

# THE NID BITS

SEPTEMBER 2011

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

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## Janet's Jottings: What I Love about Life... and Heaven

"I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay." These words from the first verse of a song we sang in Sunday school many years ago express what I love most about life. Without this joy down in my heart, I don't believe I would enjoy my family nearly as much—especially my grandbabies, whose lives bring endless joy and smiles. I feel that joy as I recall the sound of my friend's voice saying, "They're springing me!" when she called to ask me to pick her up from the hospital. And it's there when I think of an old friend's wedding and how happy she was that day. I love books of all kinds and could spend endless days just discovering what each new one will bring to my life. And then, there is chocolate. Need I say more?

As I continue to think about this issue's theme, I wonder what life would be

like without my joy and also where that joy comes from. Yes, I know people exist who are not Christian and still are joyful. However, I believe my special joy comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and being able to spend time each day with Him and in His Word. Worshipping and fellowshiping with my church family fills me, and when sad things happen I know who will give me comfort and encouragement.

With this special joy also comes a responsibility to share my joy, to give it away to a world that is lost and in many cases seems to be without hope for tomorrow, let alone for eternity. Telling others about Jesus, being the face of Jesus to those who do not know Him, and bringing comfort to those who are hurting are parts of this responsibility and I am glad to do it. Thus, I look forward to the Fall Gathering and Tim

Hetzner's message: "101 Ways to Share the Mercy and Compassion of Christ...that don't cost money." Wow, new ways to share what I love about life and why I love it and why I will love heaven!

"I've got the wonderful love of my Blessed Redeemer way down in the depths of my heart, way down in the depths of my heart to stay." These words are part of the last verse of that wonderful Sunday school song, and I know this is what I am going to love about heaven. I will be with Jesus, singing praises and fellowshiping with family and friends forever. What joy!  
Jan Mauer  
President, NID LWML



## Pastor's Peace By Pastor Bartz

Sisters in Service of Jesus:

What is your ATTITUDE? "This is the day which the Lord has made: Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24 NAS

ATTITUDE is PERSPECTIVE. How you and I view our life circumstance probably reflects how we view GOD-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and HIS activity in our every day lives.

The PSALM writer does not designate heat or cold, rain or snow, health or illness, poverty or wealth, or any other life circumstance as determining factors in the ATTITUDE we CHOOSE to take concerning the dawn of each new day. By GRACE, by the suffering, death,

and resurrection of JESUS, You and I are encouraged to regard each day as a blessing, and a challenge, from the Lord.

When you make your daily rounds to the store, post office, etc., have you asked the person who is waiting on you: "HOW IS YOUR DAY?" You will be surprised at the answers. In my experience 75-80 % of the responses I get are NEGATIVE. What an opportunity to WITNESS to JESUS!

There is NO saint named sourpuss. Grumpiness and grouchiness are NOT fruits of the Holy Spirit.

*"Attitude is Perspective"*

Pastor Bartz

## Fun & Blessings in Peoria

I have been told that attending an LWML national Convention gives one a more complete picture of LWML. Peoria did just that for me...again! Blessings abounded from excellent teaching and preaching of God's Word, to hearing missionaries & LWML Mite recipients from East St. Louis, Cleveland and overseas speak of the workings of our Lord and Savior through the Mites we work for.

I was also blessed, at this, my second LWML convention, to be able to introduce a few good friends ( one my sister) to their first LWML convention. It was a blessing to see them experience their first convention too! Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

Blessings in Him!

Nancy Glissman, NID Bits editor



**“ I was in prison, and you visited Me ” :  
Lori Wilbert's Statesville ministry**

Lori Wilbert has been a Chaplain at Statesville Correctional Center near Joliet IL since 1986. She makes rounds of all the cell houses, teaching classes to inmates and providing other ministry activities to inmates and staff.

At Statesville, there are 1,400 men crammed to a cell house. It's filthy, noisy, cold in the winter and over 100 degrees in the summer. That's a tough place to find God. But, when the men meet together with Lori, they find a community of believers.

The class curriculum includes:

- Anger/Violence Management
- Addiction and Recovery Counseling
- Grief Counseling
- Forgiveness
- Restorative Justice

A grant from the NIDLWML has allowed "Voice of Hope behind the Wall" the opportunity to upgrade a computer and to purchase training materials for classes in 2011. Mite giving allows the women of NID to care for neighbors in prison through the work of Deaconess Lori.



You can hear more about Lori's ministry program at the upcoming LWML Fall Gathering, as she will be discussing her ministry during the afternoon breakout sessions.



**G R A N T   D I S B U R S E M E N T   R E P O R T**

NID 2010-1011 Biennium Grants	Grant Amount	Paid	Balance
Voice of Hope Behind the Wall	\$15,000.00	\$1,081.19	\$13,918.81
Concordia FW Food Pantry	\$15,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,000.00
Trinity/Hope	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000.00	--
Voice of Care	\$20,491.00	\$9,555.84	\$10,935.16
Furnishing Group Homes	\$22,000.00		\$22,000.00
Morningstar Mentoring Program	\$10,000.00	\$3,928.32	\$6,071.68
Textbook Acquisition for Seminary Students	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
Special Needs Classroom/Diaconal Center South Sudan	\$ 8,900.00	\$1,332.96	7,567.04
Hymnals for Ev. Lutheran Church Kenya	\$ 8,409.00		\$ 8,409.00
<b>TOTAL MISSION GRANT GOAL</b>	<b>\$124,800.00</b>	<b>32,898.11</b>	<b>\$ 91,901.69</b>

“Here am I. Send me!”

Be part of the joy of helping people to see clearly. Seeking members to serve from January 5-13, 2012 with the Paraguay eyeglass team. Daily clinics are held to test vision and distribute eyeglasses and sunglasses to those in need. No experience necessary —you will be trained by MOST Ministries Team leader. Please ask the Lord's guidance and answer his call to serve. Contact Jan Gerzevske at [jgerz@netzero.com](mailto:jgerz@netzero.com) or 630.294.5014 for additional information.



The LWML ladies of St. John Darien sponsored a fundraiser on May 14th and 15th for which they recieved \$250 in matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The funds raised where enough to buy 107 mosquito nets for Lutheran Malaria Initiative. In order to make sure there was a good supply of baked goods available for both the Saturday and Sunday service, the ladies combined their efforts through several different publicity avenues. One LWML-er made a colorful poster which was placed in the narthex prior to the bake sale weekend. It was also advertised in the church newsletter and on the overhead screens in the sanctuary. Of course the personal invitations always work best - they made reminder phone calls to church members .....“please bring baked goods and then don't forget to buy some to take home!” It worked!! They also decided to add the offering from their National Day of Prayer Service to the proceeds from the bake sale. Throw in some heavy praying and the Thrivent match and it all made for a blessed event that will help many malaria victims in Africa.

## NID Spring Rally News from Barb

**Zone 1:** Bible study was a journey on the color purple from the scriptures; worked on mission projects of plastic bag quilts, eyeglass cases, thank you cards. Program: different ways to decorate and good lighting for the bedroom; lunch.

**Zone 3:** A Monday evening meeting - Bible study, "Earnest, Prayerful Disciples," based on Luke 18:1-8. Program: speaker, Lori Wilbert and her 'Behind the Wall' experiences; refreshments afterwards.

**Zone 4:** Devotion from Acts 4:13b-20.....question to ponder-'How has knowing Jesus shaped my character?' Program: speaker, Sue Gross presenting information about the work of the Haitian Lutheran Mission Project; followed by lunch.

**Zones 6 and 7:** Theme and Bible study-"Jesus Never Changes" from Hebrews 13:8. Speaker, Tim Hetzner from Lutheran Church Charities; lunch

**Zone 8:** An afternoon meeting - Devotion based on Mark 4 encouraging ladies to share their faith and continuing with God's work. Program: Rev. Jay Klein speaking openly about growing up Jewish posing the question 'Who do you think Jesus is?'; dinner and fellowship following.

**Zone 9:** Opening devotion focusing on David and Goliath from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17 with the emphasis on putting God first and in front of our giants.....remembering God is more powerful than anything or anyone. Speaker: Heidi Schoedel from Exodus World Service: 'Refugees-Chasing Dreams-Fleeing Nightmares'; brunch served afterwards.

**Zones 10 and 23:** Breakfast buffet; Devotion based on Psalm 147:11, 'But He takes pleasure in those who honor Him, in those who trust in His constant love.' Speaker: Tim Hetzner from Lutheran Church Charities.

**Zone 13:** A Saturday Joyshop with a presentation by Alice Schwichtenberg about her prison ministry; an ingathering of #10 envelopes to assist with Alice's mailing of monthly newsletters.

**Zone 14:** Bible study and devotion, 'Easter Sunday Evening'. Speaker: Gary Lenn from Wycliffe Translators gave a presentation about his experiences in New Guinea; lunch.

**Zone 16:** Bible study, 'Called to Serve', from 1 Samuel 3 and John 20:19. Speaker: Pauline Brunke shared her experiences on her mission trip to Ghana; refreshments.

**Zone 18 and 22:** Breakfast; Program: Comfort Dog Ministry from Lutheran Church Charities

**Zone 21:** Sunday afternoon Bible study and theme: 'New Beginnings'.....we all look forward to the 'final new beginning' on Judgment Day; refreshments

**Zone 25:** Coffee/And; Devotion and Bible study based on Acts 4:13b and 20, our convention theme. Speaker: Rev Dave Krueckeberg talked about his race track ministry and the children he supports who attend Grace school; worked on greeting cards for Arlington Heights and rolled bandages.

**Zone 27 and 28:** Breakfast; Bible study on John 15:1-17, 'Grafted in the True Vine of Christ'; Speaker: Pat Nuffer shared her work with Hands of Mercy in the Sudan; each lady present was able to take home a flower from the table centerpieces.

Do you have news bits and information to be shared with LWML— NID? Please be sure to submit information to Nancy Glissman so we are sure to include it in upcoming publications! Let us know what is happening in your zone or society. We want to hear from you!



WELCOME!!!!

I hope you will join LWML Northern Illinois District in welcoming Kandace Elliott as our new VP Communications. Kandace is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle IL. She is a lifetime LCMS member having grown up in Rochelle, IL and attending St. Paul Lutheran Church and School. "I am so excited that God has put on my heart to be involved and active in LWML, I look



forward to the opportunity to working with the Northern Illinois District to spread the word of how each of them is "spreading the word" of our Lord and Savior. God has brought so many blessings into my life, and I look forward to sharing these experiences and hearing your experiences as well."

Many of you may say, hey her last name sounds familiar? Well, that would be because her mother, Carol Elliott has been an active in LWML for many years and currently serves as a Zone President. How wonderful that God has brought this mother/daughter team to LWML. Kandace has a background in sales and marketing. She is currently employed with Market Day Corporation as the District Sales Manager for Chicago South and Northwest Indiana.

Kandace can be reached at 630.297.9719 or via email at [kelliott.lwml@gmail.com](mailto:kelliott.lwml@gmail.com)

Calling all Prayer Team Members!!

Caring for one another is a vital part of who we are and what we do as Christ followers. The Human Care Committee would like to expand our "care opportunities" to include an intentional and inclusive prayer presence throughout our District. So, we are prayerfully organizing a group of women who are passionate about praying and faithful in their commitment to "lift up" the needs, concerns, blessing, and sorrows of our District LWML women. No meetings are required, just a daily appointment with our Lord. Please consider joining our team. For more information please contact Carol Fuys at 630-319-0551, or email [cfuys14@comcast.net](mailto:cfuys14@comcast.net)



### *Ponder Point*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

***Romans 15:13***

*What joy and peace do I experience in my life as a result of my faith in God? Do I experience the power of the Holy Spirit and abound in hope?*

*Who in my life could I share this ponder point with this week?*

## 2010 - 2011 Executive Committee

**\*\*President: Jan Mauer,**

janmauer@sbcglobal.net. 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,** 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,** 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,** cfuys14@comcast.net. Coordinates servant events and ingatherings; provides information on service projects and events.

**V.P. for Gospel Outreach: Marilyn Hess,** marilyn Hess@yahoo.com. Encourages development of mission grant proposals; presents reviewed grants to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

**V.P. for Communication: Kandace Elliott,** Kelliott.lwml@gmail.com. Coordinator of all district LWML publications, print and electronic.

**Treasurer: Nancy Suhs,** carlsnansuhs@aol.com; PO Box 1135, Homewood, IL 60430; Makes all authorized payments.

**Financial Secretary: Barbara Etter,** PO Box 4254, Naperville, IL60567. 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.

**Parliamentarians:**

Carli Zygowicz - czygowicz@hotmail.com  
Charlotte Koelling - critdifrnc@comcast.net

**Convention Chairman: Jewel T. Sims,** jsgrand5@aol.com. Coordinates district gatherings and convention.

**Nominating Committee Chair: Janet Mueller,** ram533@yahoo.com; receives nominations for NID LWML officers for elections.

**\*\*Archivist-Historian: Ruth Pralle,** 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,** tevrob8@sbcglobal.net. Serves district league in advisory capacity and presents Bible studies at meetings and conventions.

**\*\* Public Relations Director: Barbara Copeland-Belinski,** mokenaliving@comcast.net. Coordinates PR activities for District LWML.

**District Publications Editor: Madlyn Johnson,** madlyn57@yahoo.com. Produces the monthly LWML page in "The Northern Illinois Light".

**NID-Bits Editor: Nancy Glissman,** lwmlgirl@comcast.net. Produces the NID Bits newsletter at regular intervals.

**District Webmaster: Wendy Johnson,** nidlwmlpr@msn.com. Posts information on the district web page, www.nidlwml.org

**Planner: Jan Stantus,** jlstan21cen@att.net. Serves as planning director for NID LWML.

**Short Term Mission Committee Chair: Jan Gezevske** jgerz@netzero.com. Encourages awareness and provides opportunities for participation in short-term missions.

**Mission Ministry Vision Consultants:**

**Pauline Brunke** psbrunke@yahoo.com and **Darlyne Watts-Jurgens,** darlynelark@aol.com. Pauli-Assist Zones & societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

**\*\*send Zone minutes to these officers please.**

Email corrections to this list to lwmlgirl@comcast.net

Hope you will join us for a day of fun and fellowship with other LWML women!! Go Readied, Go Act, Go Speak!!!!



Northern Illinois District

## Go Readied, Go Act, Go Speak

Saturday October 15, 2011  
 St. Peter Lutheran Church  
 202 Schaumburg Road  
 Schaumburg, IL 60194  
 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Registration, coffee and fellowship begins at 8:15

**TAKE ACTION!  
 REGISTER TODAY!**

Join us for an action filled day encouraging us be eager and active in sharing our faith within our local congregations, communities and beyond. Our inspiration for the day is Philemon 1:6b "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith", which reminds us that God is in control and we are yet a work in progress on our faith front.

Tim Hetzner, President Lutheran Church Charities is our featured speaker. And, you will have the opportunity to learn about other great ministry programs. Cost for the day is \$25.00 which includes speaker events and lunch. You do not want to miss this!!!!

Registration Form

Registration Deadline October 1, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Morning Session:

Tim Hetzner, President Lutheran Church Charities

101 Ways to Share the Mercy and Compassion of Christ that don't Cost Money

### Afternoon Session - More Ministry in Action

- A. Rev. Don Kretzschmar with Voice of Care
- B. Mark Zastrow, Bethesda Lutheran Communities
- C. Deaconess Lori Wilbert, Voice of Hope
- D. D. Sue Gebel, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S.

Please indicate your preference for the Afternoon Sessions with the corresponding letter:

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration form and fee may be sent to: Barbara Klopp 415 Cobbler Court #1 Bartlett, IL 60103