

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 2015

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

ND Bus Heading for Des Moines

Bus travel to the LWML Convention in Des Moines, IA has been secured. Cost per person for the transportation to and from Des Moines on the bus, and to and from the hotel to the convention center and back each day, will be \$45.00.

The bus will leave Bismarck on Wednesday morning, June 24th, and will make stops along the interstate as needed to pick up riders—most likely Jamestown and Fargo—and other places if needed. All servant events, registration, etc. begin Thursday, June 25th, so we will have a relaxing evening in Des Moines prior to the convention.

The bus will arrive in Des Moines Wednesday evening. Hotel reservations will be obtained as a group; however, we are not able to reserve those rooms yet. The cost per room will be approximately \$170 per night for 1-4 people. We will be staying 4 nights (Wed. through Sat.), and the bus will leave Des Moines at noon on Sunday, June 28th (at the close of convention) and return to ND that evening.

To reserve a spot on the bus, please send a check for the \$45 along with your name, address, phone number, room preference (if you want to room with someone spe-

cific), and any other pertinent information to:

Renee Johnson
430—12th St NW
Minot, ND 58703

Renee can also be reached at 701-263-1270 or email her at reneej75@srt.com

You can take care of your convention registration by using the form in the Winter edition of *The Quarterly*. Early registration goes until March 14th. You can also register online by going to www.lwml.org and clicking on the purple box that says "Register Online Now!". Registration fee for the convention is \$175, meals are separate and can be purchased in advance individually, or concessions are available at the convention center. **Delegate's** and **YWR's** may send their registrations to our treasurer, Avonne Gessner, since your expenses will all be paid by the District. Her address is: 504 Jay Street, Bottineau, ND 58318, or email her at avonnegessner@yahoo.com.

Please get your bus registration to Renee ASAP as we need to finalize the rooms and other pertinent information soon!

LWML Convention ♦ Des Moines, IA ♦ June 25-28, 2015

Theme: Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV)

Travel: The LWML North Dakota District Travel Coordinator is hoping to fill a bus with lots of North Dakota women to travel to the 2015 LWML National Convention. Watch for more information in the next edition of *The Messenger*!

www.lwml.org/conventions



PRESIDENT PAULETTE PONDER...PURSES



Purses...we women love our **purses** (they're right up there with shoes!)

Purses come in many styles, colors, and sizes, depending on the situation.

On a daily basis, most of us probably like a bigger **purse**...something we can throw anything in when we're in a hurry. Things like money, chocolate, hair spray, coupons, chocolate, jewelry, first aid items, (and more chocolate!) somehow find their way into our special handbag. "What's in your wallet?" resonates from a financial savings commercial on TV. Could we say "What's in your **purse**?" One of the main staples in our **purses** is our wallet (coin **purse** to some) with money for groceries, shopping of all kinds, or eating out at restaurants.

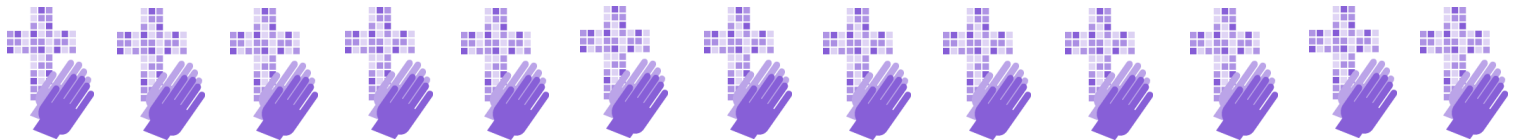
Pastor Eckstein, one of the Bible

Study leaders at the ND District Convention, reminded us about how easy it is to spend \$50 on ourselves to shop or eat out, but how difficult it is to give that same amount in our offerings for the mission of the church. Why is that? I believe, because of our sinful nature, we struggle with our money, **purses**, shoes, clothes, and other material things that mean a little too much to us!

We must confess that the love of our **purses** and coin **purses** are at times more important than our love for our gracious, forgiving God. We forget that all things, including money and possessions, are His! He abundantly gives us much more money, clothes, shoes, and **purses** than we need. We are blessed beyond measure! We pray that, because of His blessing and provision for us, we will respond by opening our wallets and coin **purses** and gen-

erously give back to His work through our mite offering to help those who suffer from having much less. Along with our treasures we also give back our time and talents as well.

Yes, we women love our **purses**! God gives wonderful material and spiritual gifts. Fill your fashionable **purses** with money for our mission mites and mustard seeds and other devotions to share the gospel message to the lost and erring, the discouraged, and broken hearted. Could you sacrifice a little extra from your **purse** to help our National LWML to meet their mite goal in a few months? Grab your **purse** and register for the LWML convention in Des Moines! Carry your **purse** confidently as we heed the Great Commission of making disciples of all nations!



LWML ND DISTRICT PRAYER CHAIN

President Paulette sent out these prayer requests she received via Email, for November 2014—January 2015:

- † Prayers of thanksgiving for President Jim and Myrna Baneck at the birth of their grandson, Nicholas Benjamin Baneck, born to their son Ben and his wife Katie, on December 2nd.
- † Prayers for Samuel Judson, infant son of Pastor James and Kira Judson, diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy, type one, a very serious condition. Kira was our YWR at the Pittsburgh convention.
- † Prayers for President Paulette's dad, Paul Paulson, hospitalized with pneumonia.
- † Prayers for Bud Gessner dealing with circulation problems in his foot.
- † Prayers for Maggie Karner who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Maggie resigned her position with the LCMS Human Care office.
- † Prayers for safe travels for all District Presidents and EC Officers as they meet in St. Louis.
- † Prayers for God's wisdom and guidance for our leaders in the Legislature.
- † Prayers for Thomas Orstad, father of Sam Werner, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and continues to go through chemo treatments. Sam is one of our YWR's to the Des Moines convention this summer.

If you would like to be on the district prayer chain Email list, Email President Paulette at huber529@msn.com and ask her to add your Email to the list.



District Counselor's Corner...Rev. Tim Jenks, Sr. Counselor



Dear Sisters in Christ,

What a special and wonderful gift I received at Christmas during my 3rd grade year! I was 8 years old and we were living near Stirum and I was attending school at Oakes. When I opened the gift I was a bit disappointed, wondering what in the world Mom and Dad were

thinking!

I had been wanting an electric train set (several years ago I forced Michelle to look all over with me for one to purchase - my nostalgic moment). Hoping and praying that was inside the box, but realizing the box was the wrong size for a train, I tore the paper off as fast as I could. Lying nestled in the bottom of the box was a green covered book with a picture of Jesus on the front holding a little lamb—my first Bible, a children's Bible.

Now remember—I was 8 years old and desperately desiring an electric train set. And to my dismay I received a Bible and gave my parents what was probably an extremely dismal response. Especially as it was not like the Children's Bibles today with a plethora of pictures. This Bible had a plethora of words and extremely few pictures! What disappointment! Oh, the agony of it!

Don't worry though, I grew up! The day after Christmas I began reading the Bible for the very first time. I

do not remember how long it took me to read all the way through; but I do remember the awe and wonder that filled me as all those stories and accounts came to life for me for the very first time.

Through the years I have continued to read through God's Word. I don't know how many times I have read all the way through the Scriptures, but each time I am filled with awe and wonder at what God reveals in His Word. Oh the joy of forgiveness and eternal life all because of what Jesus has done in His life, death and resurrection!

Every time I read through the Bible I am reminded of the words of a dear, sweet Christian sister from Nebraska: "Pastor, the more I read the Bible, the more I realize how little I know, and the more I need to read the Bible. But the more I read the Bible, the more I realize how little I know, and the more I need to read the Bible." And on and on this cycle goes. How true Aretta's words are for me and for you!

As I am punching this into my computer, that green covered Bible with a picture of Jesus on the front holding a little lamb sits on my desk at church. Last August I began reading through it again. I don't know how long it will take me to complete it this time; but I do know I will read some things in there that continue to fill me with awe and wonder. All I can say is: How precious God's Word is for His people!

In His service & love — Pastor Tim Jenks

LWML ND District Mission Grant Applications

The time has come to search for applicants for our mission grants for the next biennium. Applications are due by September 30, 2015. We are looking for recipients who are Lutheran Church Missouri Synod entities or who have Recognized Service Organization Status with the LCMS. Our bylaws state that ministries seeking funding should:

- Be mission in emphasis, extending the ministry of the Word;
- Fit into the plans and projections of the LCMS;
- Be current and ready for implementation;
- Be on-going in nature, continuing after the grant money has been expended.



The application will be available at www.ndlwml.org by March 1, 2015. For more information contact Nikki Tyrrell, Vice President of Mission Grants at tyrrells@ndsupernet.com.

ZONE HAPPENINGS

NORTHWEST ZONE 2015 SPRING RALLY: April 18, 2015 at St. Paul's Lutheran in Minot with Our Savior's, Bottineau hosting. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. The theme will be "*God Never Forsakes Us*". The speaker will be Kersten Frantsvog from the Alzheimer's Association.

NORTHWEST ZONE 2015 FALL RALLY: October 24, 2015 at St. Mark's Lutheran in Minot with Trinity, Tolley hosting. The speaker will be LWML National President Kay Kreklau.

SOUTHWEST ZONE: Held a Bismarck/Mandan area LWML Prayer Service at Shepherd of the Valley in Bismarck on February 21, 2015. Ladies from this zone are planning on attending the April 11, 2015 event at the Seven Seas in place of their Spring Zone Rally.

SOUTHEAST ZONE: There will be no Southeast Zone Spring Rally this year.

NORTHEAST ZONE: Zion English LWML, Grafton, served a meal at their November 5, 2014 gathering. President Tami Ulland welcomed and thanked everyone, especially our "veterans" (founding members) for all they had done in laying a good foundation for all of us to follow. Pastor Seter gave a short devotional followed by Haily Ulland entertaining with singing Christian songs she had written. Our National LWML President, Kay Kreklau, was in attendance and brought favors for everyone. It was a fun evening for all visiting and reminiscing of years gone by. Shown in the picture are the "veterans" and the years they were members of Zion LWML. L to R standing: LWML National President, Kay Kreklau; Ardella Hoenke~58 yrs; Clara Ganyo~72 yrs; Luella Common~47 yrs; Vivian Miller~59 yrs. L to R seated: Georgene Kittelson~49 yrs; Phyllis Haas~37 yrs. We give God thanks and praise for their many years of service!



LWML ND District Fall Retreat

If you attended the LWML ND District retreat last September, you most likely have wonderful memories of our speaker, Elaine Bickel, and the stories she shared that made you laugh and cry (sometimes at the same time!). You also probably remember the Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala leading us in Bible study with some humor here and there (and everywhere!). There was renewing of old acquaintances and making new ones, plus good food and our famous Talent (or Non-Talent) show.

If you weren't able to attend the retreat last year, you have another opportunity this year on September 18-20, 2015 at the Chieftain in Carrington. Our speaker will be Deb Burma. Deb has a passion for sharing Christ's love through the study of God's

Word. She leads Bible studies, retreats, and is a Christian author (her books are published by CPH). She was the keynote speaker at the LWML ND District Convention last June in Wahpeton. Deb grew up in South Dakota and now lives in Nebraska where her husband serves as a pastor.

Our theme for this year's retreat will be "Stepping Out: To a Life on the Edge". Please mark the dates on your calendar: **September 18-20, 2015** at the Chieftain in Carrington.

Keep an eye out for more information coming soon! We will be "stepping out" together in our Savior's strength!



JOY CARDS Memorials & Honorariums November—December 2014

THANK YOU to everyone who has sent in money for memorials or honorariums. To the right is a list of those received from November through December 2014.

ATTENTION TREASURERS: MITES

should be sent to:
LWML ND Financial Secretary
Myrna Baneck
1108—3rd Ave NE
Mandan, ND 58554



Rosella Huether Mekvold
Larry French
Mary Ann Fick
Ruth Wumkes(2)
Marcella Grohnke
Lois Hilmer
Frances Kaeding
Irene LeMier



Marlene Brandenburg's 80th birthday (2)

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LWML North Dakota District

Witness, Mercy and Life Together Luncheon Event

Human Trafficking in North Dakota



Human Trafficking is all over our news in North Dakota. LCMS ND and the LWML ND District invite you to attend a lunch workshop to educate church workers and lay members about human trafficking and how to respond to the victims. We will begin in the Word with a Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. James Baneck, ND District LCMS President followed by a speaker from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Come ready for fellowship and an opportunity to learn and serve!

There will be an ingathering of Walmart gift cards or gas cards to be used by pastors in the "oil patch" and a free will offering for mites will be taken.

Registration and Lunch Fee: \$10
Submit your form and fee to:

Nikki Tyrrell, LWML-ND VP Mission Grants
9290 34th St SW
Taylor, ND 58656
tyrrells@ndsupernet.com

Saturday April 11th, 2015 10 am—2:45pm
Baymont Inn & Suites (Seven Seas Hotel) in Mandan, ND

Registration Form (Please submit one for each person attending.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Meal Choice: (Circle one) Stuffed Pork Chop or Chicken Breast Alfredo

A coach bus will leave Beautiful Savior in Fargo at 7:15 am and return at about 6:15 pm. The cost is \$25/person. Reservations are first-come basis by contacting Rhonda Hoge at hogegolf@cableone.net

Human Trafficking Luncheon Speakers



Rebekah Grimm is a North Dakota native who has always had a passion for social justice. Her passion for sex trafficking intensified when she traveled to Thailand and Cambodia over the summer of 2011. While there she was able to work with sex trafficking survivors and better understand the issue on an international level. After returning from this trip, Rebekah founded

"Hope is Possible: the Fight to End Sex Trafficking" on her college campus, Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. While acting as president, Rebekah led numerous presentations, hosted a benefit concert, and brought a speaker to campus. She graduated from Concordia in 2012 with a degree in Social Work. After graduation Rebekah moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she became employed as a Licensed Social Worker. During her free time she volunteered with Breaking Free as the assistant to the Women's Programming Director. In September of 2014 Rebekah started the Masters of Social Work program at the University of Minnesota where she is focusing her studies on "Community Practice: Advocacy, Organizing, and Leadership". She is currently an intern at the Battered Women's Justice Project in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Upon graduating in July of 2015, Rebekah looks forward to fighting sex trafficking on a larger scale by raising awareness, advocating for victims, and creating positive policy changes.



Dawnya Underwood is the Assistant Director for Children's Services in Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's (LIRS) Children's Services Department. She has worked with the organization since 2009.

LIRS provides safety and protection to unaccompanied refugee minors and unaccompanied alien children through holistic transitional. LIRS helps them reunite with their family

members already living in the United States, when possible. Our specialized family reunification service strives to see that children are released into appropriate family settings as soon as possible.

Dawnya is responsible for the department's central administrative and logistical issues, and she also collaborates with internal departments and external organizations to maintain, expand, and develop efficient services.

Prior to joining LIRS, she was program manager at West Suburban PADS, an Illinois nonprofit serving the homeless. As program supervisor for Chicago's Metropolitan Family Services, Dawnya earned the 2005 Peter Fetzner Award and both the 2006 and 2007, Betty L. Stronger awards for her innovative improvements to the program's community network, efficiency, and overall ability to serve clients.

Through Dawnya's social service, community development, and leadership experience, she ensures that vulnerable migrant and refugee children are protected, embraced, and empowered by just and welcoming communities.



*"On behalf of all the ND District pastors and congregations, I deeply and humbly extend my thanks to the LWML ND District for the very generous mission grant of \$8,000.00. LWML's care and love for our pastors is so overwhelming. Many, many thanks!
~President Baneck*



The Messenger is the official publication of the LWML ND District. Editor: Darci Wolff, 37129—101st St, Forbes, ND 58439. 605-358-8671 (h); 701-535-0420 (c). editor@ndlwm.org



We're on the Web!
ndlwm.org



DISTRICT DATES

- ◆ "Witness, Mercy, Life together" Event @ Mandan ~ April 11, 2015
- ◆ Central Zone Spring Event @ Concordia, Jamestown ~ April 18, 2015
- ◆ Northwest Zone Spring Event @ St. Paul, Minot ~ April 18, 2015
- ◆ Eastern Zone Spring Event @ Immanuel, Fargo ~ April 19, 2015
- ◆ LWML Convention @ Des Moines, IA ~ June 25-28, 2015
- ◆ Fall LWML Retreat @ Carrington ~ September 18-20, 2015
- ◆ Northwest Zone Fall Rally @ St. Mark, Minot ~ October 24, 2015
- ◆ BOD Meeting @ TBA ~ November 7, 2015 (tentative)

The LWML North Dakota District is now on Facebook! Click the "Like" button at the top of the page to become a fan, stay current on news and upcoming events, and share Christian fellowship right from your desk. (www.facebook.com/ND.LWML)

LWML ND District Mission Grants 2014-2016 Biennium

| MISSION GRANT | AMOUNT BUDGETED | AMOUNT PAID | BALANCE |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ND District Full-Time Church Worker Scholarships | \$35,000.00 | \$14,000.00 | \$21,000 |
| Providing Spiritual & Emotional Care for Pastors | \$8,000.00 | \$8,000.00 | -0- |
| Financial Assistance for Food & Clothing Co-op ~ Fort Wayne, IN | \$5,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | --0- |
| Christ the Way Radio Ministry | \$5,000.00 | -0- | \$5,000 |
| Kenya Africa Rescue Centers | \$5,000.00 | -0- | \$5,000 |
| New Playground at Shepherd's Hill Retreat | \$5,000.00 | -0- | \$5,000 |
| Martin Luther School Tuition Assistance | \$5,000.00 | -0- | \$5,000 |
| Bibles for Peace Officers Ministries | \$5,000.00 | -0- | \$5,000 |
| All Faiths Chapel Music Ministry ~ Grafton, ND | \$1,500.00 | -0- | \$1,500 |
| Sudanese Lay Pastor Training | \$1,500.00 | -0- | \$1,500 |
| TOTALS | \$76,000.00 | \$27,000.00 | \$49,000.00 |

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota District is to equip and encourage all women to share the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ.