



NID Bits

Newsletter of the LWML Northern Illinois District ** Spring 2016



BARB'S BLURBS: REJOICING IN 2016



Nearly a year ago, Jan Stantus, our LWML NID Planner, presented the theme “Rejoice – **Rejoice!**” from Philippians 4:4 to the Executive Committee as the programming plan for our district in 2016. When we think about it, Christians lift up their voices with praise and rejoicing throughout the church year.....at Advent, we rejoice in God’s promise of a Messiah; at Christmas, we rejoice at the Savior’s birth; in the Epiphany season, we rejoice for Jesus being the light of the world; during Lent, we rejoice at the gifts of forgiveness and salvation; on Easter, we rejoice in Jesus’s resurrection; and at Pentecost, we rejoice in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

How about you? Do you find yourselves rejoicing all year long? I know there are times and days in all of our lives when we just don’t feel like rejoicing – a loved one dies; our health is compromised; we lose a job; we struggle financially; burdens are loading us down; maybe family members are in turmoil – how can we rejoice through all this?

Well, when we turn to God’s Word, we find all the answers and reassurances we need. In Psalm 147:3, we read: *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds;* in Isaiah 41:10, we also read: *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.* In Jeremiah 29:11, God’s reassurance is: *I know the plans I have for you – plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future;* and in the very words of our Savior in Matthew 11:28, we read: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.* The big words here are trust and faith – trusting in God for all things and having faith that He is with us in all our circumstances.....these are reasons for rejoicing!

I look forward to rejoicing with all of you as you hold your Spring Rallies and plan events in your societies and zones in 2016. We will culminate this joyous year when we attend our LWML NID Convention on September 23-25 at the Belvedere Banquets and Events in Elk Grove Village – such an exciting time to be able to rejoice together with several hundred of your LWML sisters! Mark the dates on your calendar – you won’t want to miss a single moment!

*Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say Rejoice!*

Barbara Belanski
LWML NID President

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PASTOR'S PAGE Pastor Jay Klein, Junior Pastoral Counselor

Galatians 2:20: "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Over the years, I have accumulated hundreds of devotions and articles since I started writing them when I entered the ministry. And to be perfectly truthful, sometimes they "reappear," usually through some kind of a rewrite.

Why a rewrite? Because I look at something I wrote, say three years ago, and think, "No, that's not it! It needs to be clearer." Or, I'll take a look at the text and find a different meaning altogether. Even when I finish writing this NID-BITS article I will go back and edit, rewrite, and say, "No, no, no." And off I go again!

Not that the devotion was "wrong" the first time...or the second...or the third. Each time you or I read the Bible we are reading the Living Word – it is "alive and active" (Hebrews 4:12). If you're alive, you can't stand still. And if the Word is active – it is moving.

St. John writes, "*The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us*" (John 1:14). And, to further this thought, St. Paul explains that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) – the Spirit of the *Living* Christ. If the Spirit of Christ is living and active in me and in you, we cannot stand still. We are constantly moving forward and we need to embrace the idea that God wants us to keep moving forward, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us to reveal new insights.

You see, I am not the same person I was 20 years ago, 10 years ago, 5 years ago. And neither are you. Life and the experiences we encounter – good and bad – change and grow us. But friends, the Lord **does not** change (Malachi 3:6) and the Word of God **endures forever** (Isaiah 40:8).

Dear saints in Christ, the "voice" of God never stops talking to us. Every day, every moment, the Word of God speaks to us with the same power of resurrection victory as when the Father proclaimed, "*This is My Son, listen to Him*" (Luke 9:35). The same voice reminds us that we were bought and redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ – a gift that does not perish, spoil or fade (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Every day you reach for the Word of God, perhaps the same passage you have read so many times you know it by heart. But, you are a new person each day – new from the experiences that you encounter and, most importantly, renewed by the promise made in your baptism.

God has a new Word for you every day. And it's alive and active because our Savior and King Jesus is living and active...in your life...and in you. May you be blessed this Lenten season with an ever increasing knowledge of God's presence and grace in your life!

Old MacDonald Had a Farm.....Carol Karris, VP of Human Care

I grew up in the city with all its sights and sounds. My playground was the front porch, our small backyard, and the school's cement playground. The only animals we saw were an occasional stray dog or cat that wandered into the yard (which I unsuccessfully tried to convince my parents to "adopt"); and the ones we visited on our annual trip to the Zoo.

But summertime was magical! We spent a lot of time on my uncle's farm, with its sights, sounds, and smells. How exciting to feed and take care of the animals on the farm – sheep, pigs, chickens, and cows! And that leads me to this.....

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Too often, here in America, we forget that there are many countries in the world where people and families exist without the most basic needs. Hunger and proper nutrition are everyday problems they must face. As VP of Human Care, I am especially glad to announce that our 2016 LWML NID project is sharing information which would help provide funding to donate animals that will positively impact the lives of families in need around the world through Lutheran World Relief Gifts.

Our LWR Project "**KICK OFF**" was held at our Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, February 20th. If your local LWML society should choose to participate also, we invite you to join us. Your Zone President has a copy of the LWR Gifts brochure and more information on this project.

All funds will go toward the following:

CHICKENS @ \$45 A hen and chicks mean eggs to eat, eggs to sell, and chicks to grow into flocks.

PIGLETS @ \$45 Little pigs grow fast and will support a family with income when a little piggy goes to market.

GOATS @100 Where food supply is uncertain, a goat gives milk that nourishes and can provide income when milk is sold.

SHEEP @\$100 A sheep provides a source of milk for a family and income when milk is sold.

DONKEY & CART @\$200 Will increase productivity by allowing farmers to cover more ground quickly.

DAIRY COW @\$375 A dairy cow can provide more than 6 gallons of milk a day, nourishing a family and increasing their income.

You can count on seeing me at upcoming LWML events with my Progress Chart, Poster, and "Barnyard Collection Feature".



2016 LWML NID INGATHERINGS

There will be two "Gifts from the Heart" ingatherings during 2016:

+ **July 16 – Military Outreach USA, Veterans Exiting Homelessness** (Basic items to get them started will be collected by ladies attending the EC/BOD meeting on that day.)

+ **September 23-25/LWML NID Convention** – More information to come in the near future.

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Mission Grant Goal for 2014-2016	\$170,000.00
Monthly amount needed	\$7,083.34
Current total	\$141,867.29
Over/Under Goal	+ \$7,283.83

REMINDER: We have five months left in this biennium, so please prayerfully continue to fill your Mite Box. It would be a blessing to reach our goal and fund all of our grants.

Please make checks payable to "LWML" or "NID LWML". (Do not include any name on the "Pay To" line.)

(Also please note: the address for sending mites, memorials, and Quarterly payments is the same for this biennium.)



NID LWML
PO Box 175
Westmont, IL 60559



MISSION GRANT UPDATE

(Disbursements through January 31, 2016)

<u>GRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT PAID</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>
#1 St. Matthew \$22,000	\$16,404.25	\$ 5,595.75
#2 CTSFW Food Co-Op \$10,000	\$10,000	paid
#3 Voice of Hope \$10,000	\$ 2,901.20	\$ 7,098.80
#4 Phil's Friends \$22,000	\$15,000	\$ 7,000
#5 Voice of Care \$22,000	\$16,631.58	\$ 5,368.42
#6 Trinity/Hope, Haiti \$5,000	\$ 5,000	paid
#7 Indian Ministry \$3,050	\$ 3,050	paid
 Totals:	 \$ 68,987.03	 \$ 25,062.97



SPOTLIGHT ON GRANTS:

#4 PHIL'S FRIENDS, \$22,000

~ Barbara Himley, VP Gospel Outreach

Phil's Friends is a Christ-centered cancer organization which reaches out to patients and families of those dealing with cancer. Phil's Friends brings hope through the distribution of hand-assembled Care Packages to cancer patients and their families, and continues to support them with weekly cards and prayer. Care Packages, containing carefully selected items that patients need and enjoy, along with a Bible, are hand delivered in hospitals or sent in the mail in a decorated box after being packed with love. Weekly Cards of Hope and prayers are sent by a large volunteer force throughout the duration of the patient's treatment. These weekly messages may be hand-colored cards, testimonies, devotional letters, or other creative and positive notes. The messages remind patients that they are not alone in their journey, and support and encourage them with well wishes and prayer. In 2013, Phil's Friends reached out to over 2000 patients and families weekly. This LWML NID grant of \$22,000 is being used to purchase supplies for the cards and packages and to help pay for their delivery. Information about referring a cancer patient to them or volunteering to assemble items is available on their web site.

We pray: *Heavenly Father, You have created and saved us and brought us to know You. We know that each life is precious to You, even when we are suffering and feel helpless. Bless this ministry to cancer patients that they know Your love through the efforts of those who care for them and reach out to them in Your name. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



LAST CALL: ORDERING LUTHERAN WOMEN'S QUARTERLIES FOR 2016-2017

During January, an invoice was emailed to all congregations with LWML societies receiving subscriptions of the LWML Quarterly. This invoice listed the number of subscriptions the society received in 2015-2016.

The INVOICE WITH PAYMENT for the number of subscriptions requested for 2016-2017 must be returned to the address listed on the form NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2016. If necessary, the total number of subscriptions can be increased or decreased on that invoice. If your society didn't receive the LWML Quarterly in 2015, the form included can be used to place your order.

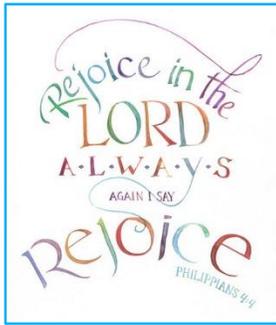
So, be sure to meet the deadline of MARCH 15 so that the ladies in your society can receive their Quarterlies for the coming year!

(NOTE: Your order will begin with the Summer 2016 issue.)

Please call Jan Gerzevske at 630-294-5014 or email her at correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org if you have questions.

Find us on the Web: www.lwmlnid.org

Like us on Facebook!



A "NEW LOOK" TO THE LWML NID CONVENTION IN 2016 AS WE "REJOICE...REJOICE!"

The LWML NID will be introducing a 3-day format for the District Convention when we meet from September 23-25, 2016 at the Belvedere Events & Banquets in Elk Grove Village. Those attending will be able to stay at the Comfort Inn and Suites next to the Events center.

The theme of this year's Convention is "Rejoice...Rejoice!", based on Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!"

Watch for information on registration and the specific Convention activities in the Summer NID-Bits, on our website (www.lwmlnid.org), in the May/June Northern Light, and from your District, Zone, and society officers.

Start saving your pennies now so that you can join us as we "Rejoice..." in the many gifts and opportunities that God has given us to serve Him with gladness!

CONVENTION "TO DO" LIST

- * Make your delegate choices at your May meeting so they can get in on the "Early Bird" registration date. Think of ways to raise funds to help them pay their way!
- * Look around your church for ladies ages 18-35 to be your Young Women's Representative.
- * Start working on your Zone's banner!

LWML NID Board of Directors at Work

What do you know about our LWML NID Board of Directors? Who's on it? How often do they meet?

Our LWML NID Board of Directors is comprised of the Executive Committee (all elected and appointed officers and our two Pastoral Counselors) and the Zone Presidents. They meet twice a year (usually in February and July) at a church that graciously agrees to host them. The purpose of the meetings is to share the business and plans of our organization so that all ladies in the local societies and throughout the District can continue to "serve the Lord with gladness" in a variety of ways. And, of course, we take time for fellowship...and to eat!

Our most recent meeting was held at St. John, La Grange, on Saturday, February 20. The ladies of St. John provided both a light breakfast and a lunch— thanks to them for their hospitality! Pastor Gerald Mau led us in Bible study, followed by the business meeting. Reports were shared by the officers, with discussion on several items. Information was shared on the Human Care Committee's proposed projects, as well as our upcoming District Convention ([see articles in this newsletter to learn more!](#)).

After lunch, Lori Trinche from Lutherans for Life gave a presentation, sharing the work of this very important organization. If you are ever looking for a speaker for your society or zone, she would be an excellent choice.

Following the adjournment of the general meeting, President Barbara Belanski met with the Zone Presidents so they are well-informed as they share "what's happening" with their societies.

The Executive Committee will meet again in March to select representatives to the Zone Rallies as another way to keep everyone informed. We praise God for all who serve in the District, Zone, and societies as officers, committee members, and everyone who faithfully attends meetings at all levels. We are also thankful for all who bring their mites ([we are ahead of our goal!](#)), help with projects, and those who pray for our organization. May God continue to bless the work of the LWML!

ZONED IN!

"News from Around the District"

Any new projects
or events to share
in the new year?

Send us a report on
your Spring Rally for
our next issue!

OUR LITTLEST ANGEL PROJECT (CHRIST THE ROCK, ROCKFORD, IL—ZONE 12)

Christ the Rock's involvement in this unique project began with two experiences of member Darlene Karvelius—visiting her sister's house and attending a Sinnissippi Quilters meeting in Rockford. She learned that her sister had been sewing old wedding dresses to make beautiful baby gowns and burial pouches that were sent to a hospital in Chicago through a church outreach program. At the Quilters meeting, Darlene met a member who has a passion for providing dignity for babies who die. The members of "Our Littlest Angel Project" had been part of the Sinnissippi Quilters for years, and soon Christ the Rock became involved as well. Sue Fiduccia, the Winnebago County Coroner, spoke to the ladies of Zone 12 at a recent rally about the need for tiny quilts to be available at the Coroner's office so that when baby's bodies are released by the Coroner, the body can be transferred in one of these "comfort" quilts. Because of "Our Littlest Angel", the Coroner now has precious items made by hand to ensure no child tragically lost goes without. This kindness is also a comfort to the parents of these babies as they mourn the loss.

Since that rally, ladies at Christ the Rock have regularly provided crocheted baby afghans and quilted blankets for Our Littlest Angel project. Several wedding gowns have been donated to make dresses, boy outfits, and memory hankies. These babies will never have a baptism ceremony, a confirmation, or a wedding, so the elegant fabric provides dignity and comfort to families who are facing this tragic loss.

Darlene feels that she and the other ladies involved in this project have been very blessed by this ministry in their lives and thank God for the opportunity to comfort others in a special way.

For more information on this project, see the March/April issue of The Northern Light, or you may contact Darlene at dv136@comcast.net.



WORD OF LIFE NAPERVILLE (ZONE 22) SUPPORTS HOMELESS WOMEN WITH PURSE PROJECT

As an Epiphany project, the women of Word of Life, Naperville, gathered purses and tote bags for women who are clients of the DuPage County Health Department. With the theme, "Wise Women Still Seek HIM!", the women filled 50 purses and totes with toiletries and other items. It was a very fun and easy project which meant so much to these very needy women, many of whom suffer from mental illness and homelessness. The items were delivered to the women at the Health Department who were participating in a celebration in recognition of their successful completion of a treatment program. Neighbors and friends of Word of Life women were also very happy to contribute purses and totes. The women of Word of Life celebrated Epiphany with a party and Pastor Gary Peterson "blessed" the bags and totes.

To God be the Glory!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

Ladies from nine congregations in **ZONES 27/28** attended a workshop for Operation Christmas Child. The ladies packed 150 shoe boxes with gifts and goodies.

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.

2014-2016 LWML NID EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT	Barbara Belanski president@lwmlnid.org
PASTORAL COUNSELORS	Rev. Gerhard Mau/Rev. Jay Klein pastoralcounselor@lwmlnid.org
VP CHRISTIAN LIFE	Diane Kettelson vpchristianlife@lwmlnid.org
VP COMMUNICATIONS	Madlyn Johnson vpcommunications@lwmlnid.org
VP GOSPEL OUTREACH	Barbara Himley vpgospeloutreach@lwmlnid.org
VP HUMAN CARE	Carol Karris vphumancare@lwmlnid.org
VP SERVANT RESOURCES	Jackie Genius vp servantresources@lwmlnid.org
RECORDING SECRETARY	Pauline Feliksik recordingsecretary@lwmlnid.org
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Jan Gerzevske correspondingsecretary@lwmlnid.org
TREASURER	Darlene Watts-Jurgens treasurer@lwmlnid.org
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Donna Simundic financialsecretary@lwmlnid.org
CONVENTION CHAIRMAN	Beverly Bayes conventionchairman@lwmlnid.org
NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR	Marilyn Hess nominatingcommchair@lwmlnid.org
PUBLICATIONS/PR	Donna Gutzler prdirector@lwmlnid.org
DISTRICT WEBMASTER	Wendy Johnson webmaster@lwmlnid.org
DISTRICT WEBSITE MANAGER	Teena Dorn websitecoordinator@lwmlnid.org
CROSS CULTURAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR	Elvera Ruff/Barbara Etter crossculturalcomm@lwmlnid.org
COMMITTEE ON YOUNG WOMEN	Sherrie Smith ywchairman@lwmlnid.org
PLANNER	Jan Stantus planner@lwmlnid.org
STRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIR	Nancy Suhs structurecommchair@lwmlnid.org
ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN	Kris Blackwell archivisthistorian@lwmlnid.org
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Carli Zygowicz parliamentarian@lwmlnid.org

[HELP WANTED !](#)



“SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS” is the LWML Motto, and members of the Northern Illinois District LWML are busy doing just that. Sometimes members are asked to step up and let the Lord have good use of them in a new way. [Here is such an opportunity.](#)

At our District Convention in September 2016, the following offices will be filled:

- ❖ Pastoral Counselor (4 year term)
- ❖ VP Christian Life (4 year term)
- ❖ VP Communications (4 year term)
- ❖ VP Human Care (4 year term)
- ❖ Recording Secretary (4 year term)
- ❖ Financial Secretary (4 year term)
- ❖ Convention Chairman (4 year term)
- ❖ Nominating Committee (2 Year term)
 - East
 - West
 - North
 - South

The Nominating Committee is especially looking for the following candidates:

Pastoral Counselor, VP of Christian Life, Financial Secretary, and Nominating Committee members from each area of our District.

Please consider how you or someone you know can serve, and share the name or names with ***Marilyn Hess, Nominating Committee Chair*** ***1-630-510-3055***

or another committee member (Evelyn Pettis, Elvera Ruff, or Barbara Kloop).

Prayers are requested for the members of the committee as they work to find new servants for our LWML-NID.

Dignity for Girls in Kenya



Come join the women of Trinity Lisle at a “SEW-IN” to sew much needed sustainable feminine hygiene pads for the young women of Kenya.

Set aside Saturday April 2, 2016 9a.m. to 1p.m. as we gather to trace, cut, iron and sew together AND learn more about the mission effort to give girls more days for education, to work and to grow in their communities.

A wonderful time of fellowship while serving a great need.



Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

Every girl in the world deserves education, safety, and dignity. We help girls gain access to quality sustainable feminine hygiene and awareness, by direct distribution of sustainable feminine hygiene kits, by partnering with nonprofits, groups and organizations, by raising awareness, and by helping communities around the world start their own programs.

Please bring tools to use:

Yard Stick	Fabric scissors
Quilters clips	Small binder clips
Rotary cutter & Mat	Iron & Board
Sewing machine	Serger.

We welcome donations:

Medium weight wash cloths (*colors are best*)

Girls underwear (*colors or print*) size 10 -16
(*do not launder*)

One gallon Ziploc freezer bags
(*MUST BE Ziploc not slider*)

Bar soap (*hotel size*)

Imagine...

What if not having sanitary supplies meant DAYS without school, DAYS without income, DAYS without leaving the house? Girls use leaves, mattress stuffing, newspaper, corn husks, rocks, anything they can find...but still miss up to 2 months of school every year. It turns out this issue is a surprising but instrumental key to social change for women all over the world. The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school