

Equip
Encourage
Share Jesus

The Messenger

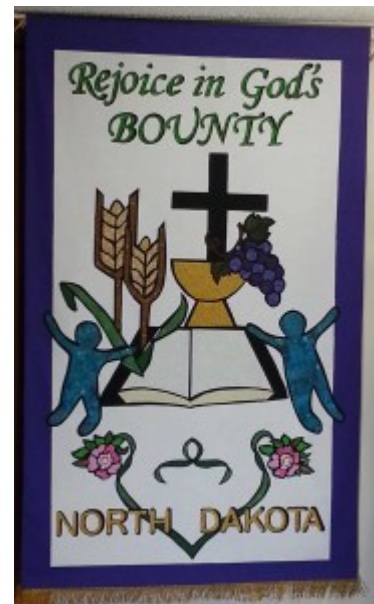
The mission of LWML North Dakota is to equip and encourage all women to share the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ.

July—December 2015

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

Save the Date....

June 24-26, 2016...LWML ND District Biennial Convention at the Civic Center in Jamestown, ND. Mark your calendars now and watch for more information in the next edition of *The Messenger*!



Pastor Tim Jenks has accepted a call to Canoga Park Lutheran Church in the Los Angeles, CA area. We will truly miss him in many ways, but especially as our Sr. Counselor for the ND LWML. We pray for Pastor and Michelle as they begin anew at their new ministry site. They both have hearts for LWML and have served us so faithfully!



The Board of Directors voted and Pastor Dave Suelzle accepted our request to be our interim Sr. Counselor. Thank you, Pastor, and welcome back!!



PRESIDENT PAULETTE PONDERES...BELTS



Belts come in many sizes and beautiful patterns, colors, and textures. In the fashion world, add a **belt** for accent, color, or to bring attention to the waist area. Back in "the day", one added a **belt** to hold one's pants up! Some used a **belt** (if necessary) to discipline,

although that probably would be frowned upon today! In Biblical times, the **belt** was used to hold or gird all other pieces of armor.

According to Matthew Henry's Bible Commentary, the **belt** "girds on all other pieces of our armor" and thus is mentioned first, according to Ephesians 6:14-17. It is called the "**belt** of truth", the first piece of the armor of God. Verse 14 begins, "Stand therefore", or in other words "Listen up!" We should be listening...listening to sermons from Pastors and teachers who teach from the Bible. "Stand therefore, having fastened on the **belt** of truth." Truth in our Christian walk is the main defense in our spiritual

armor! "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free!" (John 8:32) Jesus also said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." "Sanctify them in the truth, Your Word is truth", John 17:17. Similarly, without truth girding us in our Christian walk, a Christian is unprepared, the **belt** "unbuckled!" In an "unbuckled" world that drifts from absolutes, the words from God's Word above are an anchor. The idea of absolute truth as a constant is pushed further and further aside today. Truth is often viewed as a substitute for philosophical debate or a concept that changes as the world changes around us. Jesus Christ and the Word of God represent absolute truth...even more, they *are* absolute truth!!

So **belt** up ladies with the coolest, prettiest, most sparkly **belt** you can find and when you put it on, think about Jesus Christ who is the "**belt** of truth", the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we serve in the LWML and other vocations in life, we ask the Lord to keep us mindful of the "gospel truth" that has great

power to save others, reaching the "lost and erring" and bringing them back "into eternal fellowship with Him", as we recite in our LWML pledge. Our Fall Rally theme and Bible study, "Great is Thy Faithfulness", was an excellent reminder of God's constant faithfulness to us in spite of our unfaithfulness. We are **belted** in faith, truth, and righteousness from our baptism into Christ. This **belt** of true faith is kept snug around us through Word and Sacrament.

Belt out the good news, the truth from Christ's message that we declare to an unbuckled, broken world. Fastening and wearing the **belt** of Christ's truth, the first item in the armor of God, directs and protects us along life's journey....what better defense could we get!!

P.S. Maybe I've given you a Christmas gift idea....a new **belt** for someone?!

President Paulette

LWML ND DISTRICT PRAYER CHAIN

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

- † Bonnie Kittelson on having the first girl in the family in 65 years!
- † Wanda Mitchell for creating our LWML ND District banner for Des Moines, IA convention!
- † All those affected by disasters, especially church in SD that was destroyed.
- † Clients at FirstChoice Clinic debating abortion. (Every Wednesday pray to end abortion)
- † Past National LWML President Linda Reiser's mother, suffering from a fall and heart issues.
- † President Paulette's baby great-niece, Evie May Bitz.
- † Sheila, Sue Corwin's daughter, suffering from digestive issues.
- † For God to bless the LWML Convention in Des Moines, IA.
- † Shaina Monson, young woman member at Redeemer, Dickinson, suffered severe brain injury from car accident; two girlfriends died in crash.
- † Darci Wolff and family in loss of Darci's grandfather, Bud Frohling.
- † Bonnie Krenz for successful knee surgery!
- † Nikki Paulson, sister to President Paulette, suffering from terminal lung and brain cancer.
- † Carmen Larson and family in the loss of Carmen's father.
- † Dottie Sincebaugh, dealing with health issues.
- † Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew & Kathy Harrison due to a house fire.
- † Ann Wilson, friend of Mary Ann Anderson, a young mother with stage 4 cancer, who passed away.
- † Mary Ann Anderson's daughter-in-law, Tina, who has thyroid cancer; thyroid was removed.
- † Darci Wolff and family in the loss of her daughter, Shelby, in a tragic car accident.
- † Larissa Brelje (2013 YWR) and family in loss of her father, Al Brelje.
- † Samantha Werner (2015 YWR) and family in loss of her father.
- † Nikki Tyrrell and her mom and family in loss of Nikki's grandma, ViDella.
- † Nancy Curtis, sister to Sue Hartley, who had kidney cancer....surgery successful!
- † President Paulette and family in the loss of her sister, Nikki Paulson.
- † Janet Baker and family in the loss of her brother, Wayne Brand.
- † Lori Draeger and family in the loss of her mother.
- † Marjorie Carlson and daughter Ruth...Marjorie is in her last days.

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.



Delivering the Word

Written by Rev. Bernie Seter and posted on his blog 10-2-15



Aberdeen, SD—Funeral service for Shelby Jo Thayer, 23, of Aberdeen and formerly of Forbes took place at 10:00 am Thursday, October 1, 2015 at Zion Lutheran Church in Ellendale.

This has been bothering me since I heard about it earlier in the week. The death of the young is always startling and difficult and the death of any individual is a tremendous loss. Sadly, we are in a world where death is ubiquitous. The Old Testament has a lot to say about that – “all flesh is like the grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of the Lord endures forever”. Our job is to get the Word out.

Shelby’s mother is Darci Wolff. Darci is in charge of the LWML newsletter and publicity department for the North Dakota District LWML. She has been active in the LWML for years. This Sunday is LWML Sunday and in preparing a service for that I have been thinking hard about Darci and Shelby and all the Pastors that would be praying and consoling and preaching to family and friends.

Darci’s job is to get the word out about the LWML. The LWML’s job is to get the Word out to the “lost and erring”. The Word is Jesus. As Pastors our jobs are to get the Word out and the Word is Jesus. Jesus is the Word and that Word is light of men. That Word pronounces us right with God and then actually makes us right with God.

In our world today Jesus is impugned and ignored and laughed at and those who speak of him are often ridiculed, sometimes marginalized, and maybe even killed. Sometimes even in our circles we get the feeling that for many Jesus is irrelevant for most of their life, until a baby needs to be baptized, or a wedding needs to take place, or someone gets sick or dies. Suddenly Jesus is relevant but....

An old Lutheran preacher by the name of Helmut Thielicke wrote.....

“But the Word of the Lord—and Jesus Christ himself is this Word—is relevant at every station of life. It is there at the cradle and the grave. It is there when wedding bells ring, and it is there in the night of suffering. It sounded forth its “Let there be” on the morning of creation, and it will be the Word that will not pass away when heaven and earth pass away and are toppled into the great grave of the universe. It is there, always there. It is there with its blessing even before we understand it, when it is spoken at the cradle, in baptism, and in our mother’s prayers. And when we grow to consciousness we find that already it is there. And when we prepare for our last hour, when we no longer feel the touch of the beloved hand that cannot let us go, when our dreams dissolve and those we love are left behind on the hither shore, when the songs of birds are silenced and the sun goes dark, then, even then, this Word does not desert us; now it imbues with substance the prayer of bygone days: “When I depart, depart thou not from me.” No, it does not depart; it comes to meet us on the other shore. Any pastor who deals with the dying learns again and again that these words penetrate to levels and depths that no human words can reach. They are the last companions as we cross the unknown border, and they are the first to greet us on the other side, where they are still true and valid.”

For Darci and her family and all of Shelby’s friends; for the Pastors’ who preach and those who listen; these words and The Word, are our strength and our hope and our song.

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ZONE RALLY REPORT

Were you unable to make to one of the Fall Rallies held across our district this fall? Here is a summary of the information shared by our LWML ND District Board Representatives at the rallies:

The **LWML ND District Board of Directors** consists of 12 elected positions, 6 zone presidents, and 8 appointed positions.

ELECTED: President; VP of Mission Grants; VP of Christian Life; VP of Communications; VP of Human Care; VP of Servant Resources; Financial Secretary; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Sr. Counselor; Jr. Counselor; Nominating Chairman.

APPOINTED: Bylaws Chairman and committee; Committee members for each VP position; Historian; Parliamentarian; Gifts & Bequests Chairman & committee; Convention Manager; Store Manager; Meeting/Travel Coordinator.

The Board of Directors meets several times a year to plan district events, share ideas, distribute Mite offerings to the approved grants, and to keep you informed and inspired through the newsletter. The Board is here to serve you...so please let us know if you have any questions, needs, or ideas to share.

North Dakota Statistics: Approximately 1600 members, 71 societies, 70 units (one unit per church), and 6 zones.

Fall Retreat: Every September we experience a wonderful women's retreat in Carrington with a different theme each year. This year we were blessed to have Deb Burma, speaker and author of the book "Stepping Out: to a Life on the Edge". She encouraged us in our springboard to edgy living, rejoicing in the Savior's work in our lives. Deb shared, "He steps in so you can step out!" based on Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". Something new this year...we extended an invitation to the SD District to try for a more regional event. Pastor Suelzle, (Sr. Counselor Pro Tem in absence of Rev. Jenks who took a call to California), prepared in-depth and inspiring Bible studies and devotions. The Variety Show is especially fun and always a little crazy! Our Christian Life VP, Valerie Biberdorf and her committee plan this wonderful event each year. Join us for this uplifting women's retreat every year which always includes Friday night coffee and fellowship time, inspiring sessions in God's Word, variety show, shopping (LWML store), worship time, good food, good friends and much more!!

2015 LWML Convention, Des Moines, IA: "Bountiful! Sow* Nourish * Reap", June 25-28, 2015. What a joy to have President Kay Kreklau from Drayton, ND, lead her last national convention as our National President. We were all very proud of her for her diligence and superb leadership these past four years! Attending were 6 delegates, 2 YWR's, 2 counselors, and your District President along with many others from ND. Delegates adopted a mission goal of \$2,000,000 for the 2015-17 biennium and approved 19 new mission grants.

Young Women Opportunities: Two young women, Elizabeth Moline, Hankinson and Samantha Werner, Upham, represented our District very well at the Des Moines Convention. As we look back at all of the YWR's we've sent through the years— many of them are very involved in the LWML. Please encourage these young women to continue as well! We are looking for new ways to connect with our district young women in place of the young women retreats of the past.

2016 District Convention, Jamestown, ND, June 24-26, 2016 with theme "Rejoice in God's Bounty!": Please be thinking about delegates from each unit soon. Please plan to come and bring a friend for this inspiring time together! More information will follow in the Newsletter...

Bylaws: Please make sure you replace your old district bylaws with the new ones and please do read them! They are on our web site. If you want a copy sent to your unit because you don't have access to the internet, please request it today from your zone president. Also, please update unit and zone bylaws periodically.

Website: Address: www.ndlwml.org The website has our newsletters, bylaws, officers list, mission grants, Bible studies, links to national LWML, LCMS, and much more....check it out! We are also on **Facebook** now too, thanks to Karen Loughheed, Nominations Chairman and our Store Manager.

Mite Goal: We praise God for the blessings which allow us to work at meeting our biennium's goal of \$76,000. The LWML is unique in that we do not solicit funds – we collect mites, (that is quarters, dimes, nickels, dollars, and even the \$5 dollar bill with purple on it!) personally and prayerfully. Please continue to make this mission a priority in your life so we may meet all of our mission goals!

The Time is Now: "The Time is Now" campaign challenges all of us to prayerfully and seriously consider the future of our LWML. Will it be a vibrant mission organization for our grandchildren? We must pledge ourselves now to make our LWML relevant and meaningful so that it may grow and continue to bring the gospel to the "lost and erring" in our community, nation, and world. President Paulette challenges everyone in our district to make this pledge: "I am committed to helping LWML make an impact on the next generation! I am dedicated to sharing my heart for Jesus Christ, caring for my sisters in my community and congregation, and helping them use their gifts to serve the Lord. I am glad to be a part of LWML, and this year I will invite the women in my life to consider learning more about LWML with me."

At our March BOD meeting, we were blessed to have then Pres. Kay Kreklau and Debbie Larson give a presentation on the "Time is Now." Out of the discussions came "Big Ideas" for our ND District to work on in the coming months:

- * Retreat-like event with another district.
- * Invite women personally – offer rides.
- * Invite Pastors in the ND District to participate in preparation of resource materials/events. (Invest in LWML)
- * Weekend retreat with women in your church.
- * Make events safe and fulfilling.
- * Build on convention/retreat speakers – use their Bible studies, ideas, etc.

JOY CARDS Memorials & Honorariums April—November 2015

THANK YOU to everyone who has sent in money for memorials or honorariums. To the right is a list of those received from April—November 2015.

ATTENTION TREASURERS: MITES

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



Belva Shilman Barbara Loraas Luther Paulson
Pat Hinley Marge Pankow(2) Bruce Sturgess
Ted Marhl(2) Karen Weaver Elsie Schroeder(2)
Phyllis Johnson Evelyn Dahl Kathy Winterfeldt
Grace Zastoupil Henry Remer Gloria Peterson
Virgil Woytassek Haring/Tschoiak Earl Lundeen(2)
Helene Erickson Shirley Taylor Shirley Schultz(2)
Hans Loraas Ruth Rust Marilyn McDaniel
Shelby Thayer(5) Eunice Frank Wilbert Buchli
Velma Martin(2) Larry Whetzel Howard Siefeldt
Nikki Paulson Mrs. Schramm



Loretta Shuff's 95th Birthday
Sharon Schlichtmann
Brelje Family

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COMMITTEE SEEKS NOMINATIONS

In less than a year, we will once again have the glorious opportunity to meet together at convention! June 24-26, 2016, our time in Jamestown will soon be upon us. Please prayerfully consider if you would be willing to allow God to work through you in one of the offices of the LWML ND District. If you do not feel God is asking you to do this, do you know of someone else that may need a “nudge”? Please pray about this and if you feel God’s “nudge” in that direction, please talk to the “someone” and encourage her to pray about it as well.

Each of us have been given talents that can be used to serve the Lord. Would you consider submitting your name for:

- ♦ **President** (currently serving: Paulette Huber)
- ♦ **Treasurer** (currently serving: Avonne Gessner)
- ♦ **Vice President of Human Care** (currently serving: Chantel Zeller)
- ♦ **Vice President of Mission Grants:** (currently serving: Nikki Tyrrell)
- ♦ **Vice President of Communication** (currently

serving: Delores Pavicic)

- ♦ **Nominating Committee** (currently serving: see below)

If you have any questions or have any names to submit, please contact any member of the nominating committee. God’s blessings to you all!

Your 2014-2016 Nominating Committee,
Karen Lougheed, Chairman, Fargo, Eastern Zone
(bklougheed@msn.com)

Carmen Larson, Jamestown, Central Zone
(kclarson@daktel.com)

Rita Kaeding, Devils Lake, NE Zone
(ritakaeding@hotmail.com)

Kathy Huettl, Max, NW Zone (wkjh@restel.net)

Lori Rattei, Wahpeton, SE Zone (lsr58@hotmail.com)

Pam Thompson, Bismarck, SW Zone
(dakotapam@gmail.com)

Reminder

Delegate Fund Reminder: Each unit is asked to send \$5.00/member to help send Delegates to the National Convention. Please send to: Myrna Baneck, Fin Sec; 1108—3rd Ave NE; Mandan, ND 58554
Watch for the **Quarterly Renewal Letter** which will be sent to each in mid February. Please complete and return as soon as possible.

2015 Nat'l Convention Photos



ND Delegates: (L-R) President Paulette Huber, Janet Baker, Colleen Daby, Sue Hartley, LuAnn Goter, Shirley Hall, Lori Draeger



President Paulette with the LWML ND Banner

2015 Nat'l Convention Photos



Three Generations! (L-R) Shirley Hall, Rebekah Janke, Myrna Baneck



ND Unsung Heroes: (L-R) Shirley Hall, Phyllis Lentz, Nikki Rahlf, JoAnn Bladow



JoAnn Bladow and Carol Debele



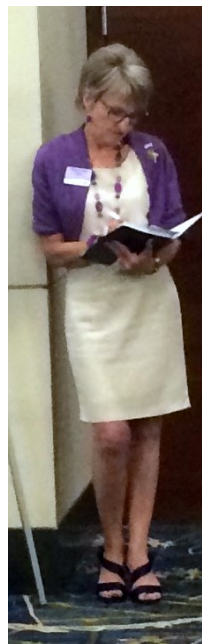
LWML National President Kay Kreklau at a signing session of the new devotional book, "Hope Notes", which was written by former National LWML Presidents



YWR Delegates with President Paulette: (L-R) Sam Werner, President Paulette, Elizabeth Moline



Heart to Heart Sisters getting ready to enter



President Paulette "pondering" before caucus meeting



(L-R) Carol Debele and her sister Emily Lafrentz from Sioux Falls working at a servant event.



(L-R) Myrna Baneck, Shirley Hall, "Maize-y", Rebekah Janke at the Mission Pledge Walk

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@ndlwml.org



We're on the Web!
ndlwml.org



DISTRICT DATES

- ◆ National LWML BOD meeting in St. Louis ~ February 2016
- ◆ Bod Meeting @ Concordia Lutheran, Jamestown ~ March 12, 2016
- ◆ LWML ND District Convention @ Jamestown ~ June 24-26, 2016
- ◆ Fall Retreat @ Carrington ~ September 16-17, 2016



The Communication Committee craves your local information, especially pictures. Share what projects you are working on or events you have hosted. An old idea to you might be just the new idea for which another unit is searching! Send it in to Darci Wolff, mdwolff@drtel.net.



The LWML North Dakota District is 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	\$21,000.00	\$14,000
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	\$5,000.00	—0—
Kenya Africa Rescue Centers	\$5,000.00	-0-	\$5,000
New Playground at Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	—0—
Martin Luther School Tuition Assistance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	—0—
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	\$49,000.00	\$27,000.00

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.