

## NID-Bits

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

### CONTENTS

- President's Msg. p 1*
- Pastor Buckman p 3*
- 2022 LWML NID Theme p 3*
- NEW Mission Statement p 3*
- Young Women p 4*
- Grant Highlight p 5*
- Fall Gathering Recap p 6*
- NID-Bits Book Club p 7*
- NID Happenings p 8*
- Share Your Stories p 10*
- Coming Soon p 10*
- Nominating Committee p 11*
- 2020-22 NID Grants p 12*
- Mission Stamps Address p 12*
- Calendar & Announcements p 12*
- Zoom Advent Event Flyer p 13*
- Winter Retreat Flyer p 14*
- NID Mites Thermometer p 15*



[Join the Fun!](#)

pg. 4

[NID Happenings](#)

pg. 8



## In the Footsteps of Paul

*by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske*

In 1997, I had the privilege of traveling in the footsteps of Paul's first missionary journey. Ever since, I hoped to journey in the footsteps of his second and third missionary journeys. Near the end of 2019 the trip became a reality, and Marilyn Hess and I signed up immediately. Needless to say, Covid postponed the trip in 2020 to October 12-22, 2021. Having just returned, I would like to share some of my thoughts and experiences with you.

One of the great things about the trip was the lack of crowds at the sites we visited. A couple of times, our group of 38 were the only people visiting. This allowed us to listen to scripture being read by Dr. Arthur Just, professor at our seminary in Ft. Wayne, without a lot of background noise or “jockeying” for position at the sites.

In Paul’s time, Corinth was a major commercial seaport with great prosperity and was known for its luxury, sexual freedom, and loose morals. It was in Corinth where Paul met Aquila and Priscilla, who were fellow tentmakers. They would have sold their product in the local marketplace known as the agora. Acts tells us that Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue, with devout persons, and daily with those who happened to be in the marketplace. Listening to Acts 18:1-17 and portions of the letters to the Corinthians brought to mind that our world today is not so very different from Corinth.

Listening to Paul’s sermon to the men of Athens at Areopagos Hill brought thoughts of how lucky we are to be part of the Christian Church. It is because of God’s direction to Paul to go into Macedonia and on to Athens and Corinth that the gospel was carried to us today. We know the “unknown” god about whom Paul preached. Standing beneath the Acropolis, where the Parthenon dedicated to the goddess Athena and the temple of Athena Nike were located, provided the background for the sermon Paul delivered.



Areopagos Hill

We also visited Thessaloniki and Philippi (where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity), but to me the most moving of the places we visited was Ephesus. As we sat in the 24,000 seat amphitheater and Dr. Just read Paul’s farewell sermon to the Ephesian disciples, tears came to my eyes. In Acts 20:17-38 Paul emphasizes that from the first day that he had set foot in Asia, he served the Lord with all humility, not shrinking from declaring Jesus Christ. He states he will not see them again but they are to continue to care for the church, knowing that wolves will come among them once he had left them.



The final words of Acts chapter 20 say, *“And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.”* (Acts 20:36-38 ESV)

This is the road to the seaport of Ephesus, where the Ephesians walked with Paul for the last time.

## Take Heart!

John 16:33 — “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But **take heart**; I have overcome the world.” (ESV)



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

My Sisters in Christ,

I pray you and yours are well!

If ever these words of Christ were true, they are true today!

Jesus knows what we need—we need His word. His word is a sure and strong fortress. His word is the sword of the Spirit. His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path. His word is what brings faith into a dark heart. We need the word of Jesus!

When you are without peace in your life, you might turn to any of a hundred different bad choices.

Jesus took the initiative, when we were lost in our sin to come into this world. The Father took the initiative and drew you unto Christ (John 6:44). The Holy Spirit took the initiative to guide believers to share God’s grace with you.

Take heart! Take Jesus’ heart. Lay down your heart of stone. Let Jesus’ heart be your heart today.

Amen.

Pr. Jim

## 2022 LWML NID Theme

Our theme for the new year is **Take Heart**, based on John 16:33. Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (NIV) All who attend the 2022 activities will be encouraged to let their heart (their true self) take courage; to grow in faithfulness, peace, hope, and good cheer; and to love those in need. As we participate in the 2022 activities, we will be examining our physical heart and our intangible heart.



## NEW Mission Statement for LWML

As of January 2021 (No, that’s not a typo!), LWML has a new mission statement. This succinct explanation is perfect for describing LWML.

**As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.**

# Join the Fun This Winter!



*By Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator*

The Zoom Advent by Candlelight was so inspirational in 2020 that there will be a Zoom Advent by Candlelight 2021. Mark your calendars for Monday, December 6 at 7:00pm. There will be short meditations on Joy, Peace, Hope and Love – really important topics for such a time as this. Pastor Howell will share an Advent message. We will each light a candle as Shannon sings a Christmas song. What a great way to focus on what the

whole Christmas season is about! Email [ywchairman@lwmlnid.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwmlnid.org) in December for a link to this event.



Kaye Wolff

The highlight of every year for our Young at Heart women is the January retreat at Walcamp. The dates are January 14 – 16.

Kaye Wolff (Past LWML Vice President, current Deaf Liaison and joy-filled child of God) will lead us as we study The (Wo)man in the Mirror. Walcamp Retreat Center is located in a beautiful setting. Come and enjoy God's creation and fellowship with other Christian women. You do need to bring your own bedding and toiletries – we are in a camp setting. If you have any questions, please email [ywchairman@lwmlnid.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwmlnid.org). Come see how God created you in His image!

Joy  
Peace  
Hope  
Love



Our Lovely Accommodations at Walcamp



Zoom Advent by Candlelight 2020

The (Wo)man In the Mirror  
So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him: male and female He created them. (Gen. 1:27)

# NID Grant Highlight



Diana Maanum  
LWML NID  
Vice President of  
Gospel Outreach

## **Dorcas Project — leadership training for women in Ghana \$17,000**

Women in Ghana have a lower average annual income than men and are less likely to own land or property, even though they are expected to help provide for their families. The project aims to educate women leaders to understand the teachings and confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana as drawn from the Book of Concord, as well as start a small business or expand their current business through financial education and understand community financial resources for women (including digital financial services). The Dorcas Project assists women to obtain micro-loans, spread the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus, mentor other young women of the church in their communities, and play a quality and focused role in spreading the good news by bringing more families to the redeeming knowledge of our Savior! Please pray that these women grow in knowledge of our Risen Savior while also learning how to care for their business and families.



If you look closely at the pictures above, you will see that the women's dresses feature Luther's Seal!



# NID Fall Gathering Recap

*By Marilyn Hess, Convention Co-Chair*

LWML NID Fall Gathering brought together 82 joyfully reunited women both at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elgin and online in various locations September 25, 2021. Opening devotions were provided by Christ the King Lutheran School under the direction of Principal Geri Brazeal including hymns played by a violin ensemble and scripture reading.



Violin Ensemble

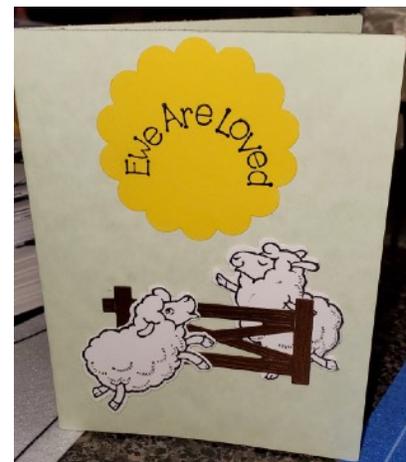


Bible Study was led by Rev. Edward DeWitt, President of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, on our theme of Always Pray and Never Give Up. Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, shared the story of this outreach to unwed mothers who want to give birth to their children and an update on the progress at the house in Carpentersville, Illinois. One of the highlights of the day was the testimony of Lillian who shared the story of her encounter with Redeeming Life and the changes God has made in her life which she shares with her precious son.

Another highlight was making more than 80 cards for Phil's Friends in honor of the 80th birthday of LWML, which will be celebrated in 2022.



*Left to right:*  
Rev. DeWitt  
Sheryl DeWitt  
Lillian



## NID-Bits Book Club — *A Flame in the Dark*

By Miss Paige Turner

*This commentary contains Spoilers for the featured book.*

***A Flame in the Dark*** by Sarah Baughman (Concordia, 2018)

To us the Reformation is a historical event, but like all history, it was life-altering for those living through it. I have a habit of forgetting this fact. Especially for events that created the very bedrock of my worldview, I have a hard time imagining people's mindset before then. Books like *A Flame in the Dark* help me understand just how big the differences in thought can be.



Having grown up in the LCMS, I've seemingly always known the Solas. That is to say, I've always been taught that my eternal salvation rests purely on the work of Christ. As such, the lure of indulgences never made much sense to me, especially since I was never threatened with purgatory. Matthäus Falk's fears for his late wife's soul helped ground me in the layman's doctrinal reality of the pre-Reformation era. In a world where you only know what you've been told, and you've been told that you must work out part of your salvation, it makes sense to desire an item that supposedly aids in that endeavor.

Relatedly, I realized that I take for granted the enormous blessing of having the entirety of Scripture at my fingertips. The concept of only owning copies of a few individual books of the Bible is nearly unfathomable to me. Certainly I have been taught that in the pre-printing press era (and for some time thereafter) owning a Bible was relatively rare (and not always helpful if you didn't know Latin), but reading about Heinrich's lectures, in which Doctor Luther read passages from books the students didn't have, made it much more real in my mind.

On a non-historical note, I liked Heinrich's new focus on 1 Thessalonians 5:14. It's always good, though sometimes painfully convicting, when God makes sure we hear just the right verse. And this is a good verse to remember. It can be all too easy to ignore others' burdens, to consider them an imposition. But as Heinrich learned, we Christians are called to help each other and not only to help, but to help lovingly.

I'm glad the (fictional) future was looking bright as these characters ventured forth with a truer understanding of God and each other.

Thank you for joining the NID-Bits Book Club! I hope that you (and your book buddies) enjoyed *A Flame in the Dark* and will continue to follow along on our bookish adventures. You can find a PDF of [discussion prompts](#) for your group on the LWML NID website on the NID-Bits page.

Our next book will be...

***Mama Bear Apologetics™*** edited by Hillary Morgan Ferrer (Harvest House, 2019)

Our first non-fiction book! Not just for mothers, *Mama Bear Apologetics™* addresses cultural lies that can seep into our thinking. Perfect for reading in snippets around Christmas preparations, this book uses non-esoteric English to define and refute many of the anti-Christian philosophies and movements we face today. \*Please note that this book is not published by Concordia Publishing House, so take all theological statements with a grain of salt.\*

***Will you read with us?***

# LWML NID Happenings

Share your group's event in NID-Bits! Send a write-up to [publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org](mailto:publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org)

## Faith, Lake Forest (submitted by Janice B.)

### Women of Faith Gather as Female Navy Veterans Share Their Experiences Serving as Women in the U.S. Military

On April 18, women of Faith, Lake Forest and their guests were treated to a virtual presentation by fellow members and Navy veterans, Kristen Skinner and Katie Wiederhoeft. The two ladies shared their experiences as women serving in today's military, highlighting some of the challenges of fitting in among male-dominated units and serving in regions where cultures vary significantly from our own. Ladies in their audience thanked these two veterans for their service and for taking the time to help them understand what it is like for women to serve in U.S. military units. Those in attendance were also treated to a swag bag of foods typically received in a military care package.



### Women of Faith Meet for Virtual Advent Gathering

On Friday, December 11, 2020, the Women of Faith Lake Forest met virtually for an Advent Devotion and time of sharing. Although COVID-19 prevented us from meeting for our annual Christmas luncheon and sing-along, we made the most of our time together, reviewing the meaning and history of Advent, and discussing our own family traditions and ideas for future virtual gatherings.



We thank God for the vaccines that will soon be available, and for the electronic options that allow us to spend time together in Jesus' name while we remain physically distanced to protect one another.

### Faith Lake Forest Celebrates Women

As part of Faith's annual recognition of women and celebration of LWML Sunday, following services on October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, each woman was presented with a prayer candle labeled with the words, "May my prayers rise to God as the sweet smell of incense."

Throughout the weekend, a video of all national and district LWML grants was played to show congregation members how their mites contributions are being used to bless people around the world.





**Zone 1** (submitted by Janice B.)

**Women of Circuit 1 Gather in Fellowship and Service**

On Sunday, August 22, the women of our 12-congregation circuit met at Lord of Glory Lutheran Church in Grayslake for their annual Fall Workshop.

As the ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch hosted by the women of Lord of Glory, Pastor Brian Davies led a devotion likening them to a tribe/family of Israel, gathered over a meal in support of one another, and acting in unison to accomplish their God-given purpose to serve and demonstrate Jesus' love to others.

In thanksgiving for and celebration of [what will, in 2022, be] the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of LWML, the attendees then assembled 80+ witness bracelets for MOST Ministries. The bracelets will be used to share the Gospel at each location where MOST missionaries serve. Images from this "80 For 80" activity will become a part of a photo montage being planned for the 2023 LWML national convention in Milwaukee.

Participants were further blessed when Zone 1 Pastoral Counselor Rev. Ed Blonski of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hawthorn Woods delivered a message encouraging each woman to meditate on God's Spirit as she works to build up her Christian sisters, and then offered a prayer to close the workshop.



Ladies Enjoying the Zone 1 Workshop



**Trinity, Herscher (Zone 18)** (submitted by Connie T. and Sharon F.)

Trinity Lutheran Church's youngest quilter is Noelle, age 7, granddaughter of Randy and Marsha K. She brought her sewing machine on vacation and sewed an LWR quilt top for our Trinity Sewing Group.

**Zone 16 and Trinity, Tinley Park** (submitted by Ekaterina G.)

**Zone 16 Fall Workshop**

The ladies of Zone 16 gathered at Trinity, Tinley Park, on the morning of October 16 for our 2021 Fall

Workshop. Zone 16 Counselor Rev. Richard Schauer led a study on prayer, after which the ladies got to work decorating pillowcases for the children served by My Joyful Heart in Mokena. The ingathering collected 30 pillows and 50 pillowcases to reach 80 items in thanksgiving for 80 years of LWML.





## LWML Sunday at Trinity

Though our LWML ladies weren't able to serve as the choir for the weekend's services, as we've done for LWML Sundays in the past, we still celebrated the ways God uses the LWML! We set up a table in the narthex to display samples of projects we've done, including shoebox nativities for our school's three-year-old Pre-K students, crocheted blankets given as baptismal gifts, and pillowcase dresses sent to El Salvador. We also made sure to have a pile of Mite Boxes, along with a display of the National and NID Mite Goal Thermometers. We made ribbon bookmarks as a gift for the ladies of the congregation and packaged each bookmark with a little card listing our meeting time and the LWML websites. During each service, the pastor blessed the quilts made by our sewers this past summer. And all our LWML ladies wore purple, of course!

## Share Your Stories!

*By Kris Blackwell, LWML NID Archivist-Historian*

Many of you are familiar with Jan Struck, the humorist interrupter, at the national conventions. Well, I am not funny, but President Jan has asked me to interrupt the 2022 LWML NID Convention with snippets of history. While I can certainly relate a lot of wonderful tidbits of history going all the way back to 1937 with the Northern Illinois Mission Endeavor Society and the first tin mite box, I would love to also have personal reflections. I know that there are some ladies who have been in LWML as long as I have been alive! If you are not able to write up your story of your fondest memory just call and talk to me and I will write your story down. Think about all the retreats, conventions, and Lenten Inspirations we have had. We also did Mission Servant Trips to learn about the missions within the district. Maybe one of you went on an LWML Mission Trip with MOST. These stories make the LWML NID come alive for the generations to come. We might even be able to write them up into a PDF for distribution at the convention along with the Mission Grant History PDF that will be available in September of 2022. Please call or email me: Kris Blackwell 630-234-1491 or [kbwrk123@gmail.com](mailto:kbwrk123@gmail.com)

## Save the Date: Lenten Inspiration—March 19

*By Kirsten Smith, LWML NID VP of Christian Life*

Advent would not be the same without Lent! Therefore, it is never too early to start thinking about the Lenten Inspiration. Put it on your calendar for March 19, 2022 at Cross Lutheran Church in Yorkville. Hear from Pastor Buckman about how God has used him in the military. Be on the lookout for more details coming out soon!

## Coming Soon: LWML Teens Corner

In future NID-Bits issues, we'll have a new feature: the LWML Teens Corner! This column will feature tips for connecting with the girls in your congregation, as well as information for the girls themselves.

# Change Is Good!

*By Teena Dorn, LWML NID Nominating Committee Chair*

Yes, it's time to think about change! **Change can make us feel uncomfortable sometimes, but we are not called to be comfortable!** Change is liberating, healing, and inevitable. It is always happening, whether we like it or not. The more we welcome it, the more profoundly positive an impact it has on us. To be a part of change allows us to have a voice in it, rather than watching as if on the outside. Change is rejuvenating! It creates new ministries. Changing officers gives an organization a facelift. It helps us to see things differently. It brings new ideas with it and new ways of doing things. Doing things differently pushes us out of our comfort zones!

Watch for the inspiring video created by Jane Webster, Nominating Committee North, and her granddaughter, Jessica, of the stories of three different LWML NID presidents on their experiences in their respective presidencies. This video is being released soon (or may be released by the time this is published) on the LWML NID website and LWML NID social media. Will you be inspired to run for LWML NID President? Or maybe a different office? Or perhaps ask a friend; we are often inspired to run for an office when a friend believes we are capable of certain tasks even if we are unsure ourselves. Who could you ask?

The district convention in September 2022 brings with it a change in the LWML NID leadership. These offices need new leadership:

- President (4 year term)
- Pastoral Counselor (4 year term)
- Vice President of Gospel Outreach (4 year term)
- Vice President of Organizational Resources (4 year term)
- Corresponding Secretary (4 year term)
- Finance Secretary (2 year replacement term, election in 2024)
- Treasurer (4 year term)
- Nominating Committee (North) (2 year term)
- Nominating Committee (South) (2 year term)
- Nominating Committee (East) (2 year term)
- Nominating Committee (West) (2 year term)



Terms are limited by our by-laws. Consecutive terms in the same office are not permitted.

Are you ready to step out of your comfort zone? If you know someone that you feel might be a good fit for one of the above positions, ask them to go to: [www.LWMLNID.org](http://www.LWMLNID.org) and put "nominating" in the search bar to fill out the form for a nomination to a life-changing position with the LWML NID.

Contact Teena Dorn (Chair — South) for more information on a position in which you are interested: [nominatingcommchair@LWMLNID.org](mailto:nominatingcommchair@LWMLNID.org), or contact someone you know on the Team:

Teena Dorn (Chair — South)

Judy Poellet (East)

Gayle Thanepohn (West)

Jane Webster (North)

## 2020-2022 NID Mission Grants

• Worship Anew Ministry to the Aging and Unchurched	\$17,600	(\$17,600 — paid in full)
• Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage	\$15,000	
• Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center Food Pantry	\$18,000	(\$8,774.31 paid to date)
• Phil's Friends — Christian cancer care packages	\$10,000	(\$10,000 — paid in full)
• Dorcas Project — leadership training for women in Ghana	\$17,000	(\$5,798.20 paid to date)
• Lutheran Books for Buddhist Southeast Asia	\$15,000	
• Salam Christian Fellowship	\$ 1,150	

Please make **checks payable to: LWML NID.**

Address for sending mites and memorials this biennium:

LWML NID  
PO Box 958012  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

## Stamps for Missions — New Address

Did you know that cancelled postage stamps can earn money to support mites?

Learn more at <https://lwmlnid.org/missions/stamps-for-missions/>

The District office is being sold, so please send or deliver cancelled postage stamps to:

LWML NID  
c/o Trinity Lutheran Church  
1101 Kimberly Way  
Lisle, IL 60532

## Calendar

- December 6, 2021 — **Advent by Candlelight** via Zoom (see pg. 4 and flyer pg. 13)
- January 14-16, 2022 — **Young at Heart Winter Retreat** at Walcamp (see pg. 4 and flyer pg. 14)
- March 19, 2022 — **Lenten Inspiration** at Cross, Yorkville (see pg. 10)
- September 23-24, 2022 — LWML NID **District Convention**

## Announcements

- 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 — <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChA9AnqU21h2no7Q7QMiazw>

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

love,  
hope,  
peace,  
and joy!

# Advent Candlelight

## Service

Join us for a night of worship by  
candlelight in the comfort of your  
own home!

**DEC. 6 • 7PM • ON ZOOM (EMAIL  
YWCHAIRMAN@LWMLNID.ORG  
FOR LINK!)**





# THE (WO)MAN IN THE MIRROR

*So God created man in his own image. in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)*

**LWML NID Young Women & Young at Heart**

*Winter Retreat 2022*

We're back at it this year in person! **Join us at Walcamp in Kingston, IL on Jan. 14-16th** for PJs & prayer, faith, food & fellowship, Guest Speaker Kaye Wolff, Bible Study & Sunday morning worship. Join when you can and stay as long as you like. Bring your awesome selves, your Bible, an appetite, some winter gear for an outdoor walk & pillow/bedding for bunks. **Cost: \$45** for the weekend.

Email [ywchairman@lwmlnid.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwmlnid.org) for info & registration

**Walcamp Outdoor Ministries, 32653 E Five Points Rd, Kingston, IL 60145**



# 2020-22 Mite Goal Collection Update

Goal: \$157,000  
By 6/30/2022

Mites Collected:  
\$123,016.07  
As of 10/31/2021

*Well Done!*

October 2021 Goal: \$104,667

\$80,000

\$40,000

\$0

Please make checks payable to: LWML NID

LWML NID, PO Box 958012, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169