



## REJOICING IN HIS LOVE

The ballad, *Love is a Many Splendored Thing*, sung by Frank Sinatra, makes us feel all mushy and squishy inside as we visualize and remember our first loves and how our hearts went pitter-patter. For most of us those years are long past, while for those younger, their memories may be quite recent. At this time of year, that romantic feeling of love seems to be all around us as we see our earth come alive with new growth, spring flowers in their colorful array, and blossoming trees. We can't help but fall in love all over again with that special someone!! Just as Alfred Tennyson wrote in his poem so long ago, "in the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love"-our world glows through star-crossed eyes.

But there is a greater love for us to experience than worldly love – a love that never changes, has conditions, dies, or leaves us alone. We read in God's Word, *"Greater love has no one than this that He lay down his life for His friends."* John 15:13. How thankful we are that we are God's friends and that because of His love, He sent His Son to be our Savior – and we **REJOICE**!

Perhaps our Easter greeting, "He is Risen!" has faded from our lips and we are no longer thinking of that wondrous morn when God put His seal of approval on His Son's death to save mankind. My dear LWML friends, let not a day go by in your lives when you do not remember to **REJOICE** in this love – *"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16.

When Jesus lived on this earth, His love was evident wherever He went - loving the sinner! - and He gave this command – *"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."* John 13:34-34. I think God was already planning for the LWML way back in New Testament Bible times. As I travel throughout our Northern Illinois District, I see our zones and societies sharing their love for others with their mission projects, their offerings and their time – and we **REJOICE** some more!

I'm reminded of this Sunday School song by Peter Scholtes:

We will walk with each other  
We will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news  
That God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians  
By our love, by our love,  
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

As we near the end of our biennium, I pray our LWML love will continue to have no limits or boundaries. *"We love because He first loved us."* 1 John 4:19  
His love is indeed a many splendored thing!!  
And our **REJOICING** goes on and on!!



Barbara Belanski, LWML NID President

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***“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE!” -- PHILIPPIANS 4:4 [ESV]***

Paul tells the Philippians to rejoice always. They are to rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ. And because our memory is so short, St. Paul adds “again I will say, Rejoice!”

We have reason for joy. Christ was “in the form of God” (Phil. 2:6). Yet He “made Himself nothing, taking on the form of a servant” (Phil. 2:7). Jesus subjected Himself to all kinds of verbal abuse He didn’t need to take. He even subjected Himself to the violent abuse of death by means of nailing to a cross. Why? He suffered abuse from humanity to please His heavenly Father. He suffered the abuse of our sins that He might pay for our sins and buy our lives to belong to God for all eternity. He suffered abuse because there was no other way of possessing you in His eternal joy!

“God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9). This means Jesus has a special power to care for us. By faith in Him and in what He has accomplished, we may become like Him and attain a resurrection from the dead (Phil. 3:10-11). Who isn’t subject to something unpleasant: aches and pains, hearts hurt by others, disappointments, disabilities within yourself or in another you love, insecurities? But we know of a day when our Lord Jesus Christ “will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body” (Phil. 3:21). Jesus’ resurrection and ascension seals the coming day when all unpleasant things of life will be in the past and where only the good and joyous remain. In Christ Jesus we have reason for joy!

Sorrow and joy can live side-by-side in the Christian. We grieve our wrongdoing and confess our sins to the Lord and in Christ rejoice that we are forgiven and given a beautiful hope. We sorrow in suffering and in Christ rejoice in His providence and sustenance for the present day and in the coming day where “He will wipe away every tear” from our eyes (Rev. 21:4). There may even be times where we endure hurt from another. We do so with the prayer that the person will mature in the Lord; our joy is in the Lord.

“Rejoice in the Lord.” The focus is always on the Lord Jesus Christ. We take time to remember the blessings He gives us and then we take more time to thank Him. And then we take additional time to tell others how our Lord cares for us. His peace and confidence overtakes us. And, in Christ, we experience joy. And because it’s so easy to forget – “again I will say, Rejoice!”

***I’m looking forward to seeing you all at September’s Convention!***

***In the meantime, I give God thanks for you!***

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Gerhard Mau

Senior Pastoral Counselor NID LWML



Find us on the Web: [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org)

Like us on Facebook!

## Mission Grant #6: Trinity/HOPE \$5000 PAID!

### GOD IS USING YOU TO REACH “THE LEAST OF THESE”

Imagine the pure joy a parent must feel when they themselves cannot read but their child comes home from school and reads a book to them for the first time; or the sheer relief a mother must feel when she can't feed her child even a small piece of bread today, but knows that they will receive a nutritious meal at school; or the eternal impact a father receives when his child comes home from school and explains that Jesus loves him so much that He died on the cross so his family could experience life in heaven forever.

Those things are happening in Haiti. By helping support the work Trinity/HOPE does, you are doing more than feeding a hungry child. As important as that is (and it's crucial), you are part of God's bigger plan to change the direction of an entire nation. We know God is using Trinity/HOPE as one of His resources to fulfill His will in Haiti. Every \$0.26 allows Trinity/HOPE to provide another meal to a hungry child. That allows the child to fill his stomach, to stay awake in class, to better comprehend the lessons, to fully hear the Good News of Jesus when it's shared by teachers and principals. These children are Haiti's future, the missionaries that are reaching their parents, the generation that can change the country forever.

It's easy to tell you how your financial support buys life-sustaining food like rice, beans, and corn; but it's more important to realize that God is using YOU as an instrument to reach “the least of these” in Haiti (Matt. 25:40). We want to thank you for your ongoing support and we thank God for you, and hope you can imagine how you are bringing His blessings to Haiti! (NOTE: See page 16 of this newsletter for a thank-you note to all of you!)



## MISSION GRANTS DISBURSEMENTS

(through May 18, 2016)

<u>GRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>
#1 St. Matthew \$22,000	\$18,750	\$ 3250
#2 CTSFW Food Co-Op \$10,000	\$10,000	PAID
#3 Voice of Hope \$10,000	\$ 4395.86	\$ 5604.14
#4 Phil's Friends \$22,000	\$22,000	PAID
#5 Voice of Care \$22,000	\$22,000	PAID
#6 Trinity/Hope, Haiti \$5,000	\$ 5,000	PAID
#7 Indian Ministry \$3,050	\$ 3,050	PAID
	\$ 85,195.86	\$ 8,854.14

**COME TO CONVENTION.....** to find out which ministries we will be supporting  
in the 2016-2018 biennium!

+ + + + + + + + + + +

**Although no monetary amounts have been suggested, we pray for the generous support of mites  
on a regular basis.**

*Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into  
your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt to you in return. Luke 6:38*

*Mail your mites to: LWML NID PO Box 175 Westmont IL 60559*



Young Women are encouraged to attend the LWML NID Convention in September--participate in the Bible studies, be inspired by the speakers, and laugh. The Convention is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other young women that love Jesus, worship together, and serve together. There will be a pizza party and a scavenger hunt planned especially for the Young Woman Representatives. All Young Women will receive a "YWR" pin.

**Zone Presidents**, personally invite a young woman. Help make it possible for her to attend the Convention and find ways to make the Convention a joy-filled experience for her.

The Convention is a time when women of all ages can come together.

**Let us REJOICE in the Lord—Together!**



Photos from the 2014  
LWML-NID Convention

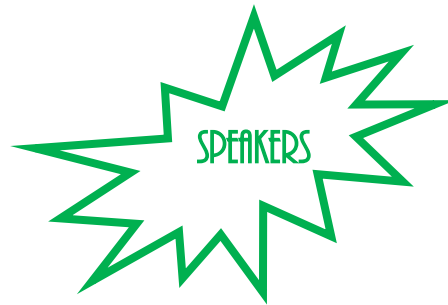






## ARE YOU READY FOR CONVENTION ???!

On the following pages, you will find everything you need to be “in the know” for our District gathering in September.





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The 2016 Convention of the  
**LWML NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**  
 September 23-25, 2016 in Elk Grove Village  
*Join Lutheran Women in Mission  
 for a girlfriends' weekend away at  
 Belvedere Events & Banquets  
 1170 W Devon Ave*

**Convention Schedule:**

Friday, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. **Servant Event**

Friday, 7 p.m. **Opening Worship, followed by fellowship**

Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Convention, including lunch**

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. **Dinner and entertainment**

Sunday, 9 a.m. **Closing Service and installation of officers**

**PRINT** contact information (make a copy for your records)

**Featured Speakers:**

- \* Rev. Victor Belton
  - \* Jan Struck
  - \* Eden Keefe
- (LWML VP of Christian Life)

**First Name**

**Last Name**



**Street Address**

**City**

**Zip**




**Phone Number**

**Email Address**



**Church/City**

**Zone**



**Classification:** (please check all that apply)

☐ Delegate    ☐ Alternate    ☐ LWML NID Past President    ☐ Zone President    ☐ Guest

☐ LWML Member    ☐ First Timer    ☐ Young Woman Representative    ☐ Pastor

**Please check for special dietary needs:** ☐ Gluten-free    ☐ Vegetarian

**Registration Fees/Deadlines:**

\$129 by June 11

\$139 June 12-August 10

\$159 August 11-August 31

*NO refunds after August 31*

Please provide email address above to receive confirmation.

**Amount Enclosed**

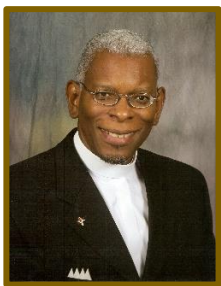
**Check Number**



**Please mail form and check or money  
 order (payable to LWML NID):**

Janice Gerzevske  
 30 W 017 Juniper Ct  
 Warrenville IL 60555  
 correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org

To reserve a room at the Country Inn and Suites, 1160 W Devon Ave, Elk Grove Village, you must call 847.985.0101 before September 9, 2016, and request the **“Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Northern Illinois District”** convention rate of \$109 plus tax for a standard room with 2 queens or 1 king plus breakfast buffet.



### MAIN SPEAKER: THE REVEREND DR. VICTOR J. BELTON

The Reverend Doctor Victor J. Belton was born and raised in Washington, DC. Before being led by God to enter the ministry, he spent some time as a brick mason's laborer and a number of years as a computer operator. He then attended Concordia College in Bronxville, NY and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. God has blessed him with Wenona, his lovely wife of over 30 years.

Pastor Belton currently serves as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Decatur, Georgia, where he celebrated 25 years as pastor in January, 2016. He also serves on the national Board of Directors of Synod. He has helped to begin a ministry in Sudan Africa along with Sudanese Evangelist LCMS Pastor Bafel Paul Deng, and serves in a variety of capacities in his community. If you have ever been to a national LWML Convention, you may remember him, as he has served as proclaimer for three of our past gatherings, the most recent being in Pittsburgh.

The Word that the Lord uses to encourage Pastor Belton is Psalm 34:1-3: *"I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together."*

Pastor's message to all attending our Convention is "Pray with me that the Lord will richly bless our time together as we 'Rejoice, Rejoice'."



### NATIONAL LWML VP OF CHRISTIAN LIFE: EDEN KEEFE

Every level of the LWML is important to Eden. In addition to her current national position, she has served as Leader Development Chairman and as a member of the Christian Resources Editors and HOPE Committees. She is the Recording Secretary of the Carolinas District (where she moved recently from the Kansas District) and has held many other District positions in the past. She has also been active on many boards and committees in her zone and society. She and her husband, Brad, have two grown children.

Her vision for the LWML is based on Ephesians 4:1b, 15 and 16: *"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*



### SPECIAL GUEST: JAN STRUCK

Jan is delighted to have been given a lifetime of bizarre experiences and an ability to see humor and irony—and God's hand—in her life journey. She is retired from her career as a trainer/consultant in the field of healthcare technology and feels blessed to serve the Lord as a speaker. She has lead Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats throughout the United States and Canada—including several LWML Conventions and other events.

Come see what she has in store for us this time!



## MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS 2016-2018

### #1 BELIZE MISSION FEEDING PROGRAM, \$18,000

We know that sharing the love of Jesus every day by providing a meal for hungry children is significant. The Belize Mission Society currently feeds lunch to 43 students under the home of a local resident in Seine Bight, Belize. The principal has identified the need for 150+ students to participate in the lunch program. Expanding the program to be held on school property and accommodate the larger need is an extension of Mercy outreach, as the LCMS works toward establishing the first Lutheran Church of Belize.

### #2 INTERPRETERS FOR MOST MINISTRIES, \$10,000

Physical and spiritual needs of people are only met when interpreters can relate questions and/or messages of team members to them. Short term mission teams sent by MOST Ministries are the result of requests by the LCMS missionaries in the country being served. Physical needs include providing eyeglasses, education about hygiene, installing water filtration systems, and providing medical care. Spiritual needs are met through sharing the Gospel with adults and children. Providing \$10,000 to pay the cost for interpreters will continue to allow the Gospel to be spread and physical needs to be provided. Help teams spread Christ's love.

### #3 STEM EDUCATION EQUIPMENT, WALTHER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, \$16,315

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education is of primary importance in today's world. Walther Christian Academy's grant request supports STEM education and focuses on our math and science departments. To make teaching more interactive and effective, funds for the purchase of additional technology equipment is requested.

### #4 BIBLE STORYBOOKS FOR KENYA, TANZANIA, AND EAST AFRICA, \$10,000

Imagine trying to teach Sunday school without a single Lutheran Bible storybook in your language. What would you do? This is the situation faced by Swahili-speaking Lutherans throughout East African countries like Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mission congregations and LCMS partner churches are in desperate need of children's teaching materials for Sunday school and for home devotions. With the help of the LWML NID, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation will translate and publish 10,000 copies of *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* in Swahili, which will be given free to the families and churches that need them.

### #5 BEYOND THE WALLS – NID, LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES [LSEM], \$14,850

LSEM's Beyond the School Walls offers needed support to children with learning needs to become successful readers and/or mathematicians. Being able to read proficiently provides accessibility to God's Word, the Bible. Northern Illinois District participants gain access to the project when they are identified as a child with learning needs in a LSEM Partnership Program, or when parents request help from LSEM's Resource Center. Online curriculum provides accessibility for the learner as well as other helpful LSEM resources: online instructional webinars and Parent eNewsletters, featuring Christ-centered devotions and other beneficial information.

*Find us on the Web: [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org)*

*Like us on Facebook!*

**#6 REACHING THE HOMEBOUND IN NID, LUTHERAN MINISTRIES MEDIA, \$15,000**

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.'s mission is to "share Christ's love through ministry and media", and does so by producing a weekly 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called *Worship for Shut-Ins*. The program has been around since 1965 and each service includes music, Scripture readings, prayers, and a Lutheran pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed captioned for the hearing impaired. Lutheran doctrine and Word and Sacrament remain central to every broadcast, pointing to Christ as our Savior and bringing the reality of that salvation to the hearts of viewers. *Worship for Shut-Ins* celebrated 50 years in 2015 and looks forward to many more years of sharing the Gospel with the homebound and unchurched of the world.

**#7 SPANISH LANGUAGE MATERIALS & OUTREACH, \$6,000**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Chicago, is a 125+ year old LCMS congregation of the NID that is located in the center of a community that is more than 50% Hispanic. Since 2012, Trinity has been developing a Spanish language outreach mission and currently offers Divine Services in Spanish every Sunday, followed by a 1-hour Bible study. The LCMS grant money would be used to further this mission through purchase of hymnals, CDs, and other worship and study materials. A portion will also go toward musician salaries and further promotional efforts.

**#8 SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH IMMIGRANTS IN DETENTION, \$10,000**

In one of His final lessons to the disciples before He was crucified, as Matthew 25:36 tells us, Jesus taught the importance of ministry to imprisoned people. Echoed in the epistle to the Hebrews, He calls on us to serve those in prison as if they were Jesus himself. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) seeks to live out that call with our Detention Ministry. Our goal is to offer healing and hope to immigrants imprisoned while they wait to make their case for relief through the court system. This will be done through providing Bibles to those immigrants in detention.

**#9 SHEPHERD'S CANYON RETREAT, SPONSORSHIP, \$3500**

This grant extends the mission and ministry of the Word by serving the men and women of the LCMS who serve in various "shepherd" capacities across the church body at large. This grant will enable suffering pastors and other professional church workers, along with their spouses, to attend a 7-day healing retreat outside Phoenix, AZ. SCR does not turn away those in need so we maintain a following of "friends" who help us provide these services. \$3500 will provide one sponsorship for a church worker and spouse. SCR is merely the tool. The Holy Spirit provides the healing every time!

**#10 WONDERFULLY MADE, FIRST CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DISABILITIES AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES, \$5000**

Bethesda is creating literature called *Wonderfully Made* to help medical personnel, pastoral staff, and family members share God's Word with new parents of children with disabilities. Unfortunately, many in society undervalue the lives of those with intellectual or developmental disabilities. As Christians, we have a responsibility to inform parents and professionals that every child born with a disability should be seen the way God sees them – holy, precious, and loved.

Bethesda ministry staff will lead the *Wonderfully Made* campaign by distributing resources to Northern Illinois hospitals and clinics to prepare their staff to have these sensitive conversations with new parents. By the grace of God, these parents will hear God's Word and receive compassionate care as they are first told by prepared medical and/or pastoral staff of their child's diagnosis.

The Dr. William H. Griffin Community Center, a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church (Winston), Chicago, was inaugurated in 2008 to serve the needs of the community and to be a bridge for Gospel outreach. Since that year, we have continuously added more services. The center serves approximately 300 individuals monthly through its weekly food pantry, clothing bank, weekly wellness and exercise program, college/career preparation, and several outreach events organized throughout the year.



**Convention  
Entertainment  
on Saturday evening,  
September 24, 2016**



**Share your voice and sing a solo or team up with some of your LWML sisters for a group song!**



**Put on your dancing shoes and show us your moves!**



**Start practicing those scales and get in pitch!**



**Laughter is the best medicine - so get that routine down!**

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## ***REJOICE...IN SERVING HIM AT CONVENTION***

Have you noticed, every year it seems that time goes by faster than before?

It is not too early to start getting excited about our LWML NID Convention, September 23-25, 2016. With that extra day during the Convention this year, we will have more time to spend on an "In-Service Project" for Bethesda Lutheran Communities in Watertown, WI, an "Ingathering Event for TLC Pregnancy Services" in Elgin, IL, fellowship with our LWML Sisters in Christ, learning more about our proposed Mission Grants, Bible Study, songs, and SO MUCH MORE....

As the LWML NID VP of Human Care, I am very pleased to present our 2 Convention projects and encourage each of you to be a part of them.

Friday 9/23, 1:30 – 3:30 pm      **BETHESDA CLOTHING PROTECTORS** (See Flyer on LWML NID website)

We will CUT, PIN, and SEW these simple items for the residents. Items to bring are new terrycloth hand towels (16"x 25") and packages of bias tape wide single fold (any color). We will also need fabric scissors and straight pins. IF you would like to bring your sewing machine & extension cord, please contact me per information on the flyer.

(IF your society would like to start sewing in advance, contact me for pattern/instructions.  
Please bring or send your completed items to Convention).

Friday, Saturday, Sunday      **TLC PREGNANCY SERVICES** (See Flyer on LWML NID website)

We will collect NEW items in NEUTRAL colors (no pink or blue, no boy/girl specific prints):

- \* BABY CLOTHING in 3 mo. & 6 mo. sizes ONLY: footed sleepers, onesies, hooded towels and baby wash cloths
- \* INFANT ITEMS: again in NEUTRAL colors/prints (not boy/girl specific) – baby size blankets and receiving blankets, rattles, teething--diaper bags are also needed.
- \* NURSERY ITEMS: Baby bath wash, lotion, shampoo, and powder (NO diapers, wipes, formula)

Today's LWML role continues... Let us each share our God-given "gifts" with those in need, whether we're sewing, stamping, gluing, collecting, visiting, praying, etc. Multiply that by many individuals, societies, zones, and districts – together we can do awesome things, all to God's Glory!

Carol Karris, LWML NID VP Human Care

>> A note about the LWR Farm Animal Project: Any society or individual wanting to donate toward this is welcome to do so. Checks should be made out to LWML; write "LWR project" on the memo line. Contributions may be mailed to me (Carol Karris, VP Human Care, 14101 William Drive, Orland Park, IL 60462) or given to your Zone President to bring to the next Board of Directors meeting in July.

# ZONED IN!

*"News from Around the District" –SPRING RALLY EDITION*

Thanks to all who send reports about what your societies and Zones are doing!  
Here are some of the ministries that we learned about at our Rallies.....

## LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team)

Those attending rallies in **Zone 11** (St. Peter, Hampshire) and **14** (Christ Our Savior, Dixon) heard about this ministry, which offers assistance following disasters (tornados, etc.). The LERT volunteers use their training to respond to the physical needs of the people affected, while also providing respect, reverence, and compassion to the survivors.

## COMFORT DOGS

- > Comfort Dogs Shiloh and Samuel were the greeters at **Zone 14's** rally.
- > The Comfort Dog ministry was the theme of the **Zones 6/7** rally at St. John's, Algonquin. Comfort Dogs Butter, Hannah, and Wave were the "guests of honor". Those at the rally were reminded that these dogs are ambassadors for Christ, whether serving in a crisis situation, disaster, or working with veterans (Kare-9 Dogs).

## HISPANIC MINISTRY

The speaker at the **Zones 22/10** rally was Pastor Fred Gaede, who shared his work with the Hispanic Ministry at Trinity, West Chicago. This ministry at Trinity reaches out to Hispanics in the area in many ways: a clothing pantry (to which the attendees of this Zone Rally contributed), fiestas, and incorporating Hispanic music into the worship. The church now worships in English as well as Spanish, holding a Spanish prayer service at noon every other Sunday. He uses Spanish resources from CPH (hymnal, catechism, and Study Bible), enabling him to teach Lutheran doctrine and use the liturgy as well. His focus is always to proclaim the Word. It is important to acknowledge the Catholic background of Hispanics--their reverence for the liturgy and the sacraments--to accept the good, then teach right doctrine. People coming to the clothing pantry often go into the sanctuary to pray. He also spoke of his church's very good relationship with School District 33.



### COMMUNITY CRISIS CENTER, ELGIN

**Zone 5** welcomed Judy Cornelius, Economic Crisis Program Coordinator at the Center. The Center has accommodations for 35 women and children living in emergency shelter. They offer programs on domestic violence, sexual assault, abuse intervention, economic crisis, and children's programs. They also maintain a Food Pantry. Funds from the State at this time are minimal, so they rely on individuals and churches for help.

### PRISON MINISTRY

Those who were at St. John's, Lombard, for the **Zone 8** rally listened to a presentation by Deaconess Lori Wilbert on her prison ministry. Most of the prisoners she works with are there for life, so her classes begin with helping the students answer the question of how they came to be in prison for life. They then move on to forgiving self and others, finding meaning and purpose in serving time, and end with answering the question: Where is God in all this?

### LIFE ISSUES

The guest speaker at the **Zone 12** Rally was Lori Trinché, who is now a member of the NID Life Issues Task Force. Her theme was "Rejoicing in all stages of life". Lori shared what the Task Force is wanting to do throughout the District and was eager to hear about programs already in the Rockford area.

### VARIOUS PROJECTS

>> The ladies at the **Zone 25** Rally got into groups to work on cutting, pinning, and sewing clothing protectors (sound like a Convention Servant Event?!) They also made greeting cards.

>> At The **Zones 2/3** Rally, St. Paul, Skokie reported on several projects that their ladies have been working on. They have completed 550 (!) pillowcase dresses (to be distributed by Orphan Grain Train) and are now working on boys' shorts made from t-shirts.

We REJOICE throughout the District that God has put so many ministries and opportunities in our midst to guide us in service to Him. May we all be encouraged to support and pray for these organizations and participate in projects as we are able. Read on for another project that LWML sisters have taken on—maybe you will want to participate as well!



## *DIGNITY FOR GIRLS*

*\*\* UPDATE AND NEWS \*\**

Dignity for Girls is a mission ministry which provides young women in Kenya, Africa, with three years of sustainable feminine hygiene products. Trinity, Lisle set up a Thrivent Action Team and scheduled a SEW-IN in April which was attended by 28 women from both the congregation and surrounding community. To complete our goal of 50 kits, we used Days for Girls ([daysforgirls.org](http://daysforgirls.org)) patterns, directions and guidelines. Taking flannel in both dark solids and colorful prints, we ironed, cut, serged, and sewed liners. Two colorful cotton pieces (cut from the pattern) plus a moisture barrier piece were sewn, turned, pressed, and sewn and pressed again. Then a set of snaps were added to create the shield which holds the liners. Finally, colorful cotton prints were serged, pressed, and sewn to create drawstring bags to hold the full kit.

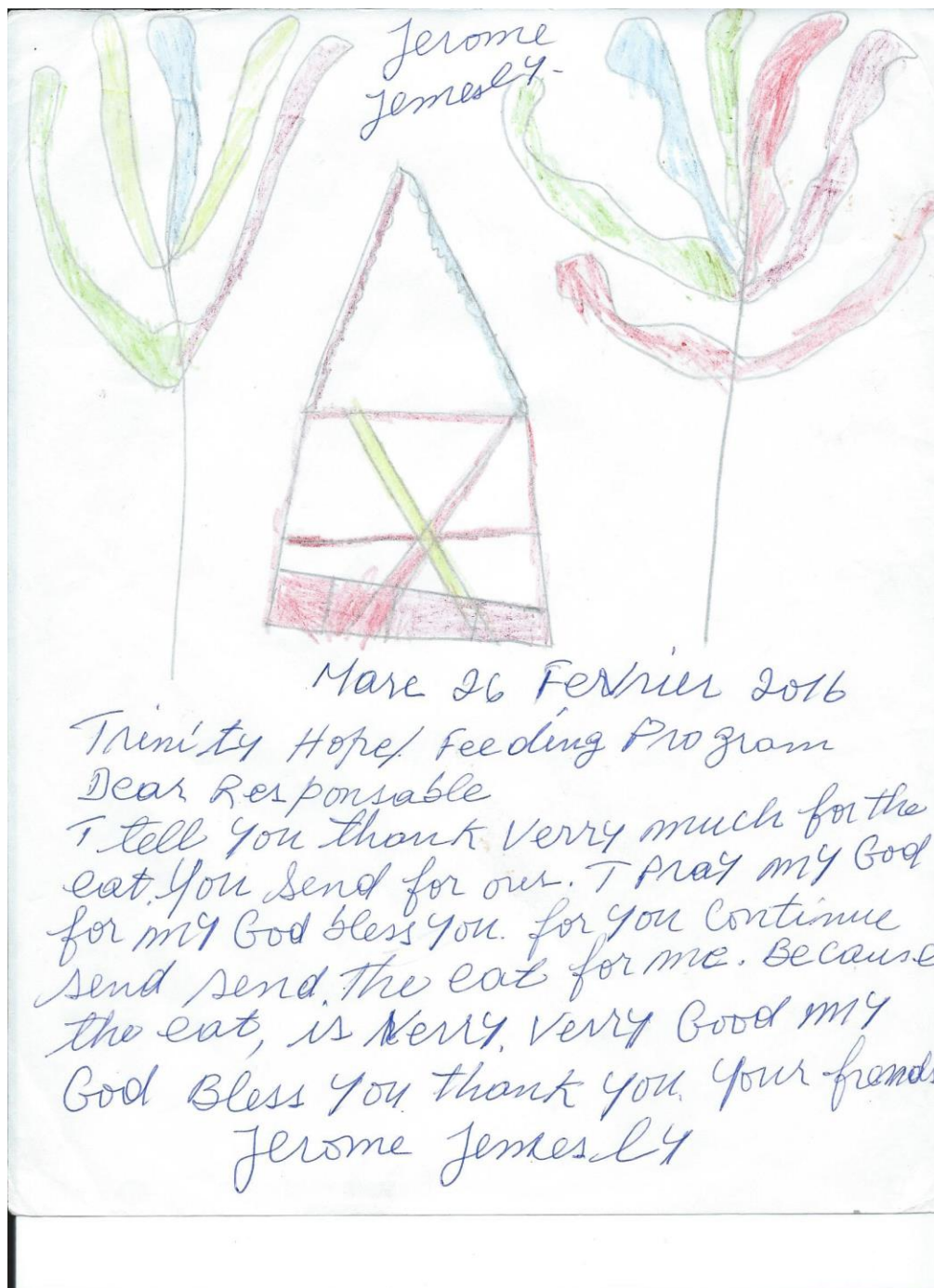
Later that month, we were blessed to have another 28 women (a Trinity Bible Study group) who wanted to help get these kits to Kenya. They put drawstrings in the bags and folded the liners; they unwrapped, folded, and sorted girl's underwear by size; they also folded wash cloths and unwrapped hotel size bar soap. Finally, the ladies selected the correct amount of each of the sewn and purchased products and placed them in a gallon-size Ziploc bag to be placed in the cotton drawstring bag. All items came from donations, including \$250 from Thrivent, used to purchase fabric.

This Dignity for Girls Team has learned, led, and grown, and plans to set a goal of 100 kits in 2017. Women from our local community were invited to join us to learn about the mission project and how Thrivent financially encourages/supports its members. They became part of a production line to press, cut, and sew items for girls in a community we will never visit. The support of Thrivent and 45 women who have learned and grown beside us is allowing Dignity for Girls to make a difference for young women in Kenya by giving them more days for education, more days for work, and more days to grow in their own communities. The Dignity for Girls project is a fun, productive experience. It is an inspiring opportunity for giving generously while helping others to grow and live up to their potential, whether in our community or a foreign land. The video of distribution of the kits in Kenya, the explicit Days for Girls directions, and willing hearts encourage us to live generously and keep this ministry growing.

### *IT'S A SEW-IN EVERYONE!*

Thursday evening July 14th  
4:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
1101 Kimberly Way, Lisle IL

Come when you can, Leave when you have to~  
We will cut, sew, press, serge, and have a good time!



A Thank-You from Haiti.....

Dear Responsable

I tell you thank very much for the eat you send for our. I pray my God for my God bless you for you continue send send the eat for me. Because the eat is very, very good my God bless you thank you.  
Your friend Jerome Jamesly