

The NID BITS



Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Northern Illinois District

Janet's Jottings...

This seems to be the year of endless spring. I barely remember winter and sometimes feel as if we should be in the middle of August. Now these are not bad things and I love the beautiful flowers, green grass and leaves on trees. However, in the back of my mind there is that niggling feeling that winter is going to roar back into our lives on Easter Sunday. Be prepared!

Looking back on my life, I remember the springtime and summer moments, a baby sister being born, starting my first job, marriage, the birth of my son. It seemed that life couldn't be better and I could not feel more loved. Then life roars in, people change, jobs aren't fun anymore, a friend dies, and a husband and wife move in different directions and it seems life is one long gray winter

day. Gratefully those days and feelings do not last.

As a Christian woman relying on Jesus, He brings springtime and summer back to my days. His word reminds me that He will never leave me, He hears my prayers and He answers them. Not always in the way I think I want, but always in the way He knows is best for me. When I go to Him he refreshes me and I am blessed, no matter the circumstances, with springtime in my heart!

I am appreciating "springtime in my heart" as we work to prepare for our convention on October 5-6, 2012 in St. Charles, IL. Our servant event is in place. We are prepared to gather Gifts from the Heart. We are ready to worship. And we are ready to elect new officers and mission

grants. I hope all of you will join us as we are inspired by our keynote speaker, Jan Wendorf LWML President 2007-2011, to "Bring Salvation to All". This is our opportunity to share the springtime joy Jesus puts in our hearts.

Jan Mauer
NID LWML President
2010-2014



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Spring 2012

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Mite donations are mailed to:
Barbara Etter
Financial Secretary NID LWML
PO BOX 4254
Naperville IL 60567
And, must be postmarked by
June 30, 2012

A Day in the Desert by Pastor Bartz

The DESERT, for the purposes of this article, is a PLACE of SOLITUDE. It is intended by JESUS, to be a place for Spiritual Growth. We find ourselves in a DESERT, by the Holy Spirit's guidance, to be TESTED. Following JESUS example, we should also CHOOSE, as part of daily devotion, to go to such a place to hear HIS voice.

God lead the Children of Israel into the DESERT to tempt them. Exodus 16:4.

Jesus often went to DESERTED places to pray. One such DESERTED place was the setting of the Feeding of the 5000...Matthew 14: 13-21.

Do you have a DESERT that you go to each day to be with JESUS? Once there, do you take the time to just LISTEN for His voice?

The DESERT may also be a place where a SIN issue is revealed, and dealt with. Read NUMBERS 33. Notice that the Children of Israel wandered to more than TWICE as many places AFTER they left Mount Sinai as BEFORE they came to Mount Sinai. WHY? They disobeyed God when he was ready to send them into the Promised Land, Canaan...Numbers 13.

If it seems like we have been in the DESERT too long, there may be a SIN issue involved that JESUS wants to make us aware of. As the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (John 16:8), Jesus assures us of His forgiveness (Psalm 103: 1-3).

When you find yourself in a DESERT, a place that feels isolated, there is a fundamental question we need to ask ourselves...DO I TRUST JESUS?

Blessings!
Pastor Bartz



Ponder Point: Read Numbers 33

Have you spent time wandering around in the desert, feeling so isolated and alone? How did you come through that time? Have you come through that time? If yes, offer a prayer of Thanksgiving. If not reach out to a friend to seek prayer support.

Outside the Walls – Being a Witness in the Working World

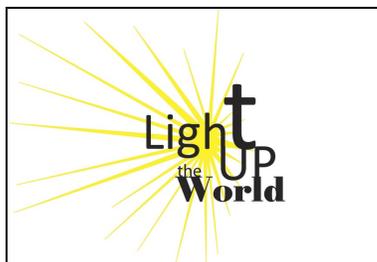
By: Pauline Brunke

The Lord has called all of us to make a difference in the lives of His children inside and outside the walls. I am compelled to reflect His love and lean on Him to guide me to be gentle, caring and supportive. Last year I learned to say, “I trust You, Jesus,” in all situations, however, it is a forever challenge to resist the concerns and feelings that come from within me. I do not want to reflect these when working to bring hope to those who want to know that they are on the right track for retiring. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” I long to fulfill His promise to help His children to be prosperous with

what they have and not what they feel they need. The world has taken on the job of putting desirable things in front of us 24/7. We all want to believe we are “fine.” Our relationships are fine. Our health is fine. Our finances are fine. Our spiritual life is fine. All of these areas need nurturing and if we do not examine and plan for all of these areas we are headed on a path that God does not desire for us. Psalm 139:23-24 gives this instruction, “search me, O God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

While we are earning an income it may be difficult to see that retirement provides a limited income. Praise God, His

love for us is limitless and we cannot earn it but those of us who are aware of God’s plan for us need to continue being His hands, His feet, His loving workers trusting in Jesus every day.



Don't miss the LWML NID Convention Registration form in this newsletter!
We hope to see you there!
Register Early!

Grant Disbursement Report by Marilyn Hess

| NID 2010-2012 Biennium Grants | Grant Amount | Paid | Balance |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Voice of Hope Behind the Wall | \$15,000.00 | \$3895.18 | \$11,104.82 |
| Concordia FW Food Pantry | \$15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 | 0 |
| Trinity/Hope | \$5,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | 0 |
| Voice of Care | \$20,491.00 | \$20,491.00 | 0 |
| Furnishing Group Homes | \$22,000.00 | — | \$22,000.00 |
| Morningstar Mentoring Program | \$10,000.00 | \$7,265.10 | \$2,734.90 |
| Textbook Acquisition for Seminary Students | \$20,000.00 | — | \$20,000.00 |
| Special Needs Classroom/Diaconal Center – South Sudan | \$8,900.00 | \$8,900.00 | 0 |
| Hymnals for Ev. Lutheran Church Kenya | \$8,409.00 | \$8,409.00 | 0 |
| Total Mission Grant Goal | \$124,800.00 | \$68,960.28 | \$55,839.72 |
| | | | |

The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-43).

A reminder....

**All mites are mailed to,
Barbara Etter
Financial Secretary NID LWML
PO BOX 4254
Naperville IL 60567
and must be postmarked by
June 30, 2012.**



The History of the Mite Box

Perhaps inspired by the various "cent" or "mite" societies of the early 1800s, the Woman's Mission to Woman (Baptist) urged members in its first circular letter in 1871 to use their new mite box to raise funds. The entire family was encouraged to contribute. The garnet-colored paper box had an opening on the top and the words, "Woman's Mission to Woman," in gold letters on the side.

Mission Grant Goals by Marilyn Hess

NID LWML is in the final quarter of this biennium. This last lap is difficult and we must press forward toward our goal. Four projects need to be completed:

- providing assistance to the young ladies in the Morning Star Mentoring Program so that they learn skills and, more importantly, that they know Jesus as their Savior.
- purchasing textbooks for seminary students
- helping Bethesda furnish group homes in Illinois and the Dominican Republic.

- supporting prison ministry at Stateville.

All of these organizations are counting on mites which are short of the mark; however, the goal can be reached with a little extra giving by every LWML member.

The Bible study at Lenten Inspiration had relevance to the dilemma of too few mites. Of course we need Lutheran women to give the mites, but here are some suggestions for prayer that the mite goal is reached and for all of our grant recipients.

- **PRAYING with strength in numbers**

- **PRAYING Thy will be done**
- **PRAYING words given by God in His Word**
- **PRAYING with the end in mind as we bear witness with our mites for missions.**

Let us **run** with endurance and generosity **the race** that is set before us. The mite goal race for this biennium will end on June 30th 2012. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to NID LWML before the end of the biennium. All mite offerings must be postmarked by June 20th 2012 to be posted to the 2010-2012 biennium.

Lutheran Women, Lutheran Women

Lutheran women, Lutheran women, What do you see?

We see future Pastors looking at us.

Seminary students, seminary students, what see?

We see a need for textbooks to learn our vocations.

Lutheran women, Lutheran women, What do you see?

We see people with disabilities in Illinois and in the Dominican Republic.

They are looking to us for homes and special care.

Lutheran women, Lutheran women, What do you see?

We see young ladies from the Makah Native Americans in Washington state.

They need mentoring to grow in the grace of the Lord and be our LWML sisters.

Lutheran women, Lutheran women, What do you see?

We see prisoners who hear the Voice of Hope.

Lutheran women, Lutheran women, What can we do?

All NID LWML Sisters can pray for the many who need our mites.

2012 Lenten Inspirations...A Reflection

By: Barb Belanski-Copeland

The Christian Life Committee was blessed with a brisk and rather nippy March 3rd morning for their first Lenten Inspiration presentation of 2012. Ninety LWMLers, including three pastors, braved the unpredictable March weather to attend the Inspiration at Immanuel, Mokena.

It was a day for reflection and prayer as the assembly was led in a Bible study by Pastor David Constien, Immanuel's senior pastor. His presentation, 'Living on the Edge in Prayer,' was based on Acts 4:23-31 and highlighted Peter and John's prayer experiences. The disciples prayed for courage and boldness to speak the Word and as they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were able to 'speak of His glory.' So too, as we 'live on

the edge,' we pray for His will to be done and trust Jesus as our 'first responder.'

The featured speaker of the day was Diane Kettleon. Diane has been active in LWML for many years.....she has chaired and served on committees and has a heart for missions. At the Inspiration, she delighted everyone with her musical chalk drawing of "The King's Entry." Starting with a blank canvas, she sketched, shaded and blended her chalk till the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem became visible before our eyes. With her daughter, Gail's help, Diane completed her final stroke of chalk as the last note of music was played. Hands clapped and cameras flashed.....it was amazing!

In addition to a soup and sandwich lunch hosted by Immanuel's Ruth Society, the day was filled with recitation of favorite Bible verses, singing, a Christian Life skit, suggestions for Lenten activities from churches throughout the NID and national LWML news shared by our NID president, Jan Mauer.

We were sent on our way with a blessing from Pastor Constien's father, Pastor Arthur Constien. In all, it was a day of fellowship that provided us thought for meditation in this Lenten season as we 'live our lives on the edge in prayer.'



NID LWML President Jan Mauer



Pastor Constien leading study



Diane Kettleon creates her "musical chalking"

Outside the Walls of our Comfort Zone-Eyeglass Mission to Paraguay

By: Jan Gerzevske

Who?

Stepping out of our comfort zone can be a daunting task, but with your prayers and the Lord's guidance, 12 people left O'Hare at 2 am, January 5th to arrive in Paraguay at 3:30 am on January 6th. The team included Kandy Bauer, Marilyn Granner, Gary Ott, Gayle Reed, Amy Robson and Greg Suchyta from Michigan (they left Detroit at 9:55 pm on January 4th) to join Gayle Sommerfeld, Linda Fass, Debbie Jamieson, Marni Kretzschmar, Melba Layton and Jan Gerzevske from Northern Illinois at O'Hare International.

What did we do and learn?

During 3 ½ days of clinics nearly 500 people's eyes were tested and over 700 glasses and 150 sunglasses were distributed to those in attendance. The patience exhibited by the people at the clinic reminded us how impatient Americans can be. We get upset when we have to wait for 20 minutes in the air conditioned doctor's office. In Paraguay, people arrived for the clinics as early as 5:30 am and sat patiently in the 100° heat for as long as 10 hours before receiving their eye exam and glasses.

What special joys were experienced?

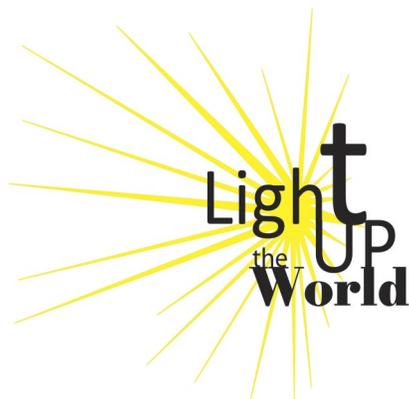
Some of the joys included listening to the lady who, after receiving her glasses, told how she had forgotten what letters looked like because it had been so long since she had been able to read. Another woman had of joy of just being able to see people's faces again. A third lady brought her well worn Bible with her, which she had not been able to read for years, to make sure the glasses she received were strong enough so she could read the words again. One man cried so hard when we got his glasses, he had to wipe his face before we could check that he could actually read again with the glasses he was given.

Another of the joys at an eyeglass clinic is to be part of providing physical sight as well as spiritual sight. Victor Verruck from the Lutheran Hour in Paraguay gave his 20 minute evangelism presentation 49 times and his enthusiasm for the Gospel never waned and was "contagious." As a thank you to the Lutheran Hour for bringing free eyeglasses to the residents of Asuncion, one hour of free weekly airtime on two different radio stations was granted to the Lutheran Hour---what a great gift!!!

Who is our God?

Our God is an awesome God! and He was everywhere! He brought 12 people together who worked as a team. He brought almost 500 people to the clinic when we had no idea how many would attend. God uses ordinary people to do EXTRAordinary things. He can use you too!!! Need a program for your meeting? We have lots more to share. Contact Jan Gerzevske at jgerz30017@comcast.net or 630.294.5014 to have a team member share the picture presentation of the Paraguay trip with your group.





NID LWML 71st Convention

Bring Salvation to All

Friday October 5 and Saturday October 6, 2012

Hilton Garden Inn

4070 E. Main Street St. Charles Illinois 60174

630.584.0700

Join us Friday afternoon for a servant event at Northern Illinois Food Bank, and time to shop and explore downtown St. Charles. Capping off the day with a 7pm worship service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 950 Hart Road Batavia IL.

Saturday will feature an inspirational keynote message from LWML Past President, Jan Wendorf (2007-2011), Gifts from the Heart, Prayer/Praising, Bible Study, and a catered lunch.

Send with check payable to NID LWML to:

Deaconess Kris Blackwell

2917 Brentwood Ct

Woodridge IL 60517

Questions: call 630-234-1491

Registration Cost before August 31, 2012: \$45.00 (after August 31 2012: \$50.00)

Final Registration Date: September 21st 2012

(no late registrations accepted)

Hotel cost is additional and at rate of \$119.00

Registration Form

Please print carefully—especially your e-mail address

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact phone: _____ Emergency contact/phone: _____

I will be attending the convention as (select all that apply):

First Time Attendee LWML member

Delegate Alternate Past District President

District Board of Directors voting (elected EC and Zone Presidents)





2010-2012 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.

**** VP for Servant Resources: Carol Sheppard**

sheppardnurse@att.net. Assists societies in leadership and member development; has servant resource items shown in LWML catalog.

VP 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.

VP For Human Care: Carol Fuys

cfuys14@comcast.net. Coordinates servant events and gatherings; provides information on service projects and events.

VP for Gospel Outreach: Marilyn Hess

marilynness@yahoo.com. Encourages development of mission grant proposals; presents reviewed grants to the Executive Committee and the convention for selection.

VP 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 - critdifnc@comcast.net

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

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 rev-rob8@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: OPEN

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 Gerzevske

jgerz@netzero.com. Encourages awareness and provides opportunities for participation in short-term missions.

Heart to Heart Trainer/Mentor: Elizabeth (Lisa) Molotla, vegadelis@yahoo.com. NID/LWML liaison to ethnic congregations.

Nominating Committee Chair: Barbara Copeland-Belanski mokenaliving@comcast.net. The Nominating Committee Chairman receives names of prospective candidates for the NID LWML ballot.

Mission Ministry Vision Consultants:

Pauline Brunke Pauline.4lwml@gmail.com and

Darlyne Watts-Jurgens, darlynelark@aol.com.

Pauline and Darlyne assist zones and societies with visioning and overcoming obstacles to become more effective in living out the LWML mission.

Email corrections to this list to Kandace Elliott, VP Communications