

NID BITS

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Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Northern Illinois District

Bits from Barb



While many of you know and have worked with Barbara Belanski, the newly elected LWML NID President 2014-2018, some of you may not. Hopefully, her answers to a few questions we asked will help you get to know her better!

How has your background and experience prepared you to be effective as the newly-elected president of LWML NID?

When I was first asked to consider running for LWML NID president, I immediately thought of all the presidents who have served in the past and said to myself ‘I don’t have their skills – the job is way too big for me.’ As I prayed over my decision, I felt God was answering me to accept the nomination – I believed, I could rely on His strength and support.

God has given me organizational and leadership gifts – He led me into the teaching profession which honed my skills as I learned to work with children, parents and other professionals. As I became active in LWML, I used those skills as I served as zone president for two NID zones as well as on the Executive Committee as co-chairman of PR, chairman of the nominating committee and VP of Human Care.

What is your vision for LWML NID during the coming biennium?

Where do I start? Of course, I would hope LWML would continue to be viable in the NID but also that all women in our societies and churches would feel the joy and have the passion in their hearts for serving the Lord – I guess I want that the most!! In the busy world of today’s modern woman, time for serving the Lord often gets put on the back burner as life’s demands and schedules fill our lives. But even for the busiest of woman, there are opportunities for her to serve. We are experiencing an interest in LWML by the young women of our district – I pray this interest continues and mushrooms – we need their energy – we need their ideas – we need their vision. They are truly God’s gifts – they are our legacy – they need our encouragement.

How would you describe yourself?

First, I am a child of God – for this I am so thankful. As I enter my more senior years, the desire for the material things of this world is waning – I now look toward the spiritual rewards God has promised me in heaven. Also, I rely on God wholly by always looking to Him for answers – I am content with what He has given me. Secondly, I love serving God, working for Him, worshipping Him and sharing His goodness – my cup overflows with His mercy. And thirdly, even in this period of my life, I know God is not finished with me – He still has work for me to do.

So here I am – two months into my presidency – and how awesome they have been. I have been encouraged and felt loved by all my LWML sisters both in our district as well as national. I’m thankful for the gift of each of you as well as for the gifts of God’s forgiveness and love.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

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Barbara Belanski

LWML NID President 2014-2018

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LWML MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.



Pastor's Corner

THE PURPLE TIE

Thank you to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Northern Illinois District who at the last district convention gave me my very first purple tie. It's the LWML purple tie. And I do wear it.

I imagine a number of you didn't think I looked spiffy enough. So you wanted to put a little color on me. That reminds me of how our Lord blesses us with many gifts. He doesn't leave us bland and alone. He richly and daily gives us everything we need to support this body and life including "my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them" (Explanation to First Article of Apostles' Creed). Dr. Luther summarizes some of these gifts as "food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like" (Explanation to Fourth Petition of Lord's Prayer). Each gift God gives us by virtue of His creation is something He gives to spiff us up. These gifts do not only support our daily life, they make life wonderful. Each gift God places in our life is a reminder that He cares for you; He loves you; He made you and takes great pride in having you as His child. And each gift teaches us that God is a good and gracious Giver.

I remain humbled because I know I do not deserve the goodness the people of my congregation give



me; I do not deserve the encouragement that you of the LWML NID give me; I do not deserve the gifts God has chosen to give me. And still God gives good gifts because that is who God is. And because sin has broken and hidden so much that is good, God has sent His Son Christ Jesus to restore us in God's goodness and love. What honorable response can there be but "to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

Our LWML NID theme for the coming year is "God-given gifts." At the present we are reflecting on the gifts our heavenly Father creates for us and how He takes care of us. Jot down the gifts God has given you. Think about how these gifts bless you. Then take time to tell God what these gifts are and how He cares for you through them. Tell God how these gifts help you understand that God loves you and values you. And then ask Him how these gifts can be used to bring His selfless love to the people He places in your life. Gratitude, learning that everything depends on the Lord alone, and selfless love for our neighbor expresses a heart that clings to our Lord's love and promises.

Thank you for the gift of the purple tie, your encouragement, and the love it represents in Christ our Lord.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Gerhard Mau
Senior Pastoral Counselor, LWML NID



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Jan's Jottings

In the twinkling of an eye, four years have passed and the election of a new LWML NID President has taken place. It has been a blessing to serve as your president for the last four years. The LWML Northern Illinois District has served well day to day and in all things large and small. I am grateful for each and every woman I served with. Thank you!

Convention is always exciting and as I look back over the weekend, I saw women serving as they participated in the servant event preparing glasses to be used by MOST Ministries. For the first time our worship service was held at the convention venue and it worked. LCMS NID President Dan Gilbert brought the message and we were blessed by the music provided by the worship team from Cross Yorkville! What more could we need than meaningful worship and sharing The Lord's Supper with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Our keynote speaker, The Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor inspired us with his words, his humor and his beautiful voice. He certainly knows LWML, LWML women, our foibles, and our desire to serve! We thank him for his message. In fact, I think I need to make a trip to New York!

Gayle Sommerfeld shared her story. Her faith in the Lord's leading and her willingness to serve inspire me and have given me much to think about as I wait for His leading. I am impatient. It was good for me to hear her say she prayed that if God would send her, she would go and then she waited a year before God gave her the opportunity. God grant me patience.

And now we have elected new officers. Barb Belanski as president will lead with joy and love. The members of the Executive Committee will serve the Lord with gladness as they lead LWML NID for the next biennium. My prayers will be with you daily. God bless and keep you.

Jan Mauer
LWML NID President 2010-2014



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MISSION GRANTS 2014-2016



- 1. St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL** **\$22,000**
 For over twenty years, St. Matthew Lutheran Church "El Comedor Popular" Soup Kitchen has been feeding the hungry and homeless in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Twice a week, volunteer cooks plan nutritious hot meals while Pastor Loza 'feeds' the crowd spiritually with devotions and prayers. The Soup Kitchen needs air conditioning, painting, plastering, windows, roof repair, restroom remodeling as well as new kitchen utensils. This grant will fund the necessary improvements needed to update the Soup Kitchen's site.
- 2. Food and Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN** **\$10,000**
 The Food and Clothing Co-op is vital to the livelihood of many of the seminary students, providing 80-85% of all the families' food and household needs. Seventy percent of the students are married, second career men and women, with families, who come to the seminary to study for the pastoral and deaconess ministries. The seminary seeks to alleviate some of the financial burden with this Co-op which receives donations and grants. Each family works at the cooperative and in return receives food and clothing.
- 3. Prison Ministry, Voice of Hope Behind the Wall** **\$10,000**
 Deaconess Lori Wilbert has ministered to those incarcerated at Stateville Prison in Joliet for the past 28 years. Lori's ministry includes rounds to cell houses, two classes of Houses of Healing, counseling inmates and prison staff, training volunteers, and working closely with the prison's clinical services and chaplaincy departments.
- 4. Cancer Care Packages, Phil's Friends** **\$22,000**
 Phil's Friends, a Christ-centered cancer organization, reaches out to patients and families of those dealing with cancer. Grant funding will be used to bring hope and the Gospel message by delivering care packages full of items that patients need and enjoy as well as Bibles. Care Packages are hand delivered in hospitals or sent in the mail in a decorated box after being packed with love. Weekly cards and prayers are sent throughout the duration of treatment by a large volunteer force. In 2013, Phil's Friends reached out to over 2000 patients and families weekly.
- 5. Serving People with Disabilities in the Church, Voice of Care** **\$22,000**
 Voice of Care continues a ministry which began over 35 years ago in the NID. Voice of Care's mission is to equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ.
- 6. Feeding Lutheran School Children in Haiti, Trinity/Hope** **\$5,000**
 Trinity/Hope provides a noon meal to children in Lutheran Schools in Haiti. Hungry students are fed so they are healthier, have more energy, and are more receptive to the Word of the Lord. Currently 86 schools receive the hot lunch at a cost of \$.26 per meal. There are many additional Lutheran Schools in Haiti and more being established by Lutheran churches as they grow and expand. The goal is to have a feeding program in every school.
- 7. Lutheran Indian Ministries** **\$3,050**
 Cathy Benzler (Cherokee), first commissioned Native American deaconess in the LCMS, and her husband, Tom (Ioway), licensed deacon, work with elders on the Lower Elwha Reservation. They desire to reach out to other Native American tribes on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington through works of mercy, spiritual care and teaching of the Christian faith. Inroads for sharing the Gospel are being made. Funds for a storage shed for "Hope House Food Pantry", transportation costs for visits and food delivery; hammer-and-nail projects to help the elderly, and a computer printer and tablet for assisting Cathy in ministry will facilitate this expansion.



LWML NID is behind on our Mission Goal for 2014-2016.

Please encourage your Societies and Zones to contribute to the LWML NID Mission Mite Goal. Make your check or money order payable to **LWML NID** and mail mite donations to:

LWML NID, P.O. Box 175, Westmont, IL 60559.



**Lutheran Women's
Missionary League
Northern Illinois District**

Mission Grant Highlights

December 2014

Prayer Guide for LWML NID Mission Grants

1. For spiritual renewal this Advent season.
2. For greater peace between nations.
3. For opportunities to share Christ's love, and for words of peace and encouragement.
4. For joy and peace among families.
5. For the lonely and hurting.
6. For the work of LWML.
7. For the Spirit's guidance for those who preach.
8. For strong mothers to guide the young.
9. For hearts open to the Gospel message.
10. For quiet meditation amid busy days of stress.
11. For those away from loved ones during this season.
12. For children to grow in Christ's love.
13. For friends who need a warm greeting.
14. For Christian guidance for our youth.
15. For strength and patience for caregivers.
16. For ready hearts in mission fields.
17. For the lonely and grieving.
18. For our synod and its ministries.
19. For the proclamation of the Gospel in prisons.
20. For generous support of Mites and the ministries they fund.
21. For steady employment of those seeking work.
22. For all facing persecution for the Gospel.
23. For the whole Christian Church on earth.
24. For those who suffer affliction of body or soul.
25. For the gift of the Christchild, and for those who do not know Him.
26. For those who live with special challenges.
27. For safety for our military.
28. For pastors and teachers.
29. For congregational programs that reach souls for Christ.
30. For God's Kingdom to come to us, and through us, to all who do not know His saving grace and mercy.
31. For repentance and forgiveness by God's grace.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen, Chicago

For more than twenty years, St. Matthew Lutheran Church "El Comedor Popular" Soup Kitchen has been feeding the hungry and homeless in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Twice a week, volunteer cooks plan nutritious hot meals while Pastor Loza nourishes souls with devotions and prayers. The Soup Kitchen receives no LCMS funding and relies solely on donations and gifts as well as volunteer time from its Christian friends. The Soup Kitchen needs air conditioning, painting, plastering, windows, roof repair, restroom remodeling as well as new kitchen utensils. The grant of \$22,000 will fund the necessary improvements to update the site.

Work has begun on repairs to the roof, and the patching and plastering of walls, with paint soon to follow. The purchase of new utensils will greatly benefit the kitchen, with other changes to follow in the months to come.

Include this outreach and those who volunteer in this effort in your prayers this Christmas season.

Although we have not suggested monetary amounts for each day, it is our prayer for you to generously remember mite offerings on a regular basis.

Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed, and shaken, and running over, they shall give into your bosom; for with that measure with which ye measure, it shall be measured to you again.' Luke 6:38

Where are the missing Quarterlies?



In order for societies to continue receiving their subscriptions to the Lutheran Women's Quarterly with the summer 2015 issue, they **MUST** contact our new corresponding secretary, Janice Gerzevske **to confirm their current order or to increase or to decrease their order no later than March 15, 2015. If they do not contact her, their society's subscription will be decreased to one issue per quarter.**

Jan will be emailing or sending a letter via the USPS to your society in January. If you have not received the letter from her by January 20th, please call her at 630-294-5014 or email her at correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org so she can forward another copy to your society.

In addition, if you have not forwarded the funds to cover the cost of your subscription request for the **current fiscal year-2014-2015**, your letter will indicate the amount owed and to whom to send the funds.

In the last biennium the NID was charged \$10,000 more for Quarterlies which were shipped to the churches in the district than was received in payments from the NID societies. This deficit along with the fact that a similar deficit occurred in the previous biennium led to the change in policy explained above.





What do the Young Women of the LWML do on a Friday night? On Friday, September 25, young LWML women were gathered together in Sandwich, Illinois. They worshipped together, prayed together, and laughed together. Of course, food was a part of this fellowship.

Saturday was the day of the main event – the convention - and the Young Women enjoyed special seating in the front of the convention hall so they would not miss a thing. It was a special privilege to have President Kay join them at their table. Listening to the business meeting gave them an idea of how the organization operates. The Young Women were inspired by the speakers. Having Baby Ty at the table brought a smile to many people’s faces.

A scavenger hunt during the lunch break enabled the young women to truly experience an LMWL convention. The Young Women had NID LWML President Jan Mauer sign a dollar bill which they deposited into the mite box. Selfies with LWML President Kay and a signature of a hotel staff person were two more of their tasks.

The Young Women’s table in the exhibit hall featured a penny guessing jar. The two winners of the game were able to pour the pennies into a mite box during the afternoon session of the convention. The Young Women gave away little cards that said, “Old or new– Jesus loves you”.

And that is what being a Young Woman of the LWML is all about. First of all it is experiencing the love of Jesus and then sharing that love with LWML sisters. It is building friendships with other young women and establishing bonds with more experienced women. It is praising God together and praying to God together. It is serving God with gladness together.

The young women went away from the convention encouraged in their walk with the Lord. The young women were an encouragement to the convention attendees. We thank God for the young women of the LWML NID!

Sherrie Smith
CYW Chairman




OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD




It all began long before the event when enthusiastic LWML ladies from Zone 27 & 28 told their congregations about Operation Christmas Child. They collected gifts from their churches and groups, and then generously shopped for supplies! Then on Saturday, October 4th, they came together with boxes, bags, and armfuls of school supplies, health items, clothing, and toys. In addition, they brought many monetary gifts from others who were also inspired by the idea of providing gifts for less fortunate children around the world as a way to spread the Gospel to children, their families, and communities.

After a heart-touching video about Operation Christmas Child, the items were sorted. Groups set about bagging soap, candy, and pencils; others wrapped shoe boxes. There was even a sock sorter!

That morning, 152 shoebox gifts were packed to overflowing with many useful and fun items! It is the prayer of those involved, that God uses these boxes to lead children to the Bible and His saving grace through the programs and Bible studies that accompany the boxes. Many involved expressed their joy at being able to participate with so many others of various ages in such a generous outpouring of love in action.

Money donated, together with the Thrivent funds, were used to pay for extra supplies and shipping of boxes to foreign countries under the direction of Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse Organization. **Enough supplies and shipping money was left over to pack an additional 63 boxes at a later date, bringing the total shoebox gifts to 215! To God be the glory! Great things He has done!**



Wrapping Shoe Boxes



Packing the boxes



St. Paul's Children getting things ready

LWML NID Lenten Inspiration 2015

"God-Given Gifts"



"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you." 2 Timothy 1:6a



Saturday, March 21, 2015
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
1177 East Howard Street
Des Plaines, IL 60018
(847) 824-4923



Please join us for a day of inspiration and a sharing of gifts.
Speakers and "Acts" will feature members of NID displaying their talents and gifts.
Cost: \$15.00 (includes morning coffee and lunch)
Registration and Fellowship: 9:00am
Lenten Inspiration Program Begins: 9:30am
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2015

Please detach and return this portion of the form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____
Congregation _____

Please make your check or money order for \$15.00 payable to "LWML NID" and send to:

Diane Kettelson
16801 N. Ridge Road
Minooka, IL 60447-8914
(815) 467-2458
Email: vpchristianlife@lwmlnid.org



SAVE THE DATE



Date: June 25-28, 2015

Location: Des Moines, Iowa

Theme: "Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap"

Scripture Verse: And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV)

Convention Goal Statement

Through Christ's bountiful love and blessings of Word and Sacraments, I am equipped by the Holy Spirit to work in my Father's harvest field.

Convention Logo Explanation

The **brown line** represents mankind as a newly plowed field open to receive God's bountiful blessings. As God nourishes His people with His Word and Sacraments, the Holy Spirit nurtures faith in Christ Jesus who, by His death on the cross, gives salvation and forgiveness to all believers and empowers them to serve as His light (depicted by the sun) to the world. The **two green lines** represent the abundant fruits produced through His grace by God's people. The three lines together depict an open Bible. In response to His grace, mercy, and bountiful blessings we thank, praise, and share our Father's love.

See the Winter LWML Quarterly for details and Registration Information

LWML NID BANNER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 15th
 Specifications: 8 X 10 banner design including colors and fabrics
 Send design to Barb Belanski at president@lwmlnid.org

LWML NID CONVENTION SHIRT



Would you like to be dressed alike for our District Photo at convention? Would you like to let others know where you're from? Then consider ordering a tee-shirt.

The cost for this shirt is \$10. It is available in sizes Adult S—3X. If interested, please call Teena Dorn (708) 9574491 or email her at websitecoordinator@lwmlnid.org.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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 Vice President of Communications, Madlyn C. Johnson 2012-2016
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 Website Coordinator, Teena Dorn
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 Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Jay B. Klein 2014-2018

LWML NID is behind on our Mission Goal for 2014-2016.

Please encourage your Societies and Zones to contribute to the LWML NID Mission Mite Goal. Make your check or money order payable to **LWML NID** and mail mite donations to:

LWML NID, P.O. Box 175, Westmont, IL 60559.

**Meet our new District Publications Editor, NID BITS Editor
and Public Relations Director**



Donna Gutzler has spent much of her life in the NID. She graduated from St. John--Forest Park, Walther, and Concordia. She and her husband, Mark, have taught in Lutheran schools in Ohio, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Illinois. Donna is currently teaching 1/2 days at Immanuel, Belvidere. She has been active in LWML societies in the congregations she has served, as well as ringing in and directing handbell choirs, singing in choirs, and teaching VBS and Sunday School. God has blessed Mark and Donna with 2 sons and 5 grandchildren. One of Donna's favorite Bible verses is Psalm 46:10-- "Be still and know that I am God."

We would love to stay connected with you. Please share your stories and NID happenings.

Email them to:

Donna Gutzler

publicationseditor@lwmlnid.org (Northern Light)

or

nidbitseditor@lwmlnid.org (NID BITS)



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