

Equip
Encourage
Share Jesus

The Messenger

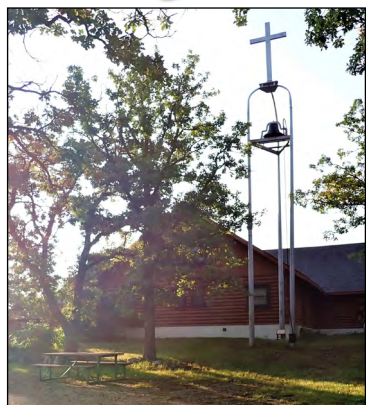
The mission of LWML North Dakota is to equip and encourage all women to share the compassion and hope of Jesus Christ.

The Messenger • North Dakota LWML District • Fall 2022 Issue

2022 LWML North Dakota District Re-cap of FALL RETREAT September 16-18, 2022



SHEPHERD'S HILL
AT THE
CROSSROADS
ST. JOHN, NORTH DAKOTA



The ladies of the North Dakota District LWML retreated to Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads to spend time in the Word and in fellowship. The bible study was based on the book of Jeremiah and explored how *God formed us, knew us, consecrated us, and appointed us* (Jeremiah 1:5). Wonderful discussion was generated surrounding what this means for us as Lutheran Women and what it looks like in our present day.

Ingathering items were collected for Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch and Deaconess Kelly Bristow presented on what her role is at The Ranch and how the Lord works through her and other staff members to help, care, and support the children who reside there. Amber Benham, also of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, explained the Horse Therapy program offered at The Ranch and how it helps kids learn and build frustration tolerance and emotional awareness. She also provided a little demonstration of Ground Tethering, an exercise the kids do with their horses.

There was time for reflection and exploration as retreaters had the opportunity to participate in card making or prayer/bible journaling as well as exploring the camp itself. The weather allowed for evening devotions around the campfire — complete with S'mores — and faith-filled fellowship abounded.

Brianna Wegner, Grace Lutheran, Fargo



(more Fall Retreat pictures
on pages 2 & 3)

LWML ND DISTRICT Mission Grants for the 2022–2024 Biennium by Sue Corwin

The Board of Directors have not meet since convention so we have not paid any grants at this time. We will be able to make recommendations to the board in November for some mission grant payments. Please keep the missions grants in your prayers and continue to collect mites so we are able to pay the grants. Please print off the Mission grant bookmark and make available to your congregation to remember them their prayers.

VP Mission Grants, *Sue Corwin*

UPDATE ON LWML ND DISTRICT MITES IN ACTION:
Mission Grant recipient, Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads, received \$5,000 from our last biennium's mites. Pictured are the Log Bunk



Beds in Hawkeye Loft located in the camp's main lodge. Each of the bunk beds that fill the loft are covered with warm, colorful quilts sewn & donated by the LWML unit from Messiah Lutheran Church in Mandan.

LWML ND DISTRICT MISSION GRANT 2022–2024 BIENNIUM	TOTAL	PAID	BALANCE
MG 2201 — ND Full-Time Church Workers Scholarship	\$35,000	0	0
MG 2202 — Orphan Grain Train Jamestown, ND	\$7,500	0	0
MG 2211 — Main Street Living North	\$9,500	0	0
MG 2217 — Shepherds Hill At The Crossroads	\$9,000	0	0
MG 2203 — Mercy Meals Of North Dakota	\$5,000	0	0
MG 2216 — Grace Lutheran School Education Grant For Unchurched Student	\$6,000	0	9
MG 2209 — Food And Clothing Co-Op Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne	\$5,000	0	0
MG 2207 — Kruse Memorial Chapel Transformation (Partial funding)	\$500	0	0
2022–2024 Biennium Mission Grant Total:	\$77,500	0	\$77,500

Memorials and Honorariums August – September 2022

MEMORIALS:

Gary Hubrig
Donald Peterson



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.



ND District Banner Theme

Our North Dakota District Board of Directors will be choosing a banner theme for the 2023 LWML convention at our November BOD. This banner, to be designed and crafted by creative women in our district, will represent North Dakota at the National LWML Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June of 2023. This banner will also be used for our District LWML Convention at Bismarck in 2024.

*Convention Banner:
Details to Come*

Watch for more information in the Winter Messenger on the banner theme. If you would be interested in designing and/or crafting a banner please contact President LaurieAnn at pres@ndlwml.org or 701-308-0401.

Important

LWML LINKS:

- ndlwml.org
- lwml.org/mission-grants
- lwml.org/mites-received
- lwml.org/posts/free-resources/mite-challenge-calendar
- lwml.org/all-spiritual-growth
- lwml.org/posts/free-resources/read-through-the-bible-in-one-year

How Is Your Unit Celebrating 80 Years?



WHAT'S YOUR 80?

1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

In thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission. Below are some ideas to get you started. Be sure and take a picture of your group's 80. We are planning a montage of your activities at the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee.



President's Message by LaurieAnn Totenhagen



As I write this letter, the leaves are falling from the trees. It doesn't seem possible that Fall is here already. Didn't we just have our June convention? Time goes faster every year. In this issue, you will see a recap of the Fall Retreat that was held at Shepherd's Hill at the Crossroads Sept. 16-18. The weekend was smaller in numbers, but mighty in God's Word and fellowship.

Our guest speakers were from Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Amber Benham demonstrated her horse therapy using one of the camp's horses. The use of animals can be an instrumental way for the children to express their feelings and to more easily communicate those feelings to their therapists. We also had Deaconess Kelly Bristow, spiritual life coordinator, who serves under Rev. Rick Jones, the Ranch's Chaplain. She explained how she serves the children (and staff) at the Ranch with God's Word in Bible Study where they can find rest, safety, and the promise of God's Abiding Love.




We were able to enjoy fellowship and conversations with our fellow sisters in Christ whether we were working on devotional journals, making 'thinking of you' cards, or sitting around the bonfire roasting marshmallows. Rev. Bonine and the "staff" at the camp fed us with wonderful food and we closed the weekend on Sunday with Divine Service.

Our Bible Study was prepared by Senior Counselor Rev. Chris Waldvogel and presented by Junior Counselor Rev. Michael Suelzle. The Bible study was "*Consecrated: Learning from Jeremiah.*" We reflected and shared how creation is corrupted by sin and how that looks in our lives. We shared our sorrows and losses and ways (healthy and unhealthy) we deal with them. Jeremiah knew losses, opposition, and many obstacles as God called him to be a prophet. All through the book of Jeremiah, we are continually pointed to Jesus. On this side of heaven, we will always have sorrows and troubles, but we have Jesus who overcame all the corruption and death of this world. *God formed you.* You are His intentional, beloved creation. *God knew you.* Nothing in your life is hidden. He knows all of our sorrows and knows what we need. *God chose you.* You belong to Him. Before you ever thought about God, He thought about you and chose you to receive His salvation in Christ. *God appointed you.* We have God's Word to see His promise for us. We have God's Word to share with others wherever and whenever He has need of us. We have God's Word to help us overcome life's sorrows. We have the Word who became flesh. We have Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

In Christ, *LaurieAnn Totenhagen*



 For many years, our culture has been discussing the role of prayer in our lives. Back in 1962 the Supreme Court ruled that prayer could no longer be part of the nation's public schools. Many cases since then have risen to the nation's highest court, and almost every one of them has restricted the ability of people to pray in public. Even the most recent case from this year further marginalizes the role of prayer in the culture. As long as a prayer is done quietly and it's a short, private, personal prayer, then it's ok. But if it becomes too long or too public or bothersome, then it doesn't fall within the scope of religious freedom. We shouldn't be surprised by this. As long as Christians and non-Christians occupy the same nation, we will be debating what kinds of freedoms we enjoy in America.

Over the past couple of years, however, the culture has been debating more than just how much freedom one is given to pray. Our country has also been debating whether prayer does any good at all in the first place. This debate can be seen with respect to the phrase "*Thoughts and prayers*." Perhaps you've heard this phrase before. Perhaps you've used it yourself. Something bad happens and one of the responses given is that "our thoughts and prayers are with the victims" of said tragic situation. The phrase is often repeated on the news and by politicians when tragedy strikes. A school shooting. A mass murder. A war. An epidemic of poverty and homelessness. Rape. Child abuse. Terrible things happen every day.



Critics of the phrase "*thoughts and prayers*" argue that prayer isn't enough. They argue that we must fix what's wrong with the world. They argue that a person can pray all they want but, in the end, it will not be the prayers which fed the hungry or clothed the impoverished or housed the homeless or prevented mass murder. They argue that these things will only happen if people make them happen. They even argue that prayer gets in the way of making such things happen because then a person is not relying upon themselves, but rather the power and authority of someone else.

Such critics of the phrase "*thoughts and prayers*" raise a valid frustration. Oftentimes in tragic situations, something wasn't done which should have been done. And there probably is more that communities, bystanders, and leadership in the nation might be able to do to prevent or mitigate such tragedies. What is disheartening about the criticism, however, is that it reveals how little we trust in God. People complain about prayers not doing anything because they believe that God cannot do anything about the pain, suffering, and sin of this world.

This is not so for we who are in Christ. When I am at my wits end, struggling with temptation, where do I go? When everything in life is unraveling because of my sin against those I love, where do I go? When I have no power to change the world around me with all its craziness, where do I go? When tragedy, destruction, and death show up in this sinful and broken world, we go to the Lord.

It is in those times when prayer is the only thing we CAN do. Our prayer is rooted in our trust in God's faithfulness. That He is Lord over Heaven and Earth. That He purchased and won us from sin, death, and the devil by the precious blood of Jesus shed on the cross. That He promises us life everlasting because Jesus rose from the grave on Easter morning. And that He will direct all things toward that End.

And so, we pray. We pray to the God of Heaven and Earth who made us and everything. We pray to the Lord of Life who saved us from sin and death. We pray to our Heavenly Father who has promised eternal life. His will is done. His Kingdom will come. His salvation will endure to the End. Thanks be to God that He has included us in this marvelous work!

—Rev. Michael Suelzle, Jr. Pastoral Counselor of the LWML ND District

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds (Luke 2:7–18).

When I was growing up, if I looked southeast as the crow flies at exactly the right moment while driving with family on the curve heading south out of Lidgerwood, and if the night was dark, except for a country sky of countless stars, I could see the blue-lit cross at Immanuel Lutheran. The country church sits atop a hill facing west toward its cemetery where a wrought iron “God With Us” at its entry welcomes loved ones to their final resting place on earth.



The cross always signaled to me that I was nearly home, that even if I felt lost and alone, I was not. The cross was there on nights as we returned from caroling or after basketball games, and later, as I returned from college for winter breaks. It was there when our family returned from visiting Dad in the hospital and there when he could join us on our journey home. The cross was there, shining across nearly eight miles of fields and trees, brightest on the darkest of nights. Seeing the cross also meant I was close to our farm, which was on the same road a couple miles from the church. And because the church was my second home, seeing the cross meant I was nearing my destination; I was near love.

Can you imagine how it must have felt to shepherds in the dark night, to see the star and to hear the angel's declaration? They were “sore afraid,” indeed, having never seen such a wonder, but then, they heard the good news! There was a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger — a miracle beyond all miracles — it was the Son of God, and they could not wait to see Him and tell others! Here, they felt Love beyond all comprehension.

I marvel at how God, in his kindness and mercy, thought of me even before I was born and how he made sure the church had a blue-lit cross that would shine across the miles, so even in the dark — especially in the dark — I would know I was nearing home.

I pray that you, too, see and feel God's presence throughout the winter months, through the season of Thanksgiving and the celebration of Jesus' birth, that you remember who is always shining His light, no matter what is happening in the world, and I pray that you cannot wait to tell others.

The Savior of the world has come! Spread the good news — rejoice!

Carla Trittin Isom, VP Human Care

Young Women Representative Applications Due November 1, 2022



Are you a young woman between the ages of 18 and 35? And ... would you like an expense paid trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 2023 National LWML Convention as a Young Woman Representative from the North Dakota District next June 22–25, 2023? Then read the qualifications (*below*) and fill

out the YWR Application form on page 7. 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 June 22–25, 2023

Save the Date!

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
40th Biennial Convention
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



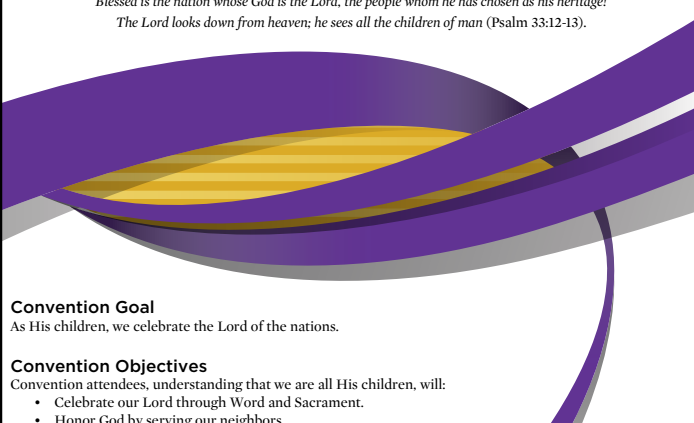
Celebrate the Lord of the Nations
Psalm 33:12-13



June 22-25, 2023

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Invites you to the
40th Biennial Convention
June 22-25, 2023
Wisconsin Center — Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Celebrate the Lord of the Nations
*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12-13).*




Convention Goal
As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.

Convention Objectives
Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will:

- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

Convention Logo Explanation
The 2023 LWML Convention logo features a wooden cross, reminding us of the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus who takes away the sin of the world. Wrapped around and draped over the cross is a long banner with the flags of many countries. The cross supports the banner as Christ delivers life and salvation to all the children of man. The banner waves symbolizing our life by the Holy Spirit and the movement and proclamation of the Word of God into all nations.



Make plans to ride the bus with us!

Application for Young Women Representative to National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI

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: **VP Servant Resources**
Miki Peterson
121 2nd St SE
Ellendale, ND 58436

Email: servantresources@ndlwml.org

Upcoming Dates

Zone Activities

Fall Zone Rallies

Central: Oct. 8, 2022 at Concordia in Jamestown
Eastern: Oct. 8, 2022 at Trinity Lutheran in Hope
NE: Nov. 19, 2022. Location TBA.
NW: Oct. 8, 2022 at Peace Lutheran in Garrison
SE: Oct. 8, 2022 at Zion Lutheran in Gwinner
SW: Oct. 8, 2022 at Redeemer in Dickinson

District & National

Make Plans For Upcoming Events:

- **BOD Meeting** — Nov. 5, 2022 at Concordia Lutheran in Jamestown
- **BOD Meeting** — March, 2023. Location TBA
- **LWML Convention** — June 22–25, 2023 in Milwaukee, WI

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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