Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota District

Equip Encourage Share Jesus



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

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2017

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

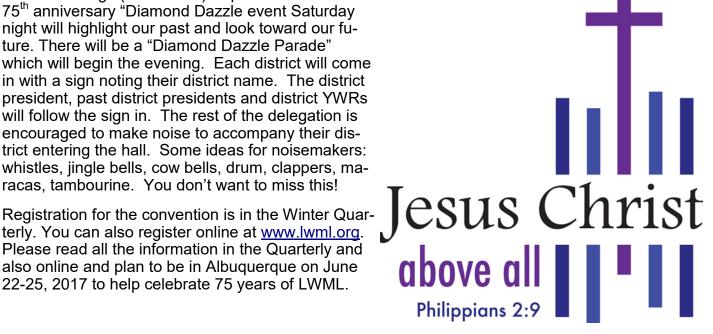
LWML 37th Biennial Convention Albuquerque, NM June 22-25, 2017

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. The following zone delegates will be representing you at the convention: Central – Mary Harvala, Carrington; Eastern – Corrine Reber, West Fargo; Northeast - Donna Kroeplin, Devils Lake; Northwest - Laurie Rubbert, Upham; Southeast - Joan Beyer, Wahpeton; Southwest - Judy Luebke, Bismarck. We are excited to be able to send 3 Young Woman Representatives to this convention: Michaelle Peterson, Ellendale; Alissa Arndt, Fargo; and Kim Kuhlmann of Bismarck. Also attending will be our junior pastoral counselor Rev. Jacob Swenson, Hillsboro, along with District President Valerie Biberdorf. Please pray for these people as they attend the convention and represent North Dakota.

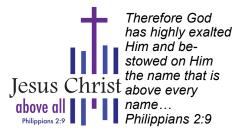
I also ask you to pray for yourself – pray that you will consider attending the convention in Albuquerque this summer. If you have attended a national convention before, then you know how amazing, fun and inspirational they are. Plan to go again! If you haven't attended a national convention, now

is the time! LWML will be celebrating 75 years of God's blessings (1942-2017). Special exhibits and a 75th anniversary "Diamond Dazzle event Saturday night will highlight our past and look toward our future. There will be a "Diamond Dazzle Parade" which will begin the evening. Each district will come in with a sign noting their district name. The district president, past district presidents and district YWRs will follow the sign in. The rest of the delegation is encouraged to make noise to accompany their district entering the hall. Some ideas for noisemakers: whistles, jingle bells, cow bells, drum, clappers, ma-

also online and plan to be in Albuquerque on June 22-25, 2017 to help celebrate 75 years of LWML.



LWML ND DISTRICT PRESIDENT



Are you thinking of heading to Albuquerque on June 22-25, 2017? If you aren't, you should be! In addition to the always inspiring Mites in Action speakers, the Bible studies, singing, choosing new Mission Grant recipients, servant events, etc., etc., this convention year will include the 75th anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League celebration.

On Saturday evening, there will be the Diamond Dazzle celebration. Each district will walk in represented

by their District President, past District Presidents, Young Women Representatives for this convention and district pastoral counselor. The rest of the delegation is invited to make as much noise as possible with some type of noisemaker. Some districts have talked about using something that represents their districts. What should North Dakota use? If you have an idea, let me know. Otherwise I am good with using bells, whistles, or any kind of noise maker that you can bring in your luggage! Also this is a night to wear your "bling". You can also dress up like any of the decades of the past 75 years that the LWML has been in existence. There are many more surprises planned for that night. This will be a fun time to celebrate the many abundant blessings that God has given to and through the LWML for 75 years. So you have to be there!

Just think of all the people that have been touched by the love of Jesus through Mission Grants, both here in the United States and around the world, during the past 75 years. Mind boggling! For it is truly God's LWML – not ours— at the National, District, Zone or Unit levels. We do need to always remember to lift high the name of Jesus and make Him above all in everything we say and do.

See you in Albuquerque!

President Valerie



Human Care VP.....SUE HARTLEY



I am so EXCITED about LWML's National Convention that is only a few short months away – and will be a GRAND celebration of 75 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League!

Even if you are unable to attend the convention you can still participate by contributing to the Gifts From the Heart that will be gathered at the conven-

tion, or even giving a monetary gift to someone you know who will be walking in the Mission in Motion Pledge Walk during the convention. To make it a fun challenge – I am wondering if we as a district could gather 75 Gifts From the Heart kits that could be shipped to the convention, or can we personally pledge \$75 to one of the delegates or YWRs that may be participating in the Mission in Motion Walk! (The winter quarterly, and also the national LWML website breaks down the items in each of the kits that are being gathered.)

Let's also plan for a GRAND celebration at our District LWML Convention next year in Minot! Watch for information in the coming months regarding Gifts From the Heart that will be gathered during that convention and other fun ideas on how we can raise mites prior to the convention to make it our MITEST convention ever!!!

Blessings, Sue Hartley
blessingspreserved@yahoo.com

ATTENTION TREASURERS:

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MITES

should be sent to: LWML ND Financial Sec. Audrey O'Brien PO Box 3 Oakes, ND 58474

Albuquerque's nickname is The Duke City.

It was named in honor of Don Fransisco Fernández de la Cueva, the Duke of Alburquerque (note the difference in spelling) who served as the viceroy of New Spain from August 1653 to September 1660.

Mission Grant VP ~ BONNIE KRENZ

At the November Board of Director meeting these grants were approved to be paid when mite dollars are available. The second \$7000 of the Full-time Church Work Scholarship, \$4500 for Orphan Grain Train, and \$2500 for Christ the Way Radio Ministry and \$1500 to Wahpeton LCMS U. Praise God for providing the mite to pay all these mission projects.

At the March Board of Directors meeting the following grant were approved to be paid when mite dollars are available.

\$7,000 to MG 101 | North Dakota Church Worker Scholarship Third Payment

\$3,000 to MG 102 | Orphan Grain Train-ND Branch final payment

\$2,500 to MG 105 | Christ the Way Radio Ministry final payment

\$4,000 to MG 106 | Providing Spiritual and Emotional Support for Pastors

Providing Spiritual and Emotional Care for our Pastors is a program administered through the North Dakota District LCMS to assist pastors and their families who are in need of specific spiritual and emotional care. Two programs used by the LCMS for offering this care for pastors are "Doxology" and "Shepherd's Canyon." Both of these programs are committed to the emotional and spiritual healing of clergy and other church workers. The funds from this grant will be used to help pastors in need of spiritual and emotional care attend one of these recommended programs.

\$5,000 to MG 107 | Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op The Food and Clothing Co-op on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, plays a key role in helping students reduce the financial burden of seminarians and their families by providing access to food and clothing. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase perishable items for the food bank (e.g., eggs, cheese, milk, fruit juice, ground beef, fresh fruits and vegetables, etc.) as well as additional grocery and paper products. Please remember each of this mite projects in your prayer.

Thank you to Audrey O'Brien for may the February mite calendar. Thank you to Nikki Rahlf for creating the May Mite Calendar. The goal of the calendar is to bring focus to one of the mission grant project and if you follow it, to provide extra mite offerings. The focus of this calendar is the **Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op**.

At this time our mite offerings are behind where offerings were for the 2014-2016 biennium. At the convention in Jamestown we voted to support the mission grant recipients, so with God's blessings and our giving we will be able to fund all the projects. Please pray for the continuing support of the projects through our mite offerings. 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 and that is only six months away. The grant proposal forms can be found on the North Dakota LWML website. If you need help with the forms please contact me and I will help you.

The Sandias are the range of mountains visible to the east of Albuquerque.

"Sandía" is Spanish for watermelon and is believed to refer to the bright pink color of the mountains at sunset. However, some historians note that in 1540, Spaniards encountered a pueblo and named it Sandia because they thought the squash growing there were watermelons. The name eventually encompassed the mountains east of the pueblo as well.

Airport or Sunport?

The airport's official name is the Albuquerque International Sunport. Albuquerque boasts 310 days of sunshine per year with an average high temperature in late June of 88 degrees with only 23% average relative humidity and less than .75 inches of rain for the entire month of June. Plan for sunny days, cooler nights, and layers of clothing for air conditioned rooms in the convention center.

Christian Life VP ~ MARY HARVALA

Retreat! Retreat! Retreat!

The annual ND LWML Fall Retreat is on the schedule for Sept. 15—17, 2017 at the Chieftain Conference Center in Carrington. The theme is "Bearing Their Burden." Our presenter will be

Rev. Tom Eckstein, Jamestown and the topic will be human sexuality. The servant event will be packing Mercy Meals and the ingathering will be financial donations to Mercy Meals. The Saturday banquet and variety ("no talent" talent) show are back in the schedule and the Friday evening gathering is being revamped. Sunday will conclude, as always, with a worship service.



Registration brochures with costs and a more complete schedule and posters are in the works. We encourage you to **get your hotel reserva- tions made early** as there is a wedding in town that same weekend and they will fill up fast!



"You're looking at the 'Martha Stewart' of the Church...Her latest thing is recycling newspapers into papier—mâché church pews."

Albuquerque—Another Mile High City?

The elevation of the city ranges from 4,900 feet above sea level near the Rio Grande Valley to over 6,700 feet near the foothill area of the Sandias. At the airport, the elevation is 5,352 feet above sea level.

Get your kicks on Route 66

The first travelers on Route 66 appeared in Albuquerque in 1926. It wasn't long before dozens of motels, restaurants, and gift shops sprouted along the roadside to serve them.

Central Avenue today reflects a step back in time with historic marquees from motels and restaurants on display.



International Balloon Fiesta

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is one of the city's biggest attractions. Each year during the first week of October, hundreds of hot air balloons take flight. While you can't see the world's largest Balloon Fiesta during the LWML Convention in June, it is possible to reserve a ride in a hot air balloon through the pre- and post-convention tours. Check out all the tour information at www.lwml.org/2017-convention.

May 2017

catt N	21 blessi today Natio	Мо	lem son		
28 Pray for the cattle famers who feed the world \$2.5 National Hamburger	21 Send a memo of blessing to someone today \$.10 National Memo Day	14 Thank God for Mother's today \$.50	Share a glass of lemonade with someone today \$.15		Sunday
29 Pray for the families of our soldiers who gave their lives for our country \$.50 Memorial Day	22 Pray for our Neighbors in Canada \$.25	15Give thanks for your wardrobe. 5.10 for each hat you own. Straw Hat Day	8 Pray for LWML Sisters in Beach and Willow Creek \$.20	Surprise someone with a May Basket \$.15	Monday
30 Pray for LWML Sisters in Binford and Wahpeton 5.20	23 Pray for our Missionaries around the world \$.20	16 Make a card and send to a friend today reminding them of God's and your love. \$.15	Give thanks for technology. 5.25 for each computer in your home	2 Thank God for your eyes to see his creation Give \$.15 if you wear glasses or contacts.	Tuesday
Pray for Mission Grant 107 - Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op \$.25	24 Pray for Mission Grant 107 - Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op \$.25	T Pray for Mission Grant 107 - Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op \$.25	Pray for Mission Grant 107 - Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op \$.25	3 Pray for Mission Grant 107 - Concordia Fort Wayne Food Co-op \$.25	Wednesday
Cheerfulness s They are rich v	25 Pray for your Pastor and all Pastors for bringing us God's Word \$.25 Ascension Day	18 Pray for LWML Sisters in Beulah and West Fargo \$.20	Thank God for each meal & snack you enjoy today! \$.25 Eat What You Want Day	If you are enjoying rain today give \$.10 if not \$.15	Thursday
Cheerfulness smoothes the road of life. Anonymous They are rich who have friends. Scandinavian Proverb	26 Read Romans 1:16 \$.15	19 School is soon out - Pray for all teachers and students \$.25	Pray for our North Dakota District LWML President - Valerie Biberdorf \$.15	Fray for our Mexico neighbors \$.20 Cinco de Mayo	Friday
oad of life. Anonymous nds. navian Proverb	Hug someone today and tell them Jesus loves them.	20 Give thanks for our Military- those serving and have served \$.50 Armed Forces Day	13 Do you have tulips blooming? Thank God \$.15	6 Thank a nurse today \$.25	Saturday



North Dakota District

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



Mite Explanation and History

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the mite box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grands and implement the LWML program. Mite Boxes, available from the district, zone or LWML office, are distributed to every woman in a society, and often to each member of the congregation. Local groups submit mite box offerings to the appointed district officer.

The Widow's Mite

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41-43).

Mite Boxes — How They Began

Perhaps inspired by the various "cent" or "mite" societies of the early 1800s, the Woman's Mission to Woman (Baptist) urged members in its first circular letter in 1871 to use their new mite box to raise funds. The entire family was encouraged to contribute. The garnet-colored paper box had an opening on the top and the words, "Woman's Mission to Woman," in gold letters on the side.

LWML Mite Boxes

Over the years, many Lutheran Ladies Aid societies used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries. Under the original 1928 Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor organizational plan, each woman in every congregation would receive a Mite Box if she participated in the Ladies Aid. Receipts from the 92 Ladies Aid societies totaled \$6651.31 in 1930.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, formally recognized by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1942, required by the newly adopted constitution and bylaws, that 25% of all missionary contributions be given to the national organization, shared from the districts.

At the 1953 convention, delegates reaffirmed the policy of raising funds only through

voluntary offerings. Instead of "mite boxes" some societies called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thank-offering boxes." The first Mite Box design had space for districts to imprint local messages. In publications and speeches, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:

- Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day
- Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted
- Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day
 Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the
 hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.



Times and Mite Boxes Change

Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Districts still retain 75% of mite offerings for the work of the LWML at that level. National mites fund over \$1 million in mission grants.

LWML ND DISTRICT PRAYER CHAIN

President Valerie sent out these prayer requests she received via email, for Jan-March 2017:

- † for Pastor Eckstein from Jamestown, suffering from an infection in his leg.
- † for Jennifer Wohletz, wife of LCMS Pastor Roger Wohletz of Denver, having surgery for breast cancer.
- † for Staci Hoffman, Goddaughter of Mary Ann Anderson, undergoing treatment for cancerous melanoma tumor in her right hip.
- † for all those involved in the accident that killed 2 NDSU students, and injured another. One of the deceased and the survivor are both from Oakes.
- † for the family of Christ Wolff, Forbes, who passed away.
- † for Diane Linke, diagnosed with breast cancer.
- † for Arlene Mostad, diagnosed with cancerous melanoma on her face.
- † for Marlene Brandenburg, past ND District LWML President, undergoing treatment for leukemia.
- † for Sheila, Sue Corwin's daughter, being treated for a blood clot in her leg.

If you would like to be on the

District prayer chain email list, email President Valerie at president@ndlwml.org and ask her to add your email to the list.





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We're on the Web! ndlwml.org



- ♦LWML Convention @ Albuquerque, NM ~ June 22-25, 2017
- ♦LWML ND District BOD Meeting @ Carrington ~ Nov 4, 2017
- ♦ LWML ND District Convention @ Minot ~ June 22-24, 2018



The LWML North Dakota District is now on Face-book! 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 2016-2018 Biennium

MISSION GRANT	AMOUNT BUDGETED	AMOUNT PAID	BALANCE
ND District Full-Time Church Worker Scholarships	\$35,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$21,000.00
Orphan Grain Train—ND Branch	\$7,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,000.00
Wahpeton LCMS U	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	-0-
Christ the Way Radio Ministry	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Providing Spiritual & Emotional Care for Pastors	\$8,000.00	-0-	\$8,000.00
Concordia Fort Wayne Food Coop	\$5,000.00	-0-	\$5,000.00
Christ's Care for Children: Kenya	\$4,320.00	-0-	\$4,320.00
Grace Lutheran School Scholarship Fund	\$5,000.00	-0-	\$5,000.00
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch (partial funding)	\$4,680.00	-0-	\$4,680.00
TOTALS	\$76,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$53,500.00