

# NID BITS

LWML NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015



## ~~ Barb's Blurbs ~~ The Gift of "Speaking"

I have to be honest with you – I was inspired to write this article by our PR/Publications Editor, Donna Gutzler.....she put the idea in my head this spring and I promised I would credit her.

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Speaking our minds...voicing a concern.....opinion polls.....debate teams.....speaking up.....there are so many opportunities and formats for us to talk and express our views; in fact, we are given the right of free speech in the First Amendment to speak openly with our friends, to audiences, or the media. We want to share our ideas, our feelings, and our thoughts through our words and voice.

Our country gives us this freedom, but our God gives us the ability to formulate and express our thoughts in words and print. He made us superior to the animals by giving us verbal and written language.....what a gift!!

But what should be the subject of our speaking? God is pretty clear – “go and tell”, “share the good news”, “speak the truth” – about what exactly? Well, here is where I give credit to Donna – our lives should be lived as if we are all working in the PR department by Proclaiming the Redeemer.

”Go into the world and tell everyone what Christ has done for you” (Mark 16:15), “He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4), “He has saved us by His innocent suffering and death” (1 Peter 3:18), “He has promised us eternal life” (1 John 2:25), “He has given us forgiveness”(John 1:9). Yes, He is our Redeemer and we are to Proclaim all He has done for us – we are to be God’s PR department.

We have daily opportunities to speak about God to our families, neighbors, friends, those with whom we work, those we meet shopping, and those we come across on vacations and in everyday life. God wants ALL people to know Him and be saved, but how can they know Him if they haven’t heard about Him? The answer is simple: use our voices to praise Him...live our lives so they honor Him...serve others to model Him...and witness to Him with our gift of speaking by Proclaiming the Redeemer!! “My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long.....I will come and proclaim your mighty acts.” (Psalm 71:15a, 16a)

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

President Barbara Belanski



## ***PASTOR'S CORNER***

Pastor Gerhard Mau, Sr. Pastoral Counselor

*For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands (2 Timothy 1:6 ESV).*

For this article I simply reflect on the Lenten Inspiration of March 21st. The people of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Des Plaines were wonderful hosts. And what a beautiful setting! Thank you for hosting us and for your hospitality! Our theme was "God-Given Gifts". Janet Hasler and Diane Kettelson wrote up the script and organized the day. What God-given gifts God granted us through their efforts! The longer I am in ministry, the more I find reason to give God thanks for His many talented people.

Pastor Leichman of Good Shepherd led us in an exceptional Bible study. He noted that in the Latin translation of Scripture (used in the west for over 1,000 years!), "gift," "grace," and "thanks" each come from a common word. We cannot truly appreciate and use God's gifts to His glory unless we also appreciate His grace and give Him thanks. "Gift," "grace," and "thanks" are all connected.

God has given each of us a special grace in our Baptism. He has given us the grace of the forgiveness of sins. The forgiveness comes from Christ Jesus shedding His blood on the cross in payment of our sins. His blood washes us; His blood makes God's forgiveness of all our sins possible. One comment I heard and especially enjoyed: God has more forgiveness than we have sins. And where we have forgiveness of sins, we have life and salvation. Where we have forgiveness of sins, we have Christ's presence rejoicing with our joys and carrying us through trial and sorrow. We are not alone. He is with us. And where we have forgiveness of sins, we have the joy of being redeemed as His workmanship. We have the joy of being re-birthed in Christ Jesus for the life and good works He has prepared for us. Where we have the forgiveness of sins, we have the journey of life with God in His purposes. We can learn to rejoice in the life He gives us in Christ.

We come together to encourage one another to make use what God gives us. We heard various presenters speak on the following gifts: preaching; teaching--be one a school teacher or Sunday School teacher, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a neighbor; faith that endures all things and always finds a way to encourage; Baptism, where God places His name on you as He says "You are Mine!"; leadership that takes the heat, cuts through the obstacles, helps people take on duties that they perform with competence because of the leadership provided; prayer; humble service using our hands and feet, the gift to work behind the scenes unnoticed, giving God thanks that one may serve His people; and the gift of sharing what we have with time, skill, and money--of sharing who we are in Christ.

Give God thanks for the opportunities He gives you to serve His people. If it was a pleasant experience, give God double thanks and hum a joyful tune. And if it wasn't a pleasant experience, not only commend the matter into His hands for blessing, but give Him thanks for His forgiveness and that He uses you to build His people. Our faith and hope is in Christ and our love is through Christ! Give thanks!

For more information on the Lenten Inspiration, see the wrap-up article on page 9.

# ARE YOU READY FOR CONVENTION??

~~ EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT DES MOINES ~~

## LWML-NID Sends Two Young Women Representatives to Des Moines

The LWML knows the importance of involving women of all ages in the mission work of the Church. For that reason, young women (ages 22-35) are selected by each district to attend both the national and district conventions. LWML-NID and its YWR Committee Chairman, Sherrie Smith, would like to introduce the two young ladies who will represent us in Des Moines:



SYDNEY ALEXANDER has been involved in LWML for 10 years in her home congregation, St Philip in Chicago. She is excited about the opportunity to learn about LWML's vision for the future. Sydney is looking forward to learning ways to strengthen outreach efforts. Sydney believes that LWML continues to empower women around the world through God's teachings and she wants to be a participant in the creative process.



STEPHANIE POLVI is a member of Trinity in Lombard. Her first experience with LWML was at the 2014 LWML NID convention in Sandwich. She was deeply moved by the inspiring people she met and encouraged by all the ways that the LWML serves God. Her goal for attending the national convention is to be a witness to the work the LWML is doing and to see how she can become more involved in God's work through the LWML.

+ Pray for them that their experience will lead them to remain involved in the work of the LWML and that they may encourage other young women to join their sisters of all ages in this mission of the LCMS.

For a list of GIFTS FROM THE HEART items, see the article on page 4.

### DISTRICT CAUCUS AND PHOTO

Our photo will be taken at 4:40 on Thursday afternoon, followed by the caucus at 5:10 in Room 308 Of the Convention Center.

STILL NEED A T-SHIRT? You can order it on our website: [www.lwmlnid.org](http://www.lwmlnid.org)



***NOT GOING TO DES MOINES?***  
You can still be part of the Convention!



***\* GIFTS FROM THE HEART \****

Send some of the items listed below with someone who will be going. These items will be distributed to Luther Care Services in Des Moines, Orphan Grain Train, and Lutherans for Life.

\* Regular Crayola markers, tempera paint, school paint brushes, crayons, colored pencils, glue or glue sticks, pony beads, pony bead laces

\* Hygiene kits, quilts, shawls, sleeveless undershirts, scarves, decorative pillows

***\* OFFERINGS \****

Consider sending an offering (personally or with your society) with someone who will be attending. There will be several opportunities for Convention attendees to share the gifts God has given to them. Visit the LWML website [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) for more information.

***\* WATCH THE OPENING SERVICE... \****

Watch at home or have a “viewing party” at your church. Go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) to find the instructions for live streaming via an Internet connection and we can be together in worship... together in God’s Word and prayer.

***\* ... AND THE REST OF THE CONVENTION, TOO! \****

LWML will offer high quality, real-time video streaming of all events taking place in the main convention hall. Those not able to travel to Des Moines will be able to participate via their own computer, tablet or smartphone. On June 25-28, 2015, go to [www.livestream.com/lwml2015](http://www.livestream.com/lwml2015) to watch all events. All events will also be archived for future viewing.

***\* PRAY \****

Most importantly, PRAY anytime for our Convention. Pray for safe travel for all.....Pray as we gather to do the work of the Lord through the LWML with our sisters and brothers from across the country..... Pray for our speakers and the attendees, that God would grant a bountiful dose of His Holy Spirit as we gather under the theme Bountiful! Sow · Nourish · Reap.

## *Cross Cultural Committee*

What does "Cross Cultural" mean and why do we have such a committee? We hope to create an awareness of the many cultures that surround us and what we could do to assist them in knowing Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

A culture can extend farther than ethnic boundaries. It can include missionaries whom we have sent out into the world. They appreciate our prayers and letters of encouragement. We pray for safety for them and their families.

Meanwhile, we can witness to people of various cultures right near us. We can witness to the elderly in retirement homes who may need a ride or just to talk to someone. Don't forget the homebound who may feel left out of their normal activities. Vacation Bible Schools can use people to teach or serve treats. Pastors can certainly use encouragement and assistance from us. Other ideas may include offering to find (or be) a baby sitter for our leaders or visiting one of our ethnic churches.

Our President, Kay Kreklau, has visited Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN to be a witness of the Training Indigenous Pastors and Deaconess Studies. This grant provides scholarships to foreign students so that they can train others in their countries and spread the Gospel message. Our NID met one of the students from Ethiopia, Tadelech Loha, at the LWML Pittsburgh convention in 2013 and has supported her with prayer until her graduation this year. Lisa Molotla, who was a member of our committee, has also completed her deaconess program and moved to Kansas. We pray that God will bless and guide them both in their ministries.

Elvera Ruff and Barbara Etter,  
Cross Cultural Committee Chairs

## *NID-LWML Mission Grant #3*

### *\* Voice of Hope Behind the Wall \**

Deaconess Lori Wilbert has served the men and women of Stateville Prison for the past 29 years, bringing the Word of God, His mercy and grace, to this place of confinement. She visits inmates--those who have lived there for many years and those new to the facility--people with all the diversity of circumstances and struggles that exist in any other community. In her words, "God's healing and grace are not limited by a cement wall or razor wire and His mercy is able to permeate even the most brutal environment."

God's love is present and available in this place as in every other, but perhaps those in prison need even more reminders of God's faithfulness and mercy. The church provides an invaluable service when it presents the story of God's Son, God's love, and God's grace to those who are incarcerated.

Lori continues to teach classes, Houses of Healing, which provide a forum for learning, for discussion, and for building a community within the prison environment. Just as all of us need others to support us and hold us accountable, the residents of Stateville need individuals who offer support, hold them dear, advocate for them, and expect much of them. Lives change when there is an awareness that others love us no matter what, that others will support us when no one else seems to, when others provide positive counsel in our need.

The changes in our lives and those around us provide a daily reminder of God's amazing grace and power at work in us and through us, and no less powerfully behind the wall.

*Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, grant strength and courage to Lori in her ministry, as you work out Your salvation for all Your children, especially those who need so much to feel your grace and mercy as they live behind the walls of Stateville. For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

This mission grant for \$10,000 (of which \$331.70 has been disbursed) supports the ministry with office supplies, books, and materials.

Barb Himley, VP of Gospel Outreach

TESTING YOUR GRANT KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2016

1. \_\_\_\_ The mission goal adopted at the 2014 LWML NID Convention was:  
(a) \$170,000                      (b) \$145,000                      (c) \$180,000
2. \_\_\_\_ St. Matthew Lutheran Church “El Comedor Popular” is in:  
(a) Lisle                              (b) Aurora                              (c) Chicago
3. \_\_\_\_ The grant supported by Food and Clothing Co-Op, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne IN will provide funding for:  
(a) Perishable foods      (b) Housing                      (c) Transportation
4. \_\_\_\_ There were three (3) grants awarded \$22,000 each. They are: (Choose 3)  
(a) Prison Ministry, Voice of Hope Behind the Wall  
(b) Voice of Care  
(c) St. Matthew’s Soup Kitchen  
(d) Cancer Care Packages, Phil’s Friends
5. \_\_\_\_ Serving People with Disabilities in the Church, Voice of Care will use their grant money for:  
(a) Training volunteers in congregations  
(b) Planting Trees  
(c) Devotional materials
6. \_\_\_\_ St. Matthew’s Soup Kitchen will use their grant for:  
(a) Roof Repair                      (b) Painting & Plastering                      (c) Restroom Remodeling  
(d) Air Conditioning                      (e) New Kitchen Utensils                      (f) a, b, c, d, e
7. \_\_\_\_ The grant awarded to Feeding Lutheran School Children in Haiti, Trinity/Hope will be used for:  
(a) Noon meals                      (b) Breakfast Meals                      (c) Evening Meals
8. \_\_\_\_ Lutheran Indian Ministries will use their grant for:  
(a) Native Costumes  
(b) Storage shed  
(c) Transportation costs for visits and food delivery  
(d) Hammer and nail projects to help the elderly  
(e) Computer Printer & Tablet  
(f) all of the above
9. \_\_\_\_ In the biennium of 2014-2016, how many recipients were awarded grant dollars?  
(a) Ten                                      (b) Seven                                      (c) Nine
10. \_\_\_\_ Based on the total mission grant goal accepted at the 2014 LWML NID Convention, our monthly goal for mites is:  
(a) \$7,083.24                      (b) \$6,333.00                      (c) \$5,088.00

Answers: 1(a); 2 (c); 3 (a); 4 (b, c, d); 5 (a); 6 (f); 7 (a); 8 (f); 9 (b); 10 (a)



## Lutheran Women's Missionary League Northern Illinois District

### Mission Grants Prayer Guide ~~ June

1. For the service of dedicated women
2. For continued support for pastoral students
3. For churches spreading the Word
4. For Christ-centered programs that enrich diverse groups
5. For all ministries as they share the Gospel
6. For support for translations projects
7. For outreach volunteers as they travel
8. For funds that help to assist helping hands
9. For urban missionaries support
10. For money to provide necessary transportation
11. For funds to support response to disasters
12. For training and scholarships for youth
13. For the support of multi-ethnic programs
14. For blessings for our military service persons
15. For LCMS leaders
16. For workers that provide youth training and guidance
17. For Christ-centered workers
18. For peace at home and in the world
19. For increased learning and for our learning institutions
20. For guidance from our Heavenly Father for our earthly fathers
21. For guidance as we share our faith
22. For an increase in our youth studying the Word
23. For spiritual nourishment at the LWML convention
24. That the convention will strengthen faithful service
25. For faith as we reach out to the unchurched
26. For steadfast support for societies and zones
27. For sacrificial giving of mites
28. For an increase in women active in LWML
29. For "praying without ceasing" for our Christian families
30. For God's will to be done

~~~ Compiled by Jewel Sims

*Serve the Lord with Gladness!*

## Mission Grant Update--June 2015

### Mission Grants 2014-2016

|                                                  | <i>Grant</i>    | <i>Paid</i>     | <i>Remaining</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen                    | \$22,000        | \$ 9750         | \$12,250         |
| 2. Concordia Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op    | \$10,000        | 0               | \$10,000         |
| 3. Prison Ministry, Voice of Hope                | \$10,000        | \$ 332          | \$9,668          |
| 4. Cancer Care Packages, Phil's Friends          | \$22,000        | \$5000          | \$17,000         |
| 5. Voice of Care                                 | \$22,000        | 0               | \$22,000         |
| 6. Feeding Lutheran School Children in Haiti     | \$5,000         | 0               | \$5,000          |
| 7. Lutheran Indian Ministries, Olympic Peninsula | \$ 3050         | \$1600          | \$1,450          |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>\$94,050</b> | <b>\$16,682</b> | <b>\$77,368</b>  |

**Although we have not suggested monetary amounts for each day, as you pray for these ministries, so we ask 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*

#### ***SUMMER MITES REMINDER***

Keep saving your mites! Summer is a slow time, and we are behind again! Pray that God will continue to bless all that we give to do the work He would have us do in His kingdom!

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

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

## NID Ladies “Inspired” to Use Their “God-Given Gifts”

Ladies from around the District met at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Des Plaines for the LWML-NID Lenten Inspiration on March 21. After breakfast and coffee provided by Good Shepherd’s ladies, everyone met in the church for Bible study led by Pastor Leichman (more about him later!). Then, through a skit and several speakers, those in attendance were able to focus on the many gifts God has given us—preaching, teaching, leadership, serving, etc.

Pastor Leichman also shared his gift of culinary skills as he and the ladies prepared and served a lunch of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and dessert. The people of Good Shepherd offer a Community Kitchen (“Feed My Sheep”) weekly (Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m.) for those who can’t afford or cannot prepare meals for themselves. The community is truly blessed by their God-given gifts!

Thank you to all who planned, led, and attended this day of “inspiration”. For more thoughts on the day, see Pastor Mau’s article on page 2.



**SAVE THE DATE ~~ SEPTEMBER 26, 2015**

Join us for a day of Worship, Bible study, fellowship, and more at our Fall Gathering. We will be meeting under the theme “Activate Your Gifts” at St. John’s, La Grange.

The day will include Bible study led by our LWML-NID Pastoral counselors, Rev. Gerhard Mau and Rev. Jay Klein. Our keynote speaker will be Christian author and speaker, Sharla Fritz. A box lunch will be served, provided by Honey Baked Ham. The closing worship will end by 3 p.m. Our “Gifts from the Heart” ingathering will be items for the Christmas Stocking Project.

Watch the July/August Northern Light and the Fall NID-BITS for registration information.

### **LARGE PRINT LWML QUARTERLY**

Do you have members in your church who would like to read the Quarterly but need large print? Contact Roy Fisher at [roy@lbwinc.org](mailto:roy@lbwinc.org) to order large print at no cost to the individual. The Quarterly is print only--no graphics or pictures.

# ZONED IN!

## *"News from Around the District" +++ Spring Rally Edition*

Zone 1: The ladies tied red and blue fleece blankets for area veterans. Pastor Walter Otten of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation spoke on that organization's work in Europe and Russia. After Communism ended, the Foundation provided Bibles and other Christian books to the people.

Zones 2/3: The handlers of Kare-9 military dogs Flex and Tara shared information and stories about their ministry to veterans.



Ladies of Zones 2 and 3 at their Spring Rally with Kare-9 dogs Tara and Flex and their handlers Fred Vanstrom, Jim Morrison, and Norm Gotsch.

Zone 9: The speaker was Pastor Hicham Chehab, who spoke to those who attended the Rally about how he became a Christian and a pastor, his ministry to Muslims, and the rise of ISIS.

Zones 15/16: Deaconess Rogene Lis (Trinity, Roselle) spoke on Days for Girls, an organization that provides sustainable feminine hygiene kits for girls around the world. Women and men around the NID have been gathering at events to cut, sew, assemble, and pack kits.

Zones 18/22: The ladies prepared Bible verses to fill "Spiritual Vitamins" jars from "God's pharmacy".  
(idea from the ladies at Our Savior, Joliet)

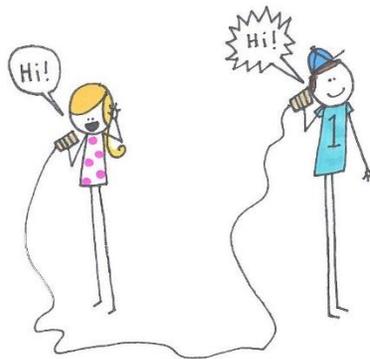
Zones 21a/21b: The rally offering was designated to support YWR Sydney Alexander as she represents our District at the National Convention.



## 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.

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## *MEET OUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE*

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Send articles, pictures, and other tidbits of information about your society or zone activities to be included in the Northern Light and/or NID-BITS to:

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