

NID BITS

LWML NID Newsletter

Fall 2015



BARB'S BLURBS~~

THE GIFT OF MEMORIES

Barbara Belanski, LWML NID President

God has given us the gift of tucking the special memories of family, friends, and events into the depths of our hearts and minds as there are individuals and times in our lives we hold dear and don't ever want to forget!! We compile photo albums and write in journals so if our memories begin to fail, we will have pictures of those we love and our printed word to remind us of particular happenings.

As some of us are beginning to age, we long for the times when our memories were intact: (1) when we could remember where we parked our cars at the mall, (2) when we could remember why and for what we were going into another room, (3) when we could remember names of people, telephone numbers, and words in our vocabulary – yes, those were the days!

Some unique memories I pray I will always be able to retain are from our LWML convention in Des Moines. I had the privilege of leading the NID delegation, carrying in our district banner, meeting our YWRs and sitting next to Pastor Mau.....and, how much fun it was to recognize my NID sisters by their tie dyed purple shirts!!



The convention itself was so very inspiring – Thursday's opening worship communion service, Dina's music, Pastor Mattil's Bible studies, meeting President Harrison, being entertained by Jan, listening to all the missionaries who have been supported with our mite offerings, selecting the new mission grants totaling \$2,000,000 and electing new officers who will lead the national LWML through 2015-2017.....and all these fabulous memories in FOUR days!!

My BOUNTIFUL convention memories have equipped me to SOW, NOURISH and REAP in my Father's field. How about you?

As I continue to travel within the NID and meet more of my LWML sisters, I am honored to hold all of you in my memory bank as well – I am continually impressed and moved to see how you are serving Him with gladness!

Philippians 1:3-6 - "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Pastor Jay Klein, LWML NID Pastoral Counselor

Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed. Matthew 14:29-33

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If there's any way the devil can get your eyes away from the Word, he'll do it. He'll cause trouble. He'll make the circumstances around you rock and roll like a rowboat in a hurricane. He'll do anything he can to get you to concentrate on the realm of the physical senses and the situation around you instead of on the promise of God.

That's what he did to Peter. When Peter first jumped out of the boat that day in response to Jesus' word, what happened? He walked right across that water without a problem. His whole being was fastened on that word Jesus had spoken to him, "Come!" But when he took his eyes off that word, he started looking at the storm. He started looking at the impossible thing he was doing. After all, he was a fisherman. All his training and experience told him when the waves were that high, you were going under. He started to focus on what he knew in the natural instead of what Jesus said. When he did that, his faith slipped out of gear and he started to sink.

Has that ever happened to you? Life presses in and we get drawn in to the worry of life and the circumstances surrounding us. Don't get me wrong – life in this world can throw some nasty things on our doorstep and we've all had our share of doubt and worry. But when those moments of angst or fear come knocking, embrace the Word of promise: *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*" Isaiah 43:1-3

As you fight the good fight of faith today, remember this: Your mind is where the battle will take place. Whatever you allow to captivate your mind will rule your life. Let it be the Word of God. God's desire is for the Word to fill you with His promises. The cares of this world, our human weakness, and the lies of Satan frequently come to plant doubts within us. When thoughts come that are contrary to God's will and His Word, cast them out. Call on the Holy Spirit to grant you strength to refuse to surrender to the circumstantial pressure that comes your way. Dig your heels in and stand immovable upon the promises of God. When worrying or weariness creep in, replace those fearful and doubtful thoughts with the Word of God. Our Lord has promised that He will always guide and protect. He is your Good Shepherd. Amen!

"Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you." – Isaiah 43:4, 5



SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION GRANTS

GRANT #4 ~~ VOICE OF CARE

This grant from LWML-NID provides for materials used in training and offsets some of the cost of staffing.

Voice of Care's mission is to equip the Church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers in their walk with Christ. The main focus of Voice of Care's ministry is to develop a comprehensive program in congregations to reach out to people with disabilities in their community, most of whom are unchurched. This is done through consultation on adaptive Christian education materials, training in respite care, and developing inclusive programs. After the initial consultation and training, Voice of Care stays with the congregation until they feel they can run the program on their own, usually about three months. Voice of Care also supplies camps, such as Walcamp, with training for staff members to lead their Special Needs Camp and the curriculum adaptation needed. Another aspect of its training is for individuals who want to do "Jesus Time" devotions in secular facilities, when the people in these facilities are unable to attend church in their community due to their particular disabilities.

While individuals and congregations support the salary expenses of the staff of three pastors and one deaconess, the basic operational costs of the ministry are covered through fundraisers and donations from organizations. The LWML NID is providing such support this biennium with a grant of \$22,000. Our mites are helping to provide resources, printing of materials, mileage, insurance, and many other day-to-day costs of running this ministry. This "behind the scenes" support allows Voice of Care to provide their services free of charge so that a congregation of any size can be trained to reach out with the love of Jesus to people who have disabilities.



Pastor Paul Klopke, North Region Director
for Voice of Care



Lois Prokosch (LWML Zone 13 President) plays for those attending St. John Lombard's SONSHINE disability ministry.

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Grant	Amount Paid	Remaining
#1 St. Matthew \$22,000	\$10,204.25	\$11,695.75
#2 CTSFW Food Co-op \$10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
#3 Voice of Hope \$10,000	\$ 2,516.44	\$ 7,483.56
#4 Phil's Friends \$22,000	\$ 7,500	\$14,500
#5 Voice of Care \$22,000	\$12,073.54	\$ 9,926.46
#6 Trinity/Hope, Haiti \$5,000	\$ 5,000	PAID IN FULL!
#7 Indian Ministry \$3,050	\$ 3,050	PAID IN FULL!
 TOTALS:	 \$45,444.23	 \$48,605.87



Although no monetary amounts have been suggested, we pray for the generous support of mites on a regular basis.

Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others, it will be dealt to you in return. Luke 6:38

Mail your mites to: LWML NID PO Box 175 Westmont IL 60559



**Prayer Guide for LWML NID Mission Grants
September 2015**



1. For inspired and dedicated teachers and eager students
2. For the work of Tom and Cathy Benzler to the Lower Elwha and other tribes on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington state
3. For the generous support of Mites
4. For guidance and blessing on our national and local leaders
5. For caregivers everywhere, that they serve with joy and patience
6. For inspiration for pastors and missionaries to faithfully preach the Word
7. For the support to cancer victims and families through Phil's Friends
8. For safety in our communities where people may live and thrive
9. For acceptance of God's will in our lives and His blessing to do it
10. For the work of the LWML in service and mission
11. For comfort for shattered lives to rebuild with Your grace
12. For the ongoing task of rebuilding lives and property in Haiti
13. For the spread of the Gospel in every land and tongue
14. For the nourishing of bodies and souls at St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen
15. For untiring use of our energies and resources to build God's Kingdom
16. For greater awareness of the needs of those around us
17. For all ministries supported by LWML grants throughout the world
18. For the blessing of Christian families and friends
19. For forgiving hearts
20. For the bold and inerrant proclamation of the Gospel
21. For those entering into the service of the church, especially our seminarians
22. For words of comfort for all who feel despair
23. For hearts and minds eager to hear the Word
24. For the blessing of the Holy Spirit on all workers in the Kingdom
25. For protection and strength for all our military personnel
26. For the application of technology to ease the lives of the disabled
27. For our pastors, that they never tire in their efforts for their congregations
28. For the joyful sharing of our blessings with others
29. For Sunday School teachers and youth leaders
30. For the work of the church in all its ministries

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Watch for information in your church bulletin about your society's celebration of LWML SUNDAY. The first Sunday in October is traditionally the date, but your congregation may choose a different time. The theme for this year is "Seek First the Kingdom of God". More information may be found at the national website, www.lwml.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

2016 LWML Northern Illinois District Convention



September 23-25, 2016

Belvedere Events & Banquets, Elk Grove Village IL

(Rooms will be available at the Country Inn & Suites ~~ connected to the Events Center by a walkway)

Theme: Rejoice, Rejoice (Philippians 4:4)

Speakers include Rev. Victor Belton and Jan Struck



Dignity Kits bring freedom and possibilities to women.

ZONE 22 FALL SEW-IN
 Thursday, October 8, 2015
 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 1101 Kimberly Way, Lisle, IL 60532

Join us and bring a friend to learn how to make hygiene kits for women in Kenya. We will iron, trace patterns, cut fabric, sew sustainable hygiene products, and do a quality check.

(More info is available at www.daysforgirls.org or Pauline Feliksik 630-730-6741.)

Come for a couple of hours, all afternoon, all evening or all day.

Come share the love of Jesus!

Please bring these things (if you have them) to use at the Sew-In:
 Yard stick, fabric scissors, quilters clips, small binder clips, iron & board, sewing machine or serger.

- Ingathering items:
- * Medium weight wash cloths (colors are best)
 - * Girls' underwear (colors or prints) sizes 10-14 (do not launder)
 - * One gallon Ziploc freezer bags (must be zip lock, not slider)
 - * Bar soap (hotel size)

(Due to the nature of the project, only water will be served in the room.)



ZONED IN!

"News from Around the District"

At the **Zone 9** Spring Rally in May, the speaker was Rev. Hicham Chehab. Pastor Chehab, an associate pastor at Peace, Lombard, spoke to the ladies about his ministry to Muslims and the rise of ISIS.



Word of Life LWML Supports Orphan Grain Train Hygiene Kit Project

This summer, the women of Word of Life Lutheran Church in Naperville (**Zone 22**) assembled 30 hygiene kits which were donated to the Orphan Grain Train. The Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

Supplies for the project were purchased with funds from Thrivent Financial. The Hygiene Kits included a bath towel, wash cloth, bar of soap, tooth brush, comb, deodorant, band aids and a recycled copy of the Portals of Prayer devotional.

Bethel, Gurnee will host the **Zone 1** Fall Workshop. The ingathering will collect newborn items for the layette ministry of Love, INC. The ladies will also tie or knot quilts for that ministry.



NEW SOCIETIES

We welcome the following societies to our District.

May God bless your ministry to the ladies of your congregation!



+ WOMEN OF THE WORD at Friends in Christ Lutheran Church in Morris +

+ St. Paul's Ladies Aid at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Beecher +

WANT BETTER ATTENDANCE AT YOUR ZONE ACTIVITIES?: Consider inviting neighboring Zone Presidents to your rallies or combining Zones for special events (like **Zones 2/3 and 6/7** do!). (Idea courtesy of Pauline Feliksik, LWML NID Recording Secretary)

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.



MEET OUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

VP of Communications:	Madlyn Johnson	vpcommunications@lwmlnid.org
District Webmaster	Wendy Johnson	webmaster@lwmlnid.org
District Website Manager	Teena Dorn	websitecoordinator@lwmlnid.org

Send articles, pictures, and other tidbits of information about your society or zone activities to be included in the Northern Light and/or NID-BITS to: PR/District Publications Editor Donna Gutzler prdirector@lwmlnid.org or
985 McKnight Circle #4 Rockford IL 61107

LARGE PRINT LWML QUARTERLY

Do you have members in your church who would like to read the Quarterly but need large print? Contact Roy Fisher at roy@lbwinc.org to order large print at no cost to the individual. The Quarterly is print only--no graphics or pictures.

Find us on the Web: www.lwmlnid.org / Like us on Facebook!