

## 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

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Stay Focused

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## 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!



## Encouraging You to Stay Focused

*By LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn*

So how are you doing with your New Year's Resolutions for 2024? Whatever they may be, it becomes a struggle to stay on track as we move further into the new year.

A resolution we all should make is one that can be renewed every day, and that is to stay focused on Jesus as the center of our world. This is what I gleaned from the Epiphany sermon delivered by my pastor, Rev. Erik Gauss. The sermon was based on Colossians 1:15-23. Paul is encouraging the followers at Colossae to keep focused on Jesus as the King of the World despite all of the other deterrents around them. Pastor Erik tied into the sermon the reading from Matthew 2 of the wise men focusing on the star over Bethlehem. Even though they were being pulled off course by Herod and other daily confrontations, they stayed on course until they found Baby Jesus, where they worshiped Him and brought Him gifts.

To help you to stay focused on Christ as the center of your world, I encourage you to remember your baptism and read what Paul writes in any of his letters. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we serve Christ, we spread His love, we dedicate our mites to extending Christ's kingdom throughout the world, and we do it with gladness in our hearts. I pray that we all stay focused throughout the 2024 year and beyond.

### Upcoming events for 2024:

- I am already receiving 2024 Zone Spring Rally information. Keep them coming, Zone Presidents! Please correct the due date on the bottom of the form to March 2, 2024.
- Lenten Inspiration is Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Immanuel, Belvidere. Please refer to the information on page 9 about this special event.
- 2024 LWML NID Convention is on Friday and Saturday, September 20 & 21, 2024, at Trinity, Tinley Park. Review the information that is available now and watch for more upcoming details. The Convention Co-chairs are hard at work to create an absolutely wonderful convention for the ladies of the NID while trying to keep it affordable for all.
- **Keeping the convention in mind, please pray that if asked by the Nominating Committee to serve in a role at the LWML NID level, you will answer with a "Yes" and know that Christ will be with you.**

***Praise to Our God and peace to all as you enter the 2024 Lenten Season.***

## Executive Committee Positions to Be Elected in September

Would you like to serve in one of these positions? Email Elvera Ruff, Nominating Committee Chair, at [eruff6311@aol.com](mailto:eruff6311@aol.com).

### 4-Year Term:

- Vice President of Christian Life
- Vice President of Communications
- Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
- Convention Chairman
- Financial Secretary
- Recording Secretary

### 2-Year Term:

- Nominating Committee
- North
  - South
  - East
  - West

## As a Man Thinks



*By Rev. Steven Warren, LWML NID Pastoral Counselor and Pastor of St. Paul, Austin (Chicago)*

It is written in Proverbs 23:7, *For as he thinks in his heart, so is he* (NKJV).

King Solomon wrote these words many, many years ago.

What was being communicated here can be summed up in Philippians 4:8 where it is written, *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things* (NJKV).

So in essence we should focus our minds on things that present us in a good light to God and man; we should present ourselves as a living sacrifice to God.

We cannot control the natural functions of the body such as the heartbeat or the functions of our organs. In our natural fallen and sinful state we can't even control our thoughts. It is only by the Grace of God and the Life, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to control our thoughts.

Satan constantly bombards our minds and senses with many things that will lead us astray through the decisions we make. So I will leave you with the message the Holy Spirit had Paul deliver to us: *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things* (NJKV).

Peace and Blessings on your day!

## 2024 LWML NID Convention News

*By Kris Blackwell and Marilyn Hess, LWML NID Convention Co-Chairs*

This year we are doing something new! Well, it's not actually new because we have done it long ago, but it will be new to many of us! We are having the convention at a church! We will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. The gracious staff and women of the church have arranged many special things for us.

First of all, the pastors will join efforts with our pastoral counselors to create a wonderful communion service on Friday, September 20, and the women will serve desserts afterwards for a time of fellowship! On Saturday morning, September 21, we will be treated to a "coffee and," which we have not been able to have at the recent conventions.

One of the best parts of going to a facility which does not charge extra for rooms is that we will be able to have breakout sessions with speakers during the Saturday convention. The main sessions of the convention on Saturday will be able to be livestreamed, but people will need to register for that as well.

The total cost of the convention is still to be determined, but we estimate that it will be less than last convention's costs. Please post the save the date flyer, start recruiting your women to attend, and choose your delegates soon!

# LWML NID's Lutheran Women in Mission Help Lutheran Schools to Fulfill Dreams

*By Lori Solyom, LWML NID Vice President of Communications*

Lutheran Women in Mission care a lot about Lutheran Schools, their mission to share Jesus with children and families, and the faculty and staff members who have committed to making Lutheran Education their vocation. With that in mind several members of the LWML NID Executive Committee headed out to the Northern Illinois District's Educator Conference last October to let Lutheran teachers know that they and their schools were eligible to submit LWML Mission Grant proposals.

LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn and Corresponding Secretary Jan Gerzevske led a workshop titled "You Dream It, LWML Can Grant It." After showing a video that dramatized the Biblical story of the widow's mite and an explanation of how LWML mites fund ministry and missions, the dream-building began.

Gayle and Jan shared introductory information about the Mission Grant program and its basic requirements. LWML NID Vice President of Organizational Resources, Diana Ladislas, was invited to share her LWML grant story.

Diana, a Lutheran early childhood educator at Trinity Lutheran School in Tinley Park, related how her own school applied for and received a \$10,000 LWML NID Mission Grant to create a makerspace for students. The grant has enabled Trinity to purchase new technology, which combined with building-and-crafting-material storage, allows students to collaborate together in the newly remodeled open area to explore the world God created.



Kindergartners at Trinity Lutheran School in Tinley Park use their new LWML NID Mission Grant-funded makerspace for many things. Here they are working in teams to construct seal habitats that will provide the best environment for the semi-aquatic, mostly marine mammals.

Workshop participants broke into small groups to brainstorm and share possible grant ideas for their schools, while the session leaders encouraged them to "dream big."

Those present were encouraged to take the ideas and materials back to their schools with the goal of submitting an LWML NID Mission Grant proposal by the January 15, 2024, deadline. As an extra incentive, the first school submitting a proposal meeting the guidelines would receive a \$100 Amazon gift card.

LWML NID's Donna Gutzler, who serves as Public Relations Director and sits on the Organizational Resources committee, was present to man the LWML display booth along with LWML NID Vice President of Communications Lori Solyom. The women shared details about Lutheran Women in Mission and the mission grant program, while talking to area Lutheran educators about the ideas they had for their schools and how the LWML could help them achieve those goals.

At the district LWML's November Executive Committee meeting, Vice President of Gospel Outreach Nancy Bundley reported receiving inquiries and had talked to at least one school that intended to submit a grant. A more recent check-in with Nancy found that several schools had followed through with the process.



One potential grant submitter shared her vision for a standalone prefabricated library building, allowing regular student access to an array of Christian reading material, literature, and Bibles.

Another school planned to ask for funds to replace outdated, unsafe equipment with more inclusive playground equipment. They want to include sensory pieces and more slides for the students and community.

A different school seeks help in renovating and supplying an under-utilized area to become a combination creator/maker space and STEM lab, to provide students with a dedicated venue for creative exploration of science, technology, engineering, and math through innovative tools and curriculum.



An LWML NID Mission Grant helped Trinity Lutheran School in Tinley Park provide a student makerspace. A perfect setting for STEM exploration, this kindergarten class is having fun together designing “amazing” marble mazes.

Yet more fruit may be borne by the LWML invitation to support area Lutheran schools with grant funding. Five NID Lutheran schools submitted Mission Grant proposals by the January 15 deadline. Decisions about which projects will be on the ballot will be announced well before delegate voting. In September 2024, at the LWML Northern Illinois District convention, attendees will get to hear how the 2022 Mission Grant served Trinity Lutheran School of Tinley Park in its mission to “challenge and support the whole child to grow in both Christian spirit and academic wisdom, and to prepare them to be witnesses in God's kingdom.”

In the meantime, all Lutheran Women in Mission are encouraged to pray for the Lutheran schools in the Northern Illinois District and invite area Lutheran educators to take advantage of future LWML Mission Grant opportunities.

To learn more about LWML NID Mission Grants, visit <https://lwmlnid.org/mission-grants/>.



LWML NID Representatives at the NID's 2023 Educator Conference

*Left to right:* Donna (Public Relations Director), Lori (VP of Communications), Gayle (President), Diana (VP of Organizational Resources), and Jan (Corresponding Secretary)

# Looking Forward: Mission Grant Proposals

*By Nancy Bundley, LWML NID Vice President of Gospel Outreach*

We received 13 mission grant proposals for the 2024-2026 biennium, including some from as far away as Norway and Belize! What a blessing. In September, LWML NID Convention delegates will decide which proposals receive funding.

## Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Subscriptions

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscription renewal forms will be emailed to the current subscription holders' group contact at the beginning of February. The subscription prices for 2024-2025 have not changed:

### 2024-2025 Pricing:

- 1 to 9 copies to a single address is \$7.50 per subscription per year
- 10 or more copies to a single address is \$6.00 per subscription per year

Should your society contact not receive the emailed *Quarterly* renewal notice by February 5, 2024, you have two options:

- Contact Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID Corresponding Secretary, at [correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org). Provide your Zone Number, Church Name, and Church Address to request another form be emailed to you.
- Use the subscription form provided in this issue of NID-Bits. (p. 11)

**The renewal form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked no later than Saturday, April 1, 2024, to be included as part of the order sent to LWML in St. Louis for the 2024-2025 subscription year.** Please retain a copy of both the subscription renewal form and check for your group's records.

After April 1, groups **cannot cancel nor decrease** their number of subscriptions.

*For those interested in obtaining large print or Braille Quarterlys, a separate subscription can be set up by contacting the Lutheran Braille Workers directly at 909.795.8977.*

## Do You Have an LWML NID History Question? The Archive Has Answers!

*By Kris Blackwell, LWML NID Archivist-Historian*

The LWML NID archives hold a wealth of information, and some of it is also stored digitally. All you need to do is send an email to [archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org](mailto:archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org) with your question. Recently one church wanted to start an LWML society after many years of inactivity. They needed to know if or when they were chartered. I am able to do something like that right from home! Sometimes there is a need to dig a little deeper and I go to the archives and search the boxes. We do have memorabilia, pictures, and other documents. Unfortunately, we no longer have space to store national LWML materials, nor Zone materials. However, if you come across documents and pictures about LWML NID please feel free to donate them to the archives. If your Zone or society would like a presentation on the history of LWML NID, I would be happy to come and give a talk.

## 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

- March 2, 2024 — **Lenten Inspiration** at Immanuel, Belvidere (p. 9)
- April 1, 2024 — **Quarterly subscription forms due** (pp. 6, 11)
- September 20-21, 2024 — LWML NID **District Convention** at Trinity, Tinley Park (pp. 3, 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](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 May—July 2024 issue by Friday, April 12.

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



Northern Illinois District

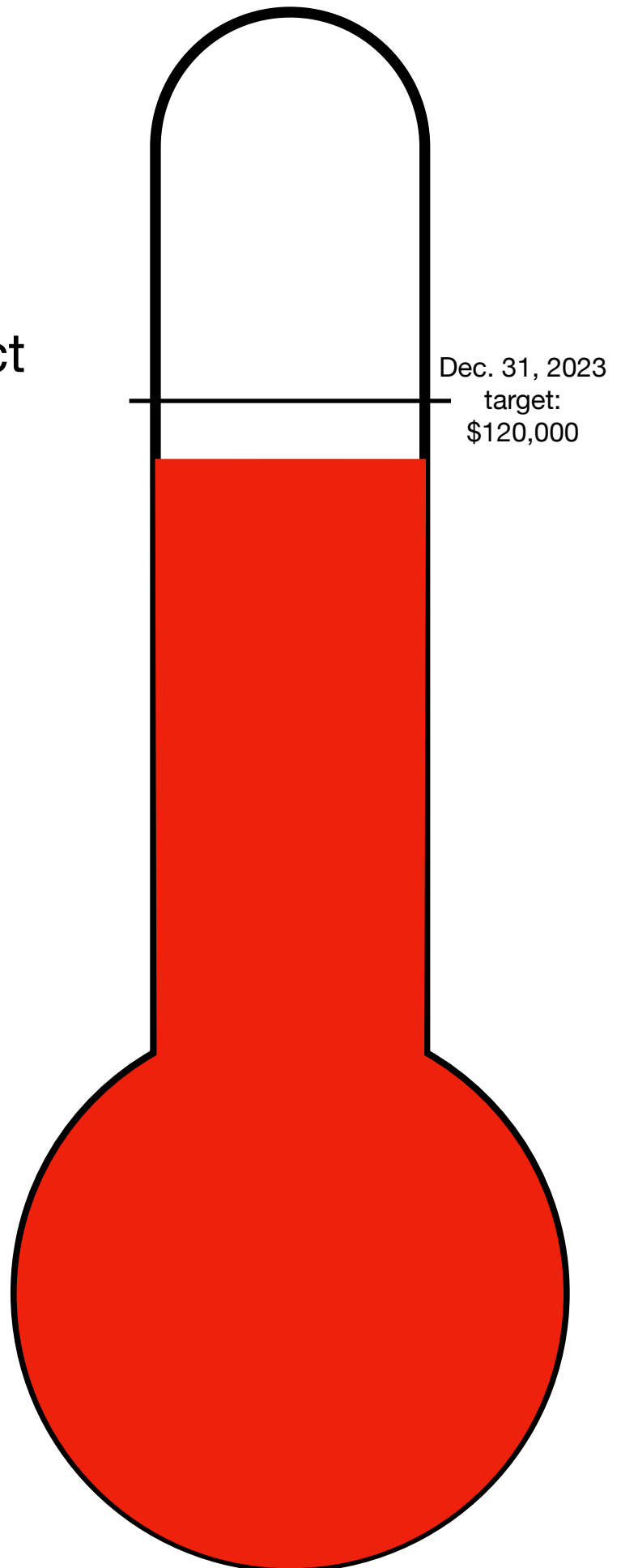
Mite Goal:

**\$160,000**

by June 30, 2024

Received through  
December 31, 2023:

**\$113,940**





*Join us for the Lenten Inspiration on  
March 2 at Immanuel Belvidere!*

*Immanuel Lutheran Church  
1045 Belvidere Rd, Belvidere, IL 61008*

*9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with registration and breakfast beginning at 8 a.m.*

**Come hear from Rev. Kris Whitby  
as we reflect in the  
Lenten season.**



**We will also be collecting food,  
sheets, and blankets for  
Empower Boone!**

Registration will be out in the  
beginning of February.



LOVE & HONOR ONE ANOTHER  
ROMANS 12:10



# 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)**

## 2024 - 2025 LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Greetings from LWML NID. This form can be used for your group to submit their 2024-2025 *Quarterly* subscription order. Please enter the number of subscriptions you are requesting beginning with the Summer 2024 issue on the order form below. If your group ordered for 2023-2024, you will receive an invoice via email from the Corresponding Secretary.

**The form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked no later than Saturday, April 1, 2024, to be included as part of the order sent to LWML in St. Louis for the 2024-2025 subscription year. Please keep a copy of the form and the check for your records.**

After April 1, societies **cannot cancel nor decrease** their number of subscriptions.

**QUESTIONS?** contact Janice Gerzevske, [correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org) or call 630.294.5014

Your check payable to **LWML-NID** must be included with the order form and mailed to:

LWML-NID  
c/o Janice Gerzevske  
30W017 Juniper Ct., Warrenville, IL 60555-1056

Please provide updated contact information

Cut and mail to address above

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<b>Zone#</b>	<b>Church/ Group Name</b>	_____
	<b>Street Address</b>	_____
	<b>City</b>	<b>Zip</b>

**Primary Contact:**

<b>Name</b>	_____	<b>Phone</b>	_____
<b>email</b>	_____		

**Secondary Contact:**

<b>Name</b>	_____	<b>Phone</b>	_____
<b>email</b>	_____		

Enter Number Subscriptions	Description	Cost of Each Subscription	Total
	10 or more subscriptions	\$ 6.00	\$
	1 to 9 subscriptions	\$ 7.50	\$
		<b>Amount Enclosed</b>	<b>\$</b>