

## 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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## Racing to Lexington?!?



*by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske*

Racing is a word which was part of many of our lives before the pandemic—we always seemed to be racing from one place to another. Since the middle of March 2020, our pace has slowed to a walk—we didn't have anyplace to go.

Running the Race...Looking to Jesus is the theme for the 2021 LWML 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021. Consider joining with your LWML sisters who will be focusing on Jesus through Word and Sacrament, celebrating our salvation through song and prayer, and serving others through servant events.



The convention logo incorporates the shape of the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega. The symbol is shaped like a horseshoe, which is appropriate, as horses are a large part of the Kentucky culture.

Ancient Greeks awarded horseshoe-shaped laurel wreaths to the victors of competitions. In the convention logo, the laurel wreath symbolizes our victory in Christ. The banner was a method of announcing an official proclamation. The logo banner proclaims that we are “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus,” just as we have been looking, through prayer, for the last 10 months.

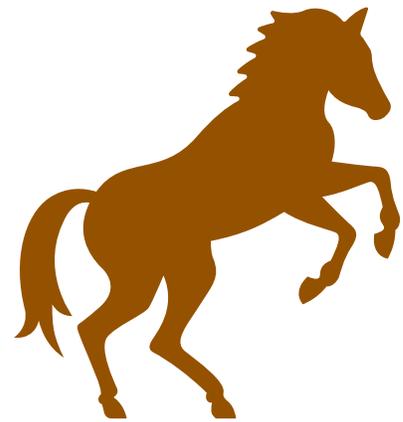
We can see the finish line—the vaccine is being distributed and, God willing, all of us who are part of the vulnerable population will be vaccinated by May. Would you like to be part of the decision-making for this convention? Each of our zones needs a delegate who will have the privilege of voting for officers, mission grants, and oh, yes, those “dreaded” bylaw changes.

We may still be social distancing and wearing masks depending upon the number of people vaccinated by the end of June. You can make your hotel reservations anytime before May 26, 2021, after which the rates listed in the winter *Quarterly* may not be honored. Hotels fill up quickly, so don’t wait—if you change your mind, you can always cancel your reservation. Early discounted convention registration for \$150 begins February 1, 2021, but is ONLY available till April 14, 2021 (note: date extended by national Board of Directors). Consider joining our delegates this year since Northern Illinois will be joining with the North Wisconsin and South Wisconsin districts in “producing” the 2023 40<sup>th</sup> LWML biennial convention in Milwaukee.

Watch the Invitation to Lexington video here:

<https://lwmlnid.org/lwml-skit/>

Please see pg. 8 for convention travel information.



**Consider  
joining us in  
Running  
the Race...  
Looking to  
Jesus  
this summer  
in Lexington,  
Kentucky!**



# Pray with a Waiting Heart



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

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

On this occasion in Luke 18:1, Jesus began with a parable to His disciples on the need to pray always and not give up. The original meaning of the English word “pray” involves begging. To pray is “to plead” or “implore.” Our prayers are to be continual and persistent.

Jesus tells us we ought to “always pray.” Well, doesn’t God hear our first request? Certainly!

Then why bring our same requests before God day after day after day? The answer is simple: **because God tells us that is what we should do.** God doesn’t always tell us why. But we read in Scripture of incredible fruit through prayer that perseveres. It causes faith to grow and deepen.

Remember, Mary and Martha had pleaded with Jesus to come and heal Lazarus when he died. They sent messengers to tell Him to hurry; they were persistent. That’s prayer! Did Jesus immediately answer? No. He heard their request from the very beginning but waited to bless them so their faith would be strengthened. He arrived on time to heal

Lazarus and give an awesome gift to them that they never would have if Lazarus had simply recovered from his sickness – **a gift of deeper faith and trust.**

So, He waits to cause our faith to stretch and grow. But also, He waits to humble us, to reveal that we are not in control. Our Lord says to keep praying, keep seeking Me! Don’t give up on praying! Pray with a waiting heart knowing that time is in God’s hands.

# A Retreat Recap and What’s Next

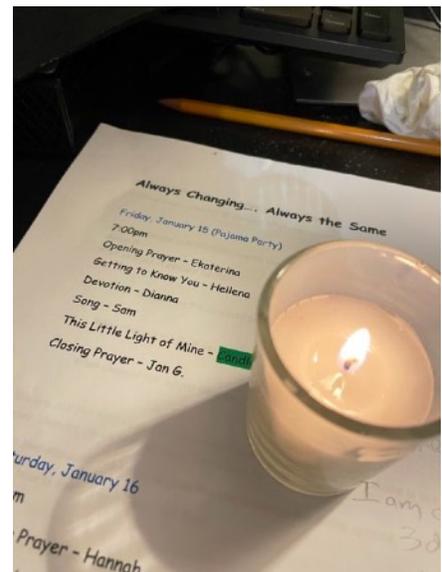


By Sherrie Smith, Young Women’s Coordinator

COVID couldn’t stop the Young at Heart women from being in the Word and having fellowship with each other. The winter retreat went virtual, allowing women from Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana to participate. The theme was Always Changing... Always the Same.

Friday night’s casual pajama party gave the women a chance to learn a bit about each other. The Three Trees devotion illustrated that God uses us for His purposes – even through changes. The candlelight “This Little Light of Mine” reminded the participants that God’s love for us is always the same, and we should let that love shine through our lives.

Saturday’s Bible Study looked at changes in the lives of people in the Bible. Adam and Eve’s lives changed greatly after the Fall,



but God’s love didn’t change. The shepherds’ and wisemen’s lives changed after their encounter with Jesus. Jesus’ love still changes our lives today.

The Young at Heart retreat participants enjoyed their time together, and they cherish the bond they have in Jesus. They are eagerly looking forward to seeing what God will do with their new relationships.



Letting Our Lights Shine!  
Virtual Winter Retreat — January 15

**Galentine’s Day Zoom Bingo** is the next event planned for the Young at Heart women. This will take place on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. There will be movement, prizes, and fun for all! Email [ywchairman@lwmlnid.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwmlnid.org) for the Zoom link.

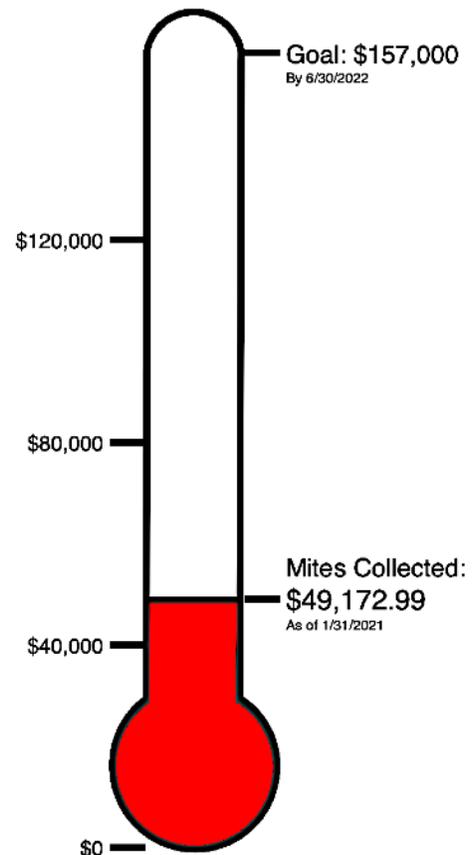
## Promote Mites!

### 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 (\$5,798.20 paid to date)
- Lutheran books for Buddhist Southeast Asia \$15,000
- Salam Christian Fellowship \$ 1,500

Please make **checks payable to: LWML NID.**  
Address for sending mites, memorials, and *Quarterly* payments for this biennium:

LWML NID  
PO Box 958012  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169



Find a full-page NID Mite Goal Thermometer on pg. 10.

# NID Grant Highlight



Diana Maanum  
LWML NID  
Vice President of  
Gospel Outreach

## Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage \$15,000

*“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:35-40 (ESV)*

Did you know that the Haitian life expectancy is in the mid-fifties age range? Those living longer often do not have family left to support or care for them. Without family and government safety nets, the elderly are among the most vulnerable people in Haiti. Many live their last days laying on filthy floors in one-room shelters, relying on the kindness of their neighbors for food.

Medical care is virtually non-existent for these people. Through our mites we are helping support Lutheran Villages in Haiti.

In 2011 a guest house was built to provide work for the Haitians and a safe place to stay for visiting American missionaries.

In 2015 Ministry in Mission added an orphanage to the Lutheran village. This marked the beginning of Lutheran Family Services of Haiti’s cradle-to-grave ministry.

Upon discovering the need to care for the elder orphans as well, Ministry in Mission began planning to build an Eldercare Home. By the grace of God and the generosity of Lutheran Women in Mission, the house was completed in January 2019.

Residents of Jacmel Lutheran Home are carefully screened to verify their needs. Criteria to enter Jacmel Lutheran Home include: no family, disabled, unable to care for themselves, and in need of end of life care. Currently six females and two men are thriving at the Jacmel Lutheran Home. One of the male residents asked to be baptized shortly after his arrival!



The Center of Refuge Orphanage



The Jacmel Lutheran Home

# NID-Bits Book Club

By Miss Paige Turner

Gather your book buddies and read with the NID-Bits Book Club!

Each quarter, we will announce a new book right here in NID-Bits. From there, gather your church's LWML ladies, the church ladies you want to become LWML ladies, your non-LWML friends, and that neighbor who's always reading on her porch! You pick your meeting time(s), format, and location (your living room, the church narthex, your favorite coffee shop—in-person, over the phone, or via video call). We'll put together a PDF of discussion prompts for each book and post it on [LWMLNID.org](http://LWMLNID.org) for you to download at your leisure (or not—you can choose to freestyle your chats, too).



We'll also be posting on the LWML NID social media pages (whose links are on pg. 9), so join the district-wide discussion! Share your thoughts on the book and see what other readers have to say about it. The following quarter's NID-Bits will include Miss Paige's commentary (so as not to spoil the book right off the bat). And keep your eyes peeled: we may have a special district-wide Zoom discussion in May to chat about our first book!

Our first book will be...

***The Story People*** by Heather Kaufman (Concordia Publishing House, 2016)

Stories have the power to bind us to each other and the Creator. Join Ben, Rosemary, and the matriarchs of New Holden, Indiana, as they navigate the story called "life" one challenging—and amusing—day at a time.

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

To get things started, let's listen to a song: "**Already There**" by **Casting Crowns**. (Search for the song on your favorite music platform, order the CD *Come to the Well* from your library, or watch the lyric video on YouTube [here](#).) And since a song can't be spoiled, here's Miss Paige's commentary:

Many months ago, I watched a time-lapse video of a painter creating a mountain lake landscape. As he moved from the night sky to the mountains below, I nodded appreciatively. Then he started to add snow to the peaks, and I thought it was ruined, but as he spread the paint, my untrained eye saw what he had seen all along—the snow gave definition to the mountains. When he began a tree-covered island in the foreground, I saw only the marring of the lake's placid surface. But as he added detail to the island, I saw that the trees gave perspective to the mountains. And finally, the addition of stars, which I first considered glaring, brought beauty to the sky.

Our perspective on our lives is often like mine as I watched the painter; as things change, we fear a future we cannot control and in which we routinely see trouble. But our all-powerful God is not bound by the present as we are. This realization is the heart of the Casting Crowns song "Already There."

As incomprehensible as it is to our finite human minds, God knows everything—all at once. Today's events are no clearer a memory than those of 1000 BC. Tomorrow's events are not a vague prediction, but a known certitude. *He knows*. He is already there, in your future, in the world's future. The changes that come today happen for a reason. To us, that reason may be unseeable in the moment. In fact, we may never know His reasons in this life. But we trust. We trust that not only is He omniscient, that He knows best, but that God is love. And if the omnipotent Creator of the universe loves us, if He has our lives—our futures—in His hands, then what is there to fear?

# Dear Lucy Leader,

## How do I lead during this coronavirus pandemic?

### — Panicked Pam

Dear Panicked Pam,

God has chosen you to be a leader at this particular time. God has called you for such a time as this.

So, what do you do? First – and most importantly – make sure that you are connected to the Leader, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Go to Him in prayer often. Spend time in the Word. Fill your head with Christ-centered music.

Connect with the women you are blessed to lead. Use any means possible. Send texts. Post comforting words and Bible verses on Facebook. Make a video of yourself so your women can see your face. Use your Twitter account. Make video calls so you can see each other in real time. Send cards or notes to those who don't have electronic forms of communication. (There are Heart Blessings cards that you can download from LWML at [www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/heart-blessings-cards](http://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/heart-blessings-cards) to send.) Make phone calls asking how they are doing. If you have the resources, ask them what they need.

Engage in Bible study with your women. You may do this together using electronic platforms or you may do this individually, keeping each other accountable and sharing what you are learning. You can find a list of downloadable LWML Bible studies at [www.lwml.org/program-helps-bible-studies](http://www.lwml.org/program-helps-bible-studies).

Give the women opportunities to serve. The women will feel better when they are helping someone else. [Download and color cards for Phil's Friends](#). Send a card to your pastor and teachers in a nearby Lutheran school. Impress upon the women how important it is to pray – even if they cannot do anything else – prayer is of utmost importance. They may want to keep a prayer journal or a written prayer list.

God has chosen you. He will not let you down!

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,  
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.  
(Psalm 46:1-3)

Praying with and for you,  
Lucy Leader

-----  
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



## Lenten Inspiration — March 13

This year's Lenten Inspiration is going virtual! Be sure to catch the video, featuring Phil Zielke of Phil's Friends, an NID grant recipient, as the mission speaker. There will also be a Bible study and a special performance by a dance team! This year's theme is "Always Pray and Never Give Up"—Luke 18:1 (NIV). The video will premiere March 13<sup>th</sup> on the LWML NID YouTube channel (see pg. 9 for the channel link).

Always  
Pray  
and Never Give Up



## Lexington, Here We Come In 2021!



**We don't know what spring and summer 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 the 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 will still 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 is 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.

## Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Subscriptions

Subscription renewal forms are emailed to current subscription holders beginning the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January. Any society not receiving their *Quarterly* renewal notice email by February 1<sup>st</sup> should contact LeeAnn Himley at [correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org). She can resend your society's specific invoice with your information. Or, you are welcome to use the blank form provided as long as no one from your society has already sent in the order.

**The renewal form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked by April 1, 2021, to be included as part of the order required by LWML in St. Louis for the 2021-2022 subscription year.** Please keep a copy of the form and check for your records.

You can add subscriptions after April 1, but you CAN ONLY DECREASE the number currently received before April 1.

*For those interested in obtaining large print or Braille Quarterly a separate subscription can be set up by contacting the Lutheran Braille Workers directly at 909-795-8977.*

The *Quarterly* subscription renewal form is on page 11.

## Convention-al Wisdom

The LWML National Convention is fast approaching! Have you been to a convention before? Do you have some advice for First-Timers? Share it! Submit your “convention-al wisdom” or brief anecdote to potentially be included in the May-June-July NID-Bits. (All quotes will be attributed by first name only.) Email [publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org](mailto:publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org) no later than April 15, 2021 (yes, Tax Day); please identify the subject as “NID-Bits Conventional Wisdom.”

## 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

- February 13, 2021 — 3 p.m. — **Galentine’s Day Zoom Bingo** (see pg. 4)
- March 13, 2021 — **NID Lenten Inspiration** (see pg. 8)
- April 1, 2021 — **Quarterly Subscriptions Due** (see pg. 8 - form pg. 11)
- April 14, 2021 — **Discounted Early Registration Deadline** for LWML Convention (see pg. 1)
- June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention** in Lexington, Kentucky

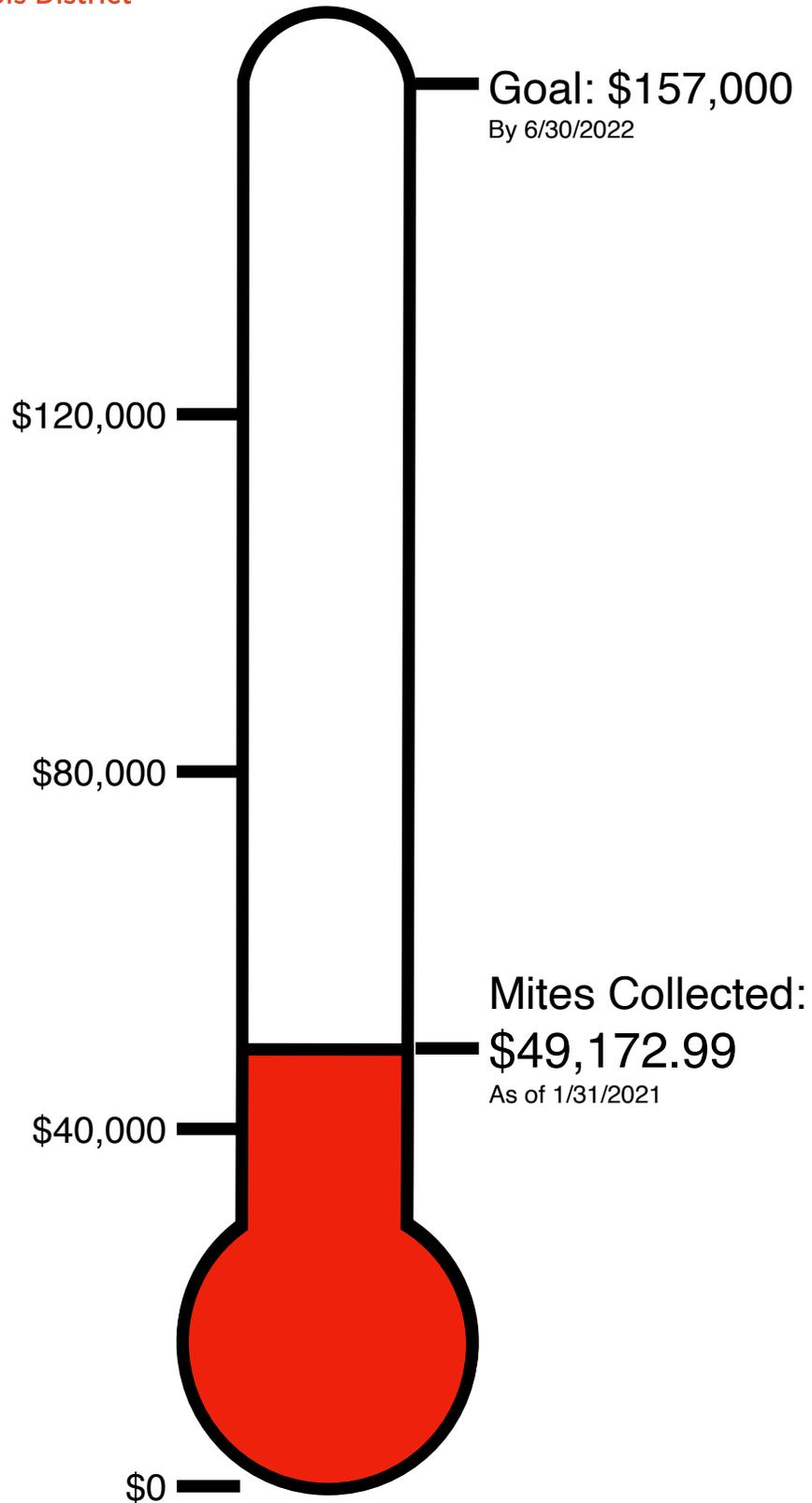
## Announcements

- Mask patterns available: <https://www.lwml.org/posts/mission-servants-activities/april-2020?month=4&year=2020>
- 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)



# 2020-22 Mite Goal Collection Update



Please make checks payable to: LWML NID

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

# 2021 - 2022 LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Use this form to order your 2021-2022 *Quarterly* subscriptions. Please enter the number of subscriptions you are requesting beginning with the Summer 2021 issue on the order form below.

**The form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked by Thursday, April 1, 2021, to be included as part of the order required by LWML in St. Louis for the 2021-2022 subscription year. Please keep a copy of form & check for your records.**

You can add subscriptions **after April 1, but you CAN ONLY DECREASE** the number currently received before April 1.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact LeeAnn Himley, [correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org) or call 847.280.0742

Your check payable to **LWML NID** must be included with the order form and mailed to:

LWML NID  
PO Box 958012  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169-8012

Please provide updated contact information

Cut and mail to address above

**Zone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Society Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Society Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**email** \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Number Subscriptions	Description	Cost of Each Subscription	Total
	10 or more Subscriptions	\$ 6.00	\$
	1 to 9 Subscriptions	\$ 7.50	\$
<b>Amount Enclosed</b>			<b>\$</b>