

## LWML NID

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

LWML NID  
CONVENTION UPDATES  
PG 5 - 9

CALENDAR &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PG 8 and 9



# NID-Bits



House of Love Orphanage/The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society  
LWML NID was able to partially fund this grant. See page 5.

## Changing Theme



*by Janice Gerzevske, LWML NID President*

In 2018 we concentrated on the fruit of the spirit—now as we look forward to 2019, our theme is “For the Least of These.” During the week of October 7-12, I had the privilege of putting both themes into practice. Joining the LERT team from St John, Wheaton and 20 other LERT members, we were able to show Christ’s kindness and goodness to the people in

[www.LWMLNID.org](http://www.LWMLNID.org)

Wilmington NC who experienced Hurricane Florence.

The teams were called angels who worked miracles by several senior citizens who didn't have \$2,000 to \$4,000 to spend getting trees removed. In another instance, a single mother was the recipient of two trees from a senior citizen's property which fell into her yard. Homeowner's insurance doesn't cover the cost of removing a tree which falls into your yard unless it damages a building covered by your insurance.

Working with the least of these was brought home to us on Thursday when our team found a home where the power line had been ripped down during the storm and a month later the woman was still fighting with the insurance company to have the power reconnected. She was living with no electricity, eating MRE's, watching mold grow on her walls and sleeping on the floor. Our team convinced the Regional Disaster Coordinator for the LCMS Southeast Region to provide a generator to be taken by our team to the home along with food supplies.

Our Lord always works miracles on these trips—we had the option of leaving Wednesday morning because Hurricane Michael was predicted to hit Wilmington directly as a tropical storm with winds of 60-65 mph. The 12 people who had traveled together from St John felt that the Lord had additional work to do--eleven additional homeowners received assistance between Wednesday and Friday while only receiving a couple light showers.

1-Wrapping chain around trunk of large tree to allow the Bobcat to pull it free from another tree which it fell into



2-Quilt made by St John Wheaton ladies given to L after finishing her yard



3--Top of tree removed by insurance contractor from roof of porch leaving rest for homeowner to remove



4--Cleaning debris around the Messiah Lutheran property



5--Plaque cut from tree trunk and signed by all team members working on property to remind the homeowner of God's Blessings



## For the Least of These



*Pastor Swanson is Senior LWML NID  
Pastoral Counselor,  
Pastor of King of Glory Lutheran  
Church in Elain, IL*

**We play to win! We're #1!**

**Second place is the first loser!** We have countless expressions to remind us that being the best is well...the best! It's October and for baseball fans that means one thing, the World Series. This is what 162 regular season games have come down to.

This is what every team on opening day was striving for, to win the World Series and be named the best team in baseball. Let's face it, no one plays to lose. No one wants to be in last place. Losers are forgotten, relegated to nothing more than a footnote in what was clearly an abysmal season.

This is the game of baseball but what about the game of life? The game of life may not track wins and losses but it certainly feels like there are winners and losers. There are those at the head of the line and those at the back. Those that have and those that have not. Scripture calls them 'the least' and in the eyes of the word they are often relegated to nothing more than a footnote in what are clearly abysmal life circumstances. The question is, will they be forgotten? More directly will they be forgotten by us, God's people? It would be impossible for us to read Scripture and not recognize God's great concern for 'the least' in the world. If anyone notices them, if anyone cares, the Lord does and He calls His people to do the same. It's the call to care. The call to notice. It is this call to see those whom the world has forgotten that leads us into a new year. Throughout 2019 we will have opportunity to explore the theme "For the Least of These." This is good and right for us to do even as Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40, "as you did to the least of least of these my brothers, you did it to me." May it be enough, for now, that we simply ask God to give us a heart of compassion and eyes to see those whom the world so easily has forgotten.

## For the Least of These, the Theme

*by Jan Mauer, Strategic Plan Facilitator, LWML NID*



*And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

Matthew 25:40

**Goal:**

That all who attend the 2019 activities will be encouraged to help, assist, and love those who are in need; always remembering what Christ has done for us.



**Objectives:**

As a result of participating in The 2019 LWML NID activities, our prayers will be an invitation to Christ to send us opportunities to be of service to those in need. And our eyes will be opened to see those who are in need and act.

The above are the theme, goals and objectives for 2019. Through the year I make note of Bible verses that really make me think and I go back to them regularly for study and reflection. Each time I read Matthew 25:40 I thought more and more about LWML and what, with the help of God, we want to achieve. I decided to propose this as the theme for 2019 hoping it would cause us to think and act in loving kindness to others.

Recently I was asked "who are the least of these" and I immediately thought of the homeless, hungry, sick, and addicted. After thinking a bit more, I realized "The Least of These" encompasses so many in our churches, communities, families, and friends. Therefore, I am taking a closer look at who we can serve. I will be sharing more information as we prepare for the Lenten Inspiration and other 2019 meetings.

Watch for more information.

## Lenten Inspiration

*by Diane Kettelson, Vice President of Organizational Resources*



Plans are underway for Lenten Inspiration 2019 "Serving the Least of These".

Matthew records these words of Jesus as He tells His disciples about the final judgment, And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it for Me." Matthew 25:40. His message here tells that to serve the King is to serve all others around us.

This event is for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Northern Illinois District and their friends. It is to be held on **March 30th, 2019** at **Christ Lutheran Church; 14700 S. 94th Street; Orland Park 60462 IL**. Mark your calendar and save the date for this day of Lenten Inspiration.

Those in attendance will learn by participation in opening worship, Bible study, and fellowship. The primary speaker, Rev Matthew Troester of St. Paul, Matteson as well as our Pastoral Counselors and Rev. Raymond Rohlf of Christ, Orland Park will help us learn about ways of serving others.

Registration (\$ 15.00) is required by all who plan to attend. Please see form and detail attached.

**LWML Daily Devotions**

Check here for special devotions: <http://www.lwml.org/program-helps-devotions> for Advent - Christmas - Epiphany

## Convention Fruits

After Friday night worship service and a Saturday morning banner parade and Bible Study by Pastors Klein and Swanson, newly elected President NID President, Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, encouraged LWML to remember to tell our congregations about mites and what it does. Some people do not know!

Keynote Speaker and President of Concordia Bronxville in New York, Rev. John Nunes asked the question, "Which way is our church going?" He shared ways to maintain our Christian identity in the face of the many changes in our world. God wants us to be bold, loving, and sensible with the gifts He has given us; to be "in, with, and under" the lives of others with the gift of Jesus. His wife, Monique, blessed us by passionately singing several times throughout the day and evening.

LWML District business was transacted via electronic voting pads for the first time at the district level, which eliminated much "woman power" for counting and missing out on the mission speakers: Pastor Steve Warren from the Griffin Community Center Food Pantry at Zion Lutheran Church on Winston in Chicago and Matthew Leighty from Lutheran Ministries Media, producers of the weekly television program "Worship Anew" (formerly "Worship For Shut-Ins"). Both ministries have been LWML NID mission grant recipients. Kathy White from the Westchester Food Pantry thanked the attendees for all that was brought for our Gifts From the Heart Ingathering: 16 boxes of canned goods/pasta/rice/cereal, 5 large black bags of paper goods, and 2 boxes of toiletries. These will be shared with the 200 families that visit them every month.

After the dinner compliments of LWML NID Gifts and Bequests, Saturday evening entertainment was a multitude of different music styles. Among those performing were: student musicians and a vocalist from Concordia Chicago, Monique Nunes, and the Himleys.

After Sunday morning's installation of new officers, the convention closed with worship. This was an uplifting, action packed convention!



## New Grants

This quarter’s featured grant is the last one funded with future mite monies. The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society requested \$18,000. While the LWML NID budget only allowed for \$3463.65, it is possible that if we go over our mite goal LWML NID might be able to fund more of this important work in Haiti. The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA is a long standing organization that provides ongoing support for the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus through the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti.



**Diana Maanum** is the newly elected Vice President of Gospel Outreach. You will hear more from her in future NID-Bits.

1. Equipping the Church to Reach People with Disabilities	\$17,474
2. Life for St. Matthew, Saving a Historic House of Worship	\$18,000
3. Haitian Feeding Program, Trinity/HOPE	\$ 2,500
4. Post Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion	\$10,000
5. Grace Lutheran School, Grace Christian Academy, Chicago	\$18,000
6. Food & Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne	\$10,000
7. Exterior Cabin Renovations, Walcamp	\$14,562.35
8. Native American Youth Program, Washington’s Olympic Peninsula, Lutheran Indian Ministries	\$18,000
9. Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with God’s Love, Lutheran Braille Workers	\$ 8,000
10. Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (partially funded - originally asked \$18,000)	\$ 3,463.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

## Young Women Add Joy and Energy to Conference

*by Sherrie Smith, Young Women Coordinator*



The joy of the Young Women at the NID LWML District Convention was contagious. They shared their joy by participating in the





Alabama Bound skit and serving in the worship services. Their smiles lit up the room and many women smiled when they saw little baby Carly.

Playing Bingo kept the Young Women focused on the business. Some of the words that filled the spaces were “Vote Now”, “Are there any questions?”, “Mite Goal”, and “Zone President”. The markers were coins that the Young Women gave to the mite collection. They raised more than \$100 for mites.

Relationships were a part of the convention that was particularly meaningful to the Young Women. Diana Maanum cherishes the friendships she has with the other young women and the more seasoned LWML women. Jennette Heller was very encouraged by the enthusiasm the ladies of the district have for young women being involved in LWML and growing in their faith in the Lord. It was a delight for Jennette to attend her first LWML NID convention with her husband and daughter, Carly. Kirsten Smith was only able to attend the Friday night activities but she says that she got to come to the best parts – worship and the Young Women Pizza Party. The Young Women enjoyed time with NID President Buss.

Being a Young Woman in LWML is all about serving, praying, praising, and studying the Word together. We thank God for every Young Woman that attended the convention and ask God to continue to bless them.



## Calling ALL Young Women

Would you like to worship with thousands of Lutheran women, hear inspirational mission speakers, and spend time in the Word? Then the LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama is the place you want to be. This Convention takes place June 20 – 23, 2019. You will see the big picture of the impact LWML has here in the US and around the world. You will get a glimpse into how LWML works.

Prayerfully consider being a YWR (Young Woman Representative) to the

convention. This opportunity is available for young women ages 22-35 who are members of the LCMS. The convention will give you time in fellowship with other young women and you will form strong relationships with sisters in Christ of all ages. LWML NID will pay your expenses. In return, you will be expected to share your experience with the women of the LWML NID. The convention will make you want to be a part of this wonderful organization that studies the Word, serves, and shares Jesus' love with people around the world.

To find out more about this convention, go to <http://www.lwml.org/2019-convention>. If you would like to be considered to be a Young Woman Representative, fill out the Young Women Representative Application found at [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org) and return it to [president@lwmlnid.org](mailto:president@lwmlnid.org) before January 15, 2019.



## Calendar

- *March 30th, 2019—Lenten Inspiration, Christ Lutheran Church, 14700 S. 94th Street, Orland Park, IL 60462*
- *June 20-23, 2019 — LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama*
- *June 24–27, 2021 — LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky— Its never too early to start planning!*

## Announcements

- *Zones can send meeting announcements to be posted on Instagram and Facebook to Teena Dorn at [vpcommunications@LWMLNID.org](mailto:vpcommunications@LWMLNID.org) for distribution.*
- *Make sure you are signed up and encourage your Zones to sign up for Facebook and Instagram accounts so they may receive these notices and the latest happenings in the district! Instagram: LWMLNID, Facebook:*
- *Please welcome and congratulate the NEW LWML NID Leadership:*

*Janice Gerzevske, LWML NID President*

*Rev. Jeffrey P. Howell, Jr. LWML NID Pastoral Counselor*

*Diane Kettelson, VP of Organizational Resource*

*Dianna Maanum, VP of Gospel Outreach*

*LeeAnn Himley, Corresponding Secretary*

*Donna Simundic, Treasurer*

*Gwen Arnold, Nominating Committee East*

*Lauren Olsen, Nominating Committee West (and Chair)*

*Cherie B. Weber, Nominating Committee South*

*Carol A Rutti, Nominating Committee North*

*Hellena Hopkins has agreed to serve as the new Chairman of Cross Cultural Committee*

*Buffy Stevens is the new Parliamentarian*



- **Tech Notes** — *Feed back is always appreciated and can be sent to [webmaster@LWMLNID.org](mailto:webmaster@LWMLNID.org) or [vpcommunications@LWMLNID.org](mailto:vpcommunications@LWMLNID.org)*
- **Delivery of Quarterly Subscriptions:** Quarterlies are mailed on the following schedule:

Spring	March 1
Summer	June 1
Fall	October 1
Winter	December 1

After checking with your church secretary or whomever sorts the mail for your church, if you have not received your subscription of Quarterlies between the 15th & 20th of the month they were mailed, something probably happened to them in the postal delivery system. You have the option of emailing national directly at [Quarterly@lwml.org](mailto:Quarterly@lwml.org) or you can email the corresponding secretary at [correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org) letting us know your quarterlies have not arrived. National prints a limited number of extras --if there is a problem we need to contact them in a timely fashion to have replacement copies mailed.

**Attached:**

- ***Lenten Inspirations Registration form***

*You can reach NID-Bits Editor, Teena Dorn at [VPCcommunications@LWMLNID.org](mailto:VPCcommunications@LWMLNID.org)*