

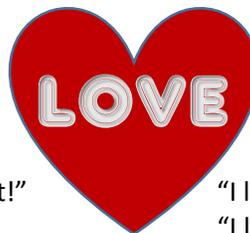
# NID BITS

LWML NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015



**Barb's Blurbs**

## The Gift of



"I love your new outfit!"

"I love this dessert!"

"I love my new iPad."

"I love the summer weather."

How often do you hear these expressions? The word 'love' is common in all four statements, but is it really LOVE?

The dictionary definition of "love" is "a strong affection for another person". So, we can all say we love our spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, and others in our family as well as our dear and closest friends. We value them, dote on them, want to spend time with them, miss them when they're not in our presence, and would do anything for them. Surely, this description of love has much more meaning.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we search for greeting cards expressing our emotions of love – we want to tell those special some ones in our lives how much we love them. Children make valentines, draw hearts, and proudly give them to their moms, dads, and special friends. Pretty, red, and lacy valentines fill us with feelings of love, romance, and affection.

As much as we throw around the word "love" and share it with others, there remains another definition of LOVE and that's the LOVE our God has for us. Nothing can be compared to His great LOVE. "God so LOVED the world, that He gave His one and only Son" (John 3:16); "But God demonstrates His own LOVE for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8); "But because of His great LOVE for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4). *Now, that is romance! Now, that is affection! Now, that is LOVE!!*

The 2015 theme for LWML NID is "God-Given Gifts". So then, let our response to this great gift of God's LOVE be: "As I have LOVED you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34b)

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

### An Epiphany!

*Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"* John 20:27-28

Epiphany, 2015

Epiphany: "A sudden insight or intuitive understanding." That is a secular definition of the word epiphany. Christians, however, do not "see" Epiphany in that way. Believers in Jesus are *given* their epiphany--or as some might say, *revelation* of God's grace and power. The Holy Spirit, creating and working faith in us, is the Person responsible for our epiphany. God Himself, acting through the living Word, brings people to faith. He is the One who opens our eyes, ears, and hearts to see Jesus Christ as our sin-bearer and triumphant King. Now that's an epiphany!

There is no "sudden insight" or "intuitive understanding" that occurs by which we receive and embrace Jesus Christ as Redeemer and Lord. And I'm quite relieved that God did not leave it up to us to believe and trust in Jesus based on our own understanding or insight. St. Peter confirms God's decisive plan for salvation when he writes, "We did not follow cleverly devised stories...we were eyewitnesses...no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation...prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" [2 Peter 1:16 ff].

Holy Scripture begins with these words from the book of Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." God's creative powers were about to take place. Without Him, the earth would have remained formless and dark.

Now think about our spiritual rebirth in Baptism. God--through the living and active Word--takes our life without Him (which is spiritually empty and dark with no hope), and creates in us a heart of love with new hope and a new life! His Spirit cleanses us and does not simply "hover over us," but rather the Spirit of God makes His home in us (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Thomas had an epiphany when he exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" It was sudden but not based on his own intuition or understanding. Our faithful confession is usually not an "Ah-Ha" moment. Nonetheless, like Thomas, the manifestation and reality of Jesus Christ as our Lord and King is the powerful work of God Himself.

My prayer for each of us is that the Holy Spirit continues to work and grow that faith in us, enabling and moving us to live each day as witnesses for Jesus.

Pastor Klein

## BRINGING SIGHT AND GOD'S WORD TO THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA

In December, Bonnie Robertson and Jan Gerzevske from the NID were part of an eight member eyeglass/VBS team to Guatemala. Bonnie was a first timer--her daughter Jennifer, who is from Colorado, convinced her Mom to join the team. Other team members were from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Texas; our MOST team leader was from South Dakota. We stayed in a guesthouse provided by our host which enabled us to feel like we were part of a big family. Our meals were home cooked and we could see and hear one of the active volcanoes from the guesthouse.

Clinics were held in two different locations providing a host of contrasts:

+ SANTIAGO ZAMORA is a rural community of less than 1000 people. This location proved to be a good training ground for the four team members who hadn't previously been part of an eyeglass team. The pace was very slow the first and second day. The third day provided more challenging prescriptions but was still considered leisurely since only 80 people were seen.

+ In GUATEMALA CITY, everyone put their knowledge to work as they tested and fitted 181 people on Wednesday and 200 on Thursday. These two days were filled with lots of "Ah-ha" moments—that's when the person can see clearly. You can see their eyes light up and a smile appear! In all, the team tested 539 adults and children and dispensed 832 pairs of glasses.

MOST provides each eyeglass team with a cane for someone who is blind or nearly blind. Tears of joy were shed by two sisters when one of them--who was diabetic, had glaucoma, was blind in her right eye, and could only see shadows in her left eye--was given a "white cane" and taught how to use it.

We thank God for the opportunity to care for the people of Guatemala both physically and spiritually.





## SPOTLIGHT ON LWML NID MISSION GRANTS

### GRANT #2 – CONCORDIA SEMINARY--FT. WAYNE FOOD & CLOTHING CO-OP

The Food and Clothing Co-op is vital to the livelihood of many of the seminary students, providing 80-85% of all the families' food and household needs. Seventy percent of the students are married, second career men and women with families, who come to the seminary to study for the pastoral or deaconess ministries. The seminary seeks to alleviate some of the financial burden with this Co-op, which receives donations and grants to continue operating. Each family works at the Cooperative and in return receives food and clothing.

From July 2012 to June 2014, the Co-op fed more than 300 students and their family members. The amounts of food are impressive: more than 73,200 pounds of fresh produce, 12,950 pounds of paper products, 100,000+ diapers, 49,000+ pounds of food from the local food bank, 3500 pounds of hamburger + 2950 pounds of beef, 4410 dozen eggs, 6,759 gallons of milk, 8606 cartons of yogurt, 16,779.5 pounds of pork, 250 hams for holiday meals, and more than 17,000 pounds of chicken (donated). \$28,299.08 was spent at local grocery stores to purchase items for the shelves.

Here is a portion of a thank you from the Co-op: Thank you, ladies, not only for what you have done in the past, but for your ongoing support of the Food & Clothing Co-op on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. Because of your help.....our students can clothe their families, and depend on wholesome food items at the Food Co-op. The generosity of the ladies of the LWML from the Northern Illinois District...has guaranteed fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, hamburger and other grocery items to fill our shelves.....With your help, some of the economic burden is lessened. You are a blessing to the students and their families and a vital part of the training process. By your generous giving .....you not only help seminary families with important needs but ultimately you act as God's agents in His Kingdom, allowing His work to be done and the Good News of Jesus Christ brought to a world that desperately needs to know the Gospel.



The grant of \$10,000 from Northern Illinois District LWML will help fund this ministry.

## HUMAN CARE--JUST WHAT IT SAYS.....AND MORE!

I'm always looking up the definitions of unfamiliar words that I come across, and even some familiar ones. So naturally, when I became the VP of Human Care and chairman of this committee (filling in for the last two years of Barb Belanski's term when she became our NID President), I immediately searched for a definition of what being on this committee involves. Having been an active LWML member for many years, I was not at all surprised at this committee's responsibilities.

Here are a few of the duties I discovered (and as I "read between the lines", I suspect it is far from all inclusive):

- Encourage sensitivity in women toward those who are hurting and in need.
- Provide resources and encouragement to enable knowledgeable, Biblical, hands-on assistance and comfort to others.
- Implement the LWML Human Care Committee programs and activities, and encourage Human Care involvement by our Zone Presidents and societies.

It wasn't too long before my faithful committee and I received our first assignment – to organize a "Bakeless Bake Sale". The proceeds will help raise funds to send our District's Young Woman's Representative to the National Convention in Des Moines in June . You will be hearing more about this "Bakeless Bake Sale" from your Zone Presidents, as they will be urging you to become involved in this project in your Zone and local LWML societies. Meanwhile, I am making a "CAKE" collection box to bring to our February LWML Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting to "KICK OFF" this project. Watch for more information coming your way very soon.

Finally, I have a question for all of you! Are any of your churches or local LWML societies involved in a "Card Care Ministry"? I was recently contacted about one of our LWML members who would like to start such a ministry. If you have had experience with this, or have suggestions of how one would go about supporting others in this way, please let me know. I will be glad to pass along that information to them.

Rejoice always!

Carol Karris, VP of Human Care  
vphumancare@lwmlnid.org





## QUARTERLIES ORDERING UPDATE

In order for societies to continue to receive their subscriptions to the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly with the Summer 2015 issue, they **MUST** contact Corresponding Secretary Jan Gerzevske **to confirm their current order or to increase their order no later than March 15, 2015**. If they do not contact her, their society's subscription will be decreased to ONE issue per quarter.

Notices have been sent, either by email or USPS. If you haven't received yours, please call Jan (630-294-5014) or email her ([nidlwmlcorrespondingsec@gmail.com](mailto:nidlwmlcorrespondingsec@gmail.com)) immediately.

In addition, if the funds to cover the cost of the current subscription request (fiscal year 2014-15) are not submitted, your letter will indicate the amount owed and where to send the funds.

In the last biennium, LWML NID was charged \$10,000 more for Quarterlies shipped to district churches than was received from the societies. This deficit, along with a similar deficit in the previous biennium, led to the change in policy explained above.

Thank you, sisters in Christ, for helping to assure that our monies are spent for grants and other missions while still providing you with a publication that informs and helps us grow in our faith and our passion for sharing the Gospel with others.

Find us on the Web: [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org)  
Like us on Facebook!



### **It's Coming Soon! Convention 2015!**

The Time is NOW... to register for the LWML Convention. Join your sisters and brothers in Christ from June 25-28, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa for the LWML Convention. Sign up now to gather under our theme Bountiful! Sow · Nourish · Reap. Be fed by God's Word and Sacrament. Be nurtured through worship and fellowship. Be equipped to sow, nourish, and reap in the Father's field.

Registration forms and more information can be found in the winter issue of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly and online at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). Those who register between February 2 and March 14, 2015 will receive a discounted rate on their registration fee. The women of the Host Committee can't wait to welcome you to Iowa!

### **LWML Convention Shirt**

If you are planning to attend the Convention, think about ordering an LWML-NID shirt in purple tiger stripe. The cost for this shirt is \$10 (plus mailing charges or it can be picked up). It is available in sizes adult S-3X. If there is interest in another one (maybe in white because there is a larger size range), OR a light jacket with the same graphic, I can explore that. Those interested can call me, Teena Dorn (Flossmoor, IL) at [773-225-0760](tel:773-225-0760) or email me at [teenadorn@aol.com](mailto:teenadorn@aol.com). To make sure you have your T-shirt in time, order by June 11 for mail orders or June 22 for orders to be picked up.



LWML NID Lenten Inspiration .....

# "God-Given Gifts"



"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God,  
which is in you." 2 Timothy 1:6a



Saturday, March 21, 2015  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
1177 East Howard Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60018  
(847) 824-4923



Please join us for a day of inspiration and a sharing of gifts.  
Speakers and "Acts" will feature members of NID displaying their talents and gifts.

Cost: \$15.00 (includes morning coffee and lunch)

Registration and Fellowship: 9:00am

Lenten Inspiration Program Begins: 9:30am

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2015

.....  
Please detach and return this portion of the form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order for \$15.00 payable to "LWML NID" and send to:

Diane Kettelson  
16801 N. Ridge Road  
Minooka, IL 60447-8914  
(815) 467-2458

Email: [vpchristianlife@lwmlnid.org](mailto:vpchristianlife@lwmlnid.org)





# *ZONED IN!*

*"News from Around the District"*

We'd like to share your society's and zone's activities with our sisters around the NID. Any inspiring speakers or Bible studies? Maybe a special project or ingathering? Or perhaps an event sponsored by another organization (i.e., Thrivent, your school) that your ladies are involved in?

Send your articles to [lwmlpurplelady@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlpurplelady@gmail.com)

Find us on the Web: [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org)  
Like us on Facebook!

### LWML Sisters Support “Dignity for Girls Sew In”

Girls living in impoverished areas of Kenya do not have access to feminine hygiene supplies. A letter received from Robert Gutwa of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya says this: "Dear Sisters, Some girls told me that it even embarrasses them to interact with their brothers and sisters for they hide and pretend they are sick, also missing 4-5 days of school each month."

“Dignity for Girls” is a newly formed group of compassionate women committed to making reusable pads for them. The group’s first “Sew In” resulted in 33 women from 6 congregations cutting, ironing, and sewing these pads at Family in Faith Church in Glendale Heights Ill. There are already hundreds of girls/women identified to benefit from this project. They are eagerly anticipating this life-changing gift.

You can help! Join us on February 21 and March 21 for the next “Sew In”. Do you have material you could donate? Would you like to donate underwear and washcloths included in each feminine hygiene kit? Perhaps you could consider donating \$10 for each complete kit. Want to know more? Want to attend? All questions can be directed to [Dignityforgirls@gmail.com](mailto:Dignityforgirls@gmail.com). This is a Thrivent Action Team event.



#### 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.



**Lutheran Women's Missionary League~Northern Illinois District  
Prayer Guide for LWML NID Mission Grants**

1. For the outreach of God's Word to foreign students, and for those who minister to them.
2. For God's divine care and keeping of the unemployed.
3. For the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge for college and seminary students.
4. For preservation of our communities.
5. For encouragement for women serving our Lord.
6. For guidance and help to those teaching on all levels of learning.
7. For the strength to share God's Word with peers, friends and neighbors.
8. For our synod and LWML leaders.
9. For knowing and living in the joy of God's Salvation.
10. For those who live with disabilities and challenges.
11. For the sharing of God's Word in our Sunday Schools.
12. For God to continue to bless our nation.
13. For those who serve where we cannot be.
14. For God to guide and nourish loving relationships.
15. For sharing God's Word among all Americans.
16. For world leaders to seek wisdom and follow God's will.
17. For courage for service men and women to perform their duties well.
18. For enlightenment to see by Faith all God provides us.
19. For peace at home and abroad.
20. For congregational programs that reach souls for Christ.
21. For lawmakers to follow God's will.
22. For faith and self-control against worldly views.
23. For the Holy Spirit's guidance and peace for missionaries.
24. For God's mercy and help for the poor, hungry and homeless.
25. For the proclamation of the Gospel in prisons.
26. For all who suffer afflictions of body and soul.
27. For generous support of Mites and ministries funded by them.
28. For the whole Christian Church on earth.

Find us on the Web: [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org)  
Like us on Facebook!

## *Serve the Lord with Gladness!*

### Mission Grant Update February 2015

++ Mission Grants 2014-2016 ++	<u>Amount of Grant</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>
1. St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen	\$22,000	\$9100
2. Concordia Seminary Food and Clothing Coop	\$10, 000	0
3. Prison Ministry, Voice of Hope	\$10,000	0
4. Cancer Care Packages, Phil's Friends	\$22,000	0
5. Voice of Care	\$22,000	0
6. Feeding Lutheran School Children in Haiti	\$5,000	0
7. Lutheran Indian Ministries, Olympic Peninsula	\$ 7640	0
 Totals	 \$98640	 \$9100

**Although we have not suggested monetary amounts for each day, it is our prayer for you to generously remember mite offerings on a regular basis.**

*Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed, and shaken, and running over, they shall give into your bosom; for with that measure with which ye measure, it shall be measured to you again.' Luke 6:38*

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