

## 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

### Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!

Once again we can share this greeting with our fellow Christians as we continue on after Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. We are moving through the Spring and Summer and all of the upcoming LWML activities.

Zone Spring Rallies have been held throughout the month of April and some in May. I hope you were able to experience one!

The 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha is fast approaching (June 26-29). I got a sneak peak on April 8 of the registration list of 70+ NID members and I know more registered throughout April and May. All of the zones have delegates registered and ready to fulfill their responsibilities. As each of your societies and zones are planning your activities for next fall, why not include inviting your zone's delegate or one of our YWRs (Young Woman Representatives) to come and share about their experiences at convention? Kirsten Smith and Katrina Drinnon will be representing LWML NID at the Omaha convention.



2025 Fall Gathering ...Okay I know this is a fall event, but I want you to be sure you include this one in your upcoming LWML NID dates: September 27, 2025, at St. Peter's, Schaumburg. The theme will be "Joy & Perseverance" based on James 1:2-3.

We have many committees that serve with the Vice Presidents in the Northern Illinois District. At this time we have numerous vacancies that we need to fill. The committee members work alongside the Vice President to aid and assist as needed. So many tasks need to happen to keep our district running smoothly. We need your help. The following committees presently have vacancies: Christian Life, Gospel Outreach, Organizational Resources, and Special Focus Ministries. These committee members are appointed, not elected. We also have vacancies on the Nominating Committee; the members of this committee are to be elected but we did not have a full slate of candidates this past convention.

This is my prayer: that each member of the LWML NID prayerfully consider serving our district by becoming a committee member. So if someone asks you to serve on a committee (and we will be asking), please: (1) ask what the committee does throughout the year, (2) what responsibilities will I need to be a part of, and (3) PRAY that the Holy Spirit leads you to make a decision. Please remember that you can do whatever God puts before you with His help and the help of the Executive Committee.

**News Flash!!!** Our 2023-25 LWML Mission Grant Goal has been met! This is for our national goal to which we contribute 25% of our mite offerings. **Praise God for blessing each of the grant recipients so that they may share God's love throughout the world.** Please continue to send in mite offerings as they will be used to meet the LWML NID Mission Grant Goal we set at our convention.

Please know that I pray for each NID Zone and for the members of the zone. Please pray for me, too! I pray that I can serve you to your satisfaction and to give God the Glory.



## Grow in the Lord

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

As many of you know, my wife, Katrina, and I have a garden. A BIG garden. And we plant so many things in our garden: tomatoes, asparagus, strawberries, watermelon, eggplant, and so much more. Katrina can fill you in on what we are missing. The thing about gardens is that they grow. Plants start off as tiny seeds and grow into big plants. When you plant a garden, you have growth in mind. And growth entails three things:

- Growth has a goal. Each raised bed has its purpose in the garden. Rampant and wild growth is not only undesirable but actively harmful to the garden.
- Growth causes us to grasp new skills and techniques in the garden. These skills and techniques allow us to be better gardeners.
- Growth needs to be guarded against intruders in the garden—against the rabbits and pests that seek to destroy the garden.

Peter speaks of growth the same way in 2 Peter chapter 3.

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! (2 Peter 3:18 NIV)*

Growth in the Lord entails three things:

**First, growth in the Lord has a goal.** 2 Peter 3:13 says that *we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells* (NIV). Our growth in the Lord has a goal. We are growing toward something. That something which we are growing towards is the new heavens and the new earth. All of our growth as Christians is moving in that direction. Greek has two words for goal. The first word is *skopos*—that is the aim and direction of our lives. The *skopos* of Scripture is the story of salvation that Peter outlines here. Paul uses this word in Philippians 3:14, *I press on toward the goal [skopos] for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus* (WEB). And so just as each raised bed in the garden has a goal—each is planted with a purpose—we too are planted in God's vineyard with a purpose—a goal. That goal is ultimately found in the cross of Jesus Christ—where our Lord says, "IT IS FINISHED." That is the other word for goal—*telos*—which is end or completion. So we know the work of our Lord is complete in us. We lack absolutely nothing. His grace is complete in us.

And so we strive in that call to the new heavens and the new earth knowing that God has planted us where we need to be. Lutheran women, you are planted where God wants you to be—He has called you as grandmothers, mothers, sisters, aunts, godmothers, friends, and so on. Do not underestimate the Lord's plan for you. He has a big, huge plan for you in His garden. Have you ever noticed that Scripture begins in a garden and ends in garden? That is no coincidence. The goal of our lives is to live in God's garden, where He graciously bestows on us everything we need to live so that we may grow in Him toward the goal that He has set before us.

**Second, growth in the Lord grasps the Scriptures.** Every once in a while on our Amazon TV, we see the beginning of our garden adventures when I was a pastor down in Okawville, Illinois. Our garden has changed. What we have planted has changed. Our tools have changed. We are no longer the gardeners we started off as. Peter speaks the same way about our growth in the Scriptures. He

writes here concerning Paul's letters: *[Paul] writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand (2 Peter 3:16 NIV)*. This is why we come to Bible study. There are things in the Bible that are hard to understand. Now the question is: do we have to understand everything about God's Word in order to tell others about Jesus? The answer to this question is NO! No, you don't have to understand every Scripture to tell people about Jesus. Even people back during the times of the apostles found Paul's letters hard to understand.

My Greek professor at Concordia Seminary, Dr. Oswald, told this story. He was subbing for one of the congregations in the St. Louis area. All the parishioners had their head looking down into their Bibles. They would not look up and make eye contact with him. He asked questions in Bible study about the text. They did not answer. Finally, one told him, "You know the Greek, tell us the answers." The point of the story is that you do not need to know Koine Greek to read the Bible.

So, we don't have it all figured out, and that is okay. Peter is calling on us to grow in the Lord, to grow in understanding of Scripture. Scripture may hit us one way one day and the very same Scripture takes on new meaning after we experience a significant change in our lives: a big move, a new child or grandchild being born, experiencing an illness such as cancer, or suffering loss—the loss of mobility or the loss of life. As Christians, we are never static in our relationship in the Lord. The more we grow, the greater grasp we have of the Scriptures.

**Third, growth in the Lord needs to be guarded.** Peter warns against the evil of false teaching when he writes here, *Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position (2 Peter 3:17 NIV)*.

In our garden, we have fought against all sorts of pests that destroy the plants in our garden. Last year, we had squash bugs get into our garden and destroy all of our zucchini. Last winter, Katrina took off the fence guarding our blueberry bushes. They were all stripped down—eaten to nubs. Gardens need to be guarded. Peter is warning that our growth in the Lord is threatened when unguarded. When we are unguarded, we are susceptible to temptation, the lies of Satan, the world, and our sinful flesh. When our spiritual lives are unguarded, then our growth in the Lord is vulnerable to destruction. We must be on guard lest we fall into despair and unbelief or other great shame or vice.

So this what Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:18:

- Growth in the Lord has a goal—eternal life with Jesus Christ.
- Growth in the Lord grasps the Scriptures. We will experience the Scriptures in new ways as we grow in Christ.
- Growth needs to be guarded. The Devil, the world, and our sinful flesh seek to destroy what God has grown in us. We need to be guarded against all the assaults of the Evil One.

## Lenten Inspiration 2025

*By Marilyn Eaves, LWML NID Zone 8 President*

The annual LWML NID Lenten Inspiration was held this year on Saturday, March 22 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church North Plato, Hampshire. The 69 attendees enjoyed singing hymns played by CJ Motisi of Immanuel, DeKalb; listening to a Bible study on 2 Peter 3:18 called "Grow in the Lord" by NID LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Roger Drinnon from Bourbonnais; and hearing Christian speaker and author, Sharla Fritz, talk about "Waiting with Hannah: Sacrifice with Love." Many women took part in the nine prayer and activity stations set up around the lunchroom area by first timer Diane Downey of St. John's, Sycamore. The women of Zone 8 served a plethora of coffee cakes, breads, fruit, coffee, and juice for morning refreshments and sandwiches, fruit and vegetable trays for the luncheon. The ingathering included over 300 items donated for the Burlington/Hampshire area food pantry, monetary donations for the food pantry, and eyeglasses for MOST Ministries. Stamps and mites were also collected for missions. There were beautiful table decorations, which were the idea of Loretta Hatch with the help of Christy Petersen of St. Peter's.



## Thanks from Dakota Bays and Girls Ranch

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

I received a very nice and sincere thank you from one of our 2022 - 2024 Mission Grant Recipients.

The note from the **Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch** read as follows:

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful! The grant you provided to update the chapel lighting on the Minot campus, creating a welcoming, well-lit place for children to experience worship, is so important. For some of the children, their first experience with worship will be in this place.

Thank you for providing such a critical piece of their healing.

Blessings,  
Anna

*"For some of the children, their first experience with worship will be in this place."*

For me this sums up what grants are all about: introducing His Word, keeping His Word alive, and increasing faith.

## 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 (\$11,347 paid)**

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 (fully paid)**

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!

## Craft Corner: Independence Day Cards

*By Ekaterina Grassmick, LWML NID Publications Editor*

My LWML group always reaches out to our congregation's shut-ins at Easter and Christmas, usually with a small handmade gift to say, "We're thinking about you." This year, we decided to fill in that time between the big church holidays by sending them Independence Day cards celebrating both our nation's freedom and the freedom we have in Christ. Perhaps your group would like to do the same, or maybe you'd even like to send your LWML friends a greeting!

### Here's what you'll need:

- Letter-size card stock
- Letter-size patriotic scrapbook paper
- Size A2 envelopes (for 5.5" by 4.25" cards)
- Scrapbooking scissors (crinkle-edge, etc.)
- Glue sticks
- Interior template (found on pages 10 and 11, depending on whether the card is from a group or an individual)



### Instructions:

To create the cards, print the interior template on letter-size card stock. Each page will yield two A2-size cards once folded.

Cut the cards apart, yielding two 5.5" by 8.5" pieces, and fold them with the words inside.

Cut the scrapbook paper into quarters. Using your scrapbook scissors, trim about a quarter-inch off of each edge, so that the scrapbook paper fits on the front of the card with a small border of card stock on each side.

Glue a piece of trimmed scrapbook paper to the front of each card to create a decorative cover.

Sign your cards, slip them into envelopes, and send out your Independence Day greetings!

## 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

- June 26-29, 2025 — LWML **National Convention** in Omaha, NE
- July 19, 2025 — LWML NID **Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meetings** at St. John Lutheran Church, Wheaton
- Sept. 27, 2025 — LWML NID **Fall Gathering** at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Schaumburg

## 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 August—October 2025 issue by Wednesday, July 16.

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



Northern Illinois District

Mite Goal:

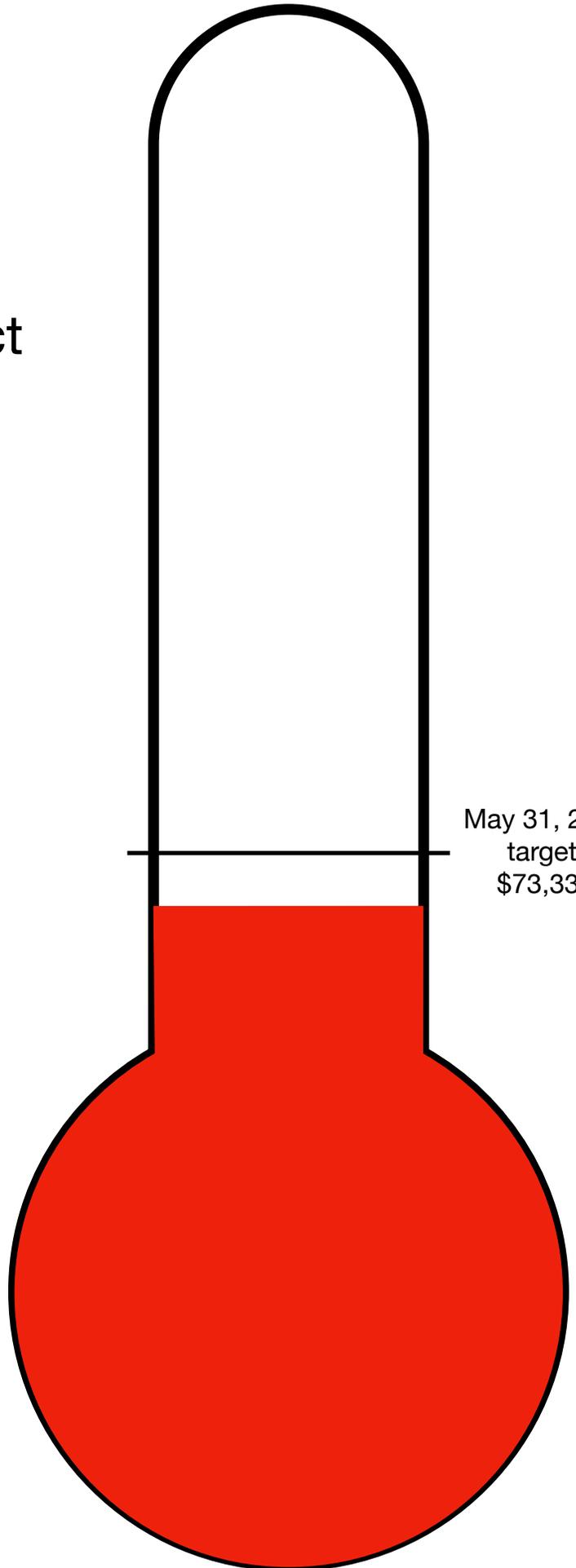
**\$160,000**

by June 30, 2026

Received through

May 31, 2025:

**\$67,952**



May 31, 2025  
target:  
\$73,333

## Happy Independence Day!

So if the Son sets you free,  
you will be free indeed.

John 8:36 (ESV)

As we celebrate our nation's  
freedom, join with us in also  
celebrating the freedom we have in  
Christ: freedom from sin, death,  
and the power of the devil.  
We are free indeed!

God's blessings to you!

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