Hebrews 13:8*, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Think about this promise—those of us who have lived over 70 years have grandchildren and great grandchildren who don't know a world without the internet, smart phones or a microwave among many other things. We remember when there were only standard or "stick shift" cars. Power steering was provided by you turning the wheel, not some power assist. Air conditioning was a fan in a window. We live in an ever-changing world.

Today is not the world of the '50s or '60s or even the '90s, but our Savior is the same as He was whenever each of us was born, baptized, and confirmed. The past nearly 2000 years have not changed the fact that He died on a cross to take away the sins of a world awash with prejudice, hatred and injustice when He was sinless. Perhaps the greatest injustice was the sinless Jesus being nailed to a cross to pay for the sins of the world, yet what was Jesus' reaction? "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (*Luke 23:34*). Continue to pray for a world filled with love, peace, compassion, understanding and forgiveness. These are essential as we continue to be Led by the Spirit in an ever-changing world filled with the uncertainty of a pandemic and civil unrest always remembering that Jesus has not changed.

An Appeal to the Heart - **Romans 5:8**



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

The Apostle Paul uses the word "**demonstrate**" in this text. He says in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **Demonstrate** means to show by example or exhibit. To **demonstrate** or show by example can be a way to appeal to the heart of someone. If a man wishes to appeal to a woman's heart, he must **demonstrate** or show how he feels for her.

God **demonstrated** His love by giving us the perfect example. The last four words of the verse are, "Christ died for us." It is difficult to understand this ultimate sacrifice of someone giving their life for another.

**"We live
in an ever-
changing
world."**

Both are true.

*Jesus
Christ is
the same
yesterday
and today
and
forever.*

*Hebrews
13:8*

Why would God sacrifice His only Son?

There are many who struggle with understanding the “WHY” of Christ’s crucifixion because of the failure to see that God was IN Christ and reconciling Himself to the world. Jesus says in John 10:30, “I and my Father are one.” Christ’s death reveals a love, which has its own unique origin. We love because we fall in love with someone loveable. But God loves the un-loveable under the impulse of His own heart.

The Holy Spirit leads us to understand the surrender of God’s love of His Only Begotten Son. He helps us to understand that our surrender is not like God’s surrender. God surrendered Jesus Christ, that we might grasp the depth of His love and have eternal life! While we were still sinners, His love appeals to our heart and will never abandon us! **Amen.**

Your Mites Hard at Work!



Diana Maanum,
*LWML NID Vice
President of Gospel
Outreach*

Below is a list of how your mites have been used to share the Gospel with those near and far.

- **Voice of Care** has been able to share the Gospel through respite caregiver training. This enables relief to caregivers in planned and emergency settings. Voice of Care was able to tailor this program for Lutheran training and to equip participants to share the gospel with caregivers and their families. **The amount of mites paid was \$13,848.66.**

- **St. Matthew Lutheran Church** in Pilsen was able to fix the structural problems within the church. They also had their roof and loose bricks on the building repaired. **The amount of mites paid \$17,689.00.**

- **Haitian Feeding Program, Trinity/ Hope** has been able to feed children with the Word of God as well as food for their bodies. **The amount of mites paid \$2,500.00.**

- Students in the Little Village neighborhood at **Grace Christian /Lutheran Academy** have access to a comfortable learning environment thanks to updated electrical work. They are also able to learn through the use of new document cameras, which help the students see and follow along with the teacher’s work. **Total amount of mites paid was \$ 18,000.00**



- **Walcamp** was able to begin renovating its Oak and Maple cabins for the first time since the 70s. The total amount of mites paid was \$12,107.41.
- **Fort Wayne Concordia Theological Seminary** was able to provide its students and their families with milk and frozen and fresh food through its food bank. The total amount of mites paid was \$10,000.
- **Lutheran Indian Ministries** was able to update and renovate its youth outreach center. The young adults now have a space to gather. They have couches, chairs, a game area, and a safe place to worship with their friends. The total of amount of mites paid was \$13,566.91
- In Haiti, 300 students received new school uniforms through the **Haitian Lutheran Mission Society**. The total amount of mites paid was \$3,463.65.



Total mites distributed were \$91,175.63.

2020 NID Convention Goes Virtual

Although the women of LWML Northern Illinois District are not able to gather in person, they will still have a virtual convention on Saturday, September 12, 2020 beginning at 9:30 am.

The theme is “Led by The Spirit”. The link for the convention will be on the LWML NID website. Facebook and Instagram. The virtual convention will include music, bible study, report from Ft Wayne Food Pantry, our national President Debbie Larson, a remembrance of Past LWML NID President Jan Mauer, President Jan G’s report for the past biennium and the new mite grants for the 2020-2022 biennium.



Let's start working toward the new MITE Goal:

Normally there would be a collection toward the Mite Goal at the convention. Since we are not meeting in person, take a couple minutes to go to www.lwmlnid.org and click on the Donate button in the upper right corner to donate toward the new goal or write a check to LWML NID (**please include your church, location and Zone #**) and send to LWML NID, PO Box 958012, Hoffman Estates IL 60169-8012. As you are making that donation, remember you didn't have to pay a registration fee this year--consider giving that amount toward the virtual convention collection for our Mite Goal.

A message from Eden Keefe, LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach



We are thankful for devoted mite givers who, led by the Spirit, supported mission grants on both the district and national levels – even when groups were not meeting. It has certainly been a challenge these past months and may be for months ahead.

As delegates selected the district mission grants for the next biennium, I ask that you faithfully continue to lift them up in prayer and with your donations.

On the national level, we are blessed to have paid in full 13 of our mission grants, two have received partial payments, and six are still unpaid. The Mission Grants and Gospel Outreach Committees post new resources each month to help you promote, participate, and pray for mission grants and mission service.

Looking toward 2021 and the convention in Lexington, committees and departments continue to work on products and program resources to assist you in nurturing our faith in Christ, making our faith meaningful, and sharing encouragement. Please visit the LWML website regularly to find updates and news!

Finally, be assured that the national board of directors pray for you, thanking God for your leaders, your groups, and your joyful service in response to His love. May He richly bless you and keep you all in His care.

In His Grace,

Eden Keefe

Vice President of Gospel Outreach



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Women**
in Mission

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Led by the Spirit to Pray for each other



by Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator

The Young Women of LWML NID have been led by the Spirit to pray for and with each other. What began at the Young Women – Young at Heart Winter Retreat prayer stations continues through these days of physical separation. The time of 3:16 has been set aside for the retreat participants to pray each day. Prayer requests are shared electronically and words of encouragement for each other are also shared. **A Zoom**

Meeting Prayer Meeting was held August 11. Prayer is a powerful way for the Young Women of NID to stay connected. If you would like to be included with these praying women, email Sherrie at ywchairman@lwmlnid.org.

Ekaterina, Caitlin and Hannah were led by the Spirit to serve as YWR's at the LWML convention in Mobile in the summer of 2019. Now is the time for our young women to begin praying about whether or not the Spirit is leading them to serve as a Young Woman Representative at LWML's 2021 convention in Lexington, Kentucky on June 24-27. YWR's are young women who are preferably 22-35 years old. Most importantly, they love their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The YWR's experience the convention fully and attend special activities just for the Young Women. The YWR's will be uplifted in worship, inspired by mission speakers and grow closer to Jesus through the Bible Study. They will experience fellowship with women of all ages and make special bonds with the Young Women. They will gain a broader understanding of the mission and ministry of the LWML and come back home to the NID wanting to continue in that mission and ministry. Applications are available at www.lwmlnid.org/wp-content/uploads/2019Y-WR_Application.pdf. The deadline to submit the application to president@lwmlnid.org is **February 1, 2021**.

In this strange uncertain time, there are some things the Young Women know they can count on. Their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ never changes – He will always love them and promises to hear their prayers. Thank God that He is always with all of us!



Praying for hurts of family and friends



The thankful tree, one of the prayer stations at the Young Women's Retreat in Jan 2020.



Staying strong in the Word



Dear Lucy Leader,

I like the LWML organization and would like to become involved in its mission of helping others. My church currently does not have an LWML group and is not interested in starting one right now.

Is there a way for me to become a member?

All Alone Alice

Dear All Alone Alice,

I am thankful that you would like to become involved in LWML. You certainly may become an individual member. Your LWML district president may be contacted for more information. Individual members have the same rights and privileges as members of groups, may serve on committees, and hold elective office at the zone, district, and LWML levels. To find out more about individual membership, go to www.lwml.org/posts/leadership/individual-membership.

Once you complete and submit the Individual Membership Form, your zone president will be contacted and you will be notified of upcoming zone events. I would encourage you to attend zone and district events so you may experience the wonderful blessing of fellowship with your sisters in Christ. The national convention is also a mountaintop experience you don't want to miss. The next convention will be in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24–27, 2021. You can find more information at www.lwml.org/2021-convention.

May God bless your LWML journey!

Lucy Leader

Do you have a question for Lucy Leader?

Write in to depor@lwml.org!

2019-2021 LWML Leadership Development Committee Members

Marie McNary

Sherrie Smith

Lois Teinert, Chairman

Marie Chow, Vice President of Organizational Resources, Advisory

Gifts of Love

by Kris Blackwell



The LWML has paid legacy gift planners who have been trained and have years of experience. Kris Blackwell has received training from the LCMS Foundation in helping people give legacy gifts. Since she does not have years of experience, she works closely with the foundation, especially when a person has a complicated estate plan. It is recommended to visit <http://www.lwmlgiftplan.org/> as a way to begin planning one's estate legacy to get some basic information. In lieu of incurring expenses by having an LWML gift planner come from out of state and since we cannot currently meet in person, President Jan Gerzevske has recommended that Kris give some insight and overview of legacy planning. If someone has individual questions, Kris may be reached at kbwrk123@gmail.com or 630.234.1491

The first and best step one can do when planning for the end of life is to meet with a lawyer and draw up power of attorney, health proxy, and a will. However, as a Christian, one sometimes neglects the word testament in the phrase LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. The testament is often the preamble to the will but it can also be a separate document. In this document, the believer has a chance to tell family and friends what Christ has meant to her and the clear hope of eternal life. It is also a chance to expound on the belief that one should be generous through all of life, especially to the work of the Church.

Often a person determines that the heirs may not need as much of the legacy money as the full amount of the estate determines. Sometimes the person may set a fixed amount, but generally it is a percentage, that would go to one or more charities. This is called a **bequest** and is handled directly in the Will. An example that was given in training was to think of charity as another child and divide the according to those percentages. Another example was to make it 10% as in a tithe. No matter what is decided, the important preparation to be made is finding the exact name and location of the charity or charities desired to be named in the Will. For instance it cannot just be Concordia University (since there are several) but Concordia University Chicago located in River Forest. For our purpose, if you chose Lutheran Women's Missionary League it would be sent to the national office in St. Louis. The beneficiary must be the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Northern Illinois District. To be clear, one may give a long list of charities and a portion of the "charity percentage" goes to each. This is how our recent bequest was done. A lifelong LWML member remembered us along with many other charities in her will. We were blessed that the percentage turned out to be over \$1000.

The LCMS Foundation has a wonderful, free booklet that explains many more different aspects of estate planning. Contact Kris for this booklet.

Getting Excited About Traveling in 2021?

So much has changed in such a short time. We are learning what it takes to have a virtual convention here in the NID. **We don't know what 2021 will bring but we know 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 Women's Quarterly and we will probably be registering around the first week in February for hotels. Once you have done your part – pass that information on to Kris Blackwell at 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

- *Sept 12, 2020, Saturday— **LWML NID Convention - Socially Distanced - Daily Led by the Spirit***
- *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 Instagram and Facebook to 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 and Instagram through the icons on the www.LWMLNID.org website along with Twitter, Vimeo, and Flickr.*

You can reach the NID-Bits Editor at VPCommunications@LWMLNID.org