

As I looked at the convention attendees last Saturday, I saw the faces of Lutheran Women in Mission. I saw women who are faithful to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I saw women who care for each other and who want to grow in faith and in love. I saw women who want to use their gifts and talents at home, in their communities and around the world to bring others to Jesus Christ. I saw women who pray faithfully for the NID LWML, who mentor young women and I saw current and future leaders. I saw pastors who steadfastly support the LWML. I saw the Face of LWML in Northern Illinois.

It is a privilege to serve the Lord as President of the Northern Illinois District LWML and it is my goal to serve prayerfully and faithfully. I look forward to talking with you and hearing your ideas and thoughts. What can LWML do to help you grow as a woman with a heart for God?

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.

This is a powerful Mission Statement and my goal for the NID LWML is to provide education and inspiration to encourage mission service. I pray each of you will find a quiet time each day to be in the word, in prayer and to listen for the whispers from God that are meant just for you.

I pray our path over the next four years will lead to increased participation by women of all ages and cultures in the activities planned for the NID LWML. We are making plans for the Gathering October 2011 and even before that we have the wonderful opportunity to meet with 6000 or more of our brothers and sisters in Christ at the convention in Peoria June 23-26, 2011. How great is the theme, Being with Jesus—Living on the Edge! The Lenten Inspirations are planned for March 2011 with two locations to choose from and I hope to see you there!

As we spend time with each other and journey together on the path chosen for us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it is my prayer that each woman will be blessed beyond any expectations. I ask you to keep me, the officers and all the women of the NID LWML in your prayers.



Gems from Jan

**Janet
Mauer,**
NID LWML
District
President

NID LWML 2010 Convention

“The King Reigns Triumphant”

By Janet Hasler, NID LWML Member

On Friday, the board joined together for dinner, there was a church service for everyone with the Lord’s supper followed by a meeting and wonderful fellowship. Convention day, October 23, had arrived.

While beginning the day with the “all too needed cup of coffee,” everyone was able to browse and make purchases from the various display booths represented by Thrivent, Lutheran Bible Translators, Jews for Jesus, Gospel Outreach, Multi Culture Ministry, Concordia



The narthex of St. Paul is filled with voting delegates and LWML members and guests registering and obtaining programs and name tags. Nearly 400 LWML members and guests soon filled the sanctuary.

Publishing House and a lot of others. Outside the church, trailers from Lutheran Church Charities and Phil’s Friends were waiting to be filled with items for the needy and cancer survivors.

The convention is ready to begin; a procession of officers, chairpersons and presidents line up ready to enter the sanctuary proceeded by Gayle Kettleison carrying the NID LWML

banner. Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Erik Gauss opened the convention with prayer and a Bible study. No convention is complete without music; pianist and song writer, Lana Gibbons, led us in



Automobiles and buses fill the parking lot of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Prospect, IL.

some of the most beautiful and inspirational music that just echoed through the sanctuary.

At every convention, there is official business to be taken care of and NID LWML President, Sherrie Smith, requested the business at hand to

begin. Voters accepted the by-law changes as well as the 2010-2012 mission goal.

NID Vice President, Rev. Larry Frazier extended greetings from NID president, Rev. Dan Gilbert. Edie Norris, National LWML Public Relations extended her greetings and a Power Point presentation from National LWML President, Janice M. Wendorf. Dr. Richard Bimler, retired director of Wheat Ridge Ministries, noted speaker and author dazzled the convention with his humorous antidotes.

Phil Zielke from “Phil’s Friends”, a cancer survivor ministry, introduced everyone to the work of Phil’s Friends and encouraged us to get involved in collecting articles to be distributed to patients and bringing them the Gospel message of hope to those dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. There are programs from Phil’s Friends that congregations can use as their mission project.

A major part of LWML’s work is the mission grant ministry. Kris Blackwell, chairperson of Gospel Outreach and her committee announced the candidates for the mission grant program.

Voting delegates from the congregations voted on grant proposals and a new slate of officers.

Jan Gerzevske, Short Term Mission Committee, Chairman, and the team going to

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Costa Rica was commissioned by Rev. Robert Bartz, the NID LWML pastoral counselor.

The newly elected officers were installed by Pastor Gauss and another convention had come to an end to be followed by the National convention in Peoria, IL in June, 2011.

New NID LWML President, Jan Mauer shared her thoughts,

"I am very excited to be the President of the NID LWML and want to encourage our members to spend daily time in the Word and in prayer. To give our zone presidents, societies and members information about LWML; our goals and objectives. Too often I hear, 'What does the LWML do or what is LWML?'"

"Also to encourage mentoring relationships between women of all ages and cultures; to encourage increased participation in our local, district and national events. To step out of our comfort zones and try new ideas and to listen to our members' ideas, thoughts and concerns and to address them. To encourage attendance at the convention in Peoria. I love the theme, 'Being with Jesus, Living on the Edge.' I know it will be an exciting time and a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith and make new friends".

"Go and spread the fragrance of knowing Jesus, our Triumphant King!"



President, Sherrie Smith gave her farewell address. Edie Norris, presented Sherrie with a plaque of appreciation for her service. "It was a great privilege to serve as the President of the NID LWML. I will treasure the friendships I have made. It was a thrill to watch God at work among His people. There is no better thing than to share the Good News with people here and around the world. God is good!"

From the Pastor

By Rev. Erik Gauss



2 Cor. 2:14 - "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ, and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing."

This was the theme for the convention and for my Bible study. Dr. Bimler asked us what our favorite smell is, I asked the question "How do others think Christ smells? Do we pass the sniff test?"

We recently celebrated the Reformation once again and Ephesians 2:8,9 ring true in our ears. "For it is by Grace you have been saved, not of your works..." How true this is today as it has ever been. But many things have changed, including how people hear our message. In fact they won't hear it until we've first passed the sniff test. The sniff test goes something like this, "Are you trying to be nice to me so I like you? Do you, as a Christian, truly care about me for who I am or are you using me to get in good with God?"

The U.S. is the world's third largest mission field and home to some of the largest missionary efforts of Buddhist, Hindu, and New Age religions. When we are kind to others they think we are trying to increase our Karma, not share the love of Jesus. Ephesians 2:10 states "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

No longer is it enough to collect mites and ingatherings for mission work someplace else, but our neighbors and neighborhoods need to smell the sweet aroma of Jesus Love and forgiveness, sense the support and encouragement of the Holy Spirit, and be embraced with the mercy that the Father showed us, sacrificing His Son while we were still lost in our sin. May you be engulfed in the fragrance of God and be the aroma of the Savior to the saved and the lost you encounter everyday.

Eyeglass Ministry

in Costa Rica

By Jan Gerzevske

On September 25th the eyeglass team (Carli Zygowicz, Fran DeVries, Kathy Munson, Marion Mycynek and Jan Gerzevske, Sallyann Bacchiere and her husband Dan, Linda Fass, Gail Peck, Deb Siler.) which left for Costa Rica on November 5 held its training meeting. We were



joined by Pat Carlson, our team leader from MOST Ministries. Pat explained the station setup of the clinic and gave us the chance to practice eye testing on each other. We knew we would have time to have a refresher course

when we arrived which made all of us feel more confident.

Two ladies from Lord of Glory, Elgin served us lunch for which we were extremely grateful. It allowed us to use our time for the training and to have questions answered. It was hard to believe that only six weeks later we would be in Costa Rica.

Thank you to everyone who has donated eyeglasses, reading glasses and sunglasses. They have been transported to Ann Arbor MI which is the home of MOST Ministries by Gayle and Don Sommerfeld who started MOST and have now retired to the Wheaton area. MOST always welcomes additional glasses as their inventory continues to need replacing. They also send witness bracelets, necklaces and finger puppets for the evangelism station at the clinic.

If your society would like directions for making the witness items or eyeglass cases, contact Jan Gerzevske at jger@netzero.com or call 630.294.5014.

Editor's note: Check for the latest updates at the blog on www.nidlwml.org.

a thank you

from Lynn Wrightson
of Most Ministries

Dear NID:

What a blessing you are to MOST Ministries. The glasses you sent were awesome and we lost count at well over a 1000 pair.

Those glasses were lovingly sorted, washed, prescriptions were read on each lens then they were bagged and filed according to their Rx number. We put them in boxes numerically to be used on the mission field at each eyeglass testing center.

These glasses of yours went into the mix of glasses stored and are pulled off the Storehouse shelves as the request comes in for each country that is being packed. Your glasses could be going to China in the spring or perhaps they went off to Guatemala

or Nicaragua or most likely they went to Madagascar in Sept. That particular location is very needy. The people there are so sweet and appreciative of us coming and as we witness to each and every one as they are waiting to be tested as to their vision, we get to know their hearts as we tell them about Jesus.



Helping in NW Indiana

By Jan Gerzevske

Free housing, inexpensive food and opportunities to help rebuild were part of our trip to NW Indiana. This area flooded in 2008 when the remnants of Hurricane Ike traveled north from the Galveston/Houston area and dumped nearly 10 inches of rain on the area in less than 24 hrs.

Our team consisted of four members, Abe Clark from Friends in Christ, Morris IL; Jason Weber and Jo Morehead from Fellowship of Faith, McHenry and Jan Gerzevske from St John, Wheaton. It was a great week and we accomplished a lot but there are still 325 homes that need to have work completed before those families' lives return to normal.

On Monday Abe and Jan were joined by Leroy and his grandson from Muenster. We spent the day at a single mom's house in Gary putting up drywall in her basement. Tuesday morning Jason and Jo joined us at Bob's house (he has COPD) where extensive work had already been done on the basement. The walls were back up and repainted but



lots of projects needed to be done. There were doors to install, ceramic tile to install in the shower, a door and jamb to

be sanded and stained, part of the basement floor to paint, a ceiling to be painted the second time and after the stain dried polyurethane to apply.

On Thursday, Jo, Jan and Jason were assigned the task of building the railing for a 16' x 8' deck. We were able to finish this project

but worked until nearly 6 pm to complete it. On Friday we spent the morning in the crawl space of a home gluing R-4 insulation board to the cement block walls.

Unfortunately most of us didn't have knee pads nor did we have automotive creepers to enable us to scoot around the crawl space.

There is still plenty of work to be done in NW Indiana especially now that the summer is past and the volunteer pool has all but dried up. Each worksite has a project manager who works with you. LARRI provides housing at no charge and the cost of food in the area if you eat



out is very economical. The four of us had dinner for \$40. Families we helped were very thankful. If you would like to volunteer, contact Rhonda Carlson, the volunteer coordinator for LARRI (Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana) at 219.836.1325 or go to www.larri.info for more information. Even if you can only volunteer for a day or two the help is needed.



Newsy Letter News

Looking for ideas for your Spring Event? Check out the February and May 2010 issues in the Newsy Letter for some fabulous ideas.

The NID-Bits are archived on the website: www.nidlwml.org.

My LWML Story

Stories of how women came into the LWML.

I grew up in a Catholic family but I



Ivonne Hernandez begins her term as the next NID-Bits Editor with the February 2011 issue.

had never felt part of any church until I came to Iglesia San Pablo.

Before, I used to think I didn't need to go to church to be close to God.

I was born and raised in Mexico. My parents brought me to the U.S. when I was 12 years old but then at

age 19, I moved back to Mexico to go to college. I graduated in 2006, when I was 24, but I wasn't ready to come back to the U.S. until two years ago when I moved back with my dad and my sister.

Moving back to the U.S. was a tough decision to make. It meant leaving my job, leaving the family and starting a new life from zero. At the beginning it was sometimes depressing; having a bachelor degree and being unemployed, trying to fulfill dreams and not knowing where to start, etc. But there was something I was sure of; God was with me.

One day my sister invited me to a Bible study at San Pablo where I met Walter Ramirez. He has taught me how to read the Bible and to pray.

That same day after Bible study, I met Pastor Alex Merlo. As soon as I met Pastor Merlo I saw in him a friendly, nice person. He really made me feel at home, and ever since he has not only trusted in my work, but he's also been there as my pastor and friend. That same night I committed myself as a video editor volunteer at San Pablo, and about a month later I started working at the church's office.

It's been a year since I started working at Iglesia San Pablo and I must say this church is my home. Here I have found friends and a great family in Christ, but the most important thing is I have built a relationship with God.

A year ago I became not only a Lutheran, but a Christian. I have heard many say "I decided to let Christ into my life" but it is not a decision of our own. Even when I didn't know His word, my mom always taught me to have faith in nothing else but God. I truly believe He is the one who has guided me and brought me to Him.

Before I was a Christian, I didn't realize the power of prayer but I used to talk to God. I remember talking to Him every night before going to bed and saying, "God, you know what's best for me so all my trust is in You. Whatever you have for me I will take." And here I am. That is how I became a Lutheran woman.

I am still trying to fulfill my dreams. I have a career that I love and it is my desire to work in my field, but I pray to God to be always able to support my church in any way possible. It is through Iglesia San Pablo that I have become part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The next NID-Bits is scheduled for February 2011. Please have articles and pictures to the NEW NID-Bits editor, Ivonne Hernandez (ihernandez@iglesiasanpablo.net), or VP of Communications, Nancy Glissman (lwmlgirl@comcast.net) by Jan 7, 2011.



Mites Update October 2010



Mite Goal for the Northern Illinois District for 2010-2012 is \$194,000.00 divided as below.

48,500.00 National LWML
 20,700.00 NID LWML Inreach
 124,800.00 NID LWML Mission Grants

NID 2010-2012 Biennium Grants

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Voice of Hope Behind the Wall | \$15,000.00 |
| 2. Concordia FW Food Pantry | \$15,000.00 |
| 3. Trinity/Hope | \$5,000.00 |
| 4. Voice of Care | \$20,491.00 |
| 5. Furnishing Group Homes | \$22,000.00 |
| 6. Morning Star Mentoring Program | \$10,000.00 |
| 7. Textbook Acquisition for Seminary Students | \$20,000.00 |
| 8. Needs Classroom and Diaconal Center in S. Sudan | \$8,900.00 |
| 9. Hymnals For Ev. Lutheran Church In Kenya | \$8,409.00 |
| Total Mission Grant Goal | \$124,800.00 |

Election Results:

Pastoral Counselor: **Rev. Robert Bartz**

President: **Janet Mauer**

Vice President, Gospel Outreach:
Marilyn Hess

Vice President of Servant Resources:
Carol Sheppard

Corresponding Secretary:
Kris Blackwell

Treasurer: **Nancy Suhs**

Nominating Committee – East Region:
Elaine Kuh

Nominating Committee – South Region
Barbara Copeland-Belanski

Nominating Committee – West Region:
Janet Mueller (Chairman)

Nominating Committee – North Region:
Lois Marten

Based on the number of votes received, Janet Mueller will serve as chair of the nominating committee.

Convention Results

Total Registration of 386 consisting of:

Delegates 189
 Voting Board of Directors 41
 Non-Voting Board of Directors 2
 Guests 129
 Pastors 7
 Young Women Representatives 6
 Special Invited 9
 Past District Presidents 3

Resurrection Lutheran Church of Chicago was the host of the 1st

NID LWML Multi Culture Prayer Breakfast



on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

By Felicia G Browne

Representatives of more than twenty churches in the Northern Illinois District were in attendance of a worshipful atmosphere of spirituality and serenity provided by Resurrection's choir.

The room was decorated with the Lutheran Women Mission League's colors of gold and purple. Many attendees wore those colors or symbols.

Several members of the LWML Multi Culture Committee wore vests identifying them as members.

Prior to the program the attendees enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by members of Resurrection Church. The program was based on Jesus' prayers found in John 17. Three speakers share those scriptures with the attendees. The program was enriched by the performances of a mother-daughter praise dance team of Resurrection and a praise dance group of four girls from St. Paul-Grand Crossing. A committee member sang a song in German and later led the audience in singing it in English. A member of the choir sang the Lord's Prayer. The LWML District President shared one of her many talents by leading the group in a round of praise.

Five pastors maintained the spiritual atmosphere with prayers and culminated the program with special prayers honoring requests sent in by attendees.

The NID District President was unable to attend but sent his blessings.

As the people departed, there was an air of love and appreciation of a lovely program and the desire to attend similar affairs again.

NID LWML Calendar

November 5 - 13,
Eyeglass mission trip to Costa Rica.

Nov. 20 **Executive Committee meeting** at NID Office, Hillside at 9 a.m.

Feb. 19, 2011 **BoD and EC** at Salem, Homewood.

Lenten Inspirations

Cost \$15
Rolls and Coffee in morning and Lunch at noon.
Speaker- John Ruskamp
"The Shroud of Turin"
Devotions • Skits • Activities
Bring stamps for Missions
Send registrations to:
Mary Jo Shickles 241 Hosmer St. Loves Park, IL 61111
815-877-2634, maryjo2633@aol.com

March 12, 2011

Resurrection Lutheran Church,
9349 So. Wentworth Ave,
Chicago IL,

March 19, 2011

Cross Lutheran Church, 8609 IL
Route 47, Yorkville, IL.

June 23 - 26, 2011 **LWML Convention** in Peoria, IL, "Living With Jesus - Living on the Edge"



LWML News Releases



LWML news releases are archived at www.lwml.org under News link

October 17, 2010 - Donation Day at Concordia Theological Seminary Supported by LWML

On Tuesday, October 5, 2010, Donation Day was celebrated on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) groups from across the nation, along with the campus Seminary Guild, have had an integral part in the donations collected on this day.

October 8, 2010 - LWML Joins "FACEBOOK"

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is now part of Facebook, one of the fastest growing social networking websites on the Internet. You are invited to visit the Lutheran Women in Mission-LWML page and join in the conversation at www.facebook.com/theLWML.

September 22, 2010 - Four LWML Grants PAID IN FULL!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) voted at the Portland LWML Convention in June 2009 to use their mite money to help fund mission projects throughout the nation and into the world. Recently the LWML sent funds to five more of those mission projects in the amount of \$220,000.

"Hooray and praise the Lord!" exclaims LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach Marilyn McClure. The grants include:

- * Body and Soul Care for Children in India \$50,000

- * LCMS Prison Ministry Provides Devotional Materials \$50,000

- * Lutheran Braille Workers Provide English Braille Bibles-Africa \$50,000

- * Mission Support to Disabled Children-Dominican Republic \$50,000

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
34th Biennial Convention
Thursday, June 23-
Sunday, June 26, 2011
Peoria, Illinois

Being with Jesus - Living on the Edge

www.lwml.org

The poster features a central graphic of a cross with a glowing sunburst effect behind it. The text 'Being with Jesus - Living on the Edge' is written in a stylized, cursive font across the cross. The LWML logo, consisting of a cross above the letters 'LWML', is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Place
stamp
here



***PRESIDENT: JAN MAUER**, janmauer@sbcglobal.net; 708-798-0691, Leads district in living out the mission of Lutheran Women in Mission. Will help with any questions you have about LWML.

***V.P. for SERVANT RESOURCES: CAROL SHEPPARD**, (773) 881-8126, sheppardnurse@att.net; Assists societies in leadership and member development. Has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog.

V.P. for CHRISTIAN LIFE: ELVERA RUFF, (630) 904-0310, eruff6311@aol.com; Assists societies with Christian growth resources. Has items for Christian life from LWML catalog. plans Lenten Inspirations Prepares Speakers List.

V.P. for HUMAN CARE: CAROL FUYS, (630) 319-0051, cfuys14@comcast.net; Coordinates servant events and in-gatherings. Provides information on service projects and events.

V.P. for GOSPEL OUTREACH: MARILYN HESS, (630) 234-1491, kbwrk@sbcglobal.net; Encourages development of mission grant proposals. Presents reviewed grants to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

V.P. for COMMUNICATION: NANCY GLISSMAN, (630) 715-4351, lwmlgirl@comcast.net; Coordinator of all district LWML publications, print and electronic.

TREASURER: Nancy Suhs, (708) 799-4872; carlnansuhs@aol.com; PO Box 1135 Homewood, IL 60430; Makes all authorized payments.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: BARBARA ETTER, PO Box 4254, Naperville, IL 60567, (630) 420-0626, barbetter@comcast.net; Receives all mites, special donations, Quarterly donations and memorials.

RECORDING SECRETARY: LAURA LATZKE, lauralatzke@sbcglobal.net, Records and distributes minutes from EC & BOD meetings, and convention.

***CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Kris Blackwell**, nidlwmlcorrespondingsec@gmail.com; Receives changes of addresses, changes in the amounts of Quarterlies, handles correspondence and loaning of LWML videos.

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN: JEWEL T. SIMS, (773) 277-2690, Jsgrand5@aol.com; Coordinates district gatherings and convention.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR: JANET Mueller, (630)-628-0624, ram533@yahoo.com; Receives nominations for NID LWML officers for elections.

***ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN: RUTH PRALLE**, (847) 255-1713, rdpralle@yahoo.com; Preserves historical materials from district and zones.

SR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR: REV. ERIK GAUSS, Egauss@hiscross.org; Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR: REV. ROBERT BARTZ, Jr revrob8@sbcglobal.net Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions

STRUCTURE CHAIRMAN: NANCY SUHS, (708) 799-4872, carlnansuhs@aol.com; Prepares and presents bylaws for delegate approval at convention. Receives all bylaws and constitutions from societies and zones.

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

CARLI ZYGOWICZ, (815) 547-8639, czygowicz@hotmail.com; Assists president with parliamentary procedures at all meetings and the convention.

***PUBLIC RELATIONS CO-DIRECTORS: BARBARA COPELAND-BELANSKI**, (708) 995-5375, mokenaliving@comcast.net; Coordinates PR activities for district LWML.

DISTRICT PUBLICATION EDITOR: vacant. Produces the monthly LWML page in The Northern Light. Send her LWML events you want publicized.

NID-BITS EDITOR: IVONNE HERNANDEZ, ihernandez@iglesiasanpablo.net; Produces the NID-Bit newsletter at regular intervals.

DISTRICT WEBMASTER: WENDY JOHNSON, (815) 874-2304, nidlwmlpr@msn.com; Posts information on the district web page, www.nidlwml.org.

PLANNER: JAN STANTUS, (630) 208-7353, jstan1@juno.com; Serves as planning director for NID LWML.

MISSION MINISTRY VISION CONSULTANTS:

PAULINE BRUNKE, (630) 393-6380, psbrunke@yahoo.com; and **DARLYNE WATTS**, (815) 762-0546, darlynelark@aol.com; Assists zones and societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

SHORT TERM MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: JAN GERZEVSKE, (630) 294-5014, jgerz@netzero.com; Encourages awareness and provides opportunities for participation in short term missions.

COMMITTEE ON YOUNG WOMEN CHAIR: vacant, Assists zones and societies as they seek to meet the needs of young women.

*Send copies of Zone minutes to these officers.



Happy 94th Birthday to Ruth Pralle born October 13, 1916 in Racine, WI. See her story written by Louise L. Hullinger at www.nidlwml.org