

## NID-Bits

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

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LOVE & HONOR ONE ANOTHER  
ROMANS 12:10

And Be Thankful  
p. 2

Winter Retreat  
pp. 4 and 12

## Love and Honor One Another

As we enter a new year, we embrace a new theme for LWML NID events. Our 2024 theme is "Love and Honor One Another" based on Romans 12:10. *Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* The goal will be to accept one another, pray for each other, share, and give to those in need. We will work with intention and joy!

Our theme for 2023 was "God of Hope" based on Romans 15:13. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.* Those who attended the 2023 activities found that faith is being sure of that for which we hope.





## And Be Thankful

By LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:15-17).*

We are approaching the national holiday of Thanksgiving Day. It was first celebrated by the Plymouth colonists from England and the Native American Wampanoag people celebrating the autumn harvest. In 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln declared it a national holiday. Recently it has become a day to gather together to eat and watch football. We may have forgotten about this holiday as we were caught up with Halloween and as we go right into Christmas preparations. I find it interesting that this holiday is at the end of the Christian year right before we start Advent season. Could it be that it occurs at this time of year so that we can reflect on the previous year and give thanks for all our blessings from God?

May I suggest you stop during the next few weeks and give thanks for all the blessings in your life. Here are some thoughts that came to mind that I am thankful for:

- Jesus our Savior's love and the sacrifice of his death for our sins
- Grace and mercy that God showers us each day we live on earth
- Our freedom to worship God
- Our health whether it's good or poor and the ability to serve God in any way we can
- Our safety especially in these days of turmoil both in locally and worldwide
- For shelter and that our bodily needs that are met
- Our family and friends that love and support us each day
- Our church leaders that guide us
- The beautiful nature that God created for us to enjoy and care for

Please join me in "A Prayer of Thanksgiving: Gracious Father, in Your providence, You have given me all that I am and all that I have. You satisfy me with good things. You protect me in danger and guard me amid temptation. Give me a content and grateful heart that acknowledges Your bountiful goodness to me and thanks You for Your countless blessings, none of which I deserve and all of which You have given in Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen." (taken from *Portals of Prayer* Oct.—Dec. 2023)

Blessings,  
Gayle Thanepohn  
LWML NID President

# Fall Gathering Recap

*By Marilyn Hess, LWML NID Convention Co-Chair*

On Friday, approximately 60 women enjoyed learning a new way of studying Scripture, which is actually a very old tradition called Lectio Divina, led by Dionne Lovestad-Jones of Visual Faith Ministry, our speaker for the Gathering. The theme passage was read several times and each time the women were given a chance to meditate for ten minutes using guided questions. Many hope to bring this method back to their societies to use as a Bible study/devotion. While many women loved this activity, everyone loved the extended fellowship time with the wonderful desserts provided by the ladies of Trinity Lombard (host congregation) and Zone 6 societies!



On Saturday, close to 90 women gathered to hear the presentation about Visual Faith Ministry and learn various ways to send encouraging notes, including a "secret code," faith mail, and using manila tags in many ways. Visual Faith Ministry also showed how to use the items in their journaling kit which included sermon notes, beautiful stickers, and other items centered around our theme verse. These items are available at [VisualFaithMin.org/lwml](http://VisualFaithMin.org/lwml)! Should any society like to do more of this kind of visual Bible and prayer activity and need help doing it, please contact Kris Blackwell at [archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org](mailto:archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org) or (630) 234-1491.

## Thank You!

Gifts from the Heart, which were generously supplied by the ladies from various churches in NID, were designated to support Deaconess Lori Wilbert in her new endeavor to assist newly released prisoners in the transitional journey from prison to life outside the wall. The items filled a huge van loaned by St. Paul, Matteson. It is a blessing to see this outpouring of love and mercy.

Andre, who works with Deaconess Wilbert, thanked LWML in a video he took when they received the van full of donations. He said, "The Lutheran Women's Missionary League donated returning citizens a bunch of stuff, and St. Paul allowed us to use the van again to transport it... Thank you very much. And here's the donations. Absolutely amazing. Front and back. Absolutely amazing! We thank you all very, very much. This is going to go a long way. Thank you very much!"



Dionne teaches the Lectio Divina method of study on Friday evening.



## Fall Gathering Photos



Dionne teaches



Scripture journaling samples



Sherrie S. leads singing



Thank you for hosting us, Trinity Lombard!

*Right: Deaconess Wilbert receives our Gifts from the Heart.*



## Upcoming LWML NID Events

### Young Women and Young-Women-at-Heart Winter Retreat

Join us at Walcamp for a two-night Women's Retreat to refresh and rejoice in the Lord after the rush of the holidays has ended. We can arrive at Walcamp at 3 p.m. on Friday, January 19 and will start with a light supper at 6 p.m. We will wrap up on Sunday, January 21 at noon. You can also choose to only attend on Saturday. Our guest speaker will be Abby Goehring, who you may recognize as a Humorous Interrupter at the LWML Convention! Please register by Saturday, January 13 at [LWMLNID.org](http://LWMLNID.org) on the Events page. The registration cost is \$40 for the weekend or \$30 for Saturday.

### Lenten Inspiration

Join us on Saturday, March 2 for our annual Lenten gathering. It will be hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Belvidere. Pastor Kris Whitby will lead our Bible study.

### LWML NID District Convention

Our biennial convention will be on September 20 and 21 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. Our keynote speaker will be David Fiala, LCMS Mission Advocate.

# NID Mission Grant Highlight

## Voice of Care

**\$10,000**

Voice of Care, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, will provide a district-wide high-level Respite and Companion Care Training program for church workers and lay volunteers. Voice of Care will equip 175 individuals (at no out-of-pocket cost to participants) for providing much-needed qualified short term respite care to families and individuals within the church and the community at large, while showing and sharing the love of Jesus.

This Christ-centered, faith-based training includes resources and ongoing coaching from Voice of Care, with the goal of building a sustainable corps of trained and certified volunteer respite care companions poised to serve.

Find a printable poster about this mission grant on the LWML NID website's Grant Information and Resources page (or [click here](#)).

This past summer, Voice of Care hosted three Voice of CareFESTs. These free family-friendly celebrations featured a picnic lunch and inclusive games and activities, while promoting physical, emotional, and spiritual care for people with disabilities and their caregivers.



## Mission Grant Proposals Due January 15

LWML NID Mission Grant proposals for the 2024—2026 biennium are due on Monday, January 15. The following are the criteria for mission grants. To read the full guidelines for submitting a mission grant proposal, go to the LWML NID website's Grant Criteria page (or [click here](#)).

Lutheran Women's Missionary League [LWML] Mission Grants should:

- benefit a Lutheran organization affiliated with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod [LCMS]
- focus on extending the ministry of the Word
- be current and ready for implementation
- be well documented, include amount of funds requested, use of funds, and if requesting partial funding, list the amount and source of additional funds
- use no more than 20% of the grant for salaries
- fit into the plans and projections of the LCMS
- not be scholarships or short-term mission trips

Grant proposals are submitted to Nancy Bundley, Vice President of Gospel Outreach. To ask Nancy a question, please email [vpgospeloutreach@lwmlnid.org](mailto:vpgospeloutreach@lwmlnid.org) or call (773) 456-3790.

## 2022-2024 NID Mission Grants

The delegates to the 2022 LWML NID Convention voted to approve the proposed mite goal of \$160,000. \$98,000 will fund our district's grants. This goal, if met, along with a \$1,000 transfer from last biennium's surplus, will allow us to fully fund nine mission grants!

### **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis—Increasing Student Enrollment \$8,000**

Concordia Seminary asked for a mission grant to help them address The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) considerable pastor shortage that is jeopardizing faithful pastoral care to church members.

### **Northern Illinois District Life Task Force: Spreading the Gospel of Life \$9,000**

The grant will enable the Life Task Force to offer more, and affordable, opportunities within each region of the Northern Illinois District to educate many more people on Life Issues and empower them to take up the Christian cause for life in Illinois.

### **Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch \$4,000**

The gift from the Northern Illinois District will be used as part of a larger project to transform the Kruse Memorial Chapel, creating a more trauma-sensitive, child-friendly environment that engages at-risk children, facilitating growth in the Gospel and Christ-centered healing.

### **Lutheran Bible Translators \$15,000**

The majority of the Subula people of Cameroon are Muslims. The Subula people are eager for a revised version of the New Testament and for the Old Testament to be translated. Lutheran Bible Translators requested \$15,000 to translate fifteen chapters of Scripture to put God's Word in the hands of the Subula people.

### **Walcamp \$18,000**

Walcamp's pavilion is used by many of their programs, as well as many user groups. A few local congregations utilize this area for Vacation Bible School, while another uses the area for a large congregation camp out. They are planning on adding a serving kitchen to the structure.

### **MOST Ministries \$8,000**

MOST Ministries enables committed Christians to go on short-term missions and share God's love through both witness and acts of service. This grant will enable MOST Ministries to cover the cost of attending the Team Leader Training Orientation and one Team Leader Retreat for four Team Leader Trainees who begin their training in 2023 and 2024 (four Team Leader Trainees in each year).

### **Trinity Lutheran Church and School of Tinley Park \$10,668.90**

Trinity Lutheran School is remodeling a room to be a "maker space" with building and crafting material storage along the walls. They will purchase new technological learning materials, and open up the room so students can collaborate together and explore the world God created.

### **LINC Chicago \$16,340**

LINC's goal is to find leaders in Chicago neighborhoods with God-given dreams who want to impact their communities with the Gospel and to raise up the next generation of church planters, multi-ethnic leaders, and urban missionaries. Funding will enable them to continue to engage, equip, and empower current LINC leaders as well as leaders yet to be recruited.

### **Voice of Care \$10,000**

Voice of Care will provide a district-wide high-level Respite and Companion Care Training program for church workers and lay volunteers. They are poised to train 175 individuals to provide much-needed qualified short term respite care to families and individuals.



# LWML Sunday Celebrations

*Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle!*

*Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory!*

Psalm 24:7–10



## Trinity Lutheran Church, Herscher (Zone 18) (submitted by Connie T.)

Trinity Lutheran Church blessed 179 quilts on LWML Sunday! The quilts and 132 school bags were shipped to Lutheran World Relief on October 28.



## Trinity Lutheran Church, Tinley Park (Zone 16) (submitted by Jeanne G.)

The LWML ladies of Trinity joined their voices as a once-a-year choir for LWML Sunday. In addition to singing for two of Trinity's Sunday services, they gave each lady in the congregation a handmade ribbon-and-faux-Scrabble-tile ornament.



# Looking Back on a Group's Year

*Events submitted by Jan B.*

Over the past year, the ladies of Faith Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, have hosted many fun events. As you look toward 2024, we hope that these events inspire your group!

In January, Women of Faith met at the Lumberjaxe Axe Lounge in Libertyville. After developing their ax-throwing skills, they retired to a restaurant for a time of fellowship and refreshments.



In February, Women of Faith hosted a Galentine's evening in celebration of their sisterhood in Christ. The event included reflection on God's messages of love conveyed in His Word, refreshments, and fellowship. Following the celebration, women assisted the Caring Committee in creating handcrafted valentines and gift bags (including homemade cookies!) for Faith's Members-To-Visit (shut-ins).

The Women's Book Discussion at Faith is about more than just reading. Its gatherings find their basis in the fellowship of a sisterhood in Christ, where participants can openly share their views of recent reads. Sometimes it even incorporates a related movie!

Like all congregations, Faith has a number of women who feel called to serve, but have limited ability to be away from their homes. In response, Women's Ministry organizers have invited those ladies to join Faith's Mailbox Members service team. Team members are provided with all supplies and instructions needed to take home and complete service projects from the comfort of their own homes, as their individual schedules permit. In March, Faith's Mailbox Members crafted Easter baskets for their remote members.



In April, Women of Faith held an impromptu SHINE! Wine and Pizza event. Attendees enjoyed one another's company as they participated in Faith's servant activities that had been planned as a part of NID's district-wide SHINE! servant event. Over the week, volunteers tied quilts for Phil's Friends and Orphan Grain Train, decorated and filled Mother's Day gift bags for clients of Aid for Women of Northern Lake County in Gurnee, made dog toys for free distribution through Our House of Hope Pet Food Pantry in Grayslake, created witness bracelets used by MOST Ministries missionaries to introduce people around the world to Jesus, and prepared

Mother's Day gifts for Women of Faith.

Faith's Fireside Room served as the setting for the return of Women of Faith's Mother-Daughter Tea. Ladies and their friends, as well as mothers and daughters attended the Saturday afternoon affair. The event included a teacup devotion, many delectable goodies, fellowship, and of course...tea. It was a delightful afternoon for ladies of ALL ages.

All women attending services May 13 and 14 were presented with a Mother's Day gift in recognition of their service as mothers and mother-like figures.





## A Group's Year in Review (cont.)

On a Friday evening in June, Women of Faith and their guests gathered to partake in refreshments and fellowship as they prepared a Father's Day recognition for the men of Faith and gift bags for Faith's remote members. They also created a blanket for a Phil's Friends cancer care package. All men attending services June 17 and 18 were presented with a gift in recognition of their service as fathers and father-like figures to their Christian brothers and sisters.

In July, Women of Faith and their guests enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship as they met to play Bunco and exchange white elephant gifts. Hilarity ensued as one of their members emceed the event's gift give-and-take.



For the last year, Faith members Delin and Gerardo H. have been organizing a monthly Spanish Bible study and dinner for a growing number of Hispanic women from surrounding communities. Women of Faith have volunteered to prepare and set up dinner, supervise participants' children during the study, and acquire mementos for the women to take home as a reminder of the evening's message. PRAISE GOD for growing this ministry to Faith's neighbors.

## NID-Bits Book Club — *Last Summer at Eden*

By Miss Paige Turner \*The following contains Spoilers for the featured book.\*

### ***Last Summer at Eden***

by Christina Hergenrader (Concordia Publishing House, 2017)

I never went to summer camp, but *Last Summer at Eden* absolutely brought to mind memories of attending VBS due to the chapters being titled after songs!

Poppi starts the book in a rather unfortunate state of mind. She believes that "God is unreliable" (p. 48), that He didn't answer her prayers when Poppi needed Him most. Of course, Poppi's view changes by the end of the book. As her new friend Natalie says, "all these campfires and s'mores and worship songs and hiking and Bible studies and praying and laughing have [...] thawed you out" (p. 119). I think Natalie's comment makes an interesting point; worshipping when we don't feel like it can help us feel like worshipping. Sticking to the discipline of study and worship can help us through the tough times because we're reminded that God is there and that He loves us even when we feel alone.

Poppi's initial distrust of God's plan brought to mind Isaiah 55:8-9. *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.* Though Poppi couldn't see where things were heading, God could. He sent her to Camp Eden—not to college, like her original plan; not to Christ Camp, which would have been familiar; but to Eden Lutheran Camp, halfway across the country and exactly where she belonged.

Poppi and Eden needed each other. Poppi needed the comfort of camp and the immersion of daily devotions, and Eden needed someone to fight for its future even when it seemed hopeless. God's plan is always best, even when we can't see it.

In keeping with all of those camp songs, listen to "Glorious Unfolding" by Stephen Curtis Chapman. I think it fits *Last Summer at Eden* to a tee.



## NID Mites Address for 2022-2024

Please make **checks payable to: LWML NID**. Please write “Mites” on the memo line.  
Address for sending mites and memorials:

LWML NID  
PO Box 185  
Westmont, IL 60559

## Stamps for Missions Address

Did you know that cancelled postage stamps can earn money to support mites?  
Learn more at <https://lwmlnid.org/missions/stamps-for-missions/>

Please send or deliver cancelled postage stamps to:

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

## Calendar

- January 13, 2024 — **Winter Retreat Registration Deadline** (pp. 4, 12)
- January 15, 2024 — **LWML NID Mission Grant Proposal Submission Deadline** (p. 5)
- January 19-21, 2024 — **Young Women and Young-Women-at-Heart Winter Retreat** (pp. 4, 12)
- March 2, 2024 — **Lenten Inspiration** at Immanuel, Belvidere (p. 4)
- September 20-21, 2024 — **LWML NID District Convention** at Trinity, Tinley Park (pp. 4, 13)
- 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](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/>
  - X (formerly Twitter): LWML NID — <https://twitter.com/LWMLNID>
  - YouTube: LWML NID — <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChA9AnqU21h2no7Q7QMiazw>

## Submissions

Share your group's event in NID-Bits! Email an article and any accompanying photos to the LWML NID Publications Editor, at [publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org](mailto:publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org). Please send articles for the February—April 2024 issue by Friday, January 12.

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



Northern Illinois District

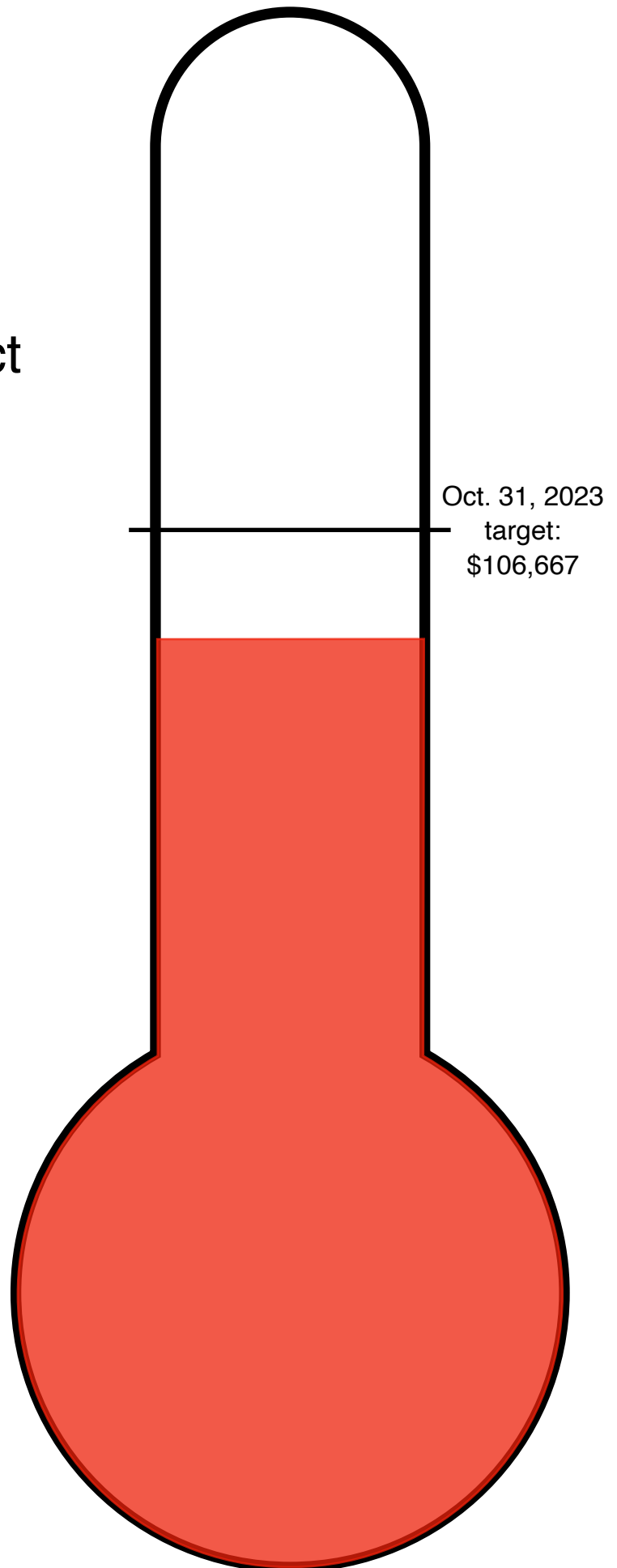
Mite Goal:

**\$160,000**

by June 30, 2024

Received through  
October 31, 2023:

**\$95,482**





# Save the Date



LOVE & HONOR ONE ANOTHER  
ROMANS 12:10

## Young Women & **YOUNG WOMEN AT HEART**

**Friday through Sunday  
January 19 to 21, 2024**

*at*



32653 E Five Points Rd  
Kingston, IL 60145

Featuring:

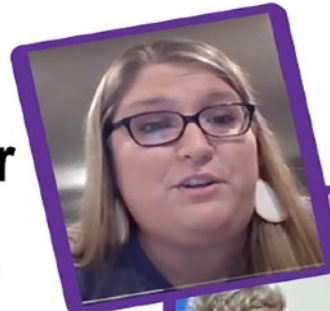
**Abby Goehring**  
as **Humorous Interrupter**  
*You know Abby as  
Jan Struck's counterpart!*



## *Retreat*

Cost: **\$40**  
*includes lodging,  
suppers,  
breakfasts  
& lunch)*

Saturday **ONLY**  
cost: **\$30**



Register on the Events page of [LWMLNID.org](http://LWMLNID.org) (or [click here](#)) by Saturday, January 13.



# 77th LWML NID CONVENTION

## September 20-21, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church  
6850 W 159th St, Tinley Park, IL 60477

**“My Dad’s a plumber.  
I’m just a piece of pipe. I connect things.”**

**David Fiala, Mission Advocate  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

LCMS missionary in Slovakia,  
the Czech Republic, Hungary & Poland

LCMS missionary recruiter

Bachelor of Arts - Theology, Lutheran Teaching Diploma,

DCE Certification – Concordia University Nebraska

Master of Arts - Theology – Concordia University Chicago

former member of Cross Lutheran Church/Yorkville

in the Northern Illinois District



**LOVE & HONOR ONE ANOTHER**

**ROMANS 12:10**

**David Fiala - Keynote Speaker**

**[lwmlnid.org](http://lwmlnid.org)**