

NID-Bits

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

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The Convention Is Fast Approaching!

By LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn



Blessings to all LWML Women in the Northern Illinois District! Can you feel it? There is spring in the air and excitement is heightening as we prepare for the 2023 Biennial LWML Convention in Milwaukee. So many women have stepped up to the challenge and are participating in the preparations for this huge event. I am so thankful to all of you that are participating in the various roles as Host Committee directors, committee members, and workers. We are all truly serving the Lord of the Nations! Some of you will be in attendance as delegates representing your zone. I am so grateful that we have so many of you that are willing to study the many mission grants proposals and candidates for the LWML officers to be elected at this convention. I ask all members to pray for these delegates as they prepare to vote. If you are a 'first-timer' to a national

convention, be prepared for a mountain-top experience. Those of us who have been to prior conventions know just how wonderful this experience can and will be. One important meeting for all who attend is the **NID Caucus Meeting**. It is on **Thursday, June 22 from 3:45-4:30 p.m. in Room 203D**. We will be welcoming NID Women in Mission; introducing our newest Young Woman Representative, Christa Petzold; sharing information; asking your questions; and most importantly, taking our NID photo of the entire group. This is for ALL NID members in attendance (both men and women). If you are not attending, please be praying for those in Milwaukee that week. Be sure to invite your zone delegate to share her convention report at an upcoming meeting.

As mentioned we have a new YWR, Christa Petzold. Be sure to read about her below.

I am so proud to be representing the Women in Mission of the Northern Illinois District at the 2023 Milwaukee Convention. I will be proudly carrying in the banner prepared by the ladies of Zone 18 for the worship service on Thursday evening and will be walking with YWR Christa as she carries the banner for the District Banner Procession in prior to the Second Meeting on Friday morning. I will also be one of the three District Presidents welcoming all in attendance to the 2023 Milwaukee Convention. I thank God for this opportunity.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (1 Peter 4:10).

I pray that all in attendance at the 2023 Biennial LWML Convention in Milwaukee are blessed by this gathering.

Please Welcome Our NID YWR!

By Jackie Genius, Young Women's Coordinator

Please welcome our new Young Woman Representative, Christa Petzold! She will be our new YWR to attend our National Convention in Milwaukee this year.

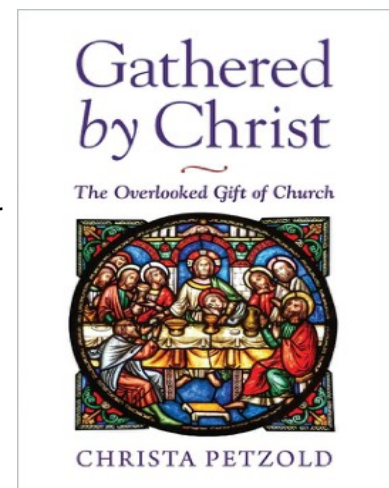
Christa is the wife of Pastor Jonathan Petzold, a mother of four, and an author. Her most recent book is titled *Gathered in Christ: The Overlooked Gift of Church*. She homeschools her children.

Christa has an MA in Theology from Concordia University Irvine in California.

I hope everyone prays for Christa in her new endeavor as a YWR. She is looking forward to meeting all of you!

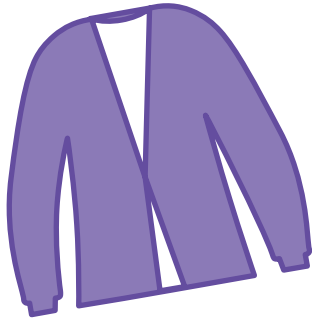


Pictured left to right:
Jackie Genius,
Young Women's Chair
Christa Petzold,
YWR and Author
Gayle Thanepohn,
LWML NID President



Convention-al Wisdom

Are you preparing for the convention? Is this your first time going to a national convention? Ahead of the 2021 convention in Lexington, we asked the ladies who have attended previous conventions to share their tips on how to make the most of your time. Here is their Convention-al Wisdom:



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.

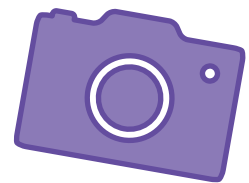
Sherrie

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 [34] 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!

LWML Teens Corner

By Hannah Schauer, LWML NID VP of Special Focus Ministries



Lwml YOUTH in mission

But YOU are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Our Objectives are to:

- Suggest ideas as to how to make YOUTH feel as though they are valued members of the body of Christ and the LWML.
- Connect YOUTH with the big picture of LWML and its mission.
- Equip mentors with resources to engage youth in opportunities for spiritual growth, mission, and service.
- Provide ideas for YOUTH in Mission activities that encompass multiple generations.

Serve and Share

BIG SERVING CHALLENGE! Plan a servant event in your church (or circuit) that brings women of all ages together! One suggestion is to make tie blankets for Phil's Friends, a nonprofit charity we support in the NID. Don't worry about covering any LWML business or having any presentations on LWML. Simply come together, serve, and enjoy time together! It is a great way to make others feel welcome and valued without making them feel any pressure to be involved in LWML, even though that might be our prayer. :)

Pray

Say this prayer as you consider how to serve alongside women of all ages and look to form friendships.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for all of the ladies of our church, young and old. Help me to connect with those that are in a different phase of life. Help me to make them feel loved, welcomed, and valued as a fellow woman in mission. AMEN.

Have a fun story or pictures to share after completing these challenges?
Email them to DCE Hannah Schauer at vpsfm@lwmlnid.org

NID-Bits Book Club: Next Book

By Miss Paige Turner

Our next book will be:

Last Summer at Eden

by Christina Hergenrader (Concordia Publishing House, 2017)

Young Poppi Savot loves summer camp. She's excited to lead her campers and counselors as Eden Lutheran Camp's new summer director. She needs a summer full of hikes and s'mores and songs about Jesus. But there's a problem: Eden has too few campers to fund itself, and its supporting churches are nearly ready to sell. This could be Eden's last summer. Can Poppi and her counselors prove to the association of churches that Camp Eden is viable—and necessary for its campers?

Will you read with us?



Trinity Lombard: We Finally Found Our 80!

By Lori Solyom

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard, Illinois, the women of the LWML struggled to find their "80" with which to mark the 80 years of Christian service and witness to God's unending love by the women of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



- We tried to make 80 cross favors for the upcoming national convention in Milwaukee. We ended up with 63.
- We joined in our Zone 6 collection of 80 boxes of adhesive bandages for the CLEF (Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation) school nurse.
- We tossed around many ideas, and finally...

We bagged 80 muffins! In a bridge-building effort to reach non-church member families at Trinity Lutheran School in Lombard, LWML members handed out coffee, tea, and hot chocolate, along with a large bagged bakery muffin and a warmly worded invitation to join the Trinity family in worship during Easter and Holy Week. The primary objective was to make non-church member school families feel welcome and to know that Trinity Lutheran Church considers them "family." With the help of a Thrivent Action Team grant, ten LWML members—and one husband—met on the Monday evening of Holy Week and packed 80 muffins individually in brown lunch bags with napkins and a "You're Family" note. Early Tuesday morning, five of the women gathered to make hot coffee, chocolate, and tea. They loaded the hot carafes, lidded cups, and condiments onto carts, and set up serving stations at student drop off points to provide parents with a morning welcome as they delivered their students to school.

Of course, the crew bagged extra muffins and ensured that there was bottled water and fruit on hand, for those who preferred it. All the teachers, staff, and volunteers were treated, and even the election day workers serving next door in the church building's polling location received refreshments. Before calling it a day, the LWML team made and served hot cocoa with marshmallows to the entire student body.

It took Trinity's LWML quite a while to figure out their "80," but finally, hitting upon the idea, all agreed that it was the perfect project. It's almost certain that those on the receiving end think so too. The "curbside coffee" project will likely continue at Trinity as an ongoing annual reminder to all school families that Trinity's church members consider them FAMILY.



2023 Theme: God of Hope

The LWML NID theme for this year is "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."* (ESV) Those who attend the 2023 activities will find that faith is being sure of that for which we hope.

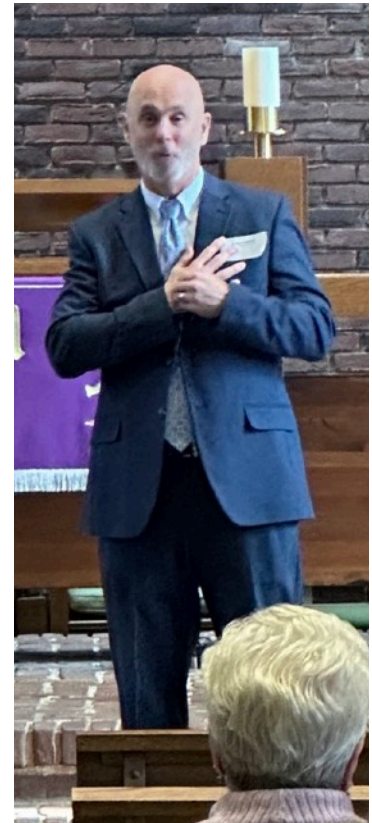
Lenten Inspiration Recap

By Kirsten Smith, Vice President of Christian Life

The Lenten Inspiration was such a blessing to the more than 100 ladies and men who attended! Rev. Dr. Peter and Rev. Dr. Buss blessed us with words of hope. There was also reflection time with prayer stations. Everyone loved the extra time in prayer! We collected many items for the childcare program at the national convention in Milwaukee. After the convention uses the items, they will be donated to a local shelter.

I want to thank our speakers, Rev. Dr. David Peter and Rev. Dr. Allan Buss. You were such a blessing to the program! Thank you to the ladies of St. John's La Grange. You were lovely hosts!

Be on the lookout for information on next year's Lenten Inspiration in the coming issues!



Rev. Dr. David Peter

NID Mission Grant Highlight

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis—Increasing Student Enrollment

\$8,000

Concordia Seminary's mission grant will help address The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) considerable pastor shortage, which is jeopardizing faithful pastoral care to church members. In steadfastly working to counter this shortage, the Seminary has implemented comprehensive efforts to significantly increase pastoral student enrollment. Northern Illinois's support will help the Synod to continue and expand these ongoing initiatives, enabling them to attract more students who will study diligently to become pastors for our church body.

One of the current Master of Divinity students who visited the Seminary while in college said, "I was given a tour of the campus, met with students, and sat in on two classes. I could tell these students had a strong sense of community, both as students and in knowing each other personally. I also met with two professors and, in speaking with them, I felt my questions and concerns were cared about and my questions were valued."

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

2022-2024 NID Mission Grants

The delegates to the LWML NID Convention last September 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.

NID Mites Address for 2022-2024

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

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/>

The District office has been 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 10, 2023 — LWML National Convention **Late Registration Deadline**
- June 22-25, 2023 — LWML **National Convention** in Milwaukee, WI (see pp. 1-3)
- June 22, 2023 — **NID Caucus Meeting** at the Convention (3:45-4:30 p.m. in Room 203D)
- September 11, 2023 — LWML NID Fall Gathering **Registration Deadline** (see pp. 9-10)
- September 29-30, 2023 — LWML NID **Fall Gathering** in Lombard, IL (see pp. 9-10)
- 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

