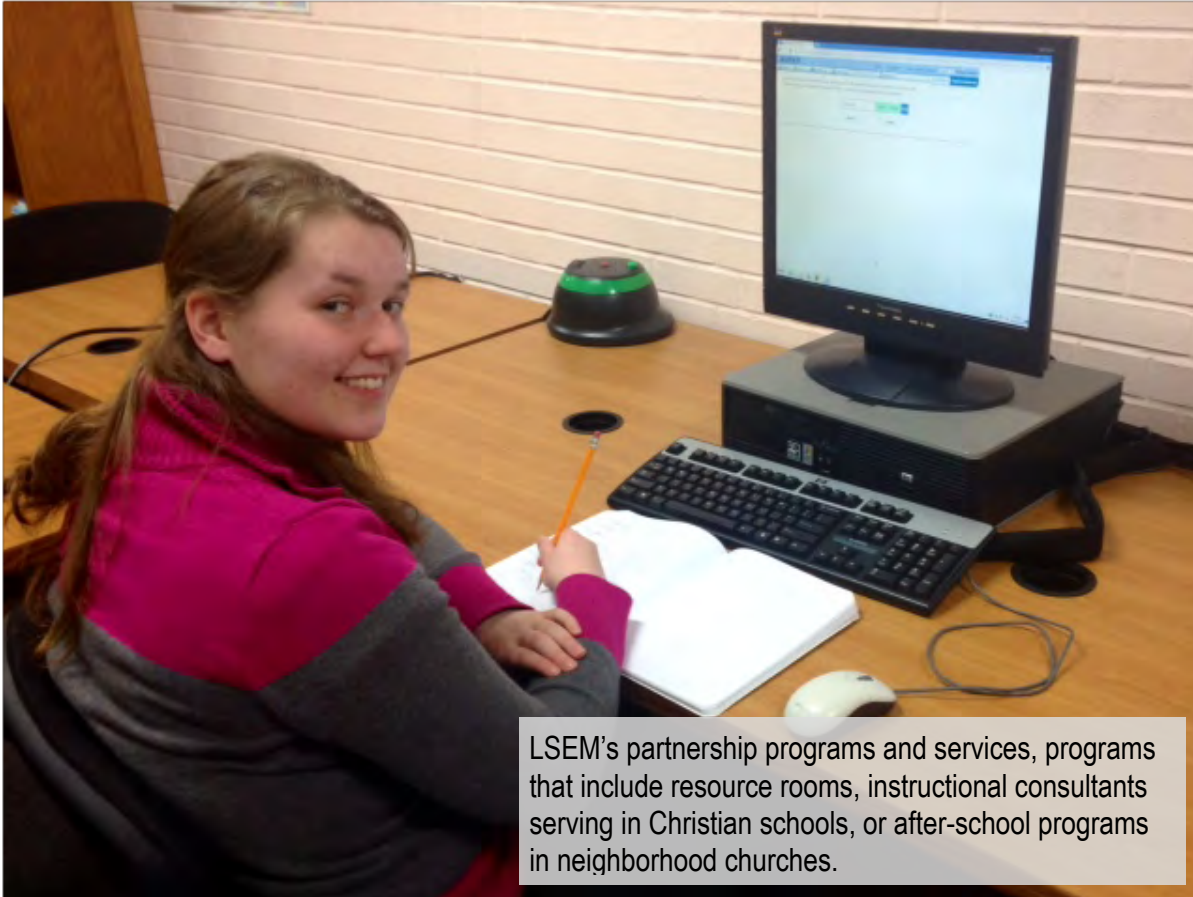


LWML NID

A COMMUNICATION
FOR WOMEN OF THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS
DISTRICT OF
LUTHERAN
WOMEN IN MISSION

CHECK OUT THE NEW
WEBSITE!
WWW.LWMLNID.ORG

CALENDAR &
ANNOUNCEMENTS
PG 7 and 8



LSEM's partnership programs and services, programs that include resource rooms, instructional consultants serving in Christian schools, or after-school programs in neighborhood churches.

Transforming Joy



By Barb Belanski, LWML NID President

Our gifts from God are many
From the list, we don't want to leave out any
He forgives us and makes us new
And we promise to sin no longer do

[Sharing Mites!](#)

www.LWML.org

See more on
Young Women Retreat

He keeps us safe from the evil around
His angels all over can be found
He fulfills our needs
And satisfies with His deeds

When our bodies are ailing
We call to Him for healing
We trust in His infinite power
Because He is our strong tower

Our God is not dead, He lives
And to each of us, His Spirit gives
We are blessed daily with this Three-in-one
And are thankful for Jesus, His holy Son

We sing and we shout
We want to tell what God's all about
We share the news of amazing grace
It's for everyone – let's give praise

His love makes us free
Enough for you and me
So tell family and friends the news
Even to neighbors and strangers too

Let the joy in us flow
So others will know why we glow
We have a God who is our guide
And can be found always by our side

Share this joy everywhere you go
Share His birth, His life, His death,
His resurrection so everyone will know
Our Transforming Joy is why we rave:
Our God saves!

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord:
let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation
(Psalm 95:1).*

Blessings,

Barb



See more on **African wasn't on my bucket list**, pg 4
Below: Some of the 41 people who were to be baptized on Christmas in the African village visited by the LWML NID on the eye glasses trip.



“Transforming Joy”



*Rev. Jay Klein, Senior LWML
NID Pastoral Counselor and
Pastor at Zion Lutheran
Church, Hinsdale, IL*

Transforming Joy is the theme for our meetings in 2018. It occurred to me that when Jesus Christ returns in glory we won't have to concern ourselves with any kind of transformation. It will be complete and absolute: "We will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye...the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52). Now that's transformation!

But, what about now? The culture continues to move away from the Word of God and from knowing Him. Historically, that's nothing new. However, God's answer is found in Holy Baptism where He begins a personal transformation, pouring out His Spirit, cleansing us from sin and providing the certainty of salvation and life. As a result, we are gifted people, chosen by the Lord and given a "spiritual clarity," which allows us to receive, live, and share the joy of Christ.

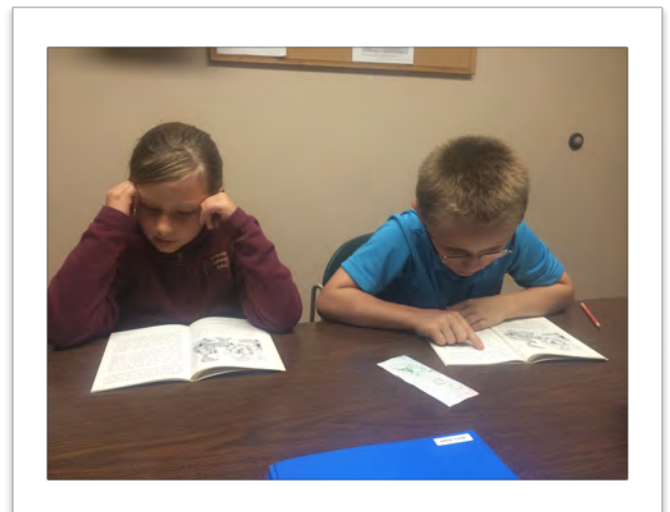
St. Paul teaches us that we have been given a "ministry of reconciliation" and that we are "Christ's ambassadors" (2 Corinthians 5:19, 20). In other words we are agents of transformation! We are ambassadors of joy to the world around us because we "are filled with the glorious joy" of Christ's grace and salvation (1 Peter 1:8).

May this Lenten season be a time of personal spiritual growth for each of us and an opportunity to share with those in our midst the joy of Christ's presence.

Grant update: Beyond the Walls

NID, Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) \$14,850

In accordance with Jesus' command, "Let the little children come to me," Lutheran Special Education Ministries' vision and mission is to reach, serve and support children with learning needs in their Christ centered communities. The presence of Christ permeates the work of LSEM. Over 3500 children with learning needs are helped annually through LSEM's partnership programs and services, programs that include resource rooms, instructional consultants serving in Christian schools, or after-school programs in neighborhood churches. Knowing that all are God's children, LSEM fo-



cuses on developing the reading and mathematical skills to give these children brighter futures, regardless of their learning abilities or backgrounds. The grant from NID LWML for \$14,850 is designated to purchase appropriate curriculum technology and materials to enhance and engage distance learning activities with the families of children identified with learning needs in our LCMS NID district.

Grant disbursements, as of January 2018

Belize Mission Feeding Program	18,000	10,810.90	7,189.10
Interpreters for MOST Ministries	10,000	5,519.50	4,480.50
STEM Education Equipment	16,315	0.00	16,315.00
Bible Storybooks in Swahili language	10,000	10,000.00	paid
Beyond the Wall – LSEM	14,850	4,347.65	10,502.35
Reaching the Homebound – LMM	15,000	15,000.00	paid
Spanish Language Materials, West Chicago	6,000	0.00	6,000.00
Immigrants in Detention / LIRS	10,000	0.00	10,000.00
Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat	3,500	0.00	3,500.00
Griffin Community Center, Zion, Chicago	18,000	17,026.89	973.11
	\$121,655	\$ 62,704.94	\$ 58,960.06

Africa Wasn’t on My Bucket List . . .

by Jan Gerzevske

. . . . but God kept dropping hints that I needed to consider it. For a of couple years teams to remote parts of Africa organized thru MOST weren’t filled. Sherrie Smith’s sister Lorrie kept saying she wanted the Guinea team to happen. Last year I agreed to go, if needed, to fill the last spot on the team. Wow, little did I know what adventures were in store for my five teammates and I.

As happens with eyeglass teams, the joy was serving the 550 residents and seeing the looks on their faces when their prescriptions enabled them to see. Men were the predominant customers at the clinics and the prescriptions were much stronger than normal. Having served on 10 eyeglass teams, this is the first time I remember giving out prescriptions of +15 and +18.



Jan fitting glasses.

Working in Africa’s remote areas is very different from experiences in Central & South America. Prior to arriving, our hosts received the approval of the tribal chief for the eyeglass clinic to be held. Remember, Guinea, West Africa is a country where Islam is the recognized religion. Approval to “preach the Gospel” is necessary since evangelism is an essential part of our program. Before setting up the clinic, we met the tribal leaders in the villages and introduced ourselves.



Women of the community cooking our lunch over open fire — no modern conveniences in these villages.

which vehicles can get stuck. On Sunday a 3 hour trip took nearly 7 hours because the truck transporting our luggage and clinic supplies was stuck for nearly 3 hours before it was pulled loose and the mud shoveled going up the hill to allow it to continue on the journey. For a while, we thought we might have to spend the night in our jeep. Going into the mountain villages, means holding on while driving over the uneven rocks which serve as the “road” to the community.

Would I do it again? YES, I would—you can live without all our modern technology and conveniences for a couple weeks and be none the worse for wear. Praise the Lord for the opportunity to show Christ’s love to our African brothers and sisters.

Another difference was having no access to the internet once we left the guesthouse in Conakry for the remote communities in which we would be serving. All but two of the nights we stayed in hotels with a/c, electricity supplied via a generator, toilets and in one hotel hot showers. The other two nights were spent in a guesthouse which had no electricity, no running water and “squatty pottys” but we did have a roof over our head and a bed for each of us. We kept the windows closed so the bugs didn’t get in.

Never again will I complain about the roads in the US. When you are driving into the bush, the “road” has mud holes in



Lorrie distributing glasses.

Young Women Retreat

by Sherrie Smith

You are the light of the world... so shine (Matthew 5:14) was the theme of the Young Women’s Retreat held January 19-20 at Walcamp. The young women gathered around the Word and learned that Jesus is the Light of the World. Now we shine His light.

The young women experienced a lot of light during the weekend. The beautiful fireplace warmed the room on Friday night. The young women lit each other’s candles and told each other that you are the light of the world.

The sun shone brightly on that Saturday so the young women were able to enjoy God's beautiful outdoors at Walcamp.

The service project was coloring cards for Phil's Friends. Sounds of prayer, laughter, and singing filled the retreat center. There was even some sleeping. God was surely present in that place.

Some of the young women had been friends for a while, but others came not really knowing anyone. It is a very exciting thing to watch friendships grow. There is nothing better than being sisters in Christ and sharing that very special bond.

A big thank you to Thrivent for the grant that provided the food. A big thank you to the NID LWML leadership who prayed for the young women by name. And most of all, praise to our gracious God who gives us light and life and fellowship with one another. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!



Dignity for Girls

Dignity for Girls continues and is growing in the NID – even a couple of other states have groups that sew Days for Girls patterns and ship kits to Kenya.

NID churches are starting to organize dates for sewing – Trinity/Roselle has scheduled February 16, March 24 and May 18 – the busy ladies at Bethany/Naperville, Trinity/Lisle, St. Paul/Chicago Heights, St. Paul/Thornton and Family in Faith/Glendale Hts. will soon be publishing their dates as well.

In addition to the above churches, LWML women have undertaken sewing kits in their homes and many societies have supported Dignity for Girls with donations of fabric and kit items.

We are thankful for the energy and dedication of these sewing groups and individuals. In December, 973 kits were packed and scheduled to be shipped to Kenya – that is a lot of sewing!!!!!!

Pauling Feliksik, chairman of the Dignity for Girls Committee, will soon be sharing dates, times and sites for upcoming sewing days – you don't have to be a sewer to attend – cutting, ironing, seam trimming are a few tasks open to everyone – hopefully joining this ministry will be one of your New Year resolutions.

Zone Buzz

Zone 1 Churches

by Karen Delise

Lord of Glory, Grayslake, made 62 clothing protector bibs for Bethesda Group Homes, and we made flannel animals for Condel Hospital. We also help Pads. **Beautiful Savior, Antioch**, is involved with Open Arms Mission and Pads. **Redeemer, Waukegan**, is planning the Spring Rally for April 28th, and their quilting ladies meet twice a month. The quilts go to the VA Hospital, tornado victims, and most recently, families who are COOL (Christian Outreach of Lutheran Ministries) Transitional Housing clients. In the past, the quilts have gone to LWR, but most recently they have gone to meet regional needs.

Bethel, Gurnee is supporting a layette ministry for Love, Inc. **Faith, Lake Forest** and **Prince of Peace, Waukegan**, work together on the Manna Garden Project. The garden is located at Prince of Peace, Waukegan. Various groups of the community have worked in the garden. The produce is given to Cool Food Pantry, and the Hispanic community in Zion. Prince of Peace hosted the Fall Workshop and we decorated cookies. All those attending were able to take cookies with us and give to any first responders in our neighborhoods as a thank you.

Zone 21E Churches

by Evelyn Pettis, President, Zone 21E (To become Zone 14E)

During the months of November and December the LWML Society at **St. Philip** put the idea of “**TRANSFORMING JOY**” into reality with several events:

- On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving we provided 50 bags of groceries to our West Woodlawn community for Thanksgiving dinners.
- December 16 was a morning of caroling through the community along with some choir members, Pastor and Mrs. Lewis, LWMLers, and other congregants where we traversed a one mile radius singing carols to the community. Some on porches, the buses, and in cars supported us by joining in or honking their horns. It was truly an inspiring morning and on our agenda for this year.
- In addition, we were blessed by a member (LWMLer) with 25 turkeys for Christmas dinners that we distributed just before Christmas.
- More now than ever our plans are expanding and being formulated to TRANSFORM JOY to this community in 2018. Preliminary plans include Easter Breakfast Baskets, activities for the children in the community, an outdoor worship and fun service planned for Fall 2018.

We feel immensely blessed to be able to support our community through these events and appreciate the generosity of our congregation in helping implement these plans. We invite ALL who may be interested to join us in these endeavors. Please contact me via email to epettis@att.net, or telephone to St. Philip (Tu – Sat, 10 am – 4 pm) at 773 493-3865.

Lenten Inspiration

Saturday, February 24, 2018
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 195 Nesler Rd, Elgin, IL 60124



“Jesus, Our Source of Joy”

I have told you this so that my joy should be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11)

On Saturday, February 24, 2018 the ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and their friends will gather for the Lenten Inspiration at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elgin. Beginning at 8:30 with sign in to register, enjoy fellowship with coffee and worship at a matins service... and do some Bible Study, until 3:00 pm.

As the theme for 2018, which is "Transforming Joy" based on Psalm 95:1 suggests, we will "Come let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation," throughout our time together.

Following Matins Worship Service and the welcome remarks, Dr. Rev. Jeffrey Leininger the campus pastor from Concordia University Chicago is coming to be our guest speaker. His topic is "Jesus, Source of Joy". Before Passion Week as recorded in John 15:11, Jesus told His disciples, "I have told you this so that my joy should be in you and that your joy may be complete."

In addition to conducting daily chapel at Concordia, Dr. Leininger guides the pastoral care and counseling for all students, faculty and staff. He directs the University's pre - seminary program, supervises the spiritual life activities, and also supports Concordia's Church Relations Office in his responsibilities on campus.

Pastor Leininger has a Ph.D and M.Phil. from Cambridge University in Church History. He lives in Maywood, IL with his wife Rachel and their children Grace(13) and Andrew(7). He says that he still is known to enjoy a nice cup of English tea.

For the afternoon we'll be in the other wing of the building for browsing at the displays in the hallway, bidding on the silent auction baskets, visiting with friends, eating and having Bible Study led by our LWML counselors, Rev. Jay Klein and Rev. Doug Swanson.

Some of the recipients of our biennial mite monies have been invited to show us what the progress has been on their missions at this time. They will welcome this sharing time during part of the afternoon.

Pre-register securely online at <https://www.lwmlnid.org/event/lenten-inspiration-2018/> and come and join us in Elgin on the 24th. Cost is \$15.

Calendar

- February 17, 2018 — LWML NID Board of Directors Meeting at St. John/Lombard
- February 24, 2018 — **Lenten Inspirations 2018**, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 195 Nesler St. (Elgin-60124)
- July 21, 2018 — LWML NID Board of Directors Meeting at Bethany/Naperville
- September 21-23, 2018 — **LWML NID Convention 2018**, Best Western Plus, Hillside, IL, Theme: "Fruit of the Spirit"
- June 20-23, 2019 — **LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama** — Its never too early to start planning!
- June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky**

Announcements

- All members are invited to a **multi- Zone Spring Rally** on Saturday, April 14 from 8:30 to 11 at Cross Lutheran Church, 8609 Route 47, Yorkville, IL 60560. Speaker: David Fiala, Asst Director of Missionary Recruitment, LCMS Office of International Missions. More information and /or to RSVP contact Gayle Thanepohn at gthanepohn@gmail.com.
- Susie Washington is looking for candidates interested in running for **Corresponding Secretary and Nominating Committee Member from the West region**. These are LWML NID positions. For nominations contact Susie at nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org.
- Please inform your **LWML NID Society Treasurer** of the new address for mites: LWML NID, P.O. Box 958012, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169.
- **Tech Notes** — A new and more secure web site is now live at www.LWMLNID.org. Check it out! Feed back is always appreciated and can be sent to webmaster@lwmlnid.org OR vpcommunications@lwmlnid.org
- Any society that did not receive a **Quarterly renewal notice** please contact Jan G. (correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org) and she can resend your society's specific invoice with all your information or you may use the blank form attached, if someone from your society has not already sent in your order.

You can reach NID-Bits Editor, Teena Dorn at VPCommunications@LWMLNID.org

**2018 - 2019 LUTHERAN WOMEN'S QUARTERLY
SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM**

Use this form to order your 2018-2019 Quarterly subscriptions. Please enter the number of subscriptions you are requesting beginning with the Summer, 2018 issue on the order form below. The number of subscriptions your society is receiving for 2017-2018 is listed below.

The form WITH PAYMENT must be postmarked by March 15, 2018 to be included as part of the order required by LWML in St Louis for the 2018-2019 subscription year. Please keep a copy of form & check for your records.

You can add subscriptions **after March 15 but you CAN ONLY DECREASE** the number currently received before March 15. **QUESTIONS?** contact Jan Gerzevske, correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org or call 630.294.5014

Your check payable to **LWML-NID** must be included with the order form and mailed to:

LWML-NID
PO Box 958012
Hoffman Estates IL 60169-8012

Lutheran Women's Quarterly Subscriptions received 2017-2018:

Please provide updated contact information

Cut and mail to address above

Zone: **Society:**

Mailing address:

Contact:

Phone:

Email:

Number Subscriptions	Description	Cost each Subscription	Total
----------------------	-------------	------------------------	-------

	10 or more subscriptions	\$5.00	
--	--------------------------	--------	--

	1 to 9 subscriptions	\$6.50	
--	----------------------	--------	--

Amount Enclosed \$
