

LWML NID

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

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Featured Grant:

St. Matthew

Updates to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, IL provides worship and community outreach.

See Story page 6.

“My Lord and My God”



by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske

Those were Thomas’ words to Jesus after seeing Him in the flesh with the nail prints in his hands and the scar in his side. If you are like me, as you think about Thomas, you wish our Lord Jesus would reappear on earth to sweep away the pandemic. We can do the next best thing—be in conversation with Jesus praying daily asking our Lord to keep us all safe and well.

At a special meeting of the LWML-NID Board of Directors held via Google Meets, the following motion was made and passed: **Due to the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, I move that we suspend the bylaws of both the district and zones in regards to the requirement to hold a Spring Rally and elections for the year 2020.**



Adopting this motion does not prevent zones from holding a virtual zone event or an event later in the year at which elections are held. Due to the uncertainty of rescheduling the zone rallies, it was easier to suspend the bylaws providing a historical record stating the reason. Several zones communicated that the congregation which was to host their spring rally was willing to do it in 2021 but not in 2020.

You have been in my daily prayers, as has our nation, during this unprecedented situation. St Paul tells us in Romans 8 that nothing will separate us from the love of Christ and in Matthew 28 we have Christ's promise that he will always be with us. Please pray the following prayer with me:

Heavenly Father, we look to you as our refuge and strength. You sent your only son to die for our sins. Help us remember your strength as we live through the pandemic. As you guided the children of Israel in the wilderness, so be our guide today and in the days ahead. As the great physician, keep each of us safe in your arms as the disease continues to spread around us. Guide the decisions of our government leaders. Send your holy angels to watch over all who are ill and suffering and those who are caring for them. Bring healing to our land and glory to your name. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

District Convention

Singing, fellowship, worship, bible study, servant event, speakers and elections are normally part of a district convention, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year is not normal. On May 16th the LWML NID Executive Committee voted to cancel our face to face convention which was to be held September 11-12, 2020. This decision was made based upon the guidelines which have been issued by both the CDC and our governor.

To protect the health and safety of our LWML convention attendees, the Executive Committee directed the Convention Committee to investigate holding a virtual event on or near September 12, 2020.



MITE GOAL

As we look to the next couple months, life is uncertain but we need to remember that our Heavenly Father is watching over us. On June 30, 2020 our current biennium comes to an end. Our 2018-2020 Mite Goal is \$178,500. At the end of April almost **\$31,500** was needed to reach that goal. Most groups haven't been able to meet since February so if you are able to assist in reaching our goal please do one of the following **prior to June 15**:

- 1) Write a check payable to LWML-NID for the amount you would have contributed March, through June—send it to whomever forwards the mites from your congregation to our financial secretary
- 2) If you do not have a group at your church, write a check payable to LWML-NID including your church name and address in the memo line and send it to our financial secretary at **LWML-NID, PO Box 958012, Hoffman Estates IL 60169**
- 3) To donate online, go to the lwmlnid.org website-click on the **Donate** box at top right corner—in the second comment box please include Mites, church name and city, and Zone if you know it prior to submitting. You will be taken to PayPal. Make sure you receive a receipt from PayPal as verification your donation was completed. The financial secretary will acknowledge your contribution via email also.

What the virtual event will include and how it will be transmitted will be decided prior to the next issue of the NID-Bits in August.

Voting which would have taken place during the convention will take place on the weekend of August 29-30. Only members of the voting body need to register—the voting body includes DELEGATES from our groups, Executive Committee members, Zone Presidents and Past NID District Presidents living in the District. Voters may register online (make sure you get verification of your registration on screen) or mail your registration to the PO Box listed on the registration form. The registration form is currently available. There is no cost for this event.

We need your email address to enable you to receive your election ballot. Voting will be completed using a program called Election Buddy. LWML groups are reminded that each church may have **TWO voting delegates**. Voters will be voting from their personal device—phone, laptop, tablet or computer where email is normally received so no one needs to leave home to cast their vote.

Once you have registered, you will receive additional information including the proposed changes to the by-laws, biographies of the candidates seeking election, listing of the proposed grants and additional information regarding the voting procedure. Those of us who attended the Lenten Inspiration on March 7 had no idea we would not greet each other face to face in September. Praise the Lord we have the opportunity via technology to provide a “substitute” event and means of voting.

Seeking Refuge



*Pastor Swanson
Senior LWML NID
Pastoral Counselor,
and Pastor of King of
Glory Lutheran
Church in Elgin, IL*

Stay at home. Shelter in place. Social distancing. Quarantine. Lock down. Panic buying. Over the past weeks these words and phrases have become a part of our regular vocabulary and conversations whether we like it or not. It's not surprising, that's what global pandemics can do. All of this may have surprised us in the way it has turned our lives and livelihoods upside down. But do you know who this hasn't surprised? Yup, you

guessed it, God. That's a good reminder when navigating days of uncertainty. What we can be certain about is that God's got this and perhaps most importantly God's got us.

On Holy Saturday I had the opportunity to lead bible study for the virtual meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the LWML NID. It seemed fitting to walk through the comforting words of Psalm 46 which begins this way. *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”* We all know what a refuge is, it's a place of peace, security and comfort. It's a place established to be free from danger and the threats that seek to do harm. Now, add an 'e' to that word and what do you get...refugee. This is the person seeking that place of refuge where they can live in peace and security away from the dangers that threaten their very lives. You might recall it wasn't so long before the COVID-19 crisis that a refugee crisis captivated

the attention of the world. Tens of thousands of people were fleeing violence in the middle east. They risked their lives and those of their children in makeshift rafts to cross the waters of the Mediterranean in the hopes of finding refuge in another country. Many lost their lives before they ever found the peace and security they were hoping for.

It doesn't take a humanitarian crisis or a global pandemic for us to realize that in a way we are all refugees. We are all seeking peace, security and comfort in a broken world filled with threats and dangers. Sin and satan are our real enemies and so often it feels like they have us on the run. We are looking for refuge. We need refuge. Yet, what we need and what we want can not be found on a map or obtained by crossing international borders. True refuge can only be found in God and God alone. To obtain this we too must pass through the waters, that is the waters of Holy Baptism. It is true that in those waters we drown and die. Our old sinful nature is literally put to death in order that out of those waters we might emerge as His new creations in Christ. Our safe passage through the waters of baptism make you a child of the living God. Each day your Heavenly Father whispers these words of peace, comfort and promise to you, "I am your refuge and strength. I am here. I am with you, this day and everyday to guard you and protect you no matter the trouble you face."



Diana Maanum,
LWMLNID Vice
President of
Gospel Outreach

St. Matthew Lutheran Church's Pilsen Outreach

We the women of the LWML, during uncertain times, are as usual, being "Led by the Spirit". As our yearly theme verse proclaims *"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."* Psalm 143:10 NIV.

While we are being "Led by the Spirit" St. Matthew is gaining new life through the help of our mites. St. Matthew is historic house of worship located in the Pilsen neighborhood in Chicago. St. Matthew provides

help to the unemployed and homeless along with worship services in both English and Spanish. While they are a small but mighty congregation they are Led by the Spirit to help those in need. Currently St. Matthew is working on removing and replacing deteriorating bricks to provide a strong architectural matching replacement. Through this, St. Matthew will be able to keep sharing the Love of Christ with their community.



Are you wondering if your church, school, or RSO can apply for a grant? Please read the grant criteria (<https://www.lwmlnid.org/mission-grants/criteria/>). If you are looking for our district grant recourses and information, please check out <https://www.lwmlnid.org/mission-grants/resources/>.

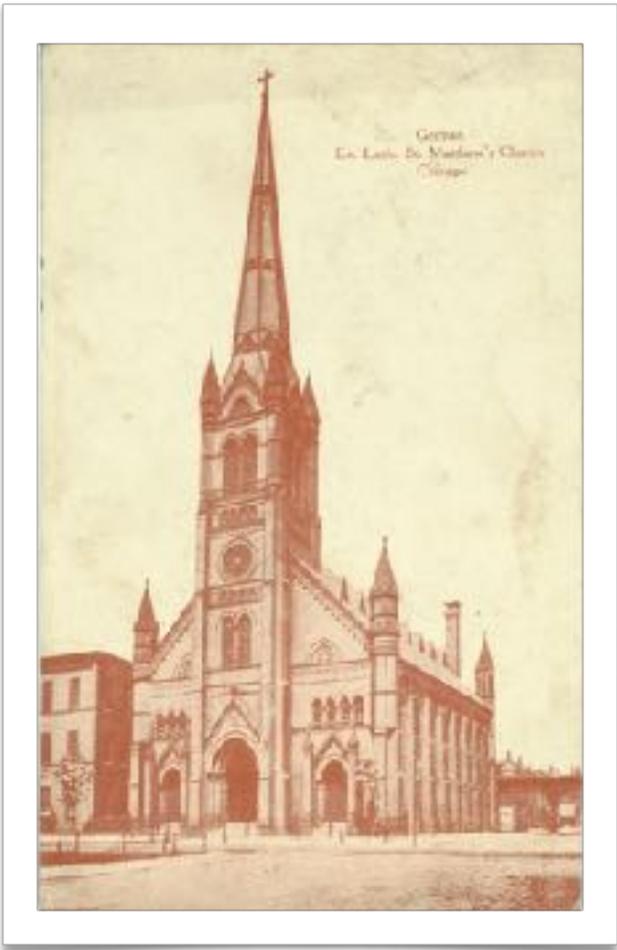


Note:
At the end of April, **almost \$31,500** was needed to reach our Mite goal.

2018 –2020 Mission Grants

- 44,625.00 National LWML (25% of mites collected)
- 13,875.00 NID LWML InReach
- 120,000.00 NID LWML Mission Grants

178,500.00 TOTAL Mite GOAL



Grants	Grant Amt	Amt Paid	Remaining Balance
Voice of Care	\$17,474	\$13,697.86	\$ 3,776.14
Saving St. Matthew's. Chicago Historic Church	\$18,000	\$ 9,200	\$ 8,800
Haitian Feeding Program, Trinity/HOPE	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$0
Lutherans for Life Post Abortion Crisis Hotline	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Grace Christian Academy, Chicago	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0
Concordia. Fort Wayne Food & Clothing Co-op	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Walcamp Exterior Cabin Renovation	\$14,562.35	\$10,085.81	\$4,476.54
Lutheran Indian Ministries Native Amer Youth	\$18,000	\$13,566.91	\$4,433.09
Luth, Braille Workers-Reaching Impaired Inmates	\$ 8,000	\$ 0	\$8,000
Haiti Lutheran Mission Society	\$ 3,463.65	\$ 3,463.65	\$0
Totals	\$120,000	\$80,514.23	\$39,485.77

Say Yes!

By Lauren Olsen, Nominating Committee Chairman nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org

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

Nominating Committee: Led by the Spirit

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Psalm 143:10 NIV

Is God Calling You to Serve?

These are the offices that we are seeking to fill in our 2020 Convention. Please read over the brief description of duties. Perhaps as you read you will find that the Holy Spirit is leading you to use your gifts to serve in a particular area!

4 Year Terms:

The Executive Committee meets six times a year. Special meetings may be called by the District President LWML as needed.

Vice President of Christian Life - Serves as the Chairman of the Christian Life Committee. This committee plans and directs annual District LWML retreats, workshops, and/or seminars. They provide materials and resources to nurture women's spiritual lives.

Vice President of Communications - Serves as the coordinator of all District LWML publications both print and electronic.

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries - Serves as the Chairman of the Special Focus Ministries Committee. This committee encourages sensitivity in women toward those who are hurting and in need. They provide resources and encouragement to enable knowledgeable, Biblical, hands-on assistance and comfort to others.

Recording Secretary - Keeps a record of all District LWML conventions and of all Executive and Board of Directors' meetings.

Financial Secretary - Is someone who upon election is bonded at the expense of the District LWML. She receives and deposits all funds in an institution that is approved by the District LWML Executive Committee. Reports to the treasurer all money received. Serves as a member of the Special Gifts and Bequests Funds Committee. Submits records at the end of the biennium for financial review by CPA. Submits a detailed financial report of receipts, based upon the financial review for publication at the District Convention.

“Volunteers
are love
in motion!”

- Author Unknown

“Volunteers don’t get
paid,
not because they’re
worthless,
but because they’re
priceless.”

– Sherry Anderson

Convention Chairman - Serves as Chairman of the Convention Committee. That committee implements the program and arrangements for the District LWML convention as directed by the Executive Committee. They compile and arrange for the printing and distribution of convention material, with the approval of the LWML District President.

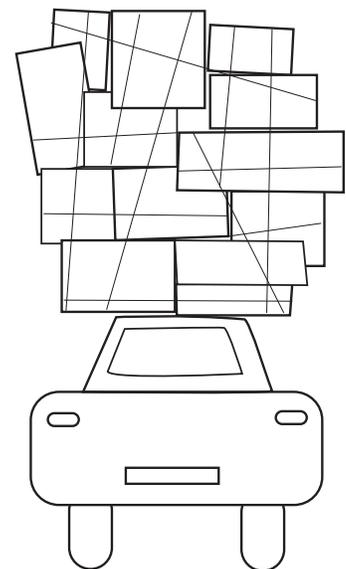
2 Year Term:

Nominating Committee - One woman from each of the four regions is to be elected. The woman with the highest number of votes serves as Nominating Committee Chairman. The Nominating Committee receives nominations, selects candidates prepares a slate of qualified candidates, provides candidate information to the Board of Directors and groups before the District LWML convention, and prepares a ballot and submits it to the Convention Chairman for printing.

As of the writing of this article, there is at least one candidate for each position, except for Financial Secretary. If you do feel compelled to serve, please feel free to email your willingness to nominating-commchair@lwmlnid.org or if you have questions about a particular position, feel free to call Lauren Olsen, Nominating Committee Chairman at 815-353-9414.

National Convention 2021

Getting excited about traveling in 2021? Plan to attend the LWML Convention in **Lexington, Kentucky on June 23-27, 2021**. There are 3 ways to get there. Since the pandemic has caused such uncertainty about travel plans, I have cancelled the idea of a bus. However, I am willing to organize a car/van pool like I did for the Peoria Convention! Would those of you who would be willing to drive a 15 passenger van please email me, **Kris Blackwell** at kbwrk123@gmail.com. This way we can all choose what hotel we would like to be at, especially for those who need to rest in the afternoon or evening. Some of us can play chauffeur throughout the day. Once you are registered at a hotel, then I will start a list and look at best possibilities of accommodating those who need rides. I think if we feel comfortable being with 4,000 people we can feel excited to be in a car/van with 10 or less! Of course, those who want will still be able to fly and if I hear about a bus from South Wisconsin or Central Illinois I will pass the information on.



Lenten Inspiration 2020

Remembering the Lenten Inspiration in pictures March 2020
(pre COVID-19)!



Skit Anyone?



Pastor Howell!



Mary, Christiana and Nicole - 3 Generations!



Ingathering for Walcamp!



Oh, the MUSIC!

more pics, next
pg

Most popular gal at the party?



Young Women inspire the future



The women!



Bill Indelli, from Walcamp and Pastor Swanson, Sr LWML NID Pastoral Counselor



The Lunch!



Masks Needed

Recently a local Dignity 4 Girls (D4G) group reached out to Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) to help get the word out to individuals and sewing groups for the need to make masks for medical facilities because of shortages of N95 respirator masks for health care workers caring for COVID-19 patients. D4G has also provided resources for sewing, patterns with instructions, lists of materials to use and not to use with links of where to find the materials, etc.

It is essential that the N95 masks be available to first responders and medical staff on the front lines working face to face, caring for COVID-19 patients.

For that reason, the reusable face-masks will be even more in demand. This is where the church has the opportunity to step up and reach out to the community by sewing cloth masks and making them available free to anyone who needs one. Besides providing masks for individuals and families, the local group who contacted us is now getting requests from business who have essential workers they need to protect while they provide services to the community; like a local post office who requested 20 mask for each of the three shifts.

The need for the masks will be great but the need to hear words of love and hope is even more crucial and will impact the kingdom of God and many lives. God has put His Church in the position to be able to reach out to people in our communities like no other time before. After all the fear, anxiety, loneliness, helplessness that the isolation of sheltering in place has brought, people are looking for a ray of hope and comfort in the midst of a world that is out of control. God has not only given His followers the opportunity but the resources to do it and His promise to be with us and in us as we reach out with His love, peace and hope. The need for masks is just one of the tools He is using to help us connect with people and build relationships that will change the world.

If you, your group, or your congregation want to use this opportunity and means to reach out to your community, Lutheran Church Charities has provided a number of free helpful articles, patterns and resources to get started. Thank you to D4G who did much of the research and sifted through the thicket of websites and misinformation. Attached you will find patterns with instructions, tips, instructional videos and other resources.

Links:

- [Pattern and Instructions for Fitted Facemask](#)
Fitted mask from Dignity 4 Girls with pattern and sewing instructions
- [Tips and Video Resouces](#)
- [Patterns and Tips from Trinity Roselle](#)
- [Written Instructions for A Surgeons Guide Video](#)
A written 15 step guide for the Video " A Surgeon's Guide to Sewing a Surgical Mask. See Tips and Video Resources Attachment to view Video Instructions.



Photo credit: https://ccbchurch.s3.amazonaws.com/10965/attachments/2836/Fitted_Mask_D4G_sewing_instructions_small.pdf

- [Summary of Research Info. on Best Materials to Use for Face Mask](#)
Also contains link to full scientific report.

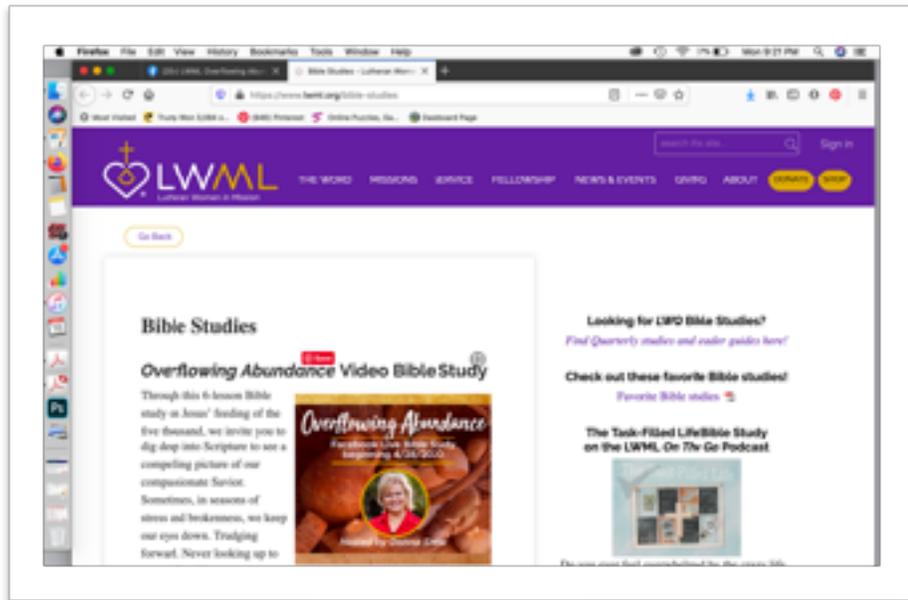
From Lucy Leader

You can find ideas for activities you can do while you are at home at 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 [Luther-](#)

[an 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 June 2, 2020. Donna has the gift of making the Word come alive in her [LWML Overflowing Abundance Bible Study](#). 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.



Calendar

- *August 29-30, 2020 Voting for candidates and grants - Delegates only*
- *September 12, 2020 - **Virtual LWML NID Convention** - NO CHARGE - Daily Led by the Spirit (watch for updates www.lwmlnid.org) - More info in the August/Sept/Oct NID-Bits*
- *Planning in progress - **Lenten Inspiration 2021***
- *June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention** in Lexington, Kentucky*

Announcements

- **Note:** suggestions for material to use with organizations as presented by LWML Christian Life department 2020 can be located @ www.lwml.org/program-helps
- Zones can send meeting announcements to be posted on Instagram and Facebook to Teena Dorn at vpcommunications@LWMLNID.org for distribution. Use **Announcement** as the email title.
- 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 (on your smart phone), Facebook: www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/ OR you can reach the LWMLNID facebook page through the icon on the www.LWMLNID.org website.
- Also keep up with LCMS district happenings with Our Illinois District online - <https://nidlcms.org/subscribe/>

Attached:

- **Convention Delegate Form (for voting only)** - or go to www.LWMLNID.org to register as a Delegate

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



LWML Northern Illinois District

Voter Registration 2020

(for the 2020 Virtual Convention)

Voting Dates

August 29-30, 2020

Voting will be done using a program entitled ELECTION BUDDY. Delegates need to provide their email address, this is how the program works.

Only delegates need to register.

When the voter registers additional information will be sent to them about the actual voting procedures.

All delegates will receive information about the Virtual Convention when the plans are finalized.

Classification of Voting Members: (please circle only one)

- Delegate • Alternate • Zone President • Executive Board (**except** Pastors, Parliamentarian, Archivist-Historian)
- Past NID President (must still live in district)
- **Email needed for electronic voting** _____

- **Cell Phone** _____ **Home Phone** _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Church/City _____

Please Mail Registration Form to:

LeeAnn Himley
PO Box 72307
Roselle, IL 60172

Or email to:

correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org

Or register online at:

https://lwmlnid.org/event/lwml-nid-convention-2020/?instance_id=117

**Deadline for registering to vote:
August 1, 2020**

NO REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED



Publicity Release: Since the LWML-NID will be holding a virtual convention, your videotaped/live submissions for this event gives the LWML-NID permission to use your image and comments in educational, informational and promotional materials in a variety of media. Personal information will not be shared.