

NID-Bits

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

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Convention Registration Update

by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske



All information is up-to-date as of April 20, 2021.

Following is the latest information available regarding registration for the Lexington Convention. Kentucky pandemic regulations restrict dining facilities to 33% of normal capacity, which is why the registration is being held to 2000 people currently. Praise the Lord that at least 2000 will be allowed to attend!

State and local restrictions, due to COVID-19, currently have limited the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center in Lexington, Kentucky, where the LWML Convention will be held, to 2,000 participants. This restriction caused LWML to shut down convention registrations temporarily.

The LWML Board of Directors prayerfully anticipates that the percentage allowed will increase and suggests anyone interested in attending go to lwml.org to be placed on the waitlist. When/if capacity is increased LWML will supply a link to the registration form.

LWML President Debbie Larson asks that you continue to pray boldly, knowing God hears and answers prayers. She asks for your patience and understanding as we continue “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus.” President Debbie shares, “Lutheran Women in Mission know that this is God’s convention. While we will honor God by respecting and following all safety protocol, our focus will remain on Jesus. Whether our women attend in person or participate via live-stream in their homes or congregations, the joy of worshipping together, serving His people, and hearing stories from the mission field will glorify His name.”

Are You Heading to Lexington?

By Kris Blackwell



If you have not registered there may still be a way to attend the LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, on June 23-27, 2021. Please contact Jan Gerzevske **immediately**. I am still organizing a car pool like I did for the Peoria Convention! If you are going, please email me, Kris Blackwell, at kbwrk123@gmail.com. Please tell me who is the driver, who are the passengers, and which Zone you are in. Then let me know the hotel and the dates you are staying. If you are flying, you can send me that information too. That way when I get the district picture I will know who all should be in it!!!!

A Heart of Prayer



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

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

Luther supposedly said, “A mother’s heart is her children’s classroom.” I have always loved this quote regardless. There is truth to this quote on many levels and I think it is true regarding prayer.

A mother whose heart is filled with prayer is a mother who will teach her children (and husband) wisely. Jesus chose a woman for His parable; I honestly think that women are more inclined to pray than men. Our culture still tries to train men to rely on their own abilities and not to share their feelings. The reality also is that mothers bear more of the burden in child-raising than men. Studies have shown that still to this day, young mothers are much more sleep deprived than their spouses.

It is fitting that Jesus has a heroine in His parable regarding relentless prayer. As women of the LWML you are charged with a very awesome responsibility and privilege—encouraging and enabling the Gospel proclamation and propagation throughout the world! May your hearts be full with prayer in every task you undertake; the eyes and hearts of your congregations are watching and learning.

NID's Young Women Are Going Strong

By Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator



We have been to Jesus' empty tomb. What do we do now? Jesus gives us a clear answer. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Pastor Howell led the Young at Heart women in a Bible study — **We Are Commissioned!** The church is to carry out Christ's Great Commission to go into the world and make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Triune God and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded. This is only the beginning of the story because the church is to continue the work of Christ today. We go knowing that Jesus is with us to the end of the ages.



Pastor Howell Leads Bible Study



Meeting with the YWRs for Convention Q&A

Four Young Women from NID will be going to the LWML Convention in Lexington this summer. Hannah Russell, Ninette Ponsolle, Emelia Waugh, and Jamie Clausing will experience this disciple-growing time as Young Woman Representatives at the convention.

Emelia would like to interact with other women who have a heart for service. Hannah specifically would love to make connections with other Young Women in the LWML to see how we can better support one another and mentor those even younger than us. Ninette wants to be a Young Woman Representative because it is her generation who is going to continue the work of the LWML. Jamie loves making connections with other people and serving as a YWR will be a great place to do that. Let's all support these young women with our prayers!

Look for the LWML Prayer Service that will be held via Zoom. The 2021 LWML Prayer Service theme is **He Prayed with Them!** It is authored by The Rev. Robert L. Mundahl, Emeritus LWML Pastoral Counselor 2015-2019. When was the last time you prayed with someone? Not **for** someone, but **with** someone? We are encouraged in Scripture to be people of prayer and prayer marks us as children of the heavenly Father.



NID Grant Highlight



Diana Maanum

LWML NID

Vice President of
Gospel Outreach

Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center Food Pantry **\$18,000**

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:35-40

Through providing food and care for the community around them, The Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center, a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, serves their community with love, joy, and compassion. The Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center was inaugurated in 2008 to serve the community's needs and serve as a bridge for gospel outreach. The Center continues to serve approximately 300 individuals monthly through its weekly food pantry, clothing bank, and several outreach events organized throughout the year. Over the past ten years, it has remained faithful to the mission of fighting hunger. This mission impacts hundreds of families yearly by helping to close the gap between the community's need for donated food and the amount of food available through collaborative efforts.

Update: Through your mites LWML NID has been able to pay \$8,774.31 towards their \$18,000 grant. We have helped provide for: Food Pantry Turkey Drive, basic food pantry needs, boiler repair, along with electrical, painting, and roofing needs to keep the food pantry serving the Lord with gladness.



NID-Bits Book Club — *The Story People*

By Miss Paige Turner

This commentary may contain Spoilers for the featured book.

The Story People by Heather Kaufman (Concordia, 2016)

Stories connect us. True stories and fiction. Heavy tales and light-hearted romps. Ones we hear once and those to which we return time and again. Why is this? How does a book, or a story shared with friends, survive time and distance? Might it be that we are stories?

In chapter three Rosemary says, “Everyone, famous or not, is telling a story with their lives.” She’s right. Our stories may never be written down by human hands, but they are observed by human eyes. What do people see? Yes, they are bound to see a few mishaps, a few stumbles along the way to our happy ending, but do they also see the truth of God’s story reflected in ours? Do they see in us people who know that our stories here have a sequel in heaven? Do they see people who know that the Author of Life walks beside us every step of the way there? So often we try to get our ducks in a row, thinking that the only way to point to Perfection is to be perfect ourselves, but perhaps knowing—and showing—perfect peace is a better aim. And as Pastor Andrews rightly said in chapter sixteen, “Peace is never to be found in circumstances and always to be found in Christ.” So even if your future is around a blind corner, your relationships are in flux, and there’s a strange fungus in your bookstore, you can still show God to be the everlasting theme of your story.

Crazy things can happen when your story intersects with another’s. A few brief childhood meetings taught a girl what friendship could really be. Neighbors united by the love of a bookstore discovered love of another kind. Three ladies who set out to prevent the loss of a beloved town institution helped its proprietor realize his place in the world. Maybe the stories we join each day don’t often change so drastically, but even the briefest of moments can make a lasting impact when we reflect God’s love with our lives.

So, were the Story People to bite into the story of your life, would the most notable flavor be the extraordinary taste of God’s peace, love, guidance, and authorship?

Thank you for joining the NID-Bits Book Club! I hope that you (and your book buddies) enjoyed *The Story People* 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...

The Ebb Tide by Beverly Lewis (Bethany House, 2017)

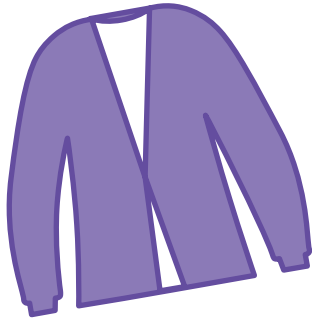
Sally Reihl dreams of faraway lands. Unfortunately, world travel isn’t part of life for baptized Amish. Will one summer on the New Jersey coast be enough to satisfy her wanderlust, or will it—and the people she meets—only draw her heart further away from Pennsylvania?

Will you read with us?



Convention-al Wisdom

Are you preparing for the convention? Last quarter, we asked the ladies who have attended previous conventions to share their tips on how to make the most of your time in Lexington. Here is their Convention-al Wisdom:



Pres. Jan

My advice for a first time attendee to convention is bring a jacket or sweater for the convention floor because it is always cold.

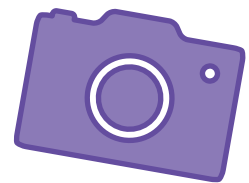
Sherrie

LWML women are very warm hearted, but the convention centers tend to be chilly. Pack a sweater to wear during the sessions. Or check out the LWML store to purchase a sweatshirt or cardigan to keep you warm. Leave room in your suitcase to take home treasures from the convention. It is certain that you will go home with a strengthened faith and excitement to share Jesus with others.

Kris

I can still remember my first time at a national convention 1989 in Rapid City South Dakota. I barely knew ANYONE in district at that time. There were no Young Woman Reps, but I was 31 and a full time mother of 2 kids—the youngest was only 2 when I left them at home with my mother-in-law! Some of the women I roomed with are still part of my life 32 years later.

1. Sign up for EVERYTHING, especially eating meals together. Sit by anyone. I met people from all over the world!
2. Clothes to pack — lots of purple, a sweater that can be jammed into your day bag because it is very cold in the building and so hot outside, comfortable walking shoes because from one activity to another could be a 10 minute walk INSIDE the convention center.
3. Note-taking tools — the convention manual usually has a section to take notes and there also is a pad, but you may be the kind that does it better with an electronic device. But the info you get is so worth keeping. The Bible study takes on a whole new level when done with thousands of women by a nationally known Bible teacher.
4. Bring address labels! In the vendor section, the info booths of all the RSO's and other kinds of organizations will want to capture your info for drawings or you may want to follow something up with a new interest. They will probably want your cell phone number, too. You can trust that most of these organizations will send you newsletters, ask for donations, but probably will not sell your information to a third party (unlike other vendor fairs)
5. Take pictures so you can share with other ladies back home your experience.
6. Water bottle to refill in your room or a case of water to bring because of COVID they might not have the watering stations they have always had in the past. A hot beverage container to make something in your room and bring it to the convention floor. Concession stands can be expensive.
7. Be ready for the best adventure in your life with LWML!!!



We hope this helps you get ready—and excited—for your trip! Of course, the best part of any LWML get-together is praising God with our fellow Lutheran ladies, so relax and enjoy the fellowship, too.

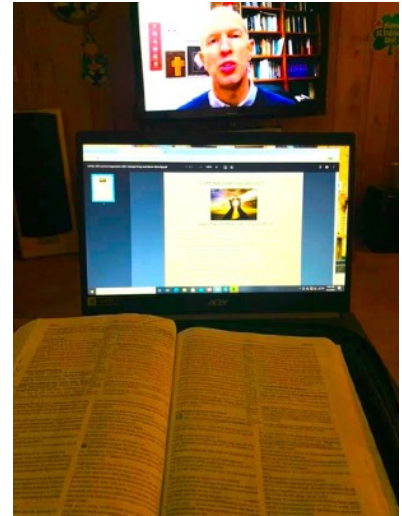
Thank you to our contributors for sharing your wisdom!

You Can Still Be Inspired by Lenten Inspiration



By Kirsten Smith, LWML NID VP of Christian Life

"We can pray and never give up because Jesus never gives up on us!" Those are the inspiring words of the Lenten Inspiration, where many people from all over the country gathered together to be in the Word through a video. We heard an encouraging devotion from Pastor Ben Roberts from St. John in LaGrange, watched dancers from the St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran School Hills & Mountains Praise Team in Chicago, and learned how Phil from Phil's friends has relied on prayer. But don't worry if you missed it, you can still watch it on the LWML NID YouTube page!



Bible Study with Pastor Roberts



Phil Zielke

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful event! Thank you to Pastor Roberts, who was so eager to do a devotion for us! Thank you to the praise dancers—that was such an inspiring dance! Thank you to Phil Zielke from Phil's Friends—we all need to be reminded how powerful prayer is! Thank you to Wendy Johnson who got the video loaded on to YouTube; I would have been so lost without you! And lastly thank you to my mother, Sherrie Smith, who helped me go through so many ideas! You all made it such a successful 1st ever virtual Lenten Inspiration!



Click [here](#) to watch the YouTube video, or search "LWML NID Lenten Inspiration 2021" on YouTube.

NEW Mission Statement for LWML

In January the LWML Board of Directors adopted a new Mission Statement which was “premiered” at the Presidents Assembly in the end of January. It reads as follows:

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

Looking to the Future —

LWML 2023 Milwaukee Convention

Greetings from your 2023 Host Committee Chairman! It has been exciting to see Volunteer Applications coming in my mailbox and my email inbox as well. This whole thing became a little more real for me in early March. I got to go to Lexington, KY to meet with the current Host Committee. I had been on a few Zoom calls with the committee, just to observe and connect with the members of the committee. It was so great to be in Lexington, meet the men and women serving for the Host Committee for Lexington, and tour the convention center in downtown Lexington. The current committee has had to deal with many situations due to COVID, and they are a wonderful group of volunteers.



One of the issues that this committee has had to deal with is that Lexington itself only has 2 Lutheran churches and neither of them have an active LWML. That has been a real challenge for some of the committees that would really benefit having a local volunteer working with them. While we were there, meeting at one of these churches, 4 women stepped up and came to meet with the committee letting them know they will do all they can to recruit some local volunteers. God is so good! This shouldn't be a problem for us because in a recent search on the LCMS website, I put in the city Milwaukee and 27 churches came up!

I'm still in need of many committee chairman. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or want more information. All of the positions are on your district website — <https://lwmlnid.org/2023-lwml-convention-in-milwaukee-wi/>

My next newsletter article will include positions still needing to be filled. Ideally, I would like to have all positions filled by August 15, 2021. Our first meeting of the Host Committee will be in November 2021. I look forward to serving with you over the next 2 years.

Serve the Lord with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Serving Him,
Anne Hartman
annelwml@gmail.com
715-450-0681

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	(\$8,774.31 paid to date)
• Phil's Friends — Christian cancer care packages	\$10,000	(\$9,070.78 paid to date)
• 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 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

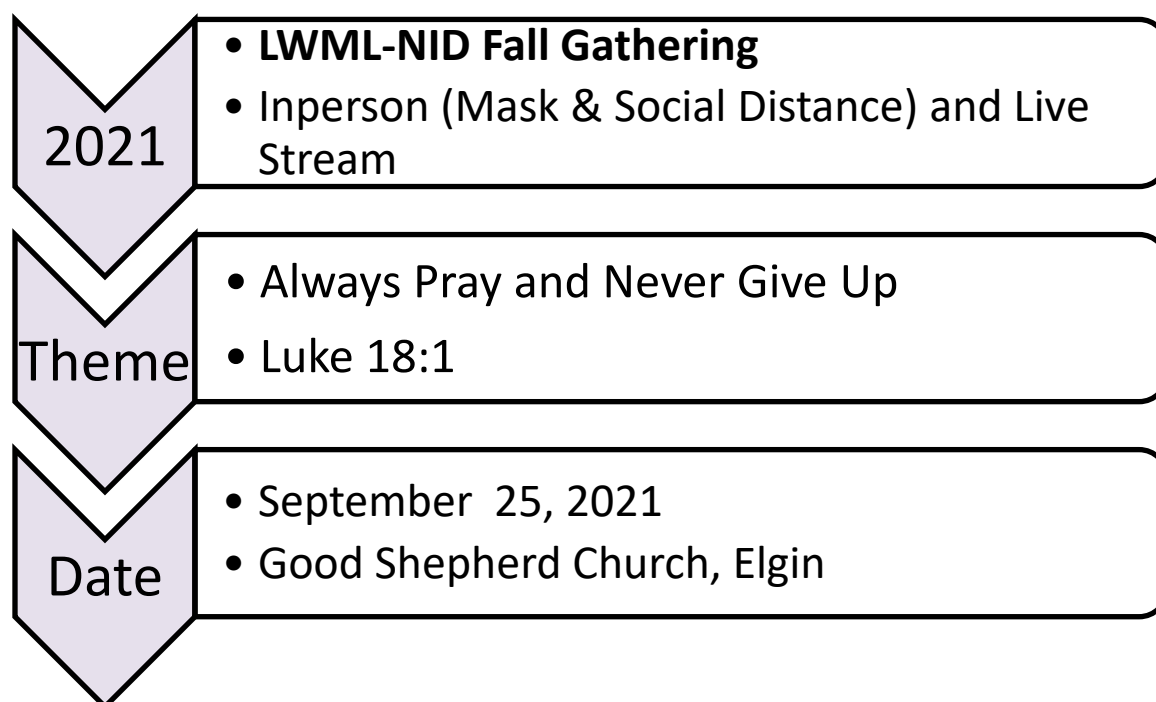
- June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention** in Lexington, Kentucky
- September 25, 2021 — LWML NID **Fall Gathering** (see flyer pg. 10)

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 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 website.
 - Facebook: LWMLNID — 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

Save the Date Save the Date Save the Date



Keynote Speaker: Sheryl DeWitt

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries is helping LCMS NID establish a Christ-centered maternity home offering love, hope, and a future to single pregnant women in crisis. Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director, will share the vision, progress, and needs for the new home. Bible Study will be led by Rev DeWitt.

Because of social distancing limitations pre-registration will be required. Check in will begin at 8:30 am.

Good Shepherd Church
195 Nesler Road
Elgin, IL 60124



Save the Date Save the Date Save the Date



2020-22 Mite Goal Collection Update



Please make checks payable to: LWML NID

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