

## LWML NID

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

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## Featured Grant:

### **Walcamp**

Cabins constructed in the 1970's get an upgrade with an LWML NID grant. Laborers for Christ supply manpower.

*See Story page 6.*

## God's Workmanship



*by Janice Gerzevske, LWML NID President*

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are **God's** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **to do** good works, which God prepared **in advance for us to do.**" (NIV) The ESV says "For we are **his** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for** good works, which God prepared **beforehand, that we should walk in them.**"

The theme for 2019 has been Serving the Least of These. At the Lenten Inspiration serving the people of St Matthew’s in Chicago and families with Babies at St Paul in Mount Prospect were highlighted. The Fall Gathering provided an opportunity to visit displays for the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Holy Cross, the Family in Faith food pantry of Glendale Heights, the Friends in Christ, Morris Keep Your Kids in Shoes program, the many aspects of Bethesda and the opportunity to serve using Thrivent Action Teams.

If you are looking for ideas which you or your local group might undertake, go to [lwml.org](http://lwml.org)—click on the service tab and scroll down to Mission Service Activities. A Year’s worth of mission service activities calendar can be found in the righthand column after you click to see the current month’s suggested activity. The calendar has three columns—nurturing faith in Christ, making our faith meaningful and sharing encouragement. Each column provides an explanation of what you might do as an individual or as a group. These ideas could provide a way to involve other members of the congregation in a LWML sponsored project. The 2020 calendar should be available in a couple months.

**Go to [lwml.org](http://lwml.org)—  
click on the  
service tab and  
scroll down to  
Mission Service  
Activities .**

Month	Nurturing Faith in Christ	Making Our Faith Meaningful	Sharing Encouragement
<b>November</b> 	Use the month of November to keep a “Thankfulness Journal”. Each day write down one item for which you are thankful and don’t forget to express your gratitude to those near you. Say a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.	Work with your local Veterans’ Administration (VA) hospital to see what the patients need in the way of clothing or other items. Organize a collection and then spend a day visiting with the recipients. Learn more about ministering to veterans at the <a href="#">LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces</a> page. You may also wish to provide audio <a href="#">Military BibleSticks</a> to active service members. <b>EXTRA CREDIT: Find out what your local VA needs in the way of volunteers and then sign up!</b>	Identify the veterans and active military in your congregation and post their photos on a “wall of honor”. Have a Veteran’s Day lunch after church one Sunday in November to honor these heroes.
<b>December</b> 	Be sure to use an advent devotion throughout the season. Involve your family and discuss each day’s reading together.	Sponsor a parents’ night out so that parents are able to do some Christmas shopping or decorating without little ones underfoot. Be sure to have licensed/certified babysitters on hand. <b>EXTRA CREDIT: Involve the youth from the congregation in entertaining the children.</b>	Provide guidance to families on how to keep “CHRIST” in “CHRISTmas”, to slow down, and focus on what’s important for children to learn. One idea is to make an <a href="#">Advent Wreath</a> and use it as the focal point for Advent devotions.

# Never Forget!



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

Cool crisp mornings, trees adorned in red, gold and orange leaf, the sun taking its rest earlier each day all remind us that the church year is quickly coming to a close. In rapid succession we will celebrate the Reformation, go trick-or-treating, commemorate All Saints Day, and then stuff ourselves with Thanksgiving dinner. Before we know it, Advent will be upon us and a new church year will have begun *but...*we aren't there yet.

We are in the final weeks of this prolonged season we call Pentecost. Green has adorned the altars and pulpits of many a sanctuary for a good number of months. Pentecost is referred to as the season of the church. The color green symbolizing growth as the Word of the Lord goes out through His church to all corners of the world. But let's be reminded how this season actually began - with the coming of the Holy Spirit - so perhaps we would be wise to think of Pentecost as the season of the Holy Spirit.

As Lutherans I think we struggle with knowing what to do with this third person of the Holy Trinity. We tend to speak more, preach more, and teach more on the Father and the Son. This has certainly been true for me. In fact, as one who has preached many a sermon series it was just this summer that I preached my first series dedicated to the Holy Spirit, the series title: FORGOTTEN. As we set our sights on a new year, let us not be so quick to get to the babe born in a manger that we forget the Holy Spirit. After all, it is the Holy Spirit whom you received in your baptism. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers Christ's church. It is the Holy Spirit who enables us to will and to do God's kingdom work. Next year's theme is a perfect reminder that we are all "Led by the Spirit."

*Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.*

-Psalm 143:10 NIV



## Next Year's Theme: Daily Led by the Spirit

By **Jan Mauer**, Strategic Plan Facilitator

Over the past year we have celebrated “Serving the Least of These”. Our LWML Sisters have diligently served, donated, and supported the least of these in our churches and communities. Thank you all for your generosity of time and resources. Keeping your service in mind as I considered ideas for the 2020 theme, goals, and objectives, our personal walk with Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit kept coming to mind. After much thought and prayer I put forth “Daily Led by the Spirit” for Executive Committee approval. It was accepted.

During the next year we will have time to discover how the Holy Spirit leads us in our daily lives and how we are led to follow Jesus each day. At convention, Deb Burma, author of **Joy: A Study of Philippians**, will be our keynote speaker and we will add, “Joyfully” to our theme, “Joyfully, we are Daily Led by the Spirit”. I hope you will share with me your joy filled experiences as you are led by the Spirit.

### 2020 Theme, Goals, and Objectives

**Theme:** Daily Led by The Spirit

Based on “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”  
*Psalm 143:10*

**NIV Goal Statement:** As we daily walk with Jesus we will seek His will and guidance for our lives.

### Convention Objectives:

*As we leave the convention we will:*

- Seek His guidance through daily prayer and Bible study.
- Faithfully worship and praise His Holy name.
- Share His love and the good news of salvation.

**Go forth in joy!**

## Fall Gathering, in Brief

By **Donna Gutzler**

The ladies of Zone 4 and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cary, IL hosted our Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 28. About 130 LWML sisters and guests enjoyed a day of worship, speakers, Bible study, and time for fellowship. Our keynote speaker was Christian author and speaker Annette Budzban. One of the highlights of the day was the welcoming of a new society to our district – the





*Keynote speaker, Christian author Annette Budzban encourages participants at the Fall Gathering on Sept 28, 2019 at Holy Cross in Cary, IL.*

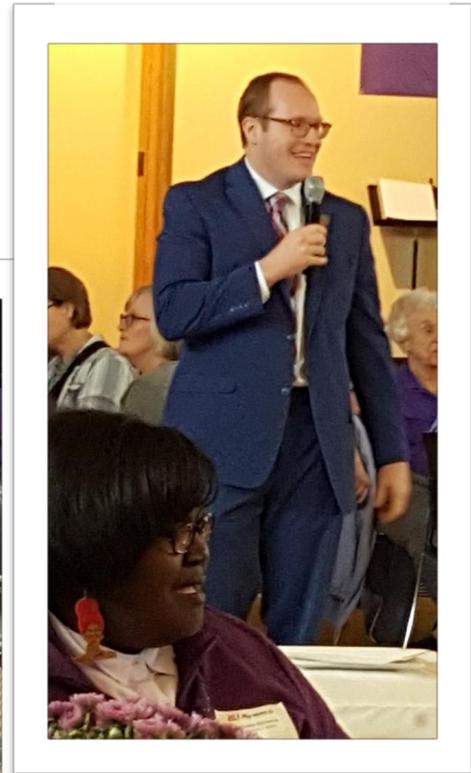
Prayer Shawl group of our hosts, Holy Cross. This is the second LWML society at their church. Ladies from the group were in attendance to display their shawls and explain their ministry. LWML NID President Jan Gerzevske welcomed them and presented them with a certificate of membership. May God continue to bless all of our societies as they “serve the Lord with gladness”!



*Below: Patrick Kenneally, McHenry County States Attorney, speaks on fraud prevention during lunch.*



*LWML NID President Jan Gerzevske, welcomes a new society into the Northern Illinois District LWML.*



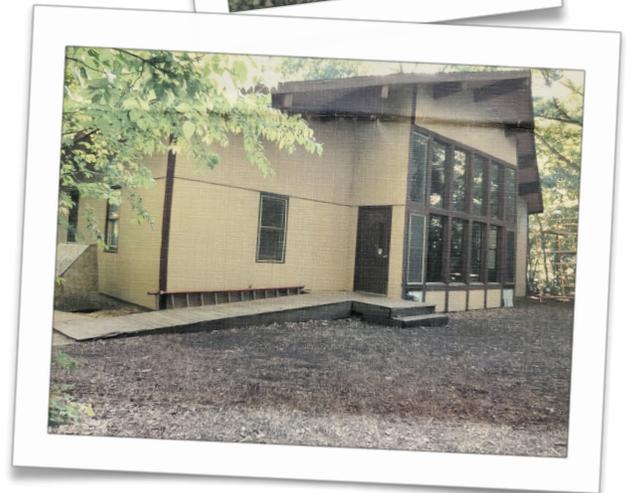
# Walcamp



**Diana Maanum,**  
LWMLNID Vice  
President of Gospel  
Outreach

Walcamp has been able to update its cabins that were constructed in the late '70s by the Walcamp Auxiliary. The well-loved cabins Oak and Maple both needed an exterior makeover. Through the Northern IL District LWML, Walcamp was able to fix the exterior of both Oak and Maple cabins. Our grant ensures that campers for years to come will be able to enjoy their outdoor education and summers at Walcamp. Through this labor of love, Walcamp started with Oak. A good portion of the job was through a work-group that was up to the challenge. This group not only exceeded expectations but also enjoyed Christian fellowship in the process. Currently, Laborers for Christ is coming to help work on the cabins. Keep checking out our social media for updates on both Oak and Maple, along with all of our current grants.

Are you wondering if your church, school, or RSO can apply for a grant? Please read the grant criteria (<https://www.lwmlnid.org/mission-grants/criteria/>). If you are looking for our district grant recourses and information, please check out <https://www.lwmlnid.org/mission-grants/resources/>.



# A Note

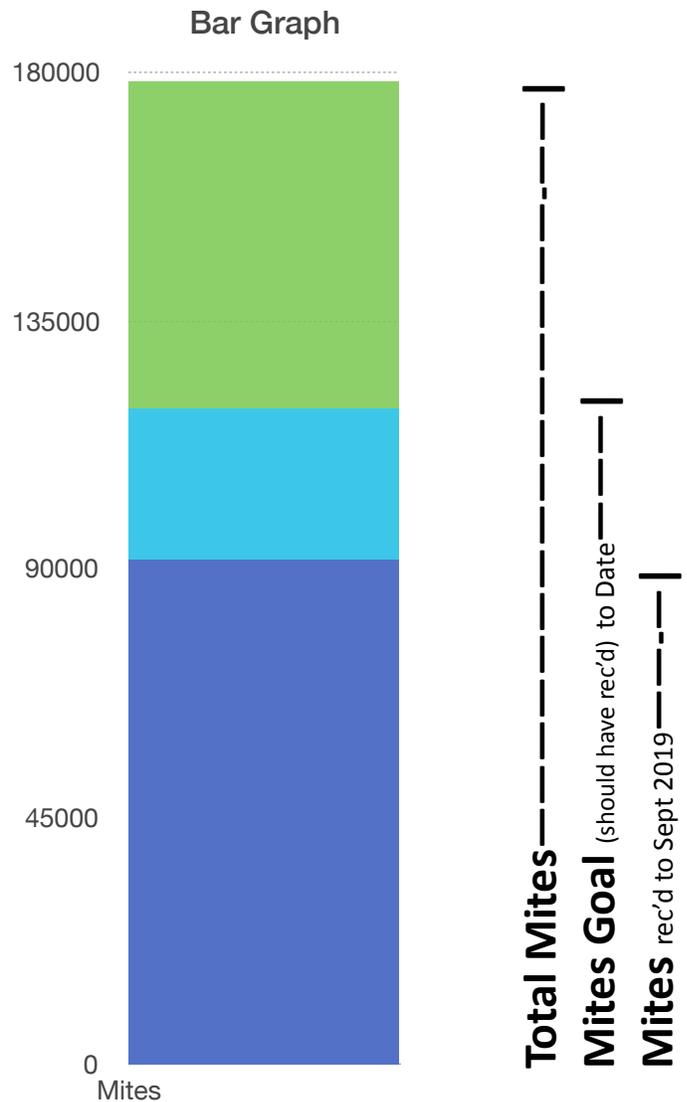
*From President Jan Gerzevske:*

We have just 8 months to meet the \$178,500 Mission Goal as voted for by the LWML NID members in 2018. We are currently **short of our goal by \$ 27,476** as of the end of September, 2019.

Mites Goals Comparison-1

DESCRIPTION	MITES
Mites Rec'd 7/1/18 to 9/30/19	91574
Mites should have Rec'd by 9/30/2019	119000
<b>Total Mites Goal</b>	<b>178500</b>

- Total Mites Goal
- Mites should have Rec'd by 9/30/2019
- Mites Rec'd 7/1/18 to 9/30/19



# Winter Retreat

By Sherrie Smith, Young Women Coordinator

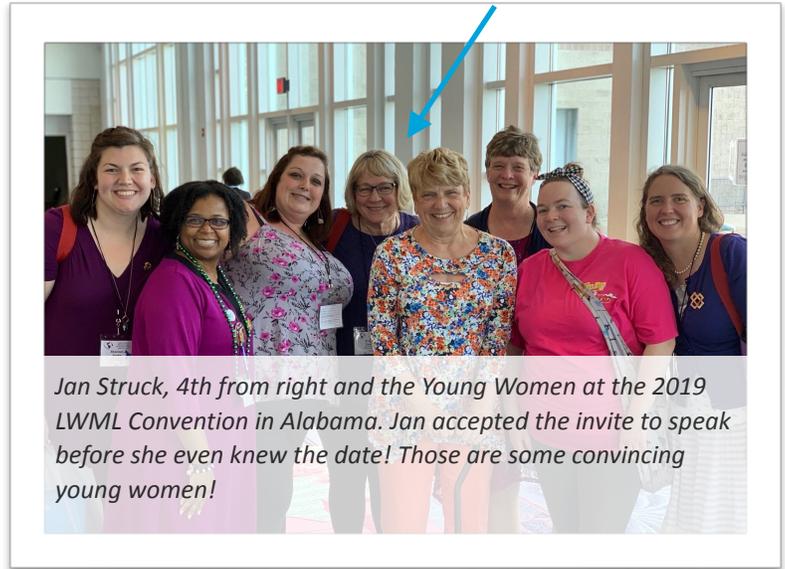


Are you looking for a way to refresh, renew and rejoice in the Lord after the rush of the holidays has ended? Come to the **Young Woman & Young at Heart Winter Retreat**. In this peaceful setting, you will learn – again- not to be afraid because God is always with you. Jan Struck, a well-loved, humorous yet thought provoking speaker, will help make the retreat an unforgettable experience.

Jan will share the many times she was fearful and

learned – again- to trust God. Prayerfully consider spending this time with Jan and women of all ages as we pray, laugh and are encouraged by the Word of God.

See attached registration information or register securely on the website at: [https://www.lwmlnid.org/event/young-women-retreat-and-young-at-heart/?instance\\_id=74](https://www.lwmlnid.org/event/young-women-retreat-and-young-at-heart/?instance_id=74)



*Jan Struck, 4th from right and the Young Women at the 2019 LWML Convention in Alabama. Jan accepted the invite to speak before she even knew the date! Those are some convincing young women!*

## Say Yes!

By Lauren Olsen, Nominating Committee Chairman [nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org](mailto:nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org)

LWML NID Convention 2020 will be here before you know it!

We are still looking for candidates for the following positions: Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Convention Chairman, and Nominating Committee from North, South, East, and West Regions. Please feel free to read the descriptions of each position in our bylaws <https://www.lwmlnid.org/wp-content/uploads/LWML-NID-bylaws.pdf>.

If after prayerful consideration you would like to be considered for one of these positions, please fill out the Nomination Form at <https://forms.gle/QgkJ4XdyuHPimNxbA>. If you prefer to have a paper form mailed to you, please contact me at 815-353-9414 and I will be glad to send you a form.

# Zone 18 Fall Workshop

## Operation Christmas Child

By Sharon Friesner, Zone 18 President

Ten years ago, the LWML ladies of Zone 18 (formerly Zones 27 & 28) were looking for a worthwhile Fall Workshop project and were told about Operation Christmas Child, a mission of Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse organization, with the goal of bring shoe box gifts and the message of the Gospel to children around the world. The ladies decided this would be their project. Since that time, the undertaking has flourished.

With congregational support from each church involved, boxes and bags of school supplies, hygiene items, clothing, and toys arrived at the workshop by the car load. People had been collecting items all year for the exciting time when the items would be assembled in gift-wrapped or plastic shoe boxes that would be shipped overseas. Each box needed a monetary donation to help pay for shipping and *The Greatest Gift* book that is given to each child, published in their own language, telling them about Jesus. This money is generously donated by individuals and congregations at the Fall Workshop offering.

Since 2009, a total of 1530 boxes have been sent to Zimbabwe, India, Ukraine, South Africa, The Middle East, Botswana, Angola, Paraguay, Columbia, Malawi, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, Rwanda, and "hard to reach" areas where it would not be safe for workers if Christian efforts were revealed.

At the Fall Workshop on October 5, 2019, we completed more than 150 additional boxes for this amazing outreach to help bring Christ's joy, peace, and hope to the ends of the earth. To God be the glory, great things he has done!

Ruth Ann Fulton of Trinity Lutheran Church in Goodfarm has been the project coordinator for Operation Christmas Child the last ten years. She puts in a great deal of time and energy to make this project so successful. All of us in Zone 18 would like to thank her for the wonderful job he has done.



# Locations WANTED

Location to host the **February 20, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting**

**Lenten Inspiration** sometime in February/March 2021  
(Hosted in the South Region in 2019)

Location to host the **July 17, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting (Filled: Feb at Cross Yorkville, West Region and July at St John Union, North region - Thank you!)**

Location to host the **September/October Fall Gathering 2021** (Hosted in the North Region in 2019)

Contact President Jan Gerzevske ([president@LWMLNID.org](mailto:president@LWMLNID.org)).  
Prefer to have meetings in a different region than the previous meeting, ie North, South, East and West.

Suggestion is to have a zone in the region host an event.

## Calendar

- *January 17 - 19 — **Young Women and Young at Heart Retreat, Walcamp***
- ***LWMLNID Lenten Inspiration 2020** — TBD*
- *Sept 11 - 12, 2020— **LWML NID Convention** at Holiday Inn / Gurnee - Daily Led by the Spirit*
- *June 24–27, 2021 — **LWML Convention** in Lexington, Kentucky*

## 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: [www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/](http://www.facebook.com/LWMLNID/) OR you can reach the LWMLNID facebook page through the icon on the [www.LWMLNID.org](http://www.LWMLNID.org) website.*
- **NOTICE** - *If you have Fall Gathering pictures to share, send them to [webmaster@LWMLNID.org](mailto:webmaster@LWMLNID.org) they will be archived in the Flickr 2019 Fall Gathering folder.*

### **Attached:**

- ***Winter Retreat 2020 registration flyer***

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

DO NOT FEAR  
FOR I AM WITH YOU

DO NOT BE DISMAYED

*For I Am Your God...*

ISAIAH 41:10

NID LWML

Young Women & Young at Heart  
Winter Retreat - Jan. 17 - 19, 2020

Walcamp Outdoor Ministries and Retreat Center  
32653 E. Five Points Rd, Kingston, IL 60145

Join us at Walcamp for a 2 night Women's Retreat to refresh, renew and rejoice in the Lord after the rush of the Holidays has ended.

Featuring an appearance by the one and only **Jan Struck!**

We can arrive at **3pm on Friday Jan 17th** and will start with a light supper at **6pm**. Ending on **Sunday Jan 19th at 12pm**.

Bring a sleeping bag/bedding, toiletries & bible.

**Cost: \$40** (Includes light suppers, breakfasts & lunches)

**Check payable to: NID LWML**

**RSVP By Jan. 10th by Email and Sending a Check**

Please mail to: Sherrie Smith. 7418 Fiaura Dr.. Justice. IL 60458