



*“Being with Jesus, Living on the Edge” Acts 4:13B, 20  
...together at the LWML Convention this summer in Peoria!*

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Check out [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for convention fun and details

- Gifts from the Heart ingathering info
- Tee up for Mites golf outing
- Mite Car flag game for the trip down
- Convention FAQ's
- Online registration

This is the theme of the 34<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, June 23-26, Peoria, IL, and I am excited and thrilled to represent the NID LWML as District President. I have attended several conventions, the first being in Charlotte, North Carolina and it was a mountain-top experience! I am looking forward to this and more in Peoria and hope and pray all of you will be there too!

**This is my invitation to you**, the women of the NID LWML, to attend this convention, to be refreshed, re-energized and uplifted by the wonderful Bible studies, speakers and entertainers.

The Northern Illinois District will be well represented at the convention with Lana Gibbons as the Song Leader and *Sibling Harmony*, Kim, Kevin and Kurtis Buelmann (Kurtis is pastor at Immanuel Belvidere) as part of the entertainment. **And** all of you can be there to have the convention experience and the opportunity to grow and stretch as we listen, learn, laugh and sing praises together.

NID will have a caucus at the convention, a time when just our women, attendees and delegates, will have their own time to meet and affirm each other. We will introduce our Young Woman Representative. I want her to know us and for us to know and support her. She is the future of LWML. Check the website [nidlwml.org](http://nidlwml.org) for more information regarding the time and date for the caucus.

I have often heard the saying “If it plays in Peoria, it will play anywhere” and we will be “playing” in Peoria in June. Check the Winter Quarterly or the LWML website [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) for all the details and registration information. Registration opens March 1. Come join us, I guarantee you won't regret it!

Your Cheerleader,  
**Jan Mauer**  
**President, NID LWML**



## *Some Beautiful Past Convention Memories...*

**"I was so  
inspired by the  
messages and  
messenger"**

**-Susie  
Washington**



*Make some  
beautiful memories  
of your own with  
us this summer—  
June 23-26, 2011  
in Peoria!*

- My first LWML convention was when the kids were small. We went as a family to the opening worship service. What a very special time—a slice of heaven on earth. There is absolutely nothing like worshipping God with thousands of other Christen women—and men also. That is a time I will always treasure. -Sherrie Smith
- I went to my first LWML Convention service when I was 8. We learned the song, "Let Freedom Ring" during that 3 hour service and we sang that song in the car, all the way home. - Kaitlyn Smith
- Laramie, Wyoming 1977. Theme—"Lift Thine Eyes". That was my second and most memorable convention, I was also a delegate. It was truly a spiritual and rewarding mountain top experience. Yazer Price. St. Paul-Grand Crossing. Chicago.
- At the end of my first and favorite Convention, a huge, lighted suspended cross moved slowly over the Convention area, leading us to reach out to others. -Diane Kettelson
- An LWML sister pushed me to be an alternate delegate. The delegate became ill and I went to convention. I met so many wonderful people, and I truly learned how much our mites were helping people here. This end endeared me to the LWML for life!! Thank you, Yazer Price, for the push.-Paralee Fenner, Christ the King, Chicago.
- I've been to every LWML Convention since 1975. It has always been an amazing experience. I'm looking forward to the Peoria Convention. -Ruth Pralle
- My first LWML convention was in 1989 in Rapid City, South Dakota. It was so exciting to see so many Lutheran women coming together from all over. From that convention I made a friend who was married to a native from Taiwan whose is now the pastor of Light of Christ Lutheran Church (St. Louis MO), a recipient of a 2009 LWML grant. We stayed in touch via email all these years, all across the world. We got to see each other again 20 years later. Friendships made in LWML will last for an eternity! Kris Blackwell
- The 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, Cleveland, OH, 1991 – To be led and fed in the Word by Paul Maier, Dale Meyer, Ralph Bohlmann, and Oswald Hoffmann and worship with Betty Duda and thousands of women of the Word (WOW!) was "heavenly"! I was overwhelmed when we sang songs I had written and moved to write "Serve Him!" on the way home. It truly was a "foretaste of the feast to come"! -Lana Gibbons
- Detroit 1983 was my first convention. After trying to register at the hotel for about 2-1/2 hours, I thought it would be my last. That night and, for the next few days I was so inspired by the messages and the messengers, that I've attended every convention since except Edmonton. Susie Washington (St. Philip-Chicago)
- My first- 2007 in South Dakota. I was amazed with the grace and love expressed by everyone. The willingness to accept the challenges to climb stairs to the balcony and sing praises to God with strong voices. I remember communion for 5400 people in 20 minutes and a sports facility overflowing with purple. -Kelley
- Kansas City; I remember being awed by that first opening service and singing and having communion with thousands of other men and women. It was spine tingling! I felt the presence of God in the midst of it all. - Carli Z
- My first convention was in Cleveland, Ohio, the 50th Anniversary of LWML. We all had to wear hats and gloves and bring a canned good with something "gold" in it. The dinner that was served was a sit down dinner to about 5000 - 6000 members. And, the fireworks after the last session were awe-inspiring and I went home totally convinced that LWML was for me. Lois Marten

## How are YOU getting to Peoria?

With the hotels spread out across the city of Peoria, it is unrealistic to try to coordinate bus transportation. However, we desire to see all women attend this LWML convention since it is within our state! Thus, I am willing to assist women in forming car pools. Once you have received your hotel confirmations please fill out the following form and send it via email or regular mail to me (see bolded information in sample). Those needing transportation will be given the names and phone numbers of those people who are driving and staying at the same hotel. Once your car is full, please again send me the names of those people traveling in your car. I am fully trusting our Lord to provide for these needs that all who wish to attend may join in the fellowship and fun. Car pooling costs will be determined by each driver based on cost of gas, hotel and convention hall parking fees, and any other considerations.

Sample of Form

Driver: Zone 22 **Kris Blackwell 2917 Brentwood Ct Wodridge IL 60517**

**630-234-1491 kbwrk@sbcglobal.net**

Special note: leaving early morning June 22 sight seeing in Springfield, not arriving to hotel until PM

Grand Hotel, West Peoria June 22 through June 26

Can take 4 passengers:

Zone 8 Linda Kubitz; \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger needing Ride: Zone 22 Mary Doe 222 Wright Blv Naperville

630-111-2233 can leave any time

Special note: I am a delegate

Hotel: Plaza Downtown Peoria

(Thus Mary Doe would not be given Kris Blackwell's name but someone else who is staying at the Plaza Hotel.)

Cut here -----

**Driver:** Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of passengers: \_\_\_\_\_

Names if known at time of submission: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes:

**or**

**Passenger needing Ride:** Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Notes

## My Story *by Lana Gibbons*

LWML became part of my life about twenty years ago when we moved to Marengo. Until then, I do not think I had been to an official LWML meeting, although I was immersed in church work from little on since both my parents were teachers at Grace Lutheran in Chicago and I am a product of the Lutheran schools. As a child, I remember going to Ladies Aid functions, but not LWML in particular. Maybe it worked alongside the Ladies Aid and I just didn't know it. Through the years I was aware

of the LWML at the churches I had served at, but it wasn't until I went to a LWML meeting at Zion, Marengo that I got involved. It seemed right up my alley to be with women of spiritual fortitude who shared the same heart-set as I did – into the Word, mission, and ministry. To this day, it warms my heart to think of the women I've met through the LWML; they all work together, joyfully using their gifts in service to God whenever and however they can. I was able to use my gift of music in lead-

ing songs at Bible studies and workshops. Later, I went to a NID convention and was asked to lead music and write a song. The rest is history – “HIS story” – sharing the story of Jesus! As sung in “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (LSB411) “...*I want to be with Jesus.*” I am! You, too?



**NID's Lana Gibbons will be the Peoria LWML Convention song leader! She loves Jesus, and loves to sing!**

## From the Pastor *by Pastor Bartz*

Sister's in Christ!

Grace and Peace!

In keeping with the Peoria Convention theme: **BEING WITH JESUS, LIVING ON THE EDGE** (Acts 4:13b), by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I challenge you **NOT ONLY** "live on the edge", **STEP OVER IT!**

We are often hindered by fear and religious tradition from sharing that we belong to JESUS.

Remember the woman at the well? (John 4). Remember Mary Magdalene? (John 20:18)

Remember the women at the empty tomb? (Luke 24:9-11)  
Remember the shepherds?

(Luke 2:15-20)

These were **ORDINARY** people, women and men, sharing an **EXTRAORDINARY** message: "I have seen **JESUS!**" They had **NO** formal training, **NO** religious authority, **NO** academic credentials. The Holy Spirit said "**GO**". They obeyed. They "went to the edge."

They "stepped over the edge."

Personally, I made a New Year Resolution **NOT** to compromise my Christian witness. As the Holy Spirit gives opportunity, I will talk about **JESUS**, not just in the comfort zone of a pulpit or church.

Ladies, Sisters in Christ, please join me in not only "living on the edge", but also: "stepping over the edge."

A **BLESSED** 2011 to all! It is a pleasure serving JESUS' Kingdom as your Pastoral Counselor.

Robert O. Bartz-Pastor

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Richton Park, Illinois



*"I challenge you not only "live on the edge", STEP OVER IT!"-Pastor Bartz*

## Costa Rica Eyeglass Trip Highlights by Jan G.

### What we learned about the people of Costa Rica!

We were in an area that we were told was very dangerous, but never felt threatened or afraid. The people were very thankful and grateful for our presence and for the eyeglasses we brought for them. Even though we were culturally different, we had more things in common than differences. We are all God's children.

Moms have the same concerns for their children as we do here in the States. I still think of the woman that stood all morning with her infant and then asked if we could help with school books and desks and somehow improve the education of the local children.

Word spread of the clinic as neighbors talked to one another. Those who hadn't received "cards" from the pastor had to wait patiently until we first saw all those who came with the invitation "cards".

The lines were long and it took time to process each person correctly, but you never heard anyone complain about how long it took before they were checked. They were always just so grateful we had come to provide eyeglasses.

The people had a lot of needs but were very humble and content in their circumstances. They were respectful and gracious.

**How we saw at work God during the trip!**

God used each team member in a special way. Through our individual talents and traits God "created" a team that worked together effectively. God uses simple everyday people like us to do his work! It didn't take a huge amount of training to be part of an amazing team...we all worked together like clockwork!

Pastor Edmundo told us of a man who came to see him after he had been at our clinic. He was very interested in hearing more about the gospel. Pastor felt that he has the potential to become a leader in the church.

God showed the people that others really cared about them through the clinics and they saw that God does love them. (Many of these people feel God is angry at them because they are so poor and have very little.)

God is always so very good; when you're away from home, it gives you time to count the many blessings you have when you see the conditions of places you visit.

### How serving on the team affected our idea of mission

Our job of serving the people through the clinic could not have happened without all the "unseen" helpers that sorted, marked and packed the glasses; collected used glasses or bought sunglasses; made the eyeglass cases and witness bracelets, prayed for us and sent prayer shawls as gifts. Everyone back home is essential because without you the team could not serve in this very important way.

This experience broadened the scope of serving while also strengthening the

value of the smallest act of service. God's mission is everywhere we are.

Serving on a team like this brings the mission field to life. It is not just a far away group of people who need assistance, but real people with needs, hopes and dreams like our own.

### Experiences we would like to share

Seeing the joy and happiness of the older people who had never had their eyes checked before when they got their glasses and could see is something not soon forgotten.

It was so much fun being on our team and learning how to fit eyeglasses which was something I never thought possible for me...but I should have known that with God's help anything is possible!

A lady came to the clinic holding a small chest in her hands. As her vision was being tested, I asked her about the chest. She showed us beaded ornaments she hand-made and wanted to give to us in appreciation for what we were doing because she didn't have any money. She gave what little she had.

As we rode back to the hotel the final day of clinic, Pastor Edmundo's wife gave each of us a hand-made bookmark as a thank you from the children for coming to share God's love.

Pastor Edmundo is truly a man of faith. He cares so much about the people he serves and now he will have two congregations miles apart. His transportation between them is public bus service on three different bus routes which means he will spend a great deal of time in transit.

### Should you consider joining a future mission team?

There are many ways to serve the Lord, and being on a mission team is truly service in action. Do it even though it means getting out of your comfort zone. It is a wonderful way to increase your own faith and prayer life.

I joined the team after hearing of other people's mission trips and their experiences as a way to broaden my own mission experience and serve in a different way. As a member of a team, God will challenge you to deepen your love for serving others in need and it will change the way you look at your own life and priorities.

There are teams going all over the world and performing all kinds of tasks whether it is eyeglass, construction, VBS, women's ministry, medical or reconstruction. It is a good thing to take yourself out of your comfort zone and let God use you in ways you never thought possible.



*"Let God use you in ways you never thought possible."*  
-Jan G.



## Special Trip offer with Heavenly Benefits!

*Thinking about being part of a mission team. The Executive Committee has approved an eyeglass trip to Paraguay in January or February, 2012, and construction teams to both NW Indiana and Cedar Rapids IA. Both of the construction teams will be aiding victims of 2008 floods--NW Indiana has nearly 300 homes which still need to be rehabbed and Cedar Rapids is embarking upon the rebuilding of a 16 blocks in 2011. As dates are determined, "news releases" will be sent. Jan Gerzyske, Chairman of the Short Term Mission committee can be reached at [jgerz@netzero.com](mailto:jgerz@netzero.com) or 630.294.5014 for additional information.*

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League

NID 2010-2012 Biennium Grants	Grant Amt.	Paid	Balance	Receipts rec'd	Month	Amt. distributed
Voice of Hope Behind the Wall	\$15,000.00	1081.19	13918.81		November, 2010	1081.19
Concordia FW Food Pantry	\$15,000.00					
Trinity/Hope	\$5,000.00	1520.51	3479.49	1520.51	January, 2011	1520.51
Voice of Care	\$20,491.00	6084.84	14406.16	6084.84	November, 2010	6084.84
Furnishing Group Homes	\$22,000.00					
Morning Star Mentoring Program	\$10,000.00					
Textbook Acquisition for Seminary Students	\$20,000.00					
Special Needs Classroom and Diaconal Center in S. Sudan	\$8,900.00	1332.96	7567.04		January, 2011	1332.96
Hymnals For Ev. Lutheran Church In Kenya	\$8,409.00					
Total Mission Grant Goal	\$124,800.00					

### 2010-2012 Executive Committee

**\*\*President: Jan Mauer**, janmauer@sbcglobal.net, 708-798-0691, Leads district in living out the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission. Will help with any questions you have about LWML.

**\*\* V.P. for Servant Resources: Carol Sheppard**, sheppard-nurse@att.net, 773-881-8126; Assists societies in leadership and member development. Has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog.

**V.P. for Christian Life: Elvera Ruff**, eruff6311@aol.com, 630-904-0310, Assists societies with Christian growth resources. Has items for Christian life from LWML catalog, plans Lenten Inspirations. Prepares Speakers List.

**V.P. For Human Care: Carol Fuys**, cfuys14@comcast.net, 630-319-0551, Coordinates servant events and ingatherings. Provides information on service projects and events.

**V.P. for Gospel Outreach: Marilyn Hess**, marilyn-hess@yahoo.com, 630-630-510-3055, Encourages development of mission grant proposals. Presents reviewed grants to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

**V.P. for Communication: open** Coordinator of all district LWML publications, print and electronic.

**Treasurer: Nancy Suhs** carlsnansuhs@aol.com; PO Box 1135, Homewood, IL 60430; Makes all authorized payments.

**Financial Secretary: Barbara Etter**, PO Box 4254, Naperville, IL 60567, 630-420-0626, barbetter@comcast.net; Receives all Mites, special donations, Quarterly donations and memorials.

**Recording Secretary: Laura Latzke**, lauralatzke@sbcglobal.net, Records and distributes minutes from EC & BOD meetings, and convention.

**\*\*Corresponding Secretary: Kris Blackwell**, nidlwmlcorrespondingsec@gmail.com; Receives changes of addresses, changes in the amounts of Quarterlies, handles correspondence and loaning of LWML videos.

**Convention Chairman: Jewel T. Sims**, jsgrand5@aol.com, 773-277-2690; coordinates district gatherings and convention.

**Nominating Committee Chair: Janet Mueller**,

ram533@yahoo.com; Receives nominations for NID LWML officers for elections.

**\*\*Archivist-Historian: Ruth Pralle**, rdpralle@yahoo.com, 847-255-1713; Preserves historical materials from district and zones.

**Sr. Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Erik Gauss**, Egauss@hiscross.org; Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

**Jr. Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Robert Bartz, Jr.**, revrob8@sbcglobal.net. Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

**Co-Parliamentarians: Carli Zygowicz**, czygowicz@hotmail.com, 815-547-8639 and **Charlotte Koelling**, critdlfrnc@comcast.net; Assists with Parliamentary procedures at all meetings and the convention.

**\*\*Public Relations Co-Director: Barbara Copeland-Belinski**, mokenaliving@comcast.net, 708-995-5375; Coordinates PR activities for District LWML.

**District Publications Editor: Madlyn Johnson**, madlyn57@yahoo.com, 708-785-6449; Produces the monthly LWML page in "The Northern Illinois Light". Send her LWML events you want publicized.

**NID-Bits Editor: Nancy Glissman**, lwmlgirl@comcast.net, 630-715-4351; Produces the NID Bits newsletter at regular intervals.

**District Webmaster: Wendy Johnson**, nidlwmlpr@msn.com, 815-874-2304; Posts information on the district web page, www.nidlwml.org

**Planner: Jan Stantus**, jlstanz21cen@att.net, 630-208-7353; Serves as planning director for NID LWML.

**Short Term Mission Committee Chair: Jan Gerzevske**, 630-294-5014, jgerz@netzero.com; Encourages awareness and provides opportunities for participation in short-term missions.

**Mission Ministry Vision Consultants: Pauline Brunke** 630-393-6380, psbrunke@yahoo.com and **Darlyne Watts**, 815-762-0546, darlynelark@aol.com. Assist Zones & societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

**\*\*send Zone minutes to these officers please!!!** ( page 6)