



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 • LWML North Dakota District • Fall 2021 Issue

Mark Your Calendars!

Save the Date!
June 24–26, 2022



North Dakota District Convention Theme:

"Cross-Eyed...Focused on Jesus" is based on Luke 9:23 which says:

"And He said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.'"

• Keynote speaker: **Jan Struck**

Jan Struck is a Christian humorist who has served as the humorous interrupter at many LWML events. She was at the LWML convention in Lexington earlier this summer

• Mission Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner**

Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner is the former director of LCMS World Missions. He now serves in Winghaven, MO and is the Chairman of the Board for Apple of His Eye Ministries bringing the Gospel to Jews in Israel.

• Songleader: **Wendysue Fluegge**

Wendysue Fluegge will be our songleader and entertainment for Saturday night. She was the songleader at the LWML convention in Albuquerque in 2017.

We will also be:

- Led in Bible study by our senior pastoral counselor Rev. Dave Suelzle
- Selecting mission grants
- Electing new officers for the following offices: Financial Sec., Nom-Committee Chair, VP Christian Life, Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Recording Sec., VP Servant Resources.

If you have a desire to serve your Lord through any of these offices, our current Nominating Committee Chairman, Kim Kuhlmann would LOVE to talk with you! SO...

The Date: **Friday, June 24 through Sunday, June 26, 2022**

The Place: **Delta Hotel in Fargo, ND**

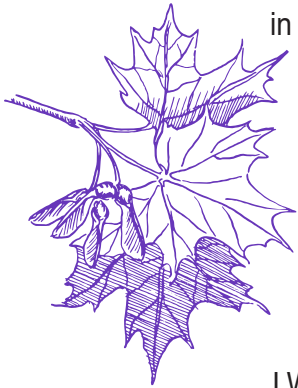
President's Message by LaurieAnn Totenhagen

Fall has arrived, and for my family, it is the favorite season of the year. Obviously as farmers, we love fall because it is "pay day." It is here that we find out if the amount of fertilizer, sun, and rain were enough to make any money. We put it all in God's hands to provide. I love the color of the leaves and the sound they make falling and the sound they make when I mow them (think bubble wrap poppers). The smell of the air is different. The bounty of gardens has been canned or frozen to enjoy all winter.

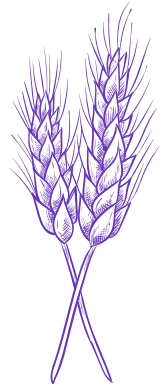


Fall is also a time for LWML ND to hold its annual retreat, zone rallies and LWML Sunday in October. This year's retreat was held Sept. 17-18 at the Gladstone in Jamestown.

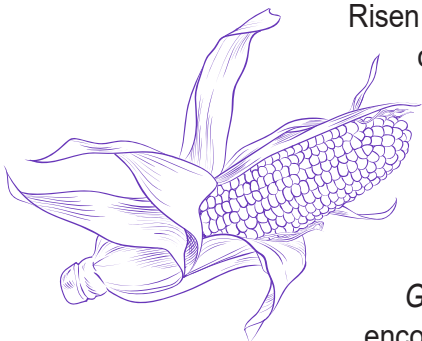
Kathy and Kim did a fantastic job organizing the retreat. Pastor Waldvogel led us in Bible study of the comfort of Christ. We packed more than 8,000 Mercy Meals and sorted and packed items for Orphan Grain Train. We had a delicious supper at the Gladstone who also provided us dinner at the church. Most of all we were able to gather together as Lutheran Women to hear the Word of God, do mercy work, and have wonderful fellowship with each other. By the time you read this most if not all of your Zones have held their fall rally. I hope you were encouraged by the Holy Spirit and our great "Stress Releaser" we have in Christ. How did you celebrate LWML Sunday this year? Let Cheryl, our news editor, know so she may write something up in the next Messenger. We would love to hear from you!



Fall is also leading up to the year's end and winter. The warm, sunny, colorful days give way to cold, gray, snowy ones. Once we are in the winter season, we look forward to the advent of Spring where the trees put forth new leaves, the grass greens up again, and flowers bloom. The church year has its seasons too and we are approaching the season of Advent. Advent is the beginning of the church year where we prepare ourselves for the birth of our Lord. But Advent is also a time of reflection of our sins. We start to see changes in the liturgy with the omission of the "Gloria in Excelsis" and shortly after, during Lent, the "Alleluia" is omitted in our liturgy. They won't appear again until Easter when we celebrate our Living,




Risen Lord. I am taking some creative license to say Advent and Lent is our fall and winter. However, if I am truthful, in our sinful nature we are cold, gray, and dead. But thanks be to God our Father who sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take away all of our sins. We look forward to His second advent. Blessings to you, my dear sisters (and brothers) in Christ as we await in the hope of our Risen Savior for *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved,"* (Romans 10:9). Paul also encourages us, writing: *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us,"* Romans 8:18.



LaurieAnn Totenhagen, President of the North Dakota District LWML



“Your Identity” by Pastor Chris Waldvogel, Jr. Counselor

 What will you wear today? When it comes to earthly clothes, what you put on depends on several factors. What do you have in your wardrobe? Is it clean? What will the weather be like? Where will you be going? What will you be doing? Who will be with you? Because of changing circumstances, you might be taking off and putting on several outfits, layers or looks each day.

Christians also face this malady when it comes to the inclinations of the heart. In his letter to the church in Colossae, Paul points the baptized to a glorious dress not made by human hands but by God. The apostle reminds the baptized that through water and the Word, God has clothed them with and united them to Jesus. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in them through baptism. Through this glorious life-giving means, they are made alive with Christ.

Paul writes: *“In him, you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead,”* (Colossians 2:11-12, NIV).

Paul's message is for you, too. By God's almighty power, God prunes your old, dead sinful nature. By the Holy Spirit, God effects (brings about, causes, achieves) a change in your will, heart and mind. You believe and love God and desire to do His will, embracing through faith that your sin had been forgiven on account of Christ alone.

But like a worn sneaker, ripped pants or stained shirt that you can't seem to part with, the Old Adam lives to undo God's glorious makeover by tempting you to remain comfortable with your filthy, disgusting, stinky, dead self. In Christ, you have a glorious dress that covers all your sin and a heart made new. You have been raised with Christ. You don't have to go looking elsewhere for something more glorious.

When it comes to your baptismal identity and dress, Paul (and God) don't want you taking off and putting on several outfits, layers or looks. Paul (and God) don't want your attitudes, inclinations and actions shifting with every new circumstance. Instead, the apostle exhorts:

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator,” (Colossians 3:5-10).

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony,” (Colossians 3:12-14).

Thanks be to God your baptismal identity is grounded in God's promises and actions, not your promises and actions. To hold onto this reality through faith, come to the rich storehouse of God's mercy and Christ in Jesus and the means where God keeps you clinging to what He has laid out for you: *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him,”* (Colossians 3:15-17).

—Pastor Chris Waldvogel, Jr. Counselor of the ND District LWML

Mission Grants for the 2020–2022 Biennium by Sue Corwin

My first thank you is for all the mites that have been given this biennium. The following grants still need to be paid:

Thank You!

- \$16,500 for the Full-time Church Workers Scholarship fund
- \$5,000 for Log Bunk beds at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads
- \$8,000 for Spiritual Care for Pastors LCMS ND
- \$2,500 for Fort Wayne Food bank Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne, IN
- \$5,000 for Christ the Way Radio Ministry Program
- \$4,000 for Martin Luther School Tuition Assistance Bismarck, ND

The mission grants need to be paid by April 30, 2022 according to the ND LWML District standing rules. Please continue your prayers for the mission projects.

The next thank you is to all who submitted mission grant applications. Now I am asking for your prayers as the Mission Grant Committee review the submissions and select those to present to the District Board at the November BOD meeting.

My final thank you is to the Lord who has been by my side and my guide as I have moved through my term as Vice President of Mission Grant.

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

| 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 | \$18,500 | \$16,500 |
| 2. Orphan Grain Train, Jamestown, ND | \$7,500 | \$7,500 | PAID |
| 3. Mercy Meals of North Dakota | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | PAID |
| 4. Youth Ministry in the ND District | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | PAID |
| 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 | \$36,000 | \$41,000 |

VP Mission Grants, *Sue Corwin*

Memorials and Honorariums March – June 2021

MEMORIALS:

Joyce Atwood Elda Brunsch Lorraine Zimbelman
 Rosalyn Brockman Rodrick Lentz



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.



Who Keeps Your History? by Nikki Rahlf

What is an archivist? What is a historian? Aren't they the same?

An archivist is one who takes care of the archives. The archives are the material saved that is of historical significance. It is the task of the archivist to appraise all materials for the archives. For the archivist it is: when in doubt "save". An item can be discarded later but not replaced if thrown.

The historian writes the history. The history should always include the who, what, where, when, and why of the story.

Each day we make history. God is at work in your life every day. Is keeping history a good thing? From Job 36:24 and Psalm 111:4a we read "remember God's works" so historians are "Ministers of Remembering".

Church history is the documented record of the works of our Savior as He worked through out the past as well as now in the present. Church history serves as the carrier of our service to spread the Word of God to all.

How we remember our Lutheran Women's Missionary League's past not only reflects current attitudes, it helps to shape them. All past events are interesting to the Christian for in them we recognize the hand of God at work. Many societies were organized around specific functions, such as Altar Guild, Sewing Circles, or the more general Ladies Aid. Women saw needs or were told there was a specific need and worked toward filling those needs. That is still the case for the members of the LWML today. "We serve the Lord with gladness, wherever and whenever He has need of us".

With this said, I am asking every LWML Unit to please fill out the check list for Units. (it can be found on the LWML ND website, www.ndlwml.org/resources or I can mail you a copy). If you do not have a Unit Historian the Secretary can do it as she already has most of the information. This should then be sent to the Zone Historian so that she can compile a report from all the units and forward that report on to me. If your Unit or Zone doesn't have a historian, why not volunteer? As your District Historian, I am begging for reports so I in turn, can make my report.

The report is not hard! It asks mostly for numbers. Like: how many members; how many attend spring rally and fall rally; fall retreat; workshops; special events; prayer services; assembly of leaders; conventions. And then a brief history of activities the unit does during the year. Like: number of quilts made, or number of health, baby, or school kits made for Orphan Grain Train, activities held at nursing homes, and etc.

The names of officers and your church is only for the Zone Historian to keep on file. That is not forwarded onto District.

Our history is always changing and so it is important to document the things we do in service to our Lord. I encourage societies to keep accurate up-to-date histories. In time your grandchildren, great grandchildren, and others may read about what you and your LWML did to serve the Lord in gladness.

Thank you and Praise the Lord
for His working in your life.



Nominating Committee

*Call for Nominations
for the
2022 District Convention*

It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to prayerfully consider and seek candidates to serve as future leaders for the LWML North Dakota District. God has equipped each of us to serve one another with our many gifts and talents. *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another* (1 Peter 4:10a). The mission statement of the LWML includes this call to serve others ... ***"As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others."***

Consider how the gifts and talents God has given you may be used in service to the LWML North Dakota District.

Please pray for the Nominating Committee, all potential candidates, and the future of the LWML in North Dakota as we seek candidates for the following positions to be selected at the Convention in June 2022:

Vice President of Christian Life,
Vice President of Servant
Resources, Financial Secretary,
Recording Secretary and Pastoral
Counselor. Each Zone is also
to provide a member for the
Nominating Committee.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving the LWML North Dakota District, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Kathy Rubbert (NW), Kathie Hay (Central), Corinne Reber (Eastern), Carol Luebke (SE), or Kim Kuhlmann – Chair (SW).

Fall Retreat
God of All Comfort (2 Corinthians 3:7)

We had 58 registered attendees, with 6 youth, (6 YWR in attendance). Friday evening we gathered over snacks and renewed old friendships and met new friends. Sat morning opening was led by Pastor Christopher Waldvogel and talented Paulette Huber led us in music. Pastor Chris led us in our Bible study on 2 Corinthians 3:7.

After our morning Bible study we gathered to assemble Mercy Meals. President Arie Bertsch joined us in the assembly process and we packaged 8,584 meals. We took a break for lunch which was prepared by the Gladstone.

We finished our Bible study after lunch and moved onto helping the Orphan Grain Train. Several went to the warehouse to sort and box items. Others stayed at Concordia to put the in-gathering into kits. They did several school, hygiene and layette kits.

We regrouped and relaxed while Kim Kuhlmann and Joy Robey performed a skit for us. We ended the retreat with a wonderful meal provided by the Shady Restaurant at the Gladstone Inn. After dinner our YWR, Joy Robey, spoke to us about her experience at the National Convention at Lexington, Kentucky.

A very special thank you to each and everyone of you ladies for attending. It was a blessing to be able to gather in person. We give thanks to all those who donated their time and gifts to make this retreat a success. Thank you for the mites. \$1,086.17 was given to the N.D. LWML!

Most of all we pray that you were renewed, refreshed, strengthened, and preserved in your faith in the one True God.

Peace be with you, *Christian Life Committee*

Pictures by Melissa Sutton, Kim Kuhlmann and Ali Arndt.

Bible Study and Music





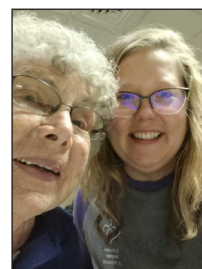
Banquet



Orphan Grain Train



Mercy Meals



Upcoming Dates

- **LWML ND District BOD**
Meeting November 13, 2021
at Concordia Lutheran
Church in Jamestown
- **LWML ND District BOD**
Meeting February 19, 2022 at
Immanuel Lutheran Church
in Fargo
- **LWML ND District**
Convention June 24–26, 2022
at the Delta Hotel by Marriot
in Fargo

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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).

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