

## 2018 LWML NID Candidates

### **NID PASTORAL COUNSELOR** -Rev. Jeffrey P. Howell

Rev. Jeffrey P. Howell was born in Maywood, IL and is the youngest of six children.

He attended grammar school at St. John Lutheran School, Forest Park. Rev. Howell graduated from Walther Lutheran High School, Concordia University Nebraska, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN.

Rev. Howell is currently in his 30<sup>th</sup> year with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and has served as a teacher, principal, and program director. Currently, he is Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School on Dorchester in Chicago.

He has been married for 36 years to Andrea. God has blessed them with three children and six grandchildren.

### **PRESIDENT** - Janice Gerzevske

Jan Gerzevske was born in Wisconsin and raised on a dairy farm. She graduated from Concordia, River Forest. She served in village government for 16 years, 8 years as Village President of Carol Stream and a 1 year term as President of the DuPage Mayors and Managers organization.

Jan has served in several District LWML positions. She is currently serving as the corresponding secretary for the Northern Illinois District and has also served as the appointed short term mission chairman and on LWML committees. She was a LWML zone president and, until this past May, served as president of her LWML society at St. John's in Wheaton.

Jan began serving on MOST mission trips in 2005 and has traveled to Nicaragua, Panama, Juarez, Costa Rica, Paraguay, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Guinea in West Africa. She also did recovery work with Lutheran Church Charities in the bayous of LA and Cedar Rapids, IA and served as part of a chainsaw crew in New Orleans, Lanoka Harbor, NJ, and Columbia, MS. Jan's husband, Harland, passed away in 2002. They are the parents of two sons and four grandchildren. For enjoyment, she bowls, reads, and works Sudoku puzzles.

Jan praises the Lord for the opportunity to actively participate in working for His kingdom

### **VICE PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES** - Diane Kettelson

Diane Kettelson has been active in LWML NID ever since her family joined a Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod congregation.

Her District positions were leader of ESP, Planner, VP of Servant Resources, VP of Christian Life, and Convention Chairman. At Hope Lutheran in Shorewood, she has taught Sunday School, led youth and adult choirs, and was chairman of the Evangelism Committee. She currently serves as a Deacon.

Diane's community activities include VP of Joliet Area Retired Teachers Association and a past member of Illinois Retired Teachers Membership Committee. She has given many programs of "Chalking to Music" in churches and community groups. In the past, she was a leader of Camp

Fire Girls and Boy Scouts. She currently is the President of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society of women educators. Diane has taught music and art in both public and Christian schools as well as private lessons in both piano and voice for a total of 47 years. Diane is blessed to have been able to serve God and her church as well as her community in so many ways.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH - Diana Maanum**

Diana Maanum is currently the outreach chairwoman at St. Philip Lutheran Church on the north side of Chicago. She is working on various outreach programs such as restarting LWML, winter sports camps, VBS, Lydia Guild, and the Board of Directors.

She finds great joy and company when being involved in a community of believers who are focused on sharing Christ's love and grace with the community around them. Diana tries to bring joy and gladness to most tasks in daily life. Having a Christ centered attitude in the mundane and large tasks helps provide joy in both her vocation as a teacher and in her personal life. This joy helps encourage others who in turn encourage her to serve the Lord with gladness.

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - LeeAnn Himley**

LeeAnn Himley is an active member of the LWML currently serving as Zone 5 president and a member of the Mission Grants Committee. She has worked for a major insurance company for the last 25 years where her current position is a project manager responsible for large technology systems deployment within the company. She received a BA in Elementary Education from Northern Illinois University.

She is a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Schaumburg and has served as a high school teacher, Service Guild President, Board of Education President, Altar Guild Co-Chair and sings in the choir.

#### **TREASURER -Donna Simundic**

Donna Simundic is an active member of St. John in Darien where she participates in the Praise Band and choir. Her occupation for the last 17 years has been as an accounting analyst. She has also worked in customer accounting at a bank and at a mortgage company preparing closing documents.

Donna has served her local LWML as Society President, Zone President and Secretary/Treasurer for both her society and zone. For the Northern Illinois District, she has served as Chairman of the Committee on Young Women and then was elected as Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

##### **EAST**

Kimbolist C. Mills

Kimbolist C. Mills has been a Lutheran for over 30 years. She has been married for over 25 years and is the mother of three grown children and two grandsons.

As a teenager, she sang in the children's choir at Zion on 109<sup>th</sup> St. in Chicago and later in the adult choir. At age 19, she became a member of LWML and the Ladies Auxiliary. Kimbolist earned her teaching certificate and became a Sunday School teacher and a Child Evangelist for children.

As a young woman, she was elected to be a delegate for LWML. LWML members took her under their wings and nurtured, loved and guided her through all the storms and trials in her life. LWML has shown her how to not focus on her own struggles but to give thanks to our heavenly Father while being a blessing to others. In retrospect, LWML saved her life in many different ways. She doesn't know where she would be, had it not been for the Lord and LWML on her side.

In 2015, Kimbolist became a member of St. Paul Lutheran on Dorchester in Chicago. She continues her LWML membership and looks forward to the next chapter that the Lord has for her in this wonderful ministry. Her goal is to encourage our younger generation of women to join LWML because they have so much to offer and give.

Gwen Arnold

Gwen has been a member of St. Paul, Austin for over 40 years. During this time, she has served as PTL President for St. Paul's school, Market Day Chairman for 10 years, Youth Group Minister and LCCD Career Development Counselor for 15 years. She is presently serving as one of the trustees of St. Paul.

She has served as LWML society president as well as a LWML Zone President. She also serves on the District's convention committee.

Gwen has attended five national LWML conventions (Minnesota, Tampa, South Dakota, Oklahoma and Albuquerque).

**WEST** - Deaconess Lauren Olsen

Deaconess Lauren Olsen has served as a Deaconess since 1987 when she was consecrated at Messiah Lutheran Church in Plainfield, NJ. She served as Assistant Director of the Deaconess Program in River Forest for two years. She has served among God's people at St. John's Lutheran Church in Union, IL since August of 1990.

Deaconess Lauren is a 1987 graduate of the Deaconess Program, Concordia University at River Forest. She also earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and worked with emotionally disturbed young people. She received her Master of Arts in Religion in 1995.

Deaconess Lauren serves St. John in the areas of Visitation, Care Ministry, and Ministry with Seniors and Women. Her greatest joys are those "aha" moments that she witnesses as people experience the love of God.

She is married to Steve Olsen and has an adult stepson who is married and lives in Newport News, VA. Deaconess Lauren is a Southern Girl at heart (she grew up in North Carolina). She enjoys spending time with friends, reading and traveling.

### **SOUTH** - Cherie Weber

Cherie Weber was born in Chicago, the youngest of six girls. After graduating high school, she worked at the First National Bank in downtown Chicago and attended South Suburban College in South Holland for two years.

She married Don Weber in 1955, had four children and became a stay-at-home mom. During the time when her children were growing up, she taught Sunday School, was a room mother and a member of the PTL.

Cherie and her family became members of St. Paul Lutheran Church when they moved to Chicago Heights. She became secretary and has held several offices in the Ladies Aid/LWML. At present, her Ladies Aid is no longer a part of her congregation, but she still serves as LWML secretary even though their membership is very small.

### **NORTH** - Carol Rutti

Carol Rutti was baptized and confirmed at Jehovah Lutheran Church and graduated from Jehovah Lutheran School, Luther North and Wright Jr. College. She is a retired insurance agent and now a member of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Elgin.

Besides LWML, she is active in Altar Guild, Ladies Aid, Mary Martha, LCFS Auxiliary, the Friendship Committee, volunteers at a local soup kitchen and is presently vice-president of her LWML zone.

She serves God because He loved her so much that He sent His beloved Son to die for her sins. It is Carol's hope this message of God's grace is passed on and that we continue to serve those around us with our mites and talents.