

## NID-Bits

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

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## Joy and Perseverance

*By Beverly Bayes, LWML NID Strategic Plan Facilitator*

Our LWML NID theme for 2025 is “Joy and Perseverance” based on James 1:2-3. *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (NIV)*

Let today be a day you remember with joy. Never give up when we face trials and temptation.



## President's Message

*By LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn*

The 2024 LWML NID Convention has come and gone. So many preparations, long hours, and hard work went into planning a very successful convention. I hope the 150 that attended the convention felt the experience to be as uplifting as I did. Trinity Lutheran Church welcomed the convention attendees and deserves recognition for making the convention run smoothly. A BIG thanks to the convention co-chairs Kris Blackwell and Marilyn Hess for their efforts to make this convention a memorable one. I am going share some of my highlights of the convention, but be sure to read other articles in this NID-Bits for more details:

- Many hands participated in the Servant Event on Friday afternoon. Blankets were tied and cards were prepared for Phil's Friends and bracelets were made for MOST Ministries. It's always great to have conversations with other LWML-ers while participating in the activities.
- The Gifts from the Heart collection was designated for Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in East Dundee. Be sure to read the article listing all that was donated.
- The worship service on Friday night was led by Rev. Richard Schauer of the host church, Trinity, Tinley Park, who was assisted by Rev. Steve Warren, Sr. Pastoral Counselor, and the sermon was delivered by outgoing Sr. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Jim Buckman.
- Bible Study was led by our YWR to the Milwaukee Convention, Christa Petzold. She is an author of many publications available at CPH.
- The Keynote Speaker, David Fiala, Mission Advocate for the LCMS, was engaging and entertaining as he shared how we can evangelize. He encouraged, equipped and entreated his audience.
- Breakout sessions were available for the attendees to hear from the 2022-24 Biennium Mission Grant recipients.
- A delicious lunch was served by the hard-working, dedicated LWML ladies of Trinity, Tinley Park, and Zone 16.
- We elected Rev. Roger Drinnon as our Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Lori Solyom as our Vice President of Communications, Jackie Genius as our Financial Secretary, and Barb Himley as our Nominating Committee Chair.
- Delegates voted to keep our mite goal at the same amount as the previous biennium, \$160,000. \$89,400 will be used to fund the NID Mission Grants, plus \$18,000 from previously unspent mission grant money. Therefore, the total amount to be spent on Mission Grants for the 2024-26 Biennium will be \$107,400. 25% of the mite goal, or \$40,000, will be for national LWML Mission Grants, and \$30,600 is designated for district in-reach.
- Delegates selected seven Mission Grants for the 2024-26 Biennium. You will be able to read about these Mission Grants in the NID-Bits, view monthly posters on the [LWML NID website](http://LWMLNID.org), and view the video that describes each of them. (See page 7.)
- How blessed we were to have all five past presidents—Dottie Hildebrandt, Linda Arnold, Sherrie Smith, and Jan Gerzevske—lead us in the LWML pledge.

The NID Executive Committee has many obstacles ahead of them. We ask that each LWML member join us in prayer as we seek to fill the vacancies on the EC and their supporting committees. God will be our guide as we navigate through this process.



## Helpers of Joy

By Rev. Roger Drinnon, LWML NID Junior Pastoral Counselor and Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Bourbonnais and Kankakee

***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”***  
(Matthew 5:4)

Christmas is a time a time of joy. We gather around with friends and family to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus. And while many have friends and family to gather around to celebrate, there are many who do not have the blessing of celebrating Christmas with family and friends. For many Christmas is a time of sorrow. Christmas reminds many of those who they have lost—a parent, a grandparent, a child. While Christmas is a joyful season, it brings grief to many in our congregations. My sisters in Christ, this is why the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission is so vital in our congregations. You all have the opportunity to be helpers of joy in your congregations. The mission field begins with your local congregation. The Christmas season is an excellent opportunity to be a helper of joy.

In St. Paul's first letter to Timothy (1 Tim. 5:3-10), Paul gives two rules to young Timothy in determining whether or not a widow is a genuine widow in need. First, she must truly have no one to support her. Second, she must demonstrate total dependence on God. There lies a tension between my generosity and those who receive my generosity. Paul is calling on Timothy to exercise discernment when giving out the Church's generosity. Paul gives a hard rule: She must have no one who is related to her to support her. This rule determines the woman's need. St. Paul's first rule is objective and easily verifiable. The second rule is the soft rule: The widow is totally reliant on God's provision. This rule determines what is in her heart. The hard rule is about our responsibility to our neighbor but is subject to abuse. The soft rule assess the heart of the recipient, but the only way we can get better at assessing hearts is if we practice generosity constantly.

As Christians, we are called to live generous lives because of the generous Christ's grace that ransomed us from our sins. As Luther says in the 2<sup>nd</sup> article explanation, *“[Jesus] purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own.”*

God's generous grace lavishly frees you from your sins. His grace never ends. Just as God is generous with His grace to you, practice generosity to others. The more we practice generosity, the more we can discern; the more generous we are to others, the more we share the gifts God gives us with others.

I challenge you today to be a helper of joy. Utilize the two rules that Paul gives to Timothy: Do they have a real need and do they depend on God? Practice generosity to others. Jesus gives those who mourn this season words of comfort, ***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*** Lutheran Women in Mission are the hands and feet of Jesus. Be a bringer of Christ's comfort and joy this Christmas season. Amen.

In Christ,  
Pastor Drinnon

# LWML NID Convention 2024

## Thank You for Your Gifts from the Heart

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

Julia Heinz from Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in East Dundee, Illinois, was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Lutheran Women in Mission at our 2024 NID LWML convention. She loaded her van full of items on both Friday and Saturday. The items given were too numerous to list, but all will be very useful. There was even a car seat, along with clothing for the residents, diapers, many household items, and gift cards.



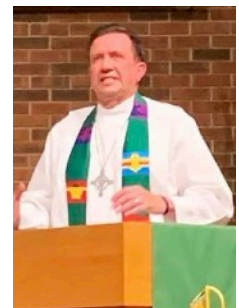
A huge shout-out to the young women from Bourbonnais who tirelessly helped with bringing the items in from cars, counting all the gifts, and then loading the van twice!

## Images of the Convention

On Friday, the estimated 65 attendees of the Servant Event decorated 51 boxes and 170 journals for Phil's Friends, and they tied 25 fleece blankets. They also made 309 witness bracelets for MOST Ministries. Thank you to Valerie Lynch and St. Paul, Bourbonnais, for organizing these projects!



Friday's events continued with evening worship, led by Pastors Schauer, Warren, and Buckman.



The LWML ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church and Zone 16 hosted a cookie reception Friday evening, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday.



Saturday featured Bible Study led by Christa Petzold, music from Lana Gibbons, and our keynote presentation by David Fiala, LCMS Mission Advocate. Karol Selle, LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, spoke on behalf of President Eden Keefe and the national organization, and Rev. Kris Whitby delivered LCMS NID President Rev. Dr. Allan Buss's greetings.



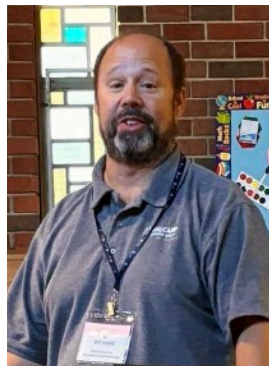
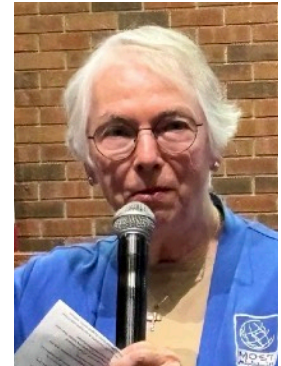
Our Young Women performed a skit inviting us to the National Convention in Omaha and assisted in many ways throughout the convention.



Our LWML NID officers for the 2024-26 biennium were installed by Rev. Steven Warren.



Thank you to all of the mission grant recipients who manned booths and hosted breakout sessions! We had representatives from Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Lutheran Bible Translators, LINC Chicago, MOST Ministries, Voice of Care, and Walcamp. Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries and Phil's Friends also greeted attendees at their booths, as did convention speakers David Fiala, Christa Petzold, and Rev. Kris Whitby.



## Join the NID Bus!

By Kris Blackwell, LWML NID Archivist-Historian



Lutheran Women in Mission

41<sup>st</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION in Omaha, Nebraska

**June 26–29, 2025 Bus will depart on June 25**

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18)*

We are looking into hiring a motor coach to take us to Omaha! These are the **tentative** details. We need to have 40 people commit in order to make this possible. Please contact Kris Blackwell at [archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org](mailto:archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org) or 630.234.1491 to put your name on the list. Once I determine that a bus is a go, then I will ask for a deposit. The cost is approximately \$400 (about the same as flying but easier). There will be two locations for pick-up: Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, and Cross Lutheran, Yorkville! **In Omaha, the bus includes daily door-to-door service from the hotel to the convention center—approximately 7:30 a.m. departure for the convention center and return trips at 5 and 9:30 p.m.** Your rooms will be in the hotel that the LWML has designated for bussed attendees. I will make all the arrangements when you sign up. You may choose your roommate and up to four in a room.

If you are interested in joining the NID bus, please contact Kris as soon as possible.

## 2024-2026 LWML NID Mission Grants

The delegates to the LWML NID Convention voted to fund the following grants with our mites during the 2024-2026 biennium. Watch a [video about the grants](#) on the LWML NID YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@lwmlnid7730>). The grants are listed in order of votes received.

### **Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne Food Co-op** **\$10,000**

The Food Co-op of CTSFW provides up to 85% of our student families' monthly grocery needs at no cost to them. We operate as an actual cooperative, where each family volunteers time monthly to receive points used to purchase grocery items. The Co-op spends approximately \$7,000 a month on fresh produce, eggs, milk, cheese, ground beef, and other grocery items to fill in the shelves. Many of our students say use of the Co-op has taken away the concern of how they will feed their family. Thank you for caring for the men and women who have answered God's call to serve Him and you.

### **Phil's Friends Ministry Expansion** **\$18,000**

After much prayer, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kankakee, will be partnering with Phil's Friends to turn their former school building into a new Phil's Friends Hope Center. The center will provide Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. The building, empty for most of the past 15 years, needs ministry-essential updates to prepare a friendly and hope-generating space for volunteers to share the love of Jesus. This \$18,000 grant would provide building updates, furniture, and equipment for St. Paul's preparations for the new Hope Center.

### **Lutheran Heritage Foundation** **\$15,000**

Sharing Lutheran Bible books in a Muslim school—does it sound impossible? With God, all things are possible! In Indonesia (home to the world's largest Muslim population), their founders admired diversity, and so the country does not proclaim itself an Islamic State. This pride in diversity and a certain amount of tolerance allow for the teaching of different world religions in Indonesia's public schools, where Christians can teach the basics of the faith. At a cost of only \$5 per book, we can provide 3,000 colorful Bible storybooks and Small Catechisms in the Indonesian language for Indonesia's public school students.

### **Dr. Rev. William and Ella Mae Griffin Community Center Food Pantry** **\$18,000**

Dr. Rev. William and Ella Mae Griffin Community Center, a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, Chicago, opened in 2008 to meet the community's needs and serve as a bridge for Gospel outreach. The Center continues to serve over 300 individuals monthly through its weekly food pantry, clothing bank, and outreach events organized throughout the year. Over the past fifteen years, we have remained faithful to the mission of fighting hunger. By helping to close the gap between our community's need for donated food and the amount of food available through collaborative efforts, it's our mission to impact hundreds of families yearly.

### **Food for Thought—Feeding More Children in Belize** **\$18,000**

By extending our Mercy outreach, our grant focuses on the transformative impact of sharing Jesus' love through hot, nutritious meals for children in Georgetown, Belize. Operating our second feeding program, hosted by a local resident, we currently serve 22 elementary students. However, the school principal identifies a pressing need for over 50 participants. Expanding our program aligns with our commitment to Christ Lutheran Church and aims to address the substantial need for nutritional support among elementary school students in Georgetown, Belize.

### **Worship Anew** **\$18,000**

Although overall church attendance has decreased amongst aging adults, the population reached by Worship Anew is growing rapidly each year. With support from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the Northern Illinois District, Worship Anew seeks to continue broadcasting our weekly, 30-minute worship program in current markets and expand into new markets, reaching thousands

with the life-changing Gospel message. Our broadcast faithfully and boldly proclaims the Gospel through Scripture readings, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed, hymns, and a sermon preached by an ordained LCMS Pastor. As a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, Worship Anew shares correct Biblical doctrine as presented in the Lutheran Confessions.

**St. John’s Lutheran Church, La Grange**

**\$10,400**

St. John’s has expanded our VBS outreach to multiple events per year—summer, winter, and spring. We minister to as many as 200 children per event, more than 80% of whom come from surrounding communities, and many with no knowledge of Jesus. We present Bibles as gifts to children who have no other access to God’s Word and send their families weekly email Bible lessons following VBS. This year we are establishing a weekly outreach event for families, a fun evening of activities along with Bible lessons for all ages. We will walk our neighborhood with invitations and advertise on multiple venues. As we grow our program, the Holy Spirit grows faith from these planted seeds!

## Winter Events for Young Women

*Kirsten Smith, LWML NID Committee on Young Women Chair*

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations and join us for our annual Advent by Candlelight event on Thursday, December 12 at 7 p.m. Grab a candle and hop onto Zoom to spend a relaxing evening with us! Register using the QR code on page 10.

Join us for the Young and Young-at-Heart Retreat at Walcamp January 17-19, 2025. We’ll have food, fun, and fellowship! (Those are not in order of importance.)

Watch [LWMLNID.org](http://LWMLNID.org) and the LWML NID social media pages for more information about these events.



Winter Retreat: Jan. 17-19

## Motivation for Healthy Routines

Dear Lucy Leader,

I am trying to work on establishing healthy routines in multiple areas of my life. I really would love to find something to motivate me to nurture my daily time with the Lord at home but also motivate me to help others as well. Do you have any ideas for me?

Sincerely,  
Healthy Heather

Dear Healthy Heather,

Congratulations on the goals and tasks you are setting for yourself! As always, when setting out on a new endeavor, I recommend going to the Lord in prayer to guide you on your journey. A resource that would fit your description is the [mission service calendar](#) on [LWML.org](http://LWML.org). This resource takes you month by month and gives you action steps for nurturing your faith at home, serving your community, and encouraging others. Another resource if you are trying to improve giving to mission projects that share the Gospel and serve others is the [mite challenge calendar](#). This gives you a set goal of mite offerings to give daily throughout the month.

May God bless you in your endeavors!  
Lucy Leader





## NEW: NID Mites Address for 2024-2026

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

LWML NID  
PO Box 65  
Tinley Park, IL 60477

## Stamps for Missions Address

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

Please send or deliver canceled postage stamps to:

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

## Calendar

- December 12, 2024 — **Advent by Candlelight** on Zoom at 7 p.m.
- January 17-19, 2025 — **Young and Young-at-Heart Retreat** at Walcamp in Kingston, IL
- 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: LWML NID — [www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/](http://www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/)
  - Instagram: LWML NID — <https://www.instagram.com/lwmlnid/>
  - X (formerly Twitter): LWML NID — <https://x.com/LWMLNID>
  - YouTube: LWML NID — <https://www.youtube.com/@lwmlnid7730>  
LWML NID — <https://www.youtube.com/@LWMLNID>  
VP Gospel Outreach — <https://www.youtube.com/@vpgospeloutreachlwmlnid9909>

## 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 2025 issue by Wednesday, January 15.

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

# ADVENT

**Hey Young Women!  
Join us for a Zoom  
Advent  
Candlelight!**

We will be participating in Advent devotions and songs!

Thursday  
December 12  
7 pm

RSVP:



RSVP FOR THE ZOOM LINK!

# Candlelight

Questions Email Kirsten at [ywchairman@lwmlnid.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwmlnid.org)

