

# 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.

The Messenger • North Dakota LWML District • Winter 2020-2021 Issue

## LWML 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention

### LWML 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention Lexington, Kentucky June 20-23, 2019

The 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the LWML will be held in Lexington, KY on Thursday, June 24 through Sunday, June 27, 2021. The theme is "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus" based on Hebrews 12:1-2.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)*

The LWML North Dakota district will be sending 6 delegates, 1 young woman representative, the junior pastoral counselor and the district president. Have you ever been to Kentucky? This would be a great time to go! You can take in the sights and attend a national convention — an experience you will not soon forget. There are usually around 4000 attendees at national conventions. Worshiping with fellow Lutherans in this setting is a truly uplifting time. More information is at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). The winter Quarterly has registration and hotel information and more.



## Save the Date!

June 24-27, 2021!

Lexington, KY LWML Convention! Be there!

Lutheran Women's  
Missionary League




Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus  
Hebrews 12:1-2

39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention  
Lexington, Kentucky  
June 24-27, 2021



Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
invites you to the  
**39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention**  
Thursday, June 24-Sunday, June 27, 2021  
Rupp Arena • Lexington, Kentucky



**Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus**  
*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).*

**Convention Goal**  
Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord.

**Convention Objectives**  
Convention attendees will:


- Focus on Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament.
- Joyfully celebrate our salvation with song and prayer.
- Serve our neighbors through witness and mission.

**Convention Logo Explanation**  
The convention logo incorporates the shape of the last letter of the Greek alphabet, Omega, and makes reference to the passage from Scripture, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" (Revelation 22:13). The symbol is shaped like a horseshoe, which is appropriate, as horses are a large part of the Kentucky culture.

Ancient Greeks awarded horseshoe-shaped laurel wreaths to victors of competitions. In our logo, the laurel wreath symbolizes our victory in Christ.

The banner was a method of announcing an official proclamation. Our banner proclaims that we are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

[www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)



The mission of LWML North Dakota is to equip and encourage all women to share the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ.  
For more North Dakota District information go to [www.ndlwml.org](http://www.ndlwml.org)

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

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### Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

As I write my message, we are in the beginning of the Advent Season. Advent marks the start of the church year — a new beginning. It is also a time of repentance and forgiveness, hope and joy — a time to welcome our Savior!

The Portals of Prayer devotion for Nov. 28 was titled “Not What I Once Was.” The devotion focused on Romans 5:6 which reads, “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” The author of the devotion used two quotes in his message “by the Grace of God I am what I am” and “every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.” God knows who we are and what we are. He willingly took all that upon Himself on the cross. We have the hope and the blessed assurance of forgiveness through faith in our crucified and risen Lord. Nothing we have done or will do will ever give us the assurance of everlasting life. I was looking at an Advent hymn from the TLH #65, “When Sinners See Their Lost Condition” verses 1, 2, and 5 speak to us of hope and peace in our Lord and Savior,



#### Verse 1:

“When sinners see their lost condition;  
And feel the pressing load of sin,  
And Jesus cometh on His mission;  
to heal the sin-sick heart within;  
All grief must flee before His grace,  
And joy divine will take its place.

#### Verse 2:

When Jesus enters meek and lowly;  
To fill the home with sweetest peace;  
When hearts have felt His blessing holy;  
And found from sin complete release,  
Then light and calm within shall reign;  
And hearts divided love again.

#### Verse 5:

Then stilled are cries and lamentation,  
Then loosed is Satan’s every band;  
In death is hope and consolation,  
The soul is safe in Jesus’ hand,  
When we shall walk through death’s dark vale,  
His rod and staff shall never fail.”

What comfort this hymn gives of the meek babe who came down to earth to crush Satan’s band around us and defeat death. We have an amazing wealth of hymns that speak to us of hope and peace in our Lord and Savior.

“Thanks be to God. We are not what we were, nor are we all we hope to be. But today, we are by grace who we are. It is enough. Go forth, child of God, rejoicing in the Savior who set you free.” (Portals of Prayer November 28, 2020)

We continue to rejoice and “*run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*” (Hebrews 12:1-2). This our theme verse for the upcoming LWML convention June 24-27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. Look for more information and registration in the LWML Winter Quarterly. The ND District will be joining with MN North in taking a bus to Lexington. We will pass more information on as it is made available.

***“And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’ (Luke 2:10-11).***

In Christ,

*President LaurieAnn*

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## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness by Pastor Dave Suelzle, Sr. Counselor

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**“Good for You, Jesus!”**

**Jesus lives! The victory’s won! (LSB 490)**

**The strife is o’er, the battle done;**

**Now is the victor’s triumph won! (LSB 464)**

**He lives triumphant from the grave;**

**He lives eternally to save. (LSB 461:2)**

The above quotes are from familiar Easter hymns in our hymnal. They picture the triumphant victory which Jesus has won over the power of sin, death and the devil. In His resurrection from the dead Jesus victoriously completed God’s work of salvation by conquering the devil. However, I wonder how many people view the events of Holy Week as a competition or fight between Jesus and the devil where only Jesus wins?

Most people can relate to the idea of the fight between good and evil — it’s just that nowadays it’s hard to distinguish the “good guys” from the “bad guys.” For instance, when you watch an action movie or TV program it usually begins with the bad guys committing crimes of violence, injustice and cruelty against the good guys. This usually continues until you can’t wait for the good guys to “blow away” the bad guys in the end. We cheer the good guys on when the bad guys finally “get it” in the end. So ... in the end ... who were really good and who were really bad?

It’s easy for sinful human beings to get a messed up idea of good. In Isaiah 5:20 God says, woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! All you have to do is look at Jesus’ “trial” before the Sanhedrin to see how man’s ideas of what’s good may not be all that good in the end.

Remember the Sanhedrin had met together before this to find a “good” way to deal with this “Jesus problem.” Their solution for a good way to deal with Him was to put Him to death. Matthew 26:67 relates how these religious leaders spit in His face and struck Him and ... slapped Him while mocking Him. How could these religious leaders justify these actions? Well, they considered His words to be blasphemy according to “the good Book.” Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. (cf. Leviticus 24:16) Maybe they felt like this was a good way to defend God and be faithful to His Word.

Or take a look at those false witnesses who were so eager to “get in on the action.” How many times have we heard about someone killing someone else or destroying something or mistreating someone all because it was for a “good cause?” It’s easy for us sinners to get caught up in the moment of a “cause” and justify sinful actions because of something appearing good, with the mantra: “It doesn’t matter what you do as long as it supports a good cause!” These false witnesses may have thought they were doing a good thing — supporting a good cause — by their actions as well.

When it comes right down to it, we have to agree with Paul: I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (cf. Romans 7:18) The only goodness we sinners can claim for ourselves or display in our lives is as a fruit — something we can display only because we are connected to the LORD — for He alone is good. We see God’s goodness displayed in the actions of Jesus — When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him Who judges justly. (cf. 1 Peter 2:23)

Jesus did not counteract the actions of injustice and cruelty against Himself with angry retaliation. While hanging on the cross He didn’t threaten, “You wait! You’ll get yours someday! What goes around comes around. I’ll get even with you!” Instead He overcame evil with good to the very end. He entrusted Himself and His actions into God’s hands, submitting Himself to God’s plan.

Then came Easter morning — the victory was won as Jesus rose from the dead! We may be tempted to celebrate Easter Sunday with a loud cheer — “GOOD FOR YOU, JESUS! You won!” However, this again shows our messed up idea of what is good. Jesus would respond: “No ... good for you ... and you ... and you ...”

You see, Jesus didn’t go through all this suffering, death and resurrection just to win a competition or to show the devil who’s better or to impress the on-lookers. Jesus didn’t do this so that we would cheer Him on to victory but rather so

*(continued on page 4)*

that His victory would be good for us. He did nothing ... I repeat ... nothing for Himself. He did it all so that you could experience victory over sin, death and the devil in your life.

Because of your connection to Him in baptism, by repentance and faith you too can display God's goodness in your life. The true celebration of Easter is not just a celebration on one particular day of the year that Jesus won. If it is, we've missed the whole purpose of His battle. It's a daily celebration that His work is good for you—that you can live a new life governed by God's goodness and not by sin's control. No matter what the challenges or circumstances you face in life, your Easter celebration governed by the accomplished work of Jesus for you as expressed in our Easter hymns:

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!**

**Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia! (LSB 457:1)**

Thus, our prayer is...

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;  
Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph;  
Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say;  
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"

— Pastor Dave Suelzle, Sr. Counselor of the ND District LWML

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## Mission Grants for the 2020–2022 Biennium

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by Sue Corwin

The following grants were approved by the Board of Directors for payment as funds become available

- **North Dakota Church Workers Scholarship \$10,000**
- **Orphan Grain Train ND Branch Jamestown \$4,000**
- **Mercy Meals \$2,500**
- **Youth Ministry in ND \$2,500**

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	\$10,000	\$25,000
2. Orphan Grain Train, Jamestown, ND	\$7,500	\$4,000	\$3,500
3. Mercy Meals of North Dakota	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
4. Youth Ministry in the ND District	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500
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
<b>2020-2022 biennium Mission Grant Total:</b>	<b>\$77,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$77,000</b>

We have not been able to pay any of the grants at this point but are hopeful we will be able to pay some of them this month. Remember to collect your mites and submit them to the financial secretary. The District sends 25% of your mite offering to the National LWML to help mission grants approved at the national convention. At the 2019 convention \$2,100,000.00 was approved as the mite goal. As of December 1, 2020, the mission projects paid are \$1,469,050.00. The balance to be paid is \$169,523.00. According to the National bylaws, National mission projects are to be paid by March 31, 2021.

VP Mission Grants, *Sue Corwin*



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## Memorials and Honorariums October – November 2020

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### MEMORIALS:

Iva Prudlik      Bev Drager      Donna Luebke  
Alta Luebke      Eunice Anderson      Viola Ebel  
Darlene Lund



### HONORARIUMS:

Nikki Rahlf

*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.*



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## A Visit with the History Keeper by Ali Arndt, VP Communications

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*An interview with  
Historian, Nikki Rahlf*

Since being elected to the VP of Communication position I have had the pleasure to get to know Nikki Rahlf, the ND district's historian. I originally reached out for some older pictures to post on the district's Facebook page, and what I received was a wealth of memories, friendships, and women who have shaped the mission of LWML. While we were visiting, Nikki mentioned that she was looking for someone to take over the position as she has been serving as the historian for 8 years! I didn't know much about what the duties of the historian and I thought maybe some of you would like to learn more, who knows maybe it sparks the next generation of historians.

I asked Nikki what called her to serving as the historian, she said she didn't really know but knew that someone needed to fill the position. She had served on the district board as VP of mission grants, bylaws committee, and on the servant resources committee, so serving is just part of who she is. She started by explaining that at the National LWML office there are records from every district in the country and that the information included is the start dates of societies, mission projects the districts have supported, Board of Directors meeting minutes, and even financial records. She said this information is important to keep because it gives us a guide of what has been done in the past and that many parts of the history used at our national conventions.

What are the responsibilities of the historian was my next question. Nikki was honest and said there is some work to the position but someone who loves to scrapbook and preserve history would love the work. She said there are some older scrapbooks that need to be redone because the paper is deteriorating. There are pictures and documents that need to be placed into books. Nikki said beside preserving she also gathers information of the board of directors and the zones for future books. I asked how she even knew how to do all of it and Nikki said there are boot camps held regularly for historians to share ideas and to gain more information.

Finally, I asked Nikki what is her favorite part of being the historian and she said, "seeing all the history." Like did you know that last year's district convention was the first canceled convention in the history of the ND district? She said her favorite part to look at is the President's gallery because there is a picture and a bio of every woman who has served as the districts President.

Nikki said, "You can't change history, but you can decide how to keep it and display it." If you are a creative person who enjoys history and scrapbooking please prayerfully consider serving as the ND District's historian. More questions please reach out to Nikki Rahlf.



VP Communications, *Ali Arndt*

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## ND District Banner

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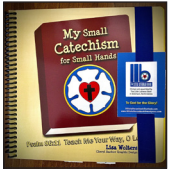
Our North Dakota District Board of Directors have chosen the banner theme: "Cross Eyed ... Focused On Jesus." The Board of Directors are currently finalizing the design, but we do still need banner crafters. This banner will represent North Dakota District at the National LWML Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky in June of 2021. The banner will also be used for our District LWML Convention in Fargo in 2022.

The banner theme is: "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).***

If you are interested in creating the banner, contact President LaurieAnn. email: [pres@ndlwml.org](mailto:pres@ndlwml.org) or 701-308-0401

## Teach Me Your Way, O Lord (Psalm 86:11)



"How much time do we spend teaching our young children God's Word?" That's the question Lisa Walters asks parents purchasing her children's book, *My Small Catechism For Small Hands*.<sup>®</sup> Lisa Walters is a pastor's wife, mother and grandmother, and recently, an author of a children's board book featuring activities and movable pieces.

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Dickinson and their LWML unit have given on-going support to the book venture. Together, with Cheryl Rackov, graphic designer, the two self-published their unique children's activity book this year. Created for children ages 2 through 6, the book is an interactive teaching tool introducing faith concepts found in *Luther's Small Catechism*. "Teach me your way, O Lord" (Psalm 86:11) is the theme.

Lisa says, "years ago, when I taught my children God's Word, there were no resources like this. My sole purpose in creating this book, was to teach my grandchildren our Christian faith based on *Luther's Small Catechism*." This book, based on Lisa's original sewn fabric book, was created and developed by Lisa and Cheryl. It seems, just as the pandemic hit the country in March, everything needed to go to press from 5 years of book development, suddenly fell into place. The book was printed Holy Week 2020. On Good Friday, a text came from the printer, saying, "it is finished!" By June, the first 50 copies of the book were assembled and sold.

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7).*

In July 2020, 200 more books were printed

and in August the volunteer group "Little Lutheran Book" was formed to assemble the books. The group essentially acts as the book's publisher; printing, assembling, packaging and mailing. Skilled volunteers from Redeemer faithfully gathered for 3 hours at a time, every Tuesday and Thursday (and a few Saturdays) for 3 months to joyfully produce books! *Little Lutheran Book* members view the project as a mission project to teach the Word of God to our children.

From the beginning of the book project, Little Lutheran Book has received generous support from Redeemer's LWML unit through their prayers, gifts and hours of volunteering. Relative to other children's books, this book is costly and time-consuming. This is because each page of the book features interactive activities using various materials and many movable pieces. A unique laser die-cutting technique allowed us to create the movable pieces. Thank you, Redeemer LWML, for your on-going support!

It is the prayer of *My Small Catechism For Small Hands*<sup>®</sup> creators that parents will have as much fun teaching the life-giving concepts to their children, as we have creating this book for them!

To God be the glory!

More information is available at  
[www.littlelutheranbook.wordpress.com](http://www.littlelutheranbook.wordpress.com).



Val Johnson and Laverne Zeigler



Kari Morast, Paulette Huber and MaryAnn Klein



Picture taken on December 3, 2020 with several books completed and ready for mailing. Pictured in front row: Val Johnson and Paulette Huber. Back row: Cheryl Rackov, Ellen Becker, Laverne Zeigler, Lisa Walters (author), Adalyn, Kari Morast. Not pictured: MaryAnn Klein



## February 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<sup>1</sup> Care for others — and yourself — this month.	<sup>2</sup> Pray for those sharing God's love here and around the world.	<sup>3</sup> Meditate for five minutes on God's faithfulness. Give Him all your worries.	<sup>4</sup> Plan ways to support those you know who need to be uplifted.	<sup>5</sup> Go to <a href="http://www.lwml.org">www.lwml.org</a> and look at the mission grants which show compassion.	<sup>6</sup> Tomorrow is Sunday! Bask in the Son's light. Read John 8:12.
<sup>7</sup> Listen for God's words of love in this week's Scripture lessons.	<sup>8</sup> Thank You, God, for this new day! Use me to bless someone.	<sup>9</sup> List the tasks you completed yesterday. All progress is progress!	<sup>10</sup> Read Luke 2 and think about how Christmas and Easter are linked.	<sup>11</sup> Live today trusting your Heavenly Father.	<sup>12</sup> Send an encouraging card or text to a church worker.	<sup>13</sup> Give yourself permission to do what you need to do today.
<sup>14</sup> Read 1 John 4:10.	<sup>15</sup> List 10 ways God shows His love for us. Thank Him!	<sup>16</sup> Consider giving up something for Lent as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice.	<sup>17</sup> Read Ecclesiastes 3:20.	<sup>18</sup> Read Psalm 103:1-5.	<sup>19</sup> Do you veil your crosses during Lent?	<sup>20</sup> Bake something yummy to share.
						
<sup>21</sup> Pray for those who show God's love to those in need.	<sup>22</sup> In John 3:16, I replace "the world" with your name. God loves YOU!	<sup>23</sup> Smile at people today. Let them see God's love in your eyes.	<sup>24</sup> Make a list of ways to show God's love to others.	<sup>25</sup> GRACE: God's undeserved kindness to you and everyone.	<sup>26</sup> What is your favorite fragrance? Consider the "fragrance" of your prayers today.	<sup>27</sup> Relax with a warm drink. Read 1 Corinthians 13.
<sup>28</sup> Read or sing "The Tree of Life" (LSB 561). Thank God for salvation.	<p><i>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:1-2).</i></p>  					

Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota District

*Thank you for sharing your love through your miles.*

## Upcoming Dates

- LWML ND District BOD Meeting,  
March 13, 2021
- LWML National Convention  
in Lexington Kentucky,  
June 24–27, 2021
- LWML ND District Fall Retreat —  
Sept. 17–18, 2021
- LWML ND District  
Spring Zone Rallies:  
Eastern: May 1, 2021 @ Immanuel  
NW: April 17, 2021 @ St. Paul – Rugby

The Messenger is published four times during the year. Download available at [www.ndlwml.org/messenger](http://www.ndlwml.org/messenger)  
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 Let us know about your unit's news — pictures and happenings — as we joyfully serve the LORD with gladness (Psalm 100:2).

## 2020-2022 District Officers and Zone Presidents

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