Lutheran Women's Missionary League North Dakota District

Equip Encourage Share Jesus

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



Official Call To Convention: Members of the LWML ND District, this is your official call to convention, "Lord Of All Creation" at the Ramada in Bismarck. We have been called to share our God's greatness especially in the person of our Savior Jesus Christ. You are invited and encouraged to come to Bismarck on June 14-16, 2024 as we rejoice with our sisters and brothers in Christ and marvel our awesome Creator. You will be inspired and uplifted by worship, Bible study, special speakers and so much more! Delegates to the convention will have voice and vote and be making decisions on mission grants and new officers for the 2024–2026 LWML Biennium.

You are cordially invited to come and be energized as Lutheran Women in Mission. Please ioin me and the women and men of the SW Zone who will welcome you to Bismarck on

June 14-16, 2024. He is the "Lord Of All Creation!"

"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authoritiesall things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossions 1:16).

The Messenger

Laurieann Totenhagen, LWML ND District President

Sewant Event Information: Plan to take part in one of the Servant Events Planned for the District Convention. A sneak peek at the Servant Events at the upcoming District Convention that you can participate in include: Mercy Meals, Convention Choir & Mite Walk. The Servant Events take place on Friday afternoon, beginning around 2 or 2:30 pm and take place either at the hotel or at a nearby LCMS church. Watch for more details at ndlwml.org or check the Spring 2024 issue of The Messenger as we get closer to convention.



Now is the perfect time to start collecting items for our Ingathering. Plan ahead and involve your entire congregation in gathering items for these two organizations:

Martin Luther School • Lutheran school in Bismarck.

Holy Cross — Friends in Mission Donates winter hats, scarves, mittens/gloves in the Bismarck/ Mandan area and on the Standing Rock Reservation in ND and SD

(see p.6 for complete list of items to begin collecting)



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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 ndlwml.org



Happy New Year! What a wonderful fall and winter we have had ... until Christmas Day. The weather turned and we ended up with an ice storm with many losing electricity. I hope you and your family were able to stay warm and safe. Even though the weather was less than delightful it didn't prevent us from celebrating the birth of our Lord.



At the Feast of Epiphany, we celebrated the visitation of the Magi to the newborn King. As Gentiles who were brought to faith in Jesus Christ, the Magi represent all believers from the Gentile world. The Christ has appeared to us. O come, let us worship Him. **"A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel"** (Luke 2:32).



Jesus Christ is Lord of the Nations. Our Lord is also the *"Lord Of All Creation"* which is our theme for the LWML ND District Convention to will be held in Bismarck June 14–16, 2024. Our host committee is excited for your arrival in Bismarck. At convention we will vote on the 2024–2026 Biennial Mission Goal and Grants, our new officers, and Pastoral Counselors. In this issue you will find the Convention Registration. Your units will be choosing two delegates to represent them for voting. Please consider being a delegate for your unit and I would also encourage your unit to sponsor a woman from your congregation to attend.

We are also in need of willing servants to fill the positions of officers whose term is up. Please prayerfully consider serving LWML ND District and the Lord. Encourage the women of your congregation to consider serving. Please let the nominating chair, Dianne Loll *dndloll@rrt.net*, know if you are willing to serve.

VP of Mission Grants, Sue Corwin, has noted in her article the mission grants that have been paid out this biennium. We praise and thank the Lord for those mites that have funded those grants. I ask that you pray for the remaining grants to the Food and Clothing Co-op Fort Wayne, Kruse Memorial Chapel, and the ND Full-time Church Worker Scholarship that haven't been funded as of yet that they may also receive the funding. These last grants help support and equip our full-time Church Workers so that they may proclaim the Word of the Lord. The Kruse Memorial Chapel on the campus of the Minot's Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is vital for spiritual guidance to their at-risk children.



At the LWML convention in Milwaukee, Mission Grant #2 was for a new chapel for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch on the Bismarck campus. I was honored to deliver the check in December for the whole grant of \$100,000 to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Bismarck for the construction of their new chapel. They did not have designated chapel on campus so this is a wonderful addition for the Ranch. We praise the Lord for all the blessings He gives us daily!

In Christ,

LWML ND District President, Lawrieann Totenhagen

Memorials and Honorariums October — December 2023

MEMORIALS:

Janet Bauer (2) Dale Asche

HONORARIUM: Rebecca Goter Revenia Nelson Revenia Nelson

Donna Mae Raben Gladys Morlock Nikki Rahlf (birthday)

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.

LWML Mission Grant Proposals For The 2024–2026 Biennium

MG 2401 – \$8,000 Orphan Grain Train Jamestown, ND The Orphan Grain Train (OGT) — ND Branch provides food, clothing, medical supplies, and God's Word to those in need. OGT's ministry reaches out to help people who have suffered losses in floods, droughts, tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires in the United State. Additionally, they offer aid to the destitute people in Ukraine, Latvia, Liberia, Romania, Mexico, Republic of Georgia, Kenya, and Moldova. The funds for this grant will be used to assist with expenses to make shipments and continue their work.

MG 2402 – \$6,000 Mercy Meals of North Dakota — Mercy Meals of North Dakota was established by the board of Orphan Grain Train Branch #9 in the spring of 2015 as a method of obtaining and providing food for the support of their mission projects overseas. Based in Jamestown, Mercy meals of North Dakota brings the mission opportunity to various North Dakota organizations and communities by setting up a packing event in any location where there are willing volunteers to help. The money for this grant will be used primarily to purchase supplies for packing events (especially for groups with minimal funding available) and transportation costs to travel to and from event sites over the 2024-2026 biennium. Some funds may also be used for equipment upgrades and replacements, and various office supply costs.

MG 2405 – \$5,000 Food and clothing Co-op Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne — The food and clothing co-op on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, plays a key role in helping students reduce the financial burden of seminarians and their families by providing access to food and clothing. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase perishable items for the food bank (e.g., eggs, cheese, milk, juice, meat, fruits, and vegetables) as well as additional grocery and paper products.

MG 2406 – \$4,000 Physical Wellness for at Risk Children Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch — The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch create an eternal, life giving impact in the lives of children through psychiatric care and Christ centered spiritual care. They address the "whole child" in services. The funds for this grant will help to replace the 50-year-old gym flooring on the Minot campus creating a safe wellness-focused environment where children can learn and grow and build healthy habits necessary for their healing.

MG 2407 – \$5,000 Christ the Way Radio Ministry Jamestown, ND — Christ the Way radio program has been on the air in North Dakota since 1929. The 15-minute program airs over KSJB 600 AM in Jamestown every Sunday and is heard by people in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Iowa. Christ the Way is directed by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran in Jamestown with the assistance of Phillip Cherney a member of Concordia. The messages are provided by LCMS pastors of the North Dakota District. The funds from this grant will be used to pay for production and broadcast costs of the radio ministry and provide stabilization of funds for future endeavors and potential rate increases.

MG 2408 – \$5,000 Where Charity and Love Prevail Concordia Seminary, St. Louis — The services that Concordia Seminary's Re-Sell it shop and food bank provide allow the students and their families to better focus on their call to be servants for Christ. The shop and food bank help make life as a seminarian more affordable by providing essential budget relief to our students. They provide healthy food, personal care products, clothing and needed household items to the students and their families. The funds for this grant will be used to help put food on the table and provide clothing for future students of Christ and their families.

MG 2411 – \$10,000 Youth Ministry in the ND District — The mission of the ND District youth ministry "is to foster lifelong Lutheranism among the youth of the ND District congregations, circuits, regions, district and synod through word and sacrament ministry". The Youth Ministry task force organizes three major District youth events each year. Every effort is made to make events break even. The funds for this grant will be used to help pay for the cost of the LYF retreat, LYF youth gathering and the Middle School gathering.

MG 2413 – \$10,800 Chapel Pews Cushions at Shepherds Hill at the Crossroads — Shepherds Hill at the Crossroads provides Christ centered faith and life enrichment through year-round outdoor ministry and hosts many different Christian retreats, family gatherings, cabin rentals and camps. The current chapel pew cushions have lost their padding through years of use and new pew cushions would improve the comfort of the pews for all events. The funds for this grant will be used to purchase new pew cushions for use in the chapel.

MG 2414 – \$4,940 Main Street Living North — Main Street Living North is a TV program that features a 30-minute LCMS weekly worship service for home bound, nursing homes and assisted living as well as a mission field for others on Sunday morning by Pastors of North Dakota and Minnesota of the LCMS. This grant will be used to help cover the cost of hiring an assistant editor to assist them in presenting a quality evangelistic television ministry that invites the unchurched and shut-ins to better know the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

MG 2418 – \$25,000 ND Full-Time Church Workers Scholarship — The North Dakota Church Worker Scholarship is a program administered by the North Dakota District LCMS for youth and adults who desire to be educated and become full-time workers in God's kingdom in the LCMS. This scholarship helps defray the cost of higher education as it continues to escalate so as not to become a burden for those students. The students who will benefit from these scholarships are members (or were at the time of initial scholarship application) of North Dakota LCMS.

MG 2419 – \$15,000 Lutheran Family Service — Lutheran Family Service is expanding to serve in North Dakota, growing their ministry team of masters-level licensed therapists to meet the increasing need through mental health, marriage and family counseling, grief education and support, and church worker wellness resources. They offer telehealth services to pastors and members of LCMS congregations in ND. They are actively seeking to open physical offices in major cities in ND. God speaks about the church's care for her neighbors *"Carry each other burdens and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ"* (Galatians 6:2). The funds for this grant will be used to help fund this ministry's expansion across ND.

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	\$5,000	0
MG 2216 — Grace Lutheran School Education Grant For Unchurched Student	\$6,000	\$6,000	0
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	\$54,000	\$23,500

LWML ND District Mission Grant News by Sue Corwin

Praise to God for blessing the mites given. As of January 1st the following grants have been paid in full: Orphan Grain Train for \$7,500, Main St. Living North for \$9,500, Shepherds Hill at the Crossroads for \$9,000, Mercy Meals of North Dakota for \$5,000, and Grace Lutheran School education grant for unchurched student for \$6,000. Each of the projects with God's blessing will further the sharing of His word. Thank you, God, for giving us the ability to give those mites. We still have the Food and Clothing Co-op at Fort Wayne and Kruse Memorial Chapel and the LCMS ND church workers scholarship to fund before March 1st. An explanation of how mites are used. A mite is divided so not all goes to pay grant projects. From every dollar donated \$0.25 is sent to national LWML to help support their mission grant budget. The remaining \$0.75 is used by the LWML ND District. There are district expenses that must be paid before the mission grant projects are paid. Expenses such as the printing and mailing of the newsletter and the cost associated with the website. District officers may submit a voucher for mileage to attend meetings, postage, meals, and other costs associated with serving you through being an LWML District Officer. Many LWML District Officers donate all or some of these costs. So you can see that each coin you place in your Mite Box is used in many ways. VP Mission Grants, *MwCGMM*

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, Pastoral Counselor and Nominating Committee Chairman. 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:

Adrian Montonye (NE) Nicole Beyersdorf (NW) Dianne Loll–Chair (SE).

Registration Form



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT 41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION RAMADA BISMARCK HOTEL, BISMARCK, ND JUNE 14–16, 2024



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY (Use blue or black ink)

NAME (Last)	(First)		Please select ar	applicable categ	ory
Mailing Address:			A Delegat		
City	State	Zip	B Alterna	•	
Phone:			C ND Dist	rict LWML BOD rict LWML Past Pı	esident
Email:			E Genera		
Home church:			_ F Conven	tion Worker	
First time attending a LWML District (Convention:		G Clergy H Exhibite)r	
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2	024			л 	
Registration – June 14–16, 2024			\$150.00	\$	
Comment in Manham			6400.00		

Convention Worker	\$100.00	\$
One day registration (Saturday only)	\$100.00	\$
Late registration (postmarked after May 15, 2024)	\$170.00	\$
Meal Package (Saturday Lunch, Dinner)	\$ 50.00	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	Ck #	\$

Make check payable to: **LWML ND District** and mail with this form to:

Joyce Voss, 4703 Nova Ave NW, Mandan, ND 58554

email: rev.af.col@gmail.com

Please send my registration confirmation via: _____ email _____ mail

PLEASE CHECK THE EVENTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

Convention Choir Rehearsal, Friday 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Servant Events, Friday 2:30-4:00 p.m.

Mercy Meals

Delegate meeting, Friday 4:15-5:00 p.m.

Friday Supper, 5:00 p.m., Bethel Lutheran Church, 615 E Turnpike Ave, Bismark (no cost)

Attending Supper _____

SATURDAY MEAL PACKAGE:

Lunch: **Deli Buffet** (*includes: soup*, *relish tray*, *sandwich fixings*, *salad*, *chips*, *dessert*, *coffee* & *water*)

Banquet: **Roast Turkey & Dressing (**served with dinner rolls, salad, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert, coffee & water)

Dietary Restrictions

HOUSING INFORMATION

RAMADA BISMARCK, I-94 & EXIT 159, 1400 East Interchange Ave, Bismarck, ND 58501

(701) 258-7000 Room reservation deadline: May 15, 2024

Room rate: <u>\$109.00.</u> Be sure to mention "**LWML Convention**" when making your reservation.

(Complimentary Continental breakfast for hotel guests.)

LWML Health and Emergency Information Form

Each persor	n attending the convention must complete this form.
Name:	
Address:	
EMERGENCY CONTACT	
NAME:	RELATIONSHIP
PHONE:	CELL PHONE
MEDICAL INFORMATION	
List any <u>health conditions t</u> o be a	aware of before emergency treatment:
List medications medical persona	al should be aware of:
DIETARY NEEDS:	
PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS	
	Nore Convention Details:
	r at Holy Cross, Lidgerwood & Immanuel, rural Lidgerwood; author of "Life in Christ: Rooted,
Mission Speakers: Rev. Steve Schulz, Assi families, groups, organiz	istant Director of Mission Central. Mission Central focuses on personally connecting individuals, zations and congregations with LCMS called or appointed missionaries and mission projects, inated mission initiatives. *Lutheran Family Service
Entertainment: "Sweet Adelines" (River Rha	

LWML Representative: LWML President, Eden Keefe

Baptismal Comfort Message by Rev. Michael Suelzle, Jr. Pastoral Counselor

After the service, while greeting members, one particular little boy was not having a good day. He was throwing a tantrum. Nothing was going his way. Dad was trying to get the little boy to follow him out of the sanctuary so that I could greet them. But the boy was having none of it. Finally, after everyone else had gone through the line, the dad greeted me as I just looked with care at the little boy. He was crying and stomping his feet. Everyone knew that he was having a bad morning. The dad just shook my hand, looked at me, and said, "Well, that's why he's baptized."



Here was this little saint-sinner struggling to do the good that he knew he should be doing and not doing the bad thing he knew he shouldn't be doing. Just like Paul

tells us in Romans chapter 7. And what brought this dad comfort is the fact that his son is baptized. He had confidence in what God did for his son, even through this struggle that the little boy was experiencing.

Martin Luther says that Holy Baptism is the Christian's only comfort. We don't do altar calls. We don't do testimonies. We don't have prophecies. We begin every service in remembrance of our baptism, making the sign of the cross. Luther even tells us in the catechism to begin every morning in the same way: in the comfort of Baptism.

Why is Holy Baptism such a comfort for us? Because it wasn't just some event that happened way back when you were little, like a piano recital or a kindergarten Christmas program. And it isn't a one-time event, like "giving my heart to Jesus" or "making Him Lord and Savior of my life". You ARE Baptized. Here and now. The gifts that God gives you in Baptism are fully yours for as long as you are His.

What gifts might those be? Again, Luther points it out in the catechism: forgiveness, life, and salvation.

In Baptism God brings us into a life of **forgiveness**. Every time we fail to meet His expectations, we are able to go before our Heavenly Father and confess our sin. And He is faithful to forgive until the Day when we will no longer need to be forgiven. Even during the days when we have tantrums after the worship service.

In Baptism God gives us new *life* by rescuing us from death and the devil. We are no longer children of wrath, enslaved by sin and death. We are adopted children of God, brought into His family where He protects us from sin and every evil and strengthens us by Word and Sacrament so that we can live lives which honor our Father.

In Baptism God gives us an eternal inheritance which will never perish, spoil, or fade away. Even though we don't get to see it yet, it is ours because we are in Christ. He rose from the grave to show that life in Him cannot end with death or sickness or pain or suffering or sadness or conflict or persecution or tribulation.

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

(Continued from page 1)

Gifts From The Heart

Martin Luther School:

Holy Cross — Friends in Mission:

*paper towels	*dry erase markers	Donates winter hats, scarves, mittens/gloves in the Bismarck/Mandan area and on the
*napkins	*blue "tacky"	Standing Rock Reservation in ND and SD.
*paper plates	*white out correction tape	*yarn, preferably 4 ply worsted, blanket but will work with other weights (these need not be full
(cheap, white 9" size) *black sharpies	or new skeins)
*baby wipes	*oil pastels	*sewing thread
*disinfecting wipes	*water colors	*needles (size 5–7)
*kleenex	*packet of blank	*donations of knit/crochet scarves, hats, mittens/gloves
*highlighters	canvas (approx 8x10")	



Upcoming Dates

District & National

- ND DISTRICT BOD February 3, 2024 at Concordia in Jamestown
- ND DISTRICT BOD June 14, 2024 preconvention meeting at Ramada in Bismarck LWML ND DISTRICT Convention —
- June 14–16. 2024 at Ramada in Bismarck WML Convention - 2025 in
- Omaha, Nebraska.

Zone Activities

Spring Zone Rally: Central: April 6, 2024 in Edgeley; hosted by Ellendale Eastern: April 13, 2024 at Grace in Fargo NF: NW:

SE: SW: April 20, 2024 at Zion in Bismarck

Fall Zone Rally: Central: October 5, 2024 at Concordia in Jamestown NE: September 28 at Immanuel in Grand Forks

Fall Retreat: September 13-15, 2024 in Grand Forks



Photo submitted by: President LaurieAnn Totenhagen. Photo of check presentation that I was honored to give from LWML ND District to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck campus. Also pictured are: Anne Compere, Director of Mission Advancement Laurie Dannewitz, Sr. Development Officer Rev. Rick Jones, Chaplain and VP of Spiritual Life

2022–2024 District Officers and Zone Presidents

President

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The Messenger is published four times during the year. Download available at 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).