

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 2023 Issue

Mark Your Calendars! — The LWML ND District Convention In Bismarck



June 14–16, 2024



North Dakota District Convention Theme: **“Lord Of All Creation”** is based on **Colossians 1:16**.

Location: **Ramada Hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota**

Convention Theme: **“Lord of All Creation”**

Convention Verse: **“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).**

Saturday evening entertainment: **River Rhapsody Chorus** is the Bismarck-Mandan local Sweet Adeline's International women's barbershop chorus singing acapella in 4-part harmony. Saturday evening entertainment will be **open to the public** for a \$5.00 admission.

Watch for our convention Song leader, Bible Study Leader, and Guest Speaker(s) to be announced in coming issues of *The Messenger*.

We will also be:

- Selecting Mission Grants
- Electing new officers for the following offices: President, VP of Mission Grants, VP Human Care, VP Communications, Treasurer, Junior Pastoral Counselor and Nominating Committee Chair.

If you have a desire to serve your Lord through any of these offices, our current Nominating Committee Chairman, Ruth Walsh, would LOVE to talk with you! So, save the date and plan to attend!

The Date: **Friday, June 14 through Sunday, June 16, 2024**

The Place: **Ramada Inn, Bismarck, ND**

“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).



Thankful!



Fall is here and among the crisp air and colorful leaves I am thankful for my bountiful garden and the farmers for the food they will soon harvest that will grace our tables.

September 12th was set aside for “September to Remember” where we were encouraged to remember those who were an influence in our lives by bringing us to church or LWML by donating mites. 100% of these mites were used to fund the LWML 2023–2025 mission grants. I am thankful for the \$39,039 that was collected for these grants. I am thankful for my mother-in-law who ‘encouraged’ me to attend our LWML unit meetings. I am also thankful for her and my mother for babysitting so that I could attend LWML zone rallies, district retreats, and conventions.

I am thankful for the 53 women who attended the **2023 LWML ND District Fall Retreat** that was held September 15–17 in Devils Lake. We were enriched with renewed friendships and new ones as we gathered Friday evening with snacks and games. Saturday we were blessed with opening devotions and Bible study with Rev. Michael Suelzle on Christ’s forgiveness. Our special speaker was Rev. Chris Durham who led us in a discussion on “Angels...truth or myths”. I am thankful to both Rev. Suelzle and Rev. Durham for their time and faithful adherence to God’s Word. I am thankful for all the donations brought for the Women’s Care Center. We ended our weekend with Divine Service at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church led by Rev. Michael Suelzle.

October is traditionally set aside to recognize LWML and the mission work that Christ works through our hands and feet. I am thankful for the women who have served before us and for those who currently “**Serve the Lord with Gladness**” in their homes, community, and the nation. I am thankful for our LWML ND District Board of Directors who volunteer their time and talents to help lead the ND District with their mission work.

But most of all I am thankful for our Savior, Jesus Christ, who bought and paid for my sins and the sins of the world with His precious blood.

*Thankful
with a
Grateful Heart*



Serving the Lord with Gladness,
LWML ND District President, *Laurielinn Totenhagen*

Memorials and Honorariums July – October 2023

MEMORIALS:

- Evelyn Matehs (2)
- Edward Davis
- Joel Frey
- John Wood
- Jerry Walsh (4)

HONORARIUM:

- Wilma Flakoll (2)
- Beverly “Bee” Meyer
- Marj Teske
- Lorraine Haaland



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.



*Photo contributors for this issue of The Messenger are Cheryl Rackov, Marie Johnson, and Melissa Sutton. Photos used with permission.

LWML ND District Mission Grant News by Sue Corwin

We have not funded any grants since the last newsletter. Please pray that our mites will come in and we will be able to fund our remaining grants for this biennium.

VP Mission Grants, *Sue Corwin*

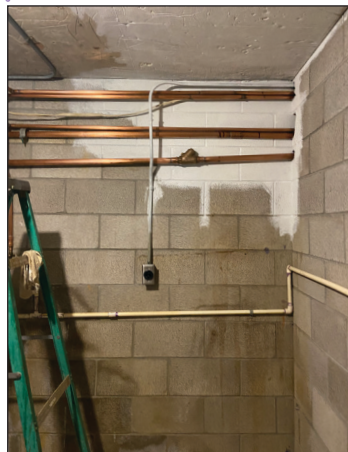
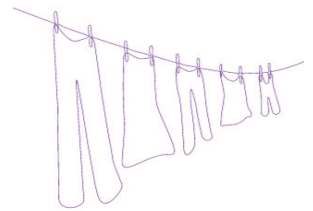
LWML ND DISTRICT MISSION GRANT 2022—2024 BIENNIUM	TOTAL	PAID	BALANCE
MG 2201 — ND Full-Time Church Workers Scholarship	\$35,000	\$17,000	\$18,000
MG 2202 — Orphan Grain Train Jamestown, ND	\$7,500	\$7,500	0
MG 2211 — Main Street Living North	\$9,500	\$9,500	0
MG 2217 — Shepherds Hill At The Crossroads	\$9,000	\$9,000	0
MG 2203 — Mercy Meals Of North Dakota	\$5,000	0	\$5,000
MG 2216 — Grace Lutheran School Education Grant For Unchurched Student	\$6,000	0	\$6,000
MG 2209 — Food And Clothing Co-Op Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne	\$5,000	0	\$5,000
MG 2207 — Kruse Memorial Chapel Transformation (Partial funding)	\$500	0	\$500
2022—2024 Biennium Mission Grant Total:	\$77,500	\$43,000	\$34,500

❖ Shepherd's Hill At The Crossroads: Thank You, LWML! by Marie Johnson



Thank You! The Washer and dryer are finally hooked up and working at Shepherd's Hill At The Crossroads. Your Mission Grant money has been used to purchase a new commercial washer and dryer. Due to some challenges, the machines arrived in May but weren't fully operational until after the camp season. Now, during retreat season, there has been plenty of opportunity to test the machines! When we used residential-style machines, some things like blankets and pillows weren't washed often. Getting these items washed and fresh for the next visitors is a great feeling.

The laundry room is much improved with a fresh coat of white paint, shined-up copper pipes, and new machines. This room had never been painted before and took many hours over the spring/summer. Here are some pictures of the work in progress and the nearly completed laundry room. Some new shelving is yet to be installed, but the machines are now in use. Thank you again for your generosity.



Mission Grant Received!

2023 LWML North Dakota District **FALL RETREAT** **"ANGELS ... TRUTH & MYTHS"**

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor (Hebrews 2:9).



Image by Karen Tarlton and used with permission.



Friday night gathering at Fireside Inn



Rev. Christopher Durham



Painting angels

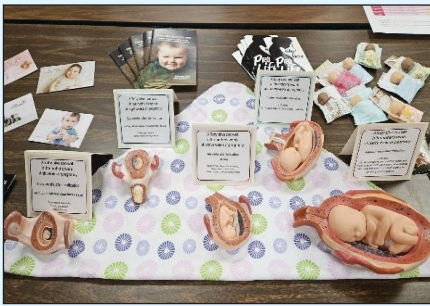
LWML ND District Fall Retreat was held in Devils Lake, ND at St. Peters Lutheran Church. There were 53 Ladies present, two pastors and a devoted husband. We started our retreat Friday evening at the Fire Side Inn, where we sat and visited one another and played some board games while eating some delicious snacks. On Saturday Morning we began our day with Morning Prayers. Pastor Mike Suelzle led our hymns by playing the accompaniment on his guitar. He then led us in A Bible Study on Forgiveness. Reminding us that we are to forgive our brother many times over even when we do not feel they deserve it. Rev. Christopher Durham followed the Bible study by digging into scripture to see what God tells us about Angels. Did you know that people do not actually get their wings when they die? If they did, they would become servants. Scripture tells us that Angels are messengers, sharing the Good news of Jesus Christ. Also, when Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer mention "Holy Angel" they are referring to Jesus. Cheryl Nelson came to us from the Woman's Care Center in Devils Lake to share how they are helping women through out their pregnancy, delivery and beyond. God be praised for their work. A huge thank you to all who brought items for the gathering. We were able to donate several packs of diapers, bottles, wipes along with a monetary donation. The remainder of our time was spent tying 15 fleece blankets for the Woman's Care Center, a few ladies took a walking tour of Devils Lake historic buildings and others chose to paint angels.



Cheryl Nelson of the Woman's Care Center in Devils Lake



Ingathering items donated to the Woman's Care Center



Creating fleece blankets for the Woman's Care Center in Devils Lake



The 2023 Fall Retreat was planned by our district Christian Life committee. Thank you, Melissa Sutton and Kathy Rubbert, for all your hard work and preparation for a job well done!



Call For Nominations for the 2024 LWML ND 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 2024: President, VP Mission Grants, VP Human Care, VP Communication, Treasurer, 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:

- Nicole Beyersdorf (NW)
- Adrian Montonye (NE)
- Dianne Loll (SE)
- Ruth Walsh—Chair (Eastern).





Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

It's once again that time of year to celebrate the Lutheran Woman's Missionary League. October brings LWML Sunday, but there is so much more to celebrate. In 2022, the LWML commemorated 80 years of God's grace in sharing the Gospel throughout the world.



Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML President Eden Keefe recently highlighted one such example in a video made during Synodical Convention in July. In 2019, work began on an \$80,000 mission grant to bring clean water to rural schools sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. The project has provided not only a resource for the gift of life, but also the good news of salvation and eternal life in Jesus Christ. Called "Water and the Word," this act of mercy also focus on witness by helping pastors and deaconesses share sound Biblical teaching with children, their parents and the community in Africa.

A heart for mission has always defined the LWML. To celebrate this core value, you may hear the LWML referred to simply as Lutheran Women in Mission. "This was something developed at being more descriptive in who we are," Keefe said, noting that Lutheran Women in Mission "takes out the alphabet soup of the acronym and uses a more descriptive phrase" that captures the essence of what the LWML does. "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others," Keefe said.

Joyfully proclaiming Christ and God's Word does not just extend to others, it includes us! "We feel very strongly about our women being in the Word," Keefe said. "So we produced resources to help them do that." These include devotions, Bible studies and prayer books.

Past mission grants certainly have bore fruitful mission work, but this year at the LWML convention, 31 new mission grants were selected. Keefe noted that although mites certainly raise money, prayer and encouragement through mission agencies and church workers are part of supporting mission.

Finally, Keefe noted the importance of service: "We are the hands and feet of Jesus within our local communities and across the world," she said. Yes, it's that time of year to celebrate the LWML, but from a grateful Synod, I would like to extend a hearty **"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" for more than 80 years of the Lord's work done among us through Women in Mission.**

—*Rev. Christopher Waldvogel, Sr. Pastoral Counselor of the LWML ND District*

FOCUS on Jesus at LWML.org by Kim Kuhlmann

FOCUS on Jesus is a new and exciting series of videos and presentations released after the LWML convention in Milwaukee. The videos are only a few minutes each and are a great introduction to the LWML for anyone and can be a refreshing reminder to renew and strengthen current LWML members. Each video comes with a PowerPoint presentation and notes for talking about the video that makes presenting each topic easy. The five videos are titled:

- F**acts - Who We Are
- O**ur Preparation for Service - How We Equip
- C**hrist Centered - Why We Go
- U**nified Message - We Proclaim Christ Near and Far
- S**erving Others - How We Help

The videos and PowerPoint presentations for use with each video can be found on the LWML website, lwml.org/focus-on-jesus. Take a few minutes to visit the site, watch each video, and think of how you can share the information with your groups, Zones, and those who haven't heard about LWML.



Many of us in the LWML know Phyllis Lentz as "the bus lady" who has faithfully traveled to every national convention via the North Dakota bus for decades. This year, however, President Debbie traveled to her! Pictured (left to right) are Past President, Debbie Larson, DiAnn Milbrandt, Phyllis Lentz, Wanda Zietlow, and JoAnn Bladow at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lidgerwood. (Submitted by: Kay Kreklau)

October 2023

Mite Challenge Calendar



SERVING THE SAINTS: For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name
In serving the saints, as you still do (Hebrews 6:10).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Gather supplies for the October Mission Service Activity. Donate 40¢	2 Read, I Love to Tell the Story — "God's Intentional Friendship." Donate 75¢	3 Pray for LCMS missionaries. Donate 50¢	4 Read Psalm 30:4. Donate 65¢	5 Take a walk in the crisp morning air. Donate 40¢	6 Print an LWML Pastor Appreciation Card for Sunday. Donate 95¢	7 Bring an LWML Fall Coloring Card to a homebound friend. Donate 60¢
8 Go pumpkin picking. Donate 35¢	9 Indigenous People Day! Read about <u>Lutheran Indian Ministries</u> . Donate 90¢	10 Sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness." Donate 55¢	11 Print October's Mission Grant Story and post it at church. Donate 20¢	12 Read Romans 12:13. Donate 95¢	13 Donate food items to your local food pantry. Donate 30¢	14 Carve a pumpkin with a child. Donate 85¢
15 Pray for your church choir and music ministry! Donate 90¢	16 Bake a pumpkin pie and share it with your family. Donate 35¢	17 Read LWML Bible study: <i>Sharing Our Gifts as We Work for the Lord</i> . Donate 80¢	18 Share a hot cup of cider with a friend. Donate 65¢	19 Recite the LWML Pledge. Donate 40¢	20 Invite a friend to Bible study. Donate 85¢	21 Rake leaves for a neighbor. Donate 50¢
22 Volunteer to provide the church coffee hour goodies! Donate 35¢	23 Share with family how God's light shines through LWML. Donate 80¢	24 Bake pumpkin cookies for a preschool. Donate 25¢	25 Read about the LWML Mailbox craft. Donate 70¢	26 Print LWML Thanksgiving Note Cards. Donate 35¢	27 Assist the church secretary with a task. Donate 90¢	28 Sing LSB #677 "For All the Saints." Donate 15¢
29 Sign up to be a Substitute Sunday school teacher. Donate 60¢	30 Read 2 Corinthians 9:12. Donate 25¢	31 Reflect on the faith of saints who have gone before us. Donate 80¢				



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Upcoming Dates

District & National

- ND DISTRICT BOD — November 4, 2023 at Concordia Lutheran in Jamestown
- ND DISTRICT LWML Convention — June 14–16, 2024 at Ramada in Bismarck

Zone Activities

Fall Zone Rallies:

- Central:** October 7, 2023 at Concordia in Jamestown
- Eastern:** Sept. 30, 2023 at 1st American in Mayville
- NE:** October 15, 2023 at Zion English in Grafton
- NW:** October 14, 2023 at St. Paul in Minot
- SE:** October 7, 2023 at Holy Cross Lutheran in Lidgerwood
- SW:** October 14, 2023 at St. Matthew in Hazen



On Friday, September 8, I was blessed to be in Lidgerwood, ND, for the annual Lutheran Women in Mission lunch where the ladies serve the whole community. Wonderful soups and salads were served but the highlight was the abundance of homemade pies! What a wonderful way to reach out to the community and spread His love! (Submitted by: Debbie Larson)

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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).