

The Messenger

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

The Messenger • North Dakota LWML District • Fall 2020 Issue

LWML NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT RETREAT by Valerie Biberdorf

In this “different” covid year, it seems only right that the LWML North Dakota District Retreat was also a bit different this year. The retreat is normally planned by the Christian Life committee headed by the VP of Christian Life who right now is Betty Marschner. The committee, who had begun to plan the retreat, decided to postpone the retreat until next year.

However the Board of Directors wanted to go ahead with a shortened version including some things that would have been done at the district convention which, of course, had been canceled because of covid. So the retreat was planned as a one day affair which was held on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at Concordia Lutheran, in Jamestown. The theme was **“The Lord is My Rock, My Fortress, and My Deliverer”** based on 2 Samuel 22:2.

So, on Saturday, the 19th of September, 35 women gathered to do Bible study and a servant event. Newly elected junior counselor, Pastor Chris Waldvogel, led the opening devotion and then went into his Bible study. Following that, Valerie Biberdorf, introduced the YWRs from this past Mobile convention, Brianna Wegner and Heather Gisi. They shared a power point about their experience at the convention last June 2019. Audrey O’Brien, Ali Arndt, and Valerie presented a skit inviting everyone to the upcoming LWML convention in Lexington, Kentucky June 24-27, 2021. Following lunch a presentation of a quilt was made by Audrey O’Brien and Paulette Huber from the BOD to Valerie in thanksgiving for her 4 years as District President from 2016-2020.

Paulette Huber led the group in singing. The afternoon was spent putting together Mercy Meals, under the guidance of Sue Corwin, which will be shipped overseas by Orphan Grain Train. The ladies put together 5,124 meals. Praise God!



The Mercy Meal assembly line September 19, 2020 at Concordia, Jamestown ND.



4 Generations of LWML Women. Pictured are (from left) Sharon Smelser, Sue Lanum, Ali Arndt, Estelle Arndt & Julia Arndt.



“Great is the Lord.” President’s Message by LaurieAnn Totenhagen



“Great is the Lord” was the theme of our LWML Convention that was to be held in June, but like a majority of everything else it was cancelled. Through the mail we were able to conduct our business of voting for officers and our missions for the next biennium.

My term began after the voting deadline in mid-August, but since our daughter was getting married a few weeks later Val agreed to hold down the fort for me. She has been a blessing to me during this time of transition and I pray for your patience while I catch my breath and try to dive in as President.

Let me introduce myself. I am married to David and we have 3 children. We farm in SE ND raising soybeans and corn. I am a farm wife who helps with harvest by driving grain cart and with spring planting. Our youngest, Nicholas, is a Junior at Concordia, Nebraska where he is majoring in History within the pre-seminary program. He will attend seminary in Fort Wayne following graduation. Our middle child, Clayton, farms with us. He is a fourth generation farmer. Our oldest, Megan, just got married September 12. She has an Ag Econ degree with a minor in crop and weed sciences. She lives in Rake, IA and works with her husband and family in their seed and chemical business as well as farming.

“Be Still and Know That I Am God” has been running through my head these last couple of weeks. Two weeks before the wedding the couple both tested positive for COVID. Thankfully both had mild symptoms and would be cleared the day before the wedding. We decided to go to Plan B and cancel the reception and have only immediate family at the wedding. My daughter only cared about the ceremony so that worked out well. As she stated “It is not a coincidence that the Rite of Holy Matrimony and the entire wedding service were the only portion of our wedding day that went exactly the way it was prepared to be.” Plan B worked out perfectly!

September was also chosen as a month to remember “who inspired you in your walk with the Lord” and a time to reflect on your mentor or how we can be a mentor to someone else. My first mentor is my mother-in-law. When my husband and I got married he said, “You know you are going to have to go to Ladies Aid.” I knew I didn’t have a choice. She encouraged me to attend my first District Convention in 2002 with a couple of ladies from another congregation. They were a blessing to me as I would not have attended on my own. We attended the next one together and I don’t think I have missed a District Convention since. I was hooked! My daughter has attended 3 conventions with me and I hope more is to come.



I have only attended two National Conventions mostly due to my fear of flying. I went to Sioux Falls and Des Moines. Des Moines has it’s own unique story that we don’t have room for. When I was elected to my first District Office as Zone President I was never alone and always encouraged. Thank you Sharon Kroepflin, Carol Kosel, and Audrey O’Brien for being my support at my first meeting. At every meeting, rally, or convention since I am never alone. I could go on and on listing wonderful ladies who have mentored me and guided me since. We are all here to support each in our mission to spread the Gospel wherever and whenever He has need of us.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

“Be Still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress” (Psalm 46:10-11).

God’s blessings

President LaurieAnn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness by Pastor Waldvogel, Jr. Counselor

Sometimes our lives get really dark. Yes, we deal with things happening “out there in the world,” but we also accept and approve our own sins, assenting to sin’s power over us. When this happens, we want to keep others in the dark. But fear of exposure can lead us to withdraw from other Christians, the Church, the means of grace and from God himself. In John Chapter 3, Jesus addresses this problem, saying, **“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed” (John 3:20).**



But you cannot keep God in the dark. God fully knows all things about you, even the dark depravity of those sins you not only tolerate but also indulge. Jesus invites you to hand these (and all) sins over to Him. There is no sin, outside of unbelief, that the power of the cross and the power of the empty tomb cannot absolve for those who repent.

Don't think you can do it? Another pastor once noted: “It is important to consider how the gospel affects and transforms the act of repentance. In ‘man-made religion,’ the purpose of repentance is to keep God happy so he will continue to bless you and answer your prayers. This means that ‘religious repentance’ is a) selfish, b) self-righteous, and c) bitter all the way to the bottom. But in the gospel, the purpose of God-given repentance is to know and live in the light of the salvation we already have with God in Jesus Christ.”

When we repent, we don't manufacture sorrow and regret so that we deserve to be forgiven. We don't earn God's favor by our misery. No, we come to The Light, Jesus Christ, and hand our misery over to Him. After all, Jesus suffered miserably for our sin and for our salvation. He emptied himself of His divine power. He experienced agony. He spilled human blood. He died a real death. Sin has a steep price. It cost Jesus His life. Sin meant spiritual death for Jesus: isolation, rejection and damnation on the cross. But sin and death did not keep Jesus in their dark embrace. Our Lord rose in victory and power, bringing life and immortality to light.

This is good news for you! Repent. Receive the forgiveness earned by Christ, who himself says: **“But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God” (John 3:21).** **Later in John's Gospel, Jesus will proclaim Himself as the light of the world (John 9:5).**

Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote classic books such as *Treasure Island*, spent his childhood in 19th century Scotland. As a boy, the author's imagination was kindled by the work of lamplighters who, armed with a ladder and a torch, transformed the dark streets during the night. One evening, as young Robert stood watching with fascination, his parents (or a nanny, depending on the version you hear) asked him, “Robert, what in the world are you looking at out there?” With sheer awe and joy, he exclaimed, “Look at that man! He's punching holes in the darkness!”

Such is your joy and confidence in Christ! Jesus did not just punch holes in the darkness, he breaks the darkness. He obliterates the darkness.

“Let us praise the Word incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose victorious that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one,” (LSB 849, stanza 3).

Thank You!

I am including a picture taken at the retreat in Jamestown as I was presented with a beautiful, meaningful quilt. Thank you to all of you for the words from each of you in the hearts sewn into the quilt. I will treasure it always!

You were all a blessing to me as we served our Lord together. It makes me sad that we were not able to share a convention together this year. But our comfort is that our Lord is still in control and is always with us!

God's continued blessings to all of you!

Valerie



Pictured are Past President Valerie Biberdorf, Audrey O'Brien, and Past President Paulette Huber

Mission Grants for the 2020–2022 Biennium by Sue Corwin

The mission grants for 2018-2020 were all funded. Praise the Lord for enabling North Dakota LWML'ers to give their mighty mites in support of these projects!

Since the 2020 convention was cancelled, voting for mission grants was done by mail in ballots and the delegates approved the mission grant budget of \$77,000 with the mission projects listed below. Please remember them in your prayers. The Mission Grant committee will provide a mite calendar in each *Messenger* over the next biennium for you to use as you wish. As projects are paid the chart on the webpage will be updated. Visit the web page often at www.ndlwml.org.

| LWML ND DISTRICT MISSION GRANT 2020–2022 BIENNIUM | TOTAL | PAID | BALANCE |
|--|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| 1. ND Full-Time Church Worker Scholarship (by Standing Rule, this Grant is in first place) | \$35,000 | 0 | \$35,000 |
| 2. Orphan Grain Train, Jamestown, ND | \$7,500 | 0 | \$7,500 |
| 3. Mercy Meals of North Dakota | \$5,000 | 0 | \$5,000 |
| 4. Youth Ministry in the ND District | \$5,000 | 0 | \$5,000 |
| 5. Log Bunk Beds for Hawkeye Loft at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, St. John, ND | \$5,000 | 0 | \$5,000 |
| 6. Spiritual Care for Pastors, LCMS ND District | \$8,000 | 0 | \$8,000 |
| 7. Fort Wayne Food Bank, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN | \$2,500 | 0 | \$2,500 |
| 8. Christ the Way Radio Ministry, Jamestown, ND | \$5,000 | 0 | \$5,000 |
| 9. Martin Luther School Tuition Assistance, Bismarck, ND (Partial Funding) | \$4,000 | 0 | \$4,000 |
| 2020-2022 biennium Mission Grant Total: | \$77,000 | 0 | \$77,000 |

The following projects were also on the ballot but were not voted to be funded. Please remember them in your prayers that their work may continue and find funding from other sources. If your unit at Christmas or other times during the year gives gifts please remember the needs of these projects that were not funded. If you need more information about any of these project, please contact me. *email: missiongrants@ndlwml.org*

MG 2008 Lutheran Library for Central and South America - \$3,000
 MG 2009 Training Leaders to Boldly declare Y'shua as Messiah in Israel \$5,000
 MG 2011 Bringing Christ's Light to those living in Darkness - \$7,500
 MG 2014 Lutherans Engaged in Missions - \$5,000
 MG 2016 Mission Maule Project Chili and ND District LCMS - \$5,000
 MG 2020 LWML Global Bible Study by Donna Pyle - \$5,085
 MG 2022 PALS Wives Resource Project - \$1,000
 MG 2023 Nursing Student Mercy Medical Team Scholarship - \$3,000
 MG 2024 Worker Wellness for Chaplain Families (Ministry to Armed Forces) - \$3,000
 MG 2025 Spanish Language Sunday School & Youth Catechesis Materials (Mission to Spain) - \$1,365

VP Mission Grants, *Sue Corwin*

Zone Activities

The Zone Fall Rallies were held with the theme: **"Share the Fire"** prepared by our Junior Counselor, Pastor Waldvogel of Beautiful Savior, Fargo. Those hosting rallies were:

Central: 10/3 at Edgeley with St. John's hosting and Speaker Rev. Dan Suelzle from Wittenberg Chapel


Eastern: 10/17 at Grace, Fargo with speaker Pastor Knaack

NE: Cancelled

NW: 10/10 at Rural Upham

SE: Cancelled

SW: Cancelled



Memorials and Honorariums March – September 2020

MEMORIALS:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Larry Chrushan | Terry Nelson | Sheila Schulz |
| Bev Drager | Luciele Norem | Cathy Sommer's Father |
| Elmer Eiseman | Iva Prudlik | Mark Stenson |
| Doris Jean Hankel | Ruth Rust | Lynn Strege |
| Marjory Holmes | Marian Rutter | Lila Thompson |
| Tom Lohman | Diane Schlichtmann | |

HONORARIUMS:

Audrey O'Brien



We give thanks and praise for these wonderful Children of God who have or are joyfully serving our Lord and we give thanks to those who remembered them through their donation to the LWML. What a truly awesome way to spread the Good News of salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Young Women Representative Applications Due November 1, 2020



Are you a young woman between the ages of 18 and 35? And ... would you like an expense paid trip to Lexington, Kentucky for the 2021 National LWML Convention as a Young Woman Representative from the North Dakota District next June 24-27, 2021? Then read the qualifications (*below*) and fill out the YWR Application form



(page 6). Don't delay and mail it in! Application also available at: www.ndlwml.org/forms/resources. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the LWML and enjoy a very interesting and spiritually inspiring event with women of all ages. Pray about this and pick up a form and see if God may be calling you for this awesome adventure with Him and other women of faith!

Young Woman Representative LWML Convention Qualifications

1. Any mature young woman who is preferably 18-35 years of age and a member of the LCMS may become a Young Woman Representative at the LWML Convention.
2. She shall have a deep love and devotion to her Lord Jesus Christ and be willing to participate in all aspects of this program of the LWML.
3. She shall be able to be away from home and/or work for the entire convention and travel time.
4. She shall be willing to attend all sessions of the convention, sitting in assigned seating, though she will not be able to vote.
5. She shall complete the application form and return it to the Vice President of Servant Resources.

Expectations

1. She will attend all sessions of the LWML Convention and all activities for Young Women Representatives.
2. She will give a report to the ND District Convention following the LWML Convention.
3. She will commit herself to involvement in her local, zone, and district LWML activities, including support of young women's functions.
4. She shall be willing to share her impressions and experiences in the ND District LWML Messenger and the ND District Supplement to the Lutheran Witness.
5. She will keep an accurate and detailed record of her expenses with receipts and submit them to the District LWML Financial Secretary for reimbursement. The ND LWML will cover registration, housing, meals, and travel expenses.

LWML National Convention

ND District Banner Theme

Lutheran Women's Missionary League



39th Biennial Convention

Lexington, Kentucky

June 24-27, 2021



Save the Date!

Our North Dakota District Board of Directors have chosen the banner theme: **"Cross Eyed ... Focused On Jesus."** This banner, to be designed and crafted by creative women of our district, will represent North Dakota District at the National LWML Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky in June of 2021. This banner will also be used for our District LWML Convention in Fargo in 2022.

*Convention Banner Design
and Crafter Needed!*

We are looking for banner design submissions in short order. The design should be submitted to Pres. LaurieAnn by Oct. 31st so it can be voted on at the November 7, 2020 BOD meeting. The design should be based on the theme "Cross Eyed.....Focused On Jesus" based on Luke 9:23.

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

After the design is chosen we will also need volunteer(s) to craft the banner design. If you have an interest in either of these creative projects, so **don't delay!**

For any questions or more details, contact President LaurieAnn. email: pres@ndlwml.org or 701-308-0401

Application for Young Women Representative to National LWML Convention

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



Telephone _____ Email _____

Occupation _____ Church Name _____

- 1) The LWML motto is “Serve the Lord with Gladness.” (Ps. 100:2) How do you do this in your life?
- 2) What groups/activities have you been active in at church?
- 3) What is your knowledge of and level of participation in LWML, if any?
- 4) Why do you desire to attend the national LWML convention?
- 5) What do you feel are the special strengths (gifts) that God has given you?
- 6) The convention is an interesting and spiritually inspiring event. It is, however, also a working session of the organization, and at times the sessions can be long and the days and evenings are packed with events. There is very little free time and it can be very tiring. Understanding all of this, can you willingly accept participating in the full scope of the convention?
- 7) We ask that you have someone who knows you well (i.e. friend, society president, etc.) list their name and relationship to you and answer the question, “Why do you feel this individual would be a good candidate to attend the national LWML convention?” (Use and attach a separate sheet of paper.)

Please return completed application to: **Sara Eclipse • 38796–107th St • Frederick SD 57441**
eclipsesara@yahoo.com

November 2020

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Pray for your pastor | 2 Read Philippians 4:4-7 Thank God for peace | 3 Help out by volunteering for an organization | 4 Pray for Lutheran schools who proclaim the Gospel | 5 Share a Mustard Seed devotion with someone today | 6 Read Psalm 22 | 7 Pray for your LWML Board of Directors |
| 8 Donate to a food bank | 9 Pray for college students | 10 Pray for our mission grant recipients | 11 Visit lwml.org for mission devotions | 12 Be kind to someone on Kindness day | 13 Pray for your Zone officers | 14 Thank God for all church workers and Pastors |
| 15 Have coffee with a friend | 16 Bake for someone needing support | 17 Pray for all school teachers and their students | 18 Pray for Lutheran schools who proclaim the Gospel | 19 Thank God for doctors and nurses | 20 Pray for our country and our leaders | 21 Call your LWML society President and thank her |
| 22 Sing your favorite hymn | 23 Learn about cranberries | 24 Plan a Mercy Meals event in your area | 25 Volunteer at a food bank | 26  Give God thanks for all His blessings | 27 Enjoy turkey leftovers | 28 Pray for our missionaries |
| 29 Start an Advent calendar with your family | 30 Pray that God would bless your Pastor during Advent | |  | | | |

Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota District

Thank you for sharing your love through your miles.





District Dates

- ND LWML BOD Meeting
November 7, 2020
- ND LWML BOD Meeting
March 2021 TBA

The Messenger is published four times during the year. Download available at www.ndlwml.org/messenger
VP Communication – Alissa Arndt communication@ndlwml.org | **Newspaper Editor – Cheryl Rackov** editor@ndlwml.org
Let us know about your unit's news — pictures and happenings — as we joyfully serve the LORD with gladness (Psalm 100:2).

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2020 Mail-In Election Results

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Tami Ulland

VP Mission Grants

Sue Corwin

VP Human Care

Carla Trittin Isom

VP Communication

Alissa Arndt

Jr Counselor

Rev. Christopher Waldvogel

Nominating Committee

Kim Kuhlmann (SW) – Chairman

Corrine Reber (Eastern)

Kathy Rubbert (NW)

Kathie Hay (Central)

*Note: There are currently no committee members from NE or SE Zones.