

# 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.

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016**

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

## *LWML 37th Biennial Convention Albuquerque, NM June 22-25, 2017*

The 2017 LWML National Convention will be held in Albuquerque, NM on June 22-25, 2017. The theme is "Jesus Christ Above All" based on Philippians 2:9. Zones will be choosing their delegate and alternate for the convention at their fall rallies in October. At the last Board meeting in August it was decided that the delegation from ND will fly to Albuquerque. Bus travel was felt to be too long a trip with overnights both down and back. Attending from ND will be 6 delegates, 2 YWRs, the junior pastoral counselor, district president, plus hopefully many more! National LWML will be celebrating 75 years of God's blessings (1942-2017). Special exhibits and a 75th anniversary "Diamond Dazzle" event Saturday night in Albuquerque will highlight our past and look toward our future. Look for more information in the Messenger, on the website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and in the Winter Quarterly.



## **CONVENTION BANNER DESIGN & CRAFTER NEEDED!**

We are looking for someone to submit a LWML ND District banner design for the National LWML convention to be held in Albuquerque in June 2017.

The design should be submitted to President Valerie by October 31 so it can be voted on at the November Board of Directors meeting. This banner will also be used at our District convention in Minot in 2018.

The design should be based on the theme "Lift High the Name of Jesus" from Philippians 2:9-10.

After a design is chosen, we will also need someone to craft the banner.

Any questions or for more details, contact President Valerie.



# LWML ND DISTRICT PRESIDENT



"A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer's wave goodbye." Isn't that nice? I don't remember where I found that little quote but I know that some of us don't like to wave

goodbye to summer. Waving goodbye to summer means no more carefree warm days. Fall is coming and we all know what comes after that, don't we? I have to say, however, that fall or autumn is my favorite season. I love the colors, the warm days and cool nights, the apple cider, the scents of pumpkin and cinnamon in the air. Thanksgiving is coming – a time to celebrate the harvest and the bounty that comes from our God.

The theme of the LWML ND District convention this last June was "Rejoicing in God's Bounty" based on Jeremiah 31:12b-14. It might have been a bit difficult to think about the harvest in June. We

were still thinking about getting stuff planted and making sure it will start growing. But as fall comes upon us, the harvest is now before us. "...they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord – the grain, the new wine and the oil..." "...I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow...and my people will be filled with my bounty, declares the Lord." God's bounty can be many things – food, clothes, shelter, family.

Some of you may know Rev. Bernie Seter. He is the pastor at Grafton and Drayton in northeast North Dakota. He also writes a blog called Northern Crossings Mercy. Last June one of his blogs was about our upcoming LWML District convention. Here is one paragraph: "All of God's bounty comes through Jesus. Our righteousness is given to us by Him. He is the bountiful giver of all good gifts. Those gifts are to be shared and given to others who do not yet know this Prince. The LWML is a great channel through whom those gifts are shared."

Are you sharing the gifts that you have received from our bountiful Lord Jesus? I pray that you are. I pray that we all are taking every opportunity to share those gifts with those who do not yet know Him. We are truly blessed in the United States with many physical gifts. But not all know about the gifts that come from our God – forgiveness, mercy, eternal life, free salvation that comes from belief in the one true Giver and the Gift Himself, Jesus.

In the just reward of labor,  
God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor,  
God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

LSB#894, vs.2

God's continued blessings as we receive and share God's bounty!

*President Valerie*

## Human Care VP.....SUE HARTLEY



### Christmas Giving

Maybe more families are doing this than we realize, but personally, it took my family many years to view Christmas in a less selfish way. A person gets so carried away with the commercialization of Christmas that the true meaning – our

Savior's birth – is lost. So, several years ago my family made the decision to use the money we would have spent on gifts towards a mission project. The first year we gave money toward my sister's mission trip to Uganda where they helped to build a school for orphan children. Another

year we donated toward Project 24. And yet another year, our gift went to Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads. But I think the best idea would be to overflow your local LWML unit's Mite Box! There are so many worthwhile missions, both local and worldwide, that would be extremely grateful for a Christmas donation. You know what? We didn't miss receiving those gifts either. In fact, it can prompt you to give small, thoughtful gifts to those you love throughout the rest of the year. Take the time to investigate a need in your community or give to a LWML mission project this Christmas – you'll be glad you did!

Blessings, Sue Hartley

blessingspreserved@yahoo.com

## *Jr. Counselor.....REV. JACOB SWENSON*



God's grace and peace to you in Christ!

My name is Pastor Jacob Swenson and I am your new junior pastoral counselor. Even though I've been here in our great district for a little over two years, there are many of my sisters in Christ that I haven't had the joy to meet yet, so I was asked to write a short little introduction. You'll have to pardon my introducing myself.

My full name is Jacob Daniel Swenson. I am the 4th out of 5 sons born to Jack and Sue Swenson of Roseville, MN. Roseville is a suburb of St. Paul and Minneapolis. I was born and raised around the Twin Cities as a member of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Roseville. I attended their parochial school from preschool through 8th grade, and then moved to the LCMS high school across the street, Concordia Academy. After graduating high school, I attended Concordia University, St. Paul. Most of my time was spent in the music department, where I studied saxophone and classical guitar. I also was in the pre-seminary program, studying theology and Biblical languages alongside my other classes. I received my bachelor's degree in December, 2009.

In order to save time, I moved on to the seminary for the spring quarter of 2010 at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. I've almost always wanted to be a pastor, so I was not deterred when I was the only student on campus that quarter who was legally unable to drink. While I was at seminary I was assigned to St. John Lutheran Church in Monroeville, IN, for my field work. During this time, I met my wife, Faith, who was studying to be a deaconess. We were married in 2013, on my birthday, during my vicarage year in San Francisco. I received my call to serve St. John and Trinity Lutheran Churches in the spring of 2014, and I've been here since.

In my free time I play my guitar and do chores around the house. I enjoy technology and grew up tinkering on computers and other electronics. You may even find me playing videogames...from time to time. It is a joy and honor to be serving as your new counselor. I am hard at work on the Bible study for our fall rallies. I'll see you there.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jacob Swenson

## *Mission Grant VP BONNIE KRENZ*



At the August Board of Director meeting these grants were approved to be paid when mite dollars are available. The first \$7000 of the Full-time Church Work Scholarship, \$7000 for Orphan Grain Train, and \$5000 for Christ the Way Radio Ministry. Please remember each of this mite projects in your prayer.

Now is the time to starting planning for grant proposals for the 2018-2020. I know that seems a long ways off but the time will pass quickly. The proposals will need to be submitted by September 2017. The grant proposal forms can be found on the North Dakota LWML website.





## Sr. Counselor...ADAM MOLINE



Dear Friends,

Soon you will cast your ballot, won't you? You've heard the parties put forward their beliefs, much like churches do. Which church are you a part of? The Church of Hillary or the Church of Trump?

Here's what I mean: The campaigning has been going on for over a year now. Each campaign has been proclaiming to you their doctrine.

The Church of Hillary tells you that she is the only logical choice, that she ALONE can save our country from the various challenges and struggles present in our modern world. It's Hillary for America! After all, she has the plan in place to restore our country, to maintain its financial wellbeing, and to help those who need help. Plus her church doctrine is clear – Trump is a buffoon.

The church of Trump says he is the only logical choice, that he ALONE can make America great again, keeping it strong in the face of the various challenges and struggles present in our modern world. He has the plan to restore our country, to maintain its financial wellbeing, and to build a wall to keep others out. His church doctrine is clear – Hillary is a buffoon.

More this year than ever before, you also have the third church, those who are political but not partisan – they feel they can't really vote for either because they think neither candidate is any good, neither will keep America safe or help it grow. Their main belief is that BOTH Trump and Hillary are buffoons.

We have friends and family who fall into one camp or another. And they are passionate, aren't they? If you disagree with their opinion, they'll hardly talk to you again until after the inauguration.

So what'll you do? In whom do you trust? To which Church do you belong?

Well, the answer is you are a Christian, a member of the Lutheran Church. That's your identity. As a Lutheran, you know that your fear, love and trust is to be in God above all things. You trust in the words of the psalms that say, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation," (Psalm 146) and "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." (Psalm 118) Your trust is in the God who baptized you, and marked you with His salvation in Jesus name, and who promises you a kingdom without end where He rules upon the eternal throne of David.

As a Lutheran, you also trust the words of the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment, so you fear and love God so that you honor all authorities. You vote your conscience, voting for the candidate you think will do the best job in keeping you safe in this sinful world, while upholding your Christian values most carefully. You'll honor them, serve and obey them, (unless they blatantly oppose God in a matter) and you'll love and cherish them.

Whoever wins, as a Lutheran you'll pray for your leaders and rulers, because they need your prayers in Christ's name. You won't bad mouth them, you won't complain when they make mistakes, because being a temporal ruler is difficult, and after all, they are forgiven by Christ also. You'll speak up for the values you hold dear in a kind and caring manner, not cursing or swearing and thus breaking the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment, or hurting the reputation of the one elected, breaking the 8<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Most importantly, you, as a Lutheran, will look to Christ as the salvation of your soul. You realize the sinful state of this world. You know that no politician will ever be perfect. You put your trust in the one who is perfect instead, who displayed His love for you by suffering, bleeding, dying and rising again for you and for your forgiveness. Jesus is the one who suffered even for the sins of all politicians, judges, rulers, police and firefighters and more. He even suffered and died for your sins of failing to pray for, support, honor and cherish your political leaders. He forgives you for trusting in worldly leaders more than in Him. His blood covers it all. In Christ alone do we trust. He alone is the one who makes the World new by His cross and empty tomb. (Rev 21:5)

We still can and should partake of the process of the world, but we do so looking for the world that is to come, knowing that's where our eternal citizenship lies. Kingdoms may rise and wane, political parties spout and sputter, but the "Word of the Lord remains forever."

God's Blessings, Pastor Moline, Sr. Counselor





Has your unit or zone done something fun lately? Have you hosted a hands on activity? Do you have a regularly scheduled get-together, other than your normal LWML meeting? We are looking for your stories....and especially your pictures!! There are many women out there who would love to glean some of your brilliant ideas, resources, etc! Send any information that could be included in "The Messenger" to [editor@ndlwml.org](mailto:editor@ndlwml.org).

*The deadline to submit information for the next newsletter is December 1, 2016.*

### LWML ND DISTRICT PRAYER CHAIN

President Valerie sent out these prayer requests she received via email, for September:

† Prayers for good attendance at the District "[Re]Think Mercy Conference at Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch.

† Prayers for Jeff Larson, son-in-law of Jim Rahlf, diagnosed with cancer.

† Prayers of thanksgiving for new baby boy, Coyer Dan, grandbaby #8 for Connie Smalarz. This is the first child her son Josh has been sober for. Prayers for his continued sobriety. Also, Josh's 4 children have not been baptized as Josh's wife was raised in a church that baptizes as adults. Prayers that God will move them to find a church locally and have the children baptized.

If you would like to be on the District prayer chain email list, email President Valerie at [president@ndlwml.org](mailto:president@ndlwml.org) and ask her to add your email to the list.



## Parliamentarian BONNIE KRENZ



Usually a majority is needed for a motion to pass. How many are a majority? Is it 51% or is it 50% plus 1? Is there a difference in those numbers? Yes there is a difference. On the District Board were there are 17 voting members 51% is 9 and 50% plus 1 would also be 9. However when we look at the DistrictCon-

vention where there could be 124 or more voting delegates 51% would be 64 while 50% plus 1 would only be 63 votes. The correct answer for what is the majority needed to pass a motion it is 50% plus 1. This why in case of a tie, when the President casts her one vote a majority is established.



### ATTENTION TREASURERS: MITES

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



### 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



**WANTED: Young Women Representatives  
for LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM**

The LWML ND District would like to wend two Young Woman Representatives from our district to the LWML convention in Albuquerque, NM. Please encourage young women in your congregations to fill out the application. It can be found online at [www.ndlwml.org/resources/](http://www.ndlwml.org/resources/) and then click on the link [Application for Young Woman Representative](#). The completed application should be returned to VP of Servant Resources, LaurieAnn Totenhagen at the address listed on the application. Any questions should be directed to LaurieAnn by emailing her at [servantresources@ndlwml.org](mailto:servantresources@ndlwml.org) or call her at 701-678-2057. The completed applications need to be in by October 31, 2016, so the Board of Directors can vote on them at the November Board meeting. The chosen young women will have all of their expenses paid by the ND District. Consider printing off applications and giving them to all of the young women in your congregation!

**STAY CONNECTED!** Ever feel out of the loop? Check out the following links (listed in *italic purple*) on the internet.

North Dakota Lutheran Women's Missionary League <http://www.ndlwml.org/>

This site will keep you in tune with the mission-minded, mite-gathering, enthusiastic-for-Christ women of the ND District LWML.

ND District LCMS Home page [www.nodaklcms.org](http://www.nodaklcms.org).

This site includes photos from things around the LCMS District as well as the District calendar

Northern Crossings <http://www.northerncrossingsmercy.org/>

Check out "Northern Crossing" A Lutheran Mercy Blog from North Dakota and Northern Minnesota to learn about great things happening in the ND and MNN Districts and beyond!

ND District Youth Ministry <http://www.ndyouthonfire.org>

This will keep you abreast of what is happening with our youth on the District level.

LCMS Home Page <http://www.lcms.org>

You can stay up to date with everything at the synodical level including a search engine to help you locate church workers across the synod.

Lutheran Hour Ministries <http://www.lhm.org>

Go here for daily devotions, Men's Network materials, booklets for kids and more!



## JOY CARDS

### Memorials & Honorariums April—August 2016



Lavern Malinski  
Sharon Schlichtmann  
Rev. Ed & Marian Rutter—70th Anniversary  
Lori Rattei—Retirement



Julie Kunkel  
Deloris Roth  
Bernice Wipperling

Dorothy Thielman  
Kenneth Marohl  
Darrel Moeller (2)  
Marie Draeger  
Janet Pistorius  
Alma Isaak  
Bev Hamre  
Verla Schmidt  
Bev Hanare  
Darlene Visto  
Bob Kostelnak  
Gloria Simdom  
Adeline Brownlee  
Gladys Sommerfeld

Mark Rachow  
Kenneth Kube  
Bill Clark  
Loretta McKenzie  
Ada Weber  
Alton Hanson  
Bernice Kempel  
Mary Ellen Swedson  
Donna Elsner  
Loretta Shuff  
Roger Grau  
Alice Kvam  
Lawrence Matuska  
Esther Ottmar

## 2016-2018 District Officers & Zone Presidents

### **President**

Valerie Biberdorf ♦ 701-652-2008  
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[pres@ndlwm.org](mailto:pres@ndlwm.org)

### **VP Mission Grants**

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### **VP Christian Life**

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### **VP Human Care**

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### **VP Servant Resources**

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### **VP Communication**

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### **Treasurer**

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*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

- ◆ LWML Board of Directors @ Carrington—Nov 4-5, 2016
- ◆ LWML Convention @ Albuquerque, NM ~ June 22-25, 2017
- ◆ LWML ND District Convention @ Minot ~ June 22-24, 2018



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](http://www.facebook.com/ND.LWML))

## LWML ND District Mission Grants 2016-2018 Biennium

MISSION GRANT	AMOUNT BUDGETED	AMOUNT PAID	BALANCE
ND District Full-Time Church Worker Scholarships	\$35,000.00	-0-	<b>\$35,000.00</b>
Orphan Grain Train—ND Branch	\$7,500.00	-0-	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
Wahpeton LCMS U	\$1,500.00	-0-	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
Christ the Way Radio Ministry	\$5,000.00	-0-	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Providing Spiritual & Emotional Care for Pastors	\$8,000.00	-0-	<b>\$8,000.00</b>
Concordia Fort Wayne Food Coop	\$5,000.00	-0-	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Christ's Care for Children: Kenya	\$4,320.00	-0-	<b>\$4,320.00</b>
Grace Lutheran School Scholarship Fund	\$5,000.00	-0-	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch (partial funding)	\$4,680.00	-0-	<b>\$4,680.00</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$76,000.00</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>\$76,000.00</b>

*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.*