

Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota District

Equip
Encourage
Share Jesus

The Messenger

The mission of LWML North Dakota is to equip and encourage all women to share the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ.

January/February/March 2012

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

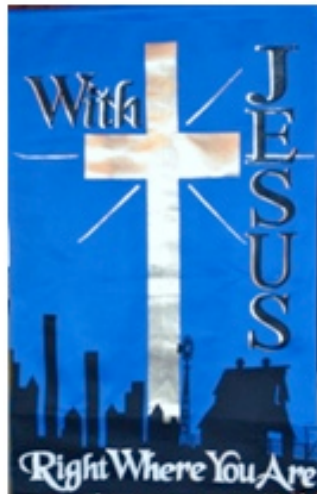
"With Jesus - Right Where You Are"
ND District LWML Convention

June 24-26, 2012

**Alerus Center,
Grand Forks, ND**

Mark your schedule!

District Convention Co-Chairmen, Lynne Drees & Gloria Bethke, and their committees are busily making preparations for the LWML ND District ladies to visit the northeast corner of the state this June. So save up your money; and look for the registration forms which will be in the next newsletter, available around Easter time.



The *theme verse* is Micah 4:2b,5b. The following convention goal and objectives were approved: *Goal:* Reaffirm that, as a child of God, you are "With Jesus... Right Where You Are" so that you may walk in His path. *Objectives (3):* My teacher is Jesus, He teaches me through His Word. I will place my trust in Him to walk His path. I will remain in God's Word and Work, and reach out to others with the compassion of Jesus Christ.

Our *speakers* will be Pastor Nabil Nour from Armour, SD as keynote speaker, Pastor Bernie Seter as mission speaker and President Kay Kreklau as our national representative (see short articles elsewhere in this newsletter).

The *entertainment* will be the Dean and Jyl Dunavan and Family. Extra tickets will be available for \$5 to non-registrants with free entrance to children.

The Quilts/blankets/lap blankets *Procession and Dedication* will be featured again, so you may wish to get to work on your contributions to that cause.

Registration Costs: - \$60.00 - full registration; \$35 - worker/spouse; \$45 - Monday only; \$25 - YWR; No charge - Teens 17 and under. The *meal package* will cost \$70. Special dietary requests will be accommodated. *Registration deadline* for childcare and meals will be June 1st. DVD recordings of *convention highlights* will again be offered for \$10.

A *Mite Pledge Walk* will run from 6:30-7:30 am Monday morning. Pack your pledges and your comfortable shoes!

We will include a **display of past district banners** in the convention decorations. If your church has one or more of these banners, please bring pole and stands along with the banners, so we can display them properly. Make sure they are labeled with names/addresses somewhere on the banner, too.

District PR, Myra Axtman, has put together some *bulletin and newsletter announcements* to add excitement leading up to convention. You may get them from your Zone President or from the district website (ndlwml.org), as well as directly from Myra. Thanks to Myra for putting these together.

Additional Convention Info from our VP for Human Care, Valerie Biberdorf:

The following **Servant Events** on June 24th at the Alerus Center. Please feel free to come and go and help with any of the servant events between 2:30 and 5.

1. Convention Choir (*begins at 2:30 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church*);
2. Decorating bags for meals on wheels;
3. Rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries - *Donation opportunity! New or used sheets for the bandages;*
4. Tying fleece blankets for foster care children - *Donation opportunity! Fleece material for blankets;*

5. Making faith bead bracelets for youth groups to hand out at the ND Winter Show;
6. Making pillowcase dresses for African girls - *Donation opportunity! Pretty pillowcases or cotton fabric;*
7. Trimming box tops/ Campbell soup labels for Immanuel Christian Children's Center in Grand Forks - *Donation opportunity! Bring all box tops/soup labels you have.*

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

"I will remain in God's Word and Work, reaching out to others with the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ." This is one of the objectives for this convention. Following are opportunities to show Jesus' love through our tangible gifts of sharing.

WOMEN'S PREGNANCY CENTER – (This is a non-profit Christian agency serving women in Grand Forks and surrounding areas.)

- *Diapers
- *Wet Wipes
- *Baby clothing (newborn to 12 months)



The pregnancy center has a baby boutique with new and gently used items for mom and baby to earn through the Earn While You Learn program. This program is for mothers who have already decided to maintain their pregnancies and give life to their babies. The women come in to learn about their pregnancies, baby care, and parenting and earn items such as clothing and diapers.

RED RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION - ERNIE J. NORMAN HOUSE (*Homeless house for women and children*)

- *Diapers
- *Wipes
- *Deodorant
- *Shampoo/Conditioner
- *Toothbrush/toothpaste
- *Towels/washcloths



These items will be used for the families while they stay at the shelter.

MITE PLEDGE WALK

MONDAY JUNE 25 - 6:30 AM - 7:30 AM

You are invited to be part of the first Mite Pledge Walk for our North Dakota District LWML! The walk will leave from the Alerus Center, go down 11th Ave to a Japanese Garden Park, along the coulee and back to the Alerus. Obtain pledges from your friends and family and bring them to the convention. Registration is \$8.00 and includes a special Walk T-shirt. Register on the convention Registration Form. A pledge sheet will be sent to all who register and will also be on the website.

BABY QUILTS/LAP ROBES



On Monday June 25, we will again have a procession of baby quilts (approx. 3'x5") and lap robes. Please feel free to make and donate as many as you and/or your unit would like. The quilts and lap robes will be given to agencies in the Grand Forks area.

President's Thoughts:



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come" 2 Corinthians 5:17.

We are beginning a New Year in our Lord. We look forward to new beginnings and starting over again. We leave the old year behind us and all that happened. We ask God to forgive us and know that our sins are removed. *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."* Psalm 103:12. We remember our baptism when we became a child of God by the washing away of our old selves. We are made new in Christ. We live a new life in Him and know that we are forgiven of our sins; and we will live with Him forever.

As we begin another year in the Lord, let us share the good news of the birth of Jesus and all that He has done for us. We share with others the message of hope that we have in Jesus as we know that we are forgiven. May your daily life be a witness to those around you.

Serving with gladness, Sue Corwin

Nominating Committee Searching for Candidates for 2012 Convention!

The nominating committee members are looking for elected and appointed volunteers to further the mission of the ND District LWML. Contact the *District Nominating Committee* with names before March 5th: Paulette Huber, Chairman; Carol Kosel, Ruth Walsh, Judy Ill, Susan Hiatt, and Phyllis Lentz.

Please pray for potential nominees for the following positions: President; VP of Mission Grants; VP of Human Care; VP of Communication (a potential, newly-added office); Treasurer; Pastoral Counselor. Nominees must be ND LWML members, must have held an office in their society or zone, and nominees for president must have served as a voting member of the ND LWML BOD prior to being nominated for president. Pastoral Counselor selections have been completed. Please join the committee in praying for the right people to serve our

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beloved ND LWML. Please help us find ladies of all ages and circumstances ready to serve Him, right where we are!

Paulette Huber, Nominating Committee Chairman

2012 Convention Speaker Snapshots

KEYNOTE Speaker, Nabil Subhi Nour, 56, is a naturalized U.S. citizen; however, he grew up in Nazareth, Israel where many family members still reside. He is a Palestinian by nationality, and came to the U.S. at the age of 16 with no English skills. He entered the 11th grade at Huron High School in South Dakota.

Learning English was a very difficult and demanding effort. He continued his education at Huron College (now Huron University) and graduated in 1979 with a B. S. degree in criminology and sociology, with minors in psychology and gerontology. In 1977, he married Jean Marie Miedema of Hitchcock, S.D. Into this marriage three lovely sons were given.



After converting to Lutheranism, he received encouragement to consider the pastoral office from his fellow church members and pastor. In 1989, he entered Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, MO and graduated in 1994. He is now a servant of the most High God and Lord, in His vineyard at Armour, South Dakota; he is also continuing his studies from CTS.

Pastor Nour travels and lectures often on how to live the Christian life in a postmodern time; How to Witness to Muslims; the true meaning of love; sharing the Good News of our Salvation; Laugh, Love and Live; other topics.

MISSION Speaker, Pastor Bernhard Seter:

The following is a recent blog from ND Pastor Bernhard (Bernie) Seter while in Kenya. The accompanying photo is of Pastor Seter with his translator while they were preaching the Good News in Kenya.

You Say Hello – I Say Goodbye

January 15th, 2012 | Author: **Bernhard Seter**

I just finished preaching at the Divine Service at the Ukunda church and rescue center. It is a humbling experience. I enjoy the rhythm of speaking and having someone translate. I like the give and take that comes from an African congregation as they respond to questions. It also recalled the old lesson that had learned and had forgotten. As I was waving goodbye the children would come. Our goodbye signal is their “come here”.

These gentle and joyous people are so happy to have us here it is hard to go. So the gesture is appropriate. When I say goodbye I would like them to



come with me. Of course that is not possible, but I preached about the body of Christ today and how Christ's work of redemption has made us one. We all look forward to the day when that oneness is fully realized in the life to be revealed when Christ comes again.

[national] LWML Representative, Kay Kreklau
(Many of us know much about our native North Dakotan from Drayton. Her official bio will be included in the next newsletter.)

2013 Convention in Pittsburgh!

The LWML theme and Scripture verses for the 35th Biennial LWML Convention that will be held June 27-30, 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA have been chosen.

Theme: ***Quenched! by the Water***

Scripture verse: [Jesus said:] “...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

Contact President Sue if you are interested in filling the temporary position of travel coordinator for Pittsburgh.

DISTRICT DATES!!

+Next **newsletter deadline** is March 15, 2012. The April/May/June issue will be the Call To [2012 ND District] Convention. Look for them in your mailboxes around Easter time. We love your news and pictures, so send in pictures and articles of encouragement.

+**Young Women's Retreat:** March 31, 2012 at Bethel Lutheran Church in Bismarck. Event begins at 10 AM. Contact Eileen Larson (el Larson2@bisman.midco.net) for more details.

+2012 Spring Rally dates

(You can also find updates on the district website.)

Zone: Date; Location; Speaker

Central: April 28, Concordia, Jamestown - “You Want to Wear That?”

Eastern: April 14; St. Andrew, West Fargo

NE: May 5 Redeemer, Grand Forks

NW: April 14, St. Paul, Minot (St. Matthew, Max hosting) “Passing On the Faith”

SE: April 21 Immanuel, Stirum

SW: April 14 Concordia, Beulah

+**District LWML Convention:** June 24-26, 2012.

Registration opens April 1st.

+ August 18, 2012: transition BOD mtg, Carrington

+**District Women's Retreat** in Carrington: September 14-16, 2012, with speaker Mary Hilgendorf.

+The **Fall Rally** theme of “To Every Nation, Tribe, Language and People” is based on Rev. 14:6.

Zone: Date; Location

Central: TBD Grace, Carrington

Eastern: Oct 6 St. John's, Hillsboro

NE: no fall rally

NW: TBD TBD

SE: TBD Immanuel, Wahpeton

SW: TBD Holy Cross, Bismarck

+BOD Meeting: November 10, 2012 Carrington.
 +Kay Kreklau's first convention as LWML President is on June 27-30, 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA. Make a plan to go and be "Quenched! By the Water".
 +2014 District Convention will be held sometime between June 20-24, 2014. The exact dates will be decided after evaluation of the 2012 convention. Theme will be decided at the March Board of Directors meeting.

2012 Women's Retreat Info

Reserve September 14-16, 2012 in Carrington in order to meet our guest speaker and renew friendships of a lifetime! Dr. Mary Hilgendorf currently serves Concordia University Wisconsin as Chair of the Elementary/Middle Education Department. Before coming to Concordia in 1992, she taught in Grades K-12 in Lutheran schools in Arkansas, Florida, and Wisconsin. She received a BS in Elementary Education in 1973 and an MS in Education in 1989 from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. She completed her doctorate in Educational Foundations in 1997 at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and her dissertation topic was "C.F.W. Walther and Education in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod." Dr. Hilgendorf often serves as a speaker for various church organizations and faculty inservices. She is married to Duane Hilgendorf, Vice President of Advancement at Concordia. They have two children, both students at CUW.



ANNOUNCEMENTS from the DISTRICT

+The annual **Christian Life report form** will be sent to zone presidents before the spring rally. The

zone presidents will distribute these, and units should complete the reports by the deadline on the form.
 +Mite giving is still down on the national level. Please keep this in your prayers and encourage members to give.

+We should celebrate that the LWML has given over \$100,000,000 in grants!

+“Follow the Leader” is a publication available on the LWML website.

+A new **masthead** has been designed by Marie Johnson and approved with the new title as required by LWML.


+President Sue reports that Ashley Ferguson and Chris Carattini - YW committee members - have resigned for various reasons. Kira Judson (Dickinson) has been appointed to the Young Women's Committee. Also, Karen Puffe from LaMoure has been appointed to the Bylaws Committee.

+**Reminder to Units:** *The Delegate Fund money is paid annually to our Financial Secretary, Sharon Kroeplin. Zone Treasurers collect each unit's contribution; subsequently, Sharon holds the money in a separate fund to pay for the biennial [national] convention. Pittsburgh will likely be more expensive than Peoria, so be sure to have this money ready in the fall.*

+Please send your **Mites**, *Quarterly* payments (remember the subscription rate is now \$5.00 per year for over 10 copies per address, \$6.50 per year for less than 10 per address), and newsletter quantity changes to our Financial Secretary, **Sharon Kroeplin**.

+Address and Officer changes should be sent - whenever they occur - to Communications Sub-committee member, **Debbie Larson**. Addresses for all district officers are on the district website: www.ndlwml.org. Thank you.

ND District LWML Mission Grants 2010 – 2012

Mission Grant		Amount Budgeted	Amount Paid	Balance as of 1-20-12
Orphan Grain Train – ND Division		\$7,500	\$7,500	\$0
ND Full-time Church Workers' Scholarships		\$35,000	\$35,000	\$0
Everyone's Child – Bibles for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch		\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Pregnancy Help Services – First Choice Clinic		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Food Bank at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis		\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Martin Luther School Tuition Assistance		\$5,000		\$5,000
ND Mission Starts (*Partial Funding)		\$8,500		\$8,500
Mission Grants – Total Goal		\$67,000	\$53,500	\$13,500

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.