

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

Greetings, Northern Illinois District Lutheran Women In Mission:

Prayer is what the Holy Spirit put on my heart to write about for this NID-Bits issue. I am a strong believer in the power of prayer. I have felt the effects of being covered with prayer throughout the first two years as your LWML NID president. I know that MANY have been praying for me when I have been sick and injured (which has happened multiple times in the last two years), prayers for my strength in caring for my aging parents, and especially prayer offered up for me at the passing of my dad. I am so thankful for those prayers.

Prayer. I have listened to podcasts about prayer and read many devotions addressing prayer. We know why we pray; it's our communication with Jesus. We have been taught to use the ACTS format: **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, and **S**upplication, which is a great guideline. Of course, the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught us is the best prayer to recite. I know of prayer warriors who faithfully pray. I admit, I struggle with my prayer life. Do I pray enough? Probably not. I admire someone who can pray a beautifully worded prayer. But one thing I learned in my research is to ask the Holy Spirit to be present when you begin to pray. I also learned we have a so-called 'spell check' when we end our prayer with "In Jesus's name we pray."

I found in our LWML resources a devotion by Alma Kern about prayer that says it best. I am glad we have these resources on the lwml.org website available to us.

Open Your Life to God

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Why pray?

God knows everything.

True! "... your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:8b).

Prayer is not informing God of what's going on.

The Almighty is not waiting for us to give Him directions.

Proper prayer does not try to manipulate God.

It is not an attempt to bring Him under our control.

It is not demanding God's help but making ourselves more receptive to His power.

The real essence of prayer is the opening of our lives to the influence of the living Lord.

It is lining up our will with His.

It's discovering what we really need.

Prayer is drawing nearer to God,

Seeking to commune with the Eternal One.

For this reason, prayer goes far beyond petition.

It is a blend also of thanksgiving, praise meditation, and confession.

The more we pray, the closer we feel to God.
 The closer we draw to Him, the more we are inclined to pray.
 Faith gives us the confidence to pray.
 Prayer exercises faith.
 The stronger our faith in the Lord,
 the more we rely on His goodness and greatness.

God's answers to prayer are not the only benefits.
 Even in asking, a need is filled and we arise
 strengthened and repaired.
 The seeking, the asking, the knocking
 Are part of the blessing.

They remind us of our dependence on God
 and make His presence more real.

Prayer can be a frantic outburst of supplication.
 It is also calm, candid conversation.

On occasion God's answers to prayer are so dramatic
 we call them miracles.
 But a constant, quiet miracle takes place
 in our hearts as we discover that
 in answer to prayer, God supplies a steady flow of power
 for ordinary daily living.
 In opening ourselves to God's power,
 we not only survive, we thrive!

Prayer: Dear Lord, strengthen my prayer life. In Jesus's name. Amen.



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We are quickly approaching the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha. Zone presidents and representatives: your delegate should have been selected and registered with me by January 30, so I could register the delegates as the NID delegation. Each zone should have selected one delegate and one alternate. Please let me know if you missed that deadline. For everyone else, open registration will begin March 1, 2025. Check out the center section of the *Quarterly* for all of the details. Omaha offers so many opportunities; it is a very 'family-friendly' city. Plus, there is a lot to do in the vicinity for before- and after-trips. We will have special seating for anyone that is attending from our district since we were one of the host districts for the Milwaukee convention. Let's be "Growing in God's Grace" in Omaha!

Lenten Inspiration: March 22

Join us on Saturday, March 22 at 9 a.m. for Lenten Inspiration at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hampshire! Author Sharla Fritz will speak on the theme "Take My Life and Let It Be," Ms. CJ Motisi will lead us in song, and we'll be collecting Gifts from the Heart to benefit the Burlington/Hampshire Area Food Pantry. You can find all of the details on the flyer found on page 11.

Register online at lwmlnid.org by March 14. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch.



You Never Know How God Will Use Your Witness

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

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). (John 1:40-41)

You can imagine the excitement in Andrew's voice as he speaks to his brother. *"We have found the Messiah!"* (John 1:41) While Andrew was the one to bring the message of the Messiah to his brother Peter, after this event, Andrew kind of just fades into the background. We really do not get to know much more about him versus his much more famous brother, Peter. Andrew was not a part of the inner circle of the 12—Peter, James, and John. He is not at the Mount of Transfiguration. He is not in the Garden of Gethsemane. And if we went by how much we see him in Scripture, he doesn't seem to be that important of a disciple. But in fact he is. Andrew brought the message of the Messiah to one of the twelve—his brother Peter. In this act, Andrew is a model disciple. Andrew is not relying on signs or wonders; he just tells his brother, "we have found the Messiah." Andrew uses his relationship with his brother Peter to tell him the life-changing message of Jesus: *Lamb of God has come to take away the sins of the world.* (John 1:29)

Lutheran Women in Mission are given opportunities to tell others about Jesus. We come to faith exactly the same way Andrew, Peter, and the rest of the disciples did—through hearing. *Faith comes through hearing and hearing through the Word of God.* (Romans 10:7) Be like Andrew. Everyone here has relationships in which God has put you to tell the good news of Jesus. Andrew just simply tells his brother, *"We found the Messiah."* Notice he doesn't get into an argument or into a philosophical debate, he just does it. Just tell others about Jesus. God will give you opportunities to bring his life-saving message in the midst of this dark world. Isaiah writes, *"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11)

You do not know what seeds you plant in a person's life when you tell them about Jesus. Andrew got to see the response immediately. For us, we may never see the results of God's Word working in peoples' hearts. Andrew fading into the background shows us this: it wasn't about Andrew—it is not about us. It is all about Jesus. It is all about what Jesus has done for Andrew, Peter, and us. Jesus changed Andrew's life so much so Andrew needed to share it with Peter. Andrew needed to tell Peter—to tell us—that the Lamb of God has come to take away all of our sins. When we experience the forgiveness of sins, how can we just bottle it up? No, we can't just bottle the message up, we speak out of the abundance of our hearts; we want to shout it from the mountaintops because Jesus is the greatest gift God the Father has given to us.

Through the shedding of the blood of this lamb we are bought and purchased back from all of our sins, death, and the power of the Devil. This is good news. This changes our lives. This motivates us to share this good news with others just as Andrew did. *Lamb of God has come to take away the sins of the world.* Your sin, my sin, so that not even death reigns over us anymore. Through their mites, talents, and time, Lutheran Women in Mission share this message just as Andrew shared it with his brother, Peter, who later became the prince of the apostles. You never know what kind of impact your witness will bring to others in God's time. Amen.

Pastor Roger A. Drinnon



Special Focus Ministries

By Kris Blackwell, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

I have been appointed to serve as the Vice President of Special Focus Ministry for the next two years. Since I have never served in this capacity, my first task was to look at the bylaws and procedure manual to see what the job description might be. Unfortunately, it is pretty vague! However, this means that there is a lot of potential to build this committee into a phenomenal working committee to serve the LWML NID in local congregations! To that end, here is what the overarching goals are:

- To encourage sensitivity in women toward those who are hurting and in need and also toward those who may feel marginalized due to ethnic differences or disabilities. We want to be a safe and inclusive environment for all.
- To provide resources that will enable our women to provide knowledgeable, Biblical, hands-on assistance and comfort to others.

This may seem huge, but in reality it can be broken down into many little tasks and activities. However, I need more women to come alongside me and the Heart to Heart Sisters/Cross Cultural committee which is underneath me. One immediate activity that needs a sub-committee is a group of women to undertake our Gifts from the Heart program, the in-gatherings we do at district-level functions. Another is to make phone calls to zone presidents to find out if there are any special concerns or populations within their societies. We need to know what needs are out there before we can provide resources. If your society has people with special needs, such as hearing or visual impairments, mobility issues, or emotional/cognitive/mental health disabilities, please email me or call because we have resources immediately available for your group.

I hope to find direction from the LWML at large and specifically at the 2025 Convention in Omaha, so there will be a huge update in a few months!

Kris Blackwell: 630.234.1491 archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org

Riddle Me This

By Kris Blackwell, LWML NID Archivist-Historian

Sometimes keeping archives is a bit mundane and tedious. There are reports to file, files to organize, and an electronic backup to keep. YOU can make my life more exciting by asking questions on the history of LWML. Do you want to know what kind of retreats LWML had before the wonderful Young Women and Young-At-Heart Retreats we now have? Are you curious what kinds of topics were covered at Lenten Inspirations? Or do you just want to know when your society joined the LWML? All these answers and more can be yours just by emailing or calling me. Rise to the challenge and think of a really difficult research question. Try to stump me!

Kris Blackwell: 630.234.1491 archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org

Visit Us at the 2025 NID Convention

By Lori Solyom, LWML NID Vice President of Communications

Your LWML NID will be present at the 61st Convention of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as our brothers and sisters in Christ gather to do the work of our church body. If you will be at the March 7 and 8 convention on the campus of Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, we invite you to stop by our LWML exhibit and say hello. Join us as we lift the members, churches, and schools of the Northern Illinois District in prayer as they go about the business of Advancing the Kingdom of God, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, and loving and serving our neighbors, near and far. If you would like to learn more about the district convention, visit: <https://www.nidlcms.org/convention/>.

The Society Pages

Immanuel Lutheran Church, DeKalb (Zone 8) (submitted by Rita G.)

Immanuel, DeKalb LWML's Quilting Group recently sent six cardio and 13 lap robes to the DeKalb Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and 21 quilts to Lutheran World Relief.

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

The LWML ladies of Trinity and Zone 16 sewed 102 beautiful pillowcase dresses, which were brought to El Salvador by Trinity's mission team in January. Our sewers did a wonderful job of coordinating pocket fabric and trim to match each pillowcase. In addition to the dresses for the girls, we sent drawstring backpacks for the boys, along with small toys and other goodies. Each dress and backpack were accompanied by a hand-colored Scripture notecard. The Spanish-language cards were downloaded from www.lwml.org and modified to include the full Scripture verse on the back.



NID SHINE Servant Event

The NID SHINE Servant Event is April 4 to 13. We encourage all Lutheran Women in Mission members and groups to get involved. Ideas and registration is at <https://www.nidlcms.org/shine/>.



What is the SHINE Servant Event?

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:16, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

The LCMS Northern Illinois District is shining a spotlight on service from April 4–13, 2025. Throughout the District, groups of two or more people are asked to give witness to the love of Jesus through acts of service to their neighbors and communities. Simply join with some people from your church, school, small group, ministry group, family, etc., and serve together in a project of your own choosing.

How is God calling you to serve your neighbors and SHINE His light?

NID President Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss wrote a prayer your group can use on the day of your event:

Lord Jesus Christ, You took upon the servant's form by serving the weak and needy in healing their diseases and providing for their needs of body and soul. By Your Holy Spirit, make us to be humble servants by showing mercy to our neighbor and helping others in every bodily need. Thank You for coming into our world and sending us as a light into the community where You have put us. May our service point those we serve to You, our Suffering Servant and our Victorious Savior. In Your name we pray. Amen.

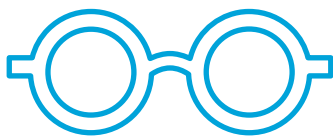
Opportunity to Serve in the Mission Field

By Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID Corresponding Secretary

Have you heard about eyeglass trips? Have you thought that you might want to serve? MOST Ministries, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, is seeking people to participate on an eyeglass trip to Honduras May 31—June 7, 2025.



Using a very simple testing system created specifically for MOST Ministries, members of this team distribute eyeglasses to those in need. During the daily clinics, team members test vision and fit and distribute eyeglasses, all while sharing the gospel through words and actions. Depending on the number of team members, 100–300 people can be served daily.



To join, go to the MOST Ministries website, go to Team Schedule, and find Honduras Eyeglass #2514. If you have questions, feel free to call Jan Gerzevske, 630.294.5014. Be part of a group who provides both physical and spiritual eyesight.

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Subscriptions

By Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID Corresponding Secretary

The Lutheran Women's Quarterly Subscription renewal forms were emailed to the current subscription holder's group contact by January 31, 2025. The subscription prices for 2025-2026 have not changed:

2025-2026 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

If your society contact did not receive the emailed *Quarterly* renewal notice, you have two options:

- Contact Jan Gerzevske, LWML NID Corresponding Secretary, correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org, providing 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 on page 12

The renewal form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked no later than Saturday, April 5, 2025 to be included as part of the order sent to LWML in St. Louis for the 2025-2026 subscription year. Please retain a copy of both the subscription renewal form and check for your group's records.

After April 5, 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.

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](https://www.youtube.com/@lwmlnid7730) 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!

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

- March 1, 2025 — **LWML Convention Registration Opens** (p. 3)
- March 14, 2025 — **Lenten Inspiration Registration Deadline**
- March 22, 2025 — **LWML NID Lenten Inspiration** at St. Peter, Hampshire (pp. 3, 11)
- April 4–13, 2025 — **NID SHINE! Servant Event** (p. 7)
- June 26-29, 2025 — **LWML National Convention** in Omaha, NE (p. 3)

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: LWML NID — 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. Please send articles for the May—July 2025 issue by Wednesday, April 16.

You can reach the NID-Bits Editor at publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org

Join the **Lutheran Women in Mission** of the
Northern Illinois District for



Lenten Inspiration 2025

Saturday, March 22 - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Guest Speaker **Sharla Fritz**, author

*(Measured by Grace, God's Relentless Love,
Enough for Now, and more)*

Take My Life and Let It Be

St. Peter Lutheran Church

43 W 301 Plank Rd, Hampshire, IL 60140

Join your Sisters in Christ

for a time of

Bible Study - Music - Inspiration - Entertainment

featuring music leader **Ms. CJ Motisi**

Registration \$15 (includes lunch) - Register online

by March 14 at lwmlnid.org

LWML Gifts from the Heart will benefit

Burlington/Hampshire Area Food Pantry

Most needed items are boxed pasta, "hamburger helper," cereals, crackers, pancake mix, small bags of instant mashed potatoes, granola bars, salad dressings, ketchup, mustard, syrup, jelly, bar soap, body wash, hand dishwashing soap, laundry detergent, and facial tissues. Please bring nonperishable items or checks made out to Burlington/Hampshire Area Food Pantry.



Also collecting **Stamps for Missions & Eyeglasses for MOST Ministries**

**2025 - 2026 LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY
SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

Greetings from LWML NID. This form can be used for your group to submit their 2025-2026 *Quarterly* subscription order. Please enter the number of subscriptions you are requesting beginning with the Summer 2025 issue on the order form below. If your group ordered for 2024-2025, you will receive an invoice via email from the Corresponding Secretary.

The form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked no later than Monday, April 5, 2025, to be included as part of the order sent to LWML in St. Louis for the 2025-2026 subscription year. Please keep a copy of the form and the check for your records.

After April 5, societies **cannot cancel nor decrease** their number of subscriptions.

QUESTIONS? contact Janice Gerzevske, 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

Zone#	Church/ Group Name	_____	
	Street Address	_____	
	City		Zip
		_____	_____

Primary Contact:

Name	Phone	_____	_____
email		_____	

Secondary Contact:

Name	Phone	_____	_____
email		_____	

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