

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 2
2023 National Convention p 3
Young Women p 4
Grant Highlight p 5
LWML NID Convention p 6
Share Your Stories p 7
Calling Young Women p 7
NID-Bits Book Club p 8
80-for-80 Events p 9
Lenten Inspiration Recap p 9
Nominating Committee p 10
2020-22 NID Grants p 11
Mission Stamps Address p 11
Calendar & Announcements p 11
NID Convention Form p 12
NID Mites Thermometer p 13
OSOT-America Thanks You p 14



NID Convention Information

pp. 6-7

What's Your 80?

p. 9



He Is Risen!

by LWML NID President Janice Gerzevske

As we celebrate Easter, we think of new life and new beginnings. Resurrection is defined by Webster as the act of rising from the dead or returning to life. It is also defined as the act of bringing back to practice, notice, or use: revival. During the pandemic, most of our groups didn't continue to meet. Now as we are emerging from our two years of isolation, some of our ladies no longer have a group. What can you or I as an LWML supporter do?

We can look to the primary focus of the LWML for the 2021-2023 biennium for ideas:

Proclaiming Christ. Inspiring women to be in the Word by attending Bible class, witnessing to others, and sharing Christ through our life are ways we can carry out this focus.

Supporting missions. Support for missions includes praying for missions and missionaries, promoting mission awareness in our local congregations, supporting mission grants with our Mites, and providing opportunities to connect with missionaries who have returned from the mission field.

Equipping women. Engaging and involving woman in our congregations has been a challenge during the pandemic, but recognizing their God-given gifts is part of equipping others. To develop mission-minded women in our local congregations, guidance and support is essential.

Serving others. Valuing all acts of service, remembering church workers in their ministry, encouraging involvement in outreach through opportunities for women to serve their Lord, or undertaking various servant activity ideas in your local congregation are all ways to serve others.

Pray and seek our Lord's guidance for the women of your congregation, your zone, and our district. Remember Christ had to die before He could rise again. Sometimes we too have to begin anew by seeking out fellow members who are as interested in serving others.

You Are an Overcomer!

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

God speaks and He creates. When Jesus says, "*may have peace*," He does not mean, "*maybe you will, maybe you won't*." No, Jesus means, "*I am speaking and through My words, you may have something which you did not have before*." Jesus died that we may live. Jesus gives us the ministry of reconciliation that we may share the Good News. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit that we may have wisdom. We may have good things because all good things are from God. You may have His peace because He said so. And His word is good.

There is simply no getting over it. There is a lot of bad stuff that happens in this world. We live in a fallen creation. We suffer, our friends suffer, and people around the world suffer. This was never part of God's plan. This is the result of the Fall in the garden of Eden. Our tribulations will happen. Unlike a prosperity preacher, Jesus makes this crystal clear.

But the cross isn't the end of the story. The empty tomb isn't even the end of the story. There are the 40 days of Jesus allowing anyone and everyone to see for themselves that He rose from the dead. There is Pentecost and the sending of the Church into the world with Word and Sacrament ministry.

And Jesus expects us to be "*in the world*." Not hidden in a monastery. Not hiding our faith in the workplace. You are to be in the world. A dark night only allows the light to be seen even more clearly. Stop listening to Chicken Little Christians who would have you fearful about being a public witness.

Our hearts need cleansing regularly. This is why we start every worship service with a time to confess our sins and shortcomings to God (and I also kneel along with the congregation during Confession). But more importantly, there is the time which follows our confession; when we hear God's words of forgiveness. God, Who gives us a new heart, renews our heart in Absolution and in Communion. Daily we remember our Baptism. We "take heart" because He has given us this new heart.

If you were baptized in Christ, you were buried with Christ; so that just as He was raised from the dead, you also will be raised from the dead. You are an overcomer.

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. (1 Corinthians 2:12)

[You are] like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. (Psalm 1:3)

I close with these words from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Stick close to Jesus, He leads the way."

A Message from the National Host Committee

By Anne Hartman, Chairman of the Host Committee for the Milwaukee Convention

This is a busy time of year. Spring sports have started for high school and graduation is around the corner. Spring Rallies are happening in our districts. Confirmations are happening for our middle school kiddos. And it's also Holy Week! On top of all these activities, the North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and South Wisconsin LWML Districts are busy planning the 2023 LWML Convention that will take place in Milwaukee.

Our Host Committee is almost complete. We have a few spots to fill so please connect with your district president if you have an interest in serving with us. Your district website is also the host site for all 2023 Convention information. You can find the Call for Workers form there. You can either fill it out online or download and print it to send in the mail. There are so many different ways you can volunteer at the actual event.

The Board of Directors and the Convention Management Team will be meeting in Milwaukee in May to tour the convention center and different hotels. Please keep them in prayer as final plans are being made for the 40th Convention. Also remember to think about your 80—we will be celebrating 80 years of LWML and are asking you to think about how your local society can celebrate 80!

Please keep the Host Committee in prayer as we continue our planning. We look forward to an incredible event in 2023.



Our Young Women Are Leaders

By Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator



LWML NID is very blessed to have several young women serving in leadership positions. The young women bring enthusiasm and joy to our leadership team. They have new ideas and are eager to step out of the box. We thank God for their leadership.

Diana Maanum serves as the Vice President of Gospel Outreach. She has the wonderful opportunity to be in direct contact with the grant recipients. Hannah Russell serves as the Vice President of Special Focus Ministries. She is working toward involving teens in LWML. Kirsten Smith serves as the Vice President of Christian Life. Her latest event was the Lenten Inspiration. Ekaterina Grassmick serves as the Publications Editor. She edits the NID-Bits that you are currently reading and manages the NID-Bits Book Club. As of this writing, two young women from NID have stepped up to serve on the 2023 Milwaukee LWML Convention Host Committee.

There are so many opportunities for young women to be involved. The young women are a blessing as LWML NID leaders, and the young women are blessed by their service. If you are a young woman, is God calling you into leadership? If you are mentoring a young woman or friends with a young woman, is this the time for you to encourage her to step up to a leadership role? To serve on the district leadership team, contact nominatingcommchair@LWMLNID.org. To serve on the Milwaukee Convention Host Committee, contact sherrie.lwmlconvention@gmail.com.

The time is now for young women to lead. The time is now for experienced women to encourage the young women to lead – and continue to support those women as they take leadership positions. The time is now for us all to work together to serve the Lord with gladness as leaders in LWML NID!



LWML NID Lenten Inspiration 2021 Always Pray & Never Give Up



NID Grant Highlight



Diana Maanum
LWML NID
Vice President of
Gospel Outreach

Salam Christian Fellowship

\$1,150

The ongoing missionary project of Salam Christian Fellowship, based at Peace Lutheran Church, Lombard, is to spread the Gospel among Middle Eastern and North African Muslims by bringing people together from different tribal and cultural backgrounds. This involves creating new relationships and confidence. Relationships, or “community,” are an essential part of Middle Eastern cultures. These people come from a world where people tend to associate with specific family or tribal units that visit daily – having coffee and fellowship with each other. Salam's goal is to move Salam attendees from individual tribes to the one new tribe, the tribe of Jesus Christ.



LWML NID Convention 2022

By Marilyn Hess, Convention Co-Chair

Let's take a look forward to the 76th LWML NID District Convention (September 23-24, 2022). The registration form—packed with all the details you need—is included on page 12. It is exciting that LWML has been alive and well here in NID for 85 years and worth celebrating! Here are some highlights:

Servant Event (Friday 1-3 p.m.): Messages for Missionaries will include activities to promote participants to share fellowship while preparing encouraging messages for our LCMS Missionaries. Thanks to Marilyn Eaves and her committee for planning the event.

Friday afternoon, Deb Burma will lead Bible Study from 3-4 p.m. following the Servant Event. Deb will also lead Bible Study on Saturday and be the featured speaker. (See next page.)

Friday evening, following dinner on your own, there will be a **Worship Service** from 7-8:30 p.m. There is no cost for Friday activities; however, registration is required to provide appropriate materials.

President Debbie Larson will travel to NID and share news from National LWML.

Historical Interrupter, Kris Blackwell, will share some interesting facts and stories from the 85 years of LWML NID Archives. (See next page.)

Gifts from the Heart: See below. Stamps, glasses, and eyeglass cases are welcome.

The **LWML Store** will also be open for shopping on both Friday afternoon and Saturday.

LWML favorite Lana Gibbons will provide music on Friday and Saturday, and there will be opportunity for in-person fellowship, singing, visiting vendors' displays, mission speakers, and voting for officers and choosing District Mission Grants.

Please note the discounted registration fee of \$99 when completed by July 23. If you wish to spend the night at the hotel, use the **code: LWM** to take advantage of the substantial discount.

Register today! The registration form is on page 12.

Gifts from the Heart

Family in Faith Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Glendale Heights is committed to serving those in need in their community. Please help support this worthy cause by bringing food which is shelf-stable (not frozen or refrigerated). Since 2005, Family In Faith has given away 100,000 pounds of food each year to more than 2,000 different families.

Your Gifts from the Heart donations can be brought to the Convention either on Friday afternoon, September 23, or Saturday morning, September 24. Please remember that the items will need to be transported and should not be fragile.



Bible Study with Deb Burma

With infectious warmth and wit, Deb Burma speaks with authenticity and passion. Faithful to God's Word, she shares His extravagant grace in Christ as she touches the hearts of women, meeting them in the moments of their everyday lives.

Deb has spoken at National and District LWML Conventions and she has led numerous workshops. She is a sought-after speaker for women's retreats and ministry events. Author of bestsellers, **JOY: A Study of Philippians**, and **Living a Chocolate Life**, Deb has penned an assortment of Christian-living books, Bible studies, and devotionals. (Visit Deb at her website, *Extravagant Grace*: www.debburma.com) Her books will be available for purchase at the convention.

Friday afternoon, September 23 Deb will lead Bible Study from 3-4 p.m. following the Servant Event. On Saturday, September 24 Deb will lead Bible Study and be the featured speaker at the 76th LWML NID Convention.



Deb Burma
Author and Speaker

Share Your Stories!

By Kris Blackwell, LWML NID Archivist-Historian and Convention Co-Chair

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

Calling All Young Women!

By Sherrie Smith, Young Women's Coordinator

Would you like to get to know some other young women who love Jesus and sharing His love with others? Serving as a Young Woman Representative to the LWML NID District Convention on September 23 and 24 is just the thing for you. The young women will usher at the opening worship service and help with the ingathering. There will be a Pizza Party after the worship service. On Saturday the Young Women will sit together and play Bingo using LWML words and mite coins. What a wonderful opportunity to be in the Word, worship together, and hear about what our mites accomplish! If you know a young woman who would love this, encourage her to go. This is an opportunity the young women will not want to miss!

NID-Bits Book Club — *The Centurion's Wife*

By Miss Paige Turner

This commentary contains Spoilers for the featured book.

The Centurion's Wife by Davis Bunn and Janette Oke
(Bethany House, 2009)



What might the days following Christ's resurrection been like for those who did not believe? I enjoyed following along as Leah and Alban each sought an explanation for the extraordinary claims circulating in Jerusalem and beyond. With the benefit of Scripture-based hindsight and the guiding of the Holy Spirit, it is so easy to see that Jesus's resurrection was the inevitable outcome after His crucifixion, but it's great to be reminded that at the time, even His followers wondered what was to come (despite Him having told them previously).

I love that the authors made Alban the centurion from Luke 7 (Jesus heals a centurion's servant). Now, I know this is merely a novel, but I think it's interesting to consider how this relatively minor biblical figure might have reacted to Jesus's death and resurrection. I also like their exploration of the possible reaction of Pilate's wife, here named Procula. Might the real woman have pursued answers so desperately?

Though the main characters had different longings, both find all that they need in their newfound faith. Alban's old dreams of advancement in society are superseded by his acknowledgement that Jesus deserves his allegiance. (Side note: I am so glad that the authors spoke of Alban's faith in soldiering terms!) In giving his allegiance to God, Alban finally finds the belonging he has always sought.

Leah's journey from distrust and fear to faith and hope was written well. Given her family's past, she had every reason to fear life in an arranged marriage. The calm peace Leah sees in the believers holds an obvious appeal to one so beset by internal strife. The change in Leah's outlook when she becomes a Christian was a beautiful thing to see. Fear of the future, even when based in past experience, pales into non-existence when faced with the hope we have in Christ.

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

A Fool and His Monet by Sandra Orchard (Revell, 2016)

This amusing mystery follows Serena Jones, a young agent on the FBI Art Crime Team. When a pair of paintings vanish from the local art museum—on her friend Zoe's watch, no less—Serena springs into action.

Will you read with us?

80-for-80 Events

In thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission.



Share your group's event in NID-Bits. Send a write-up to publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org

St. Matthew, Lemont (submitted by Sandy G. and Gail R.)

On January 24, the LWML ladies of St. Matthew, Lemont, donated 110 fuzzy socks, which they sent to Phil's Friends in Crown Point, IN. These socks, along with other items, will be added to their care packages that are sent cancer patients throughout the United States!

Lenten Inspiration Collects 10 Times 80! (submitted by Barb B.)

The women of the LWML NID Rock!!! At our Lenten Inspiration, on March 19th at Cross, Yorkville, we collected 852 pounds of non-perishable donations and a monetary gift of \$100 to benefit Operation Support Our Troops—America. Donations were so plentiful that it took four cars to deliver everything! A big thank you to all the women who supported those deployed serving our country.



Lenten Inspiration Recap

On the morning of March 19, ladies from across the NID gathered online and at Cross Lutheran Church (Yorkville) for our annual Lenten Inspiration. Interspersed with singing, a series of Bible readings, each with a devotion, took us through the Gospel of Luke's account of our Lord's passion. We were also treated to a presentation by Rev. James Buckman, one of our district Pastoral Counsellors, about his service as a chaplain. Rev. Buckman, who is currently a Lt. Col. in the IL Air National Guard, spoke about his time in the Middle East and Antarctica, as well as the story of how he came to be a chaplain in the first place. Our service project was making cards, which will be included in care packages sent to military service members by Operation Support Our Troops-America. The ingathering collected supplies for these care packages. Thank you to everyone who made this wonderful gathering possible, especially to Kirsten Smith (VP of Christian Life) for organizing it!

It's Not Too Late to Run for Office!

By Teena Dorn, Retiring LWML NID Nominating Committee Chair

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 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. The "LWML NID Presidents Interview" is on the LWML NID website and LWML NID social media. ([Click here to watch on YouTube.](#)) 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)
- **Financial 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 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 and select "LWML NID Nominating Form" in the menu to fill out the form for a nomination to a life-changing position with the LWML NID.

Contact Gayle Thanepohn (Incoming Chair — West) for more information on a position in which you are interested: nominatingcommchair@LWMLNID.org, or contact someone you know on the Team:

Teena Dorn (South)

Judy Poellet (East)

Gayle Thanepohn (Incoming Chair — 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	(\$15,000 — paid in full)
• Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center Food Pantry	\$18,000	(\$15,159.88 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	(\$14,674.03 paid to date)
• Lutheran Books for Buddhist Southeast Asia	\$15,000	(\$15,000 — paid in full)
• Salam Christian Fellowship	\$ 1,150	(\$ 1,150 — paid in full)

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

- July 23, 2022 — **Early Registration Deadline** for the LWML NID Convention
- September 23-24, 2022 — LWML NID **District Convention** (see pp. 6-7 and 12)
- June 22-25, 2023 — LWML **National Convention** in Milwaukee, WI (see p. 3)
- June 26-29, 2025 — LWML **National Convention** in Omaha, NE

Announcements

- 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



September 23 & 24 2022

Holiday Inn & Suites

150 S Gary Ave Carol Stream 60188



76th LWML NID Convention

Celebrating 85 Years of Mission Work

Friday Sept 23

1-3 Servant Event Messages for Missionaries

3-4 Bible Study led by Deb Burma

Supper on your own

7-8:30 Worship

Saturday Sept 24

8AM Registration and Exhibits

9-3:30 Convention includes lunch



Keynote Speaker: Deb Burma

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Church _____ City _____ Zone _____

I am registering as (circle all that apply)

Delegate Alternate Zone President Voting EC

Non-voting EC LWML Past President LWML Member

Pastor First Timer Young Woman Representative Guest

I will be attending (circle all that apply) Friday afternoon

Friday evening Saturday

Saturday Lunch Special diet _____ Gluten Free _____ Vegetarian

Registration Fees/Deadlines:

\$99 by July 23 and \$125 July 24-Sept 1

NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1

CHECK # _____ Amount \$ _____

Book your hotel by 9/2/22! Special rate of \$109.00 per night plus tax

WHEN you use the code: LWM

Book online at

www.holidayinn.com/chi-carol

Or call: 630-665-3000 and say

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

By using the code, you will help reduce the cost of housing for our guests.

Register online at LWMLNID.org or

Mail form and check payable to LWMLNID

LWML NID Convention Registration

PO Box 958012 Hoffman Estates IL 60169

Questions: Correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org

Kris Blackwell 630-234-1491 Convention Co-chair



2020-22 Mite Goal Collection Update

Well Done!

March 2022 Goal: \$137,375

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

Mites Collected:
\$144,810.50
As of 3/31/2022

\$80,000

\$40,000

\$0

Please Note:

Mites Collected no longer includes the carryover with which we started the biennium.



March 30, 2022

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
c/o Barb Belanski

Dear Supporters,

Thank you for your donation of 852 pounds of food and personal items be sent to the troops. Through our Comfort and Care package program Operation Support Our Troops-America (OSOT-America) ships to service members deployed in harm's way. These boxes are filled with snacks, food, letters of support and encouragement, and personal items. With an average weight of 25-30 pounds per box there's plenty to share! During the COVID-19 pandemic we are shipping less, but will catch up as things normalize. Your donation helps OSOT-America continue this morale-boosting mission!

OSOT-America has shipped over 2 million pounds to thousands of service members since we started in 2003. They are from all branches of the armed forces and from every state. This is all possible through the incredible generosity of donors like you!

You can learn about our other programs and explore more ways to support OSOT-America's efforts at OSOTAmerica.org. OSOT-America is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax deductible! No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution. *Please keep this donation receipt for your tax records, tax ID 20-4275756.*

For assistance with future Comfort and Care package collections, please email collections@OSOTAmerica.org or call 630-971-1150.

On behalf of service members and the OSOT-America organization, Thank you!

Sincerely,

Linda Tuisl
Executive Director

Serving Veterans, Active-Duty Military, and Their Families Since 2003

Operation Support Our Troops-America, Inc. | 1807 S. Washington St. | Suite 110, #359 | Naperville, IL 60565
630-971-1150 | OSOTAMERICA.ORG