



LWML MN North District 29th Biennial Convention

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

MINNESOTA NORTHERN LIGHT



"Serve the Lord with Gladness..." Psalm 100:2

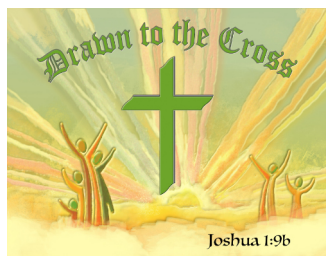
The Unconventional

During this unconventional and fearful time of disrupted lives, many are missing their LWML group or zone activities. It is important for us to remember there are still mite goals to be met. LWML MN North is depending on our monthly 75% to continue funding the districts mission goal.

The LWML MN North District mission grants have been funded for 2018-20, but there will be new ones adopted this spring. With this uncertainty, our hope remains in Christ, our Anchor. One certainty is that our work must continue – there is no shelter in place for the command to "go and tell" given us by Jesus.

Societies and groups are encouraged to seek means of continuing to gather and submit mites monthly. Please continue to mail your mites and remittance form to the Financial Secretary. Unconventional times call for unconventional actions. Who knows – the unconventional may work so well it becomes conventional?

Peggy Pasche
Financial Secretary



Convention Cancellation

The 29th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Minnesota North District that was to be held June 22-24, 2020 at the Timberlake Hotel and Event Center, Grand Rapids, MN has been canceled due to the COVID-19 virus.

The convention theme that was chosen is especially pertinent at this time. Now is the time in our lives where we are "Drawn to the Cross". *Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.* (Joshua 1:9b)

The voting will take place by paper ballot. At this time the LWML MN North District Executive Committee is working out the details. Please check for updates on our website, lwmlmnn.org.

I will miss being with all of you in June! Always remember that God is in control of all that happens in our lives.

God's blessings to all of you!

Marilyn Hiltel
LWML MN North District President



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world.

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Leader Development

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Mailbox Member Program

I hear some of the same things from groups throughout my region and in the Minnesota North District. Many groups are dealing with dwindling numbers of active members. It is a problem that needs to be studied and addressed.

What are some of the things that your group has done to encourage women to become more active? What are some of the obstacles that you see and hear? We all know that more and more women are working outside the home and their time is valuable after their work day.

There are a number of women who do not have jobs outside the home but have no interest in joining an LWML group. Why? There are many reasons, but one I hear a lot from this group of women is that they just do not like to go to meetings.

The LWML National has developed the Mailbox Member program that can reach a large number of these women.

The Mailbox Member program provides a devotion and encouragement each month in the member’s mailbox, church mailbox or email. This program is designed to reach those who otherwise may not have any contact with the LWML. The Mailbox Member Program allows women of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to discover how God can work in their lives through the LWML.

More information on the Mailbox Member Program can be found at www.mailbox.org/mailbox.

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 15 Scholarship Applications are due
- May 25 Delegate Credentials Form are due
- June 10 Article due for *Lutheran Witness*
- June 15 *Minnesota Northern Light* Summer Issue Articles due



The *Minnesota Northern Light* newsletter is published quarterly. Article submission deadline is December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15. Sign up to receive the newsletter online. Go to lwmlmnn.org and look for the Subscribe button.

Christian Life

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Committee Members

Rev. Bruce Timm, Pastoral Counselor • Karena Lapolice • Doris Schroeder • Kathy Steinmetz • Ruth Thompson

Spring and Summer bring on thoughts of new growth, flowers, Mother's Day, sunshine, etc. There are numerous resources available on the LWML website related to this season. Some of them are listed below.

Devotions

Bloom and Grow! - Witnessing, Christian Living

Green Pastures - Jesus the Good Shepherd, Spring, Christian Life

Living in Green Pastures - Christian Life

New Growth – Again - Spring, Forgiveness, Christian Living

Praying Mothers - Motherhood, Prayer

Bible Studies

A New Spring Wardrobe - Christian Living, Fashion

More Sins, Please (Study & Answer Guide) - Saved Despite Sinful Life

Never Stop Growing - Christian Life

Sketches and Drama

Cast All Your Care - Christian Living
 Coffee Shop Grace

Ready, Set, Grow! - Growing in Faith, Christian Life

If you need help obtaining one of these resources, feel free to contact me at 320-743-2131 or christianlife@lwmlmnn.org.

LWML 2020 Prayer Service



The 2020 Prayer Service, written by past LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. Allen D. Anderson, is *Living in Love, Bearing Fruit*.

Christians are saved to serve. We are chosen and called to bear fruit for Jesus. We do this as we live in His love, not only in our home or church, but also in the world, where it is often more difficult to love others. We are empowered by the love that Jesus showed us in His sacrificial death on the Cross so that we would have life. Now we are blessed to live in His love, bearing much fruit for His sake. May this prayer service help us take time to reflect on His love for us, our love for Him, and how the fruit we bear is a result of living in His love. This free, downloadable Prayer Service will be available in early January for use in your 2020 programing.

How to use the Prayer Service

The Prayer Service is designed to be used at any time, by large or small groups. It is an abbreviated worship service. This material is copyrighted by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and users agree to use the service in full context.



Mustard Seed Devotions can be sent directly to your email daily. Visit www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions to sign up.

Mission Grants

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Committee Members

Rev. Bruce Timm, Pastoral Counselor
 Sandra Bakeberg • Carol Ann Sander
 Joan Johnson • Carol Westendorf

To God be the glory! Our LWML MN North mission goal of \$139,000 for the 2018-2020 biennium has been reached! That means that all nine of the mission grants we planned to support, have or will receive the promised funds. God has certainly blessed our efforts!

Planning ahead... Several weeks ago, the Mission Grant Committee met to review the mission grant proposals that were submitted for our new biennium. At our April BOD meeting, the recommendations of this committee will be reviewed and voted on for placement on the ballots for the delegates' consideration. I would urge all who will be in attendance as voting delegates to carefully study the proposals that will be presented and ask for God's guidance in the grants you choose to support through your vote. If you are not a voting delegate, please share your thoughts with the delegate(s) who will represent your group. Many of the proposed grants are familiar to most of you, but there will also be new additions.

It is amazing to think how many different ways our mite contributions have benefited so many varied missions over all of the years that LWML has been in existence. Not only has our district blessed others, but one-fourth of all of our mites have been a blessing to grants on the national level. I encourage you to read your *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* to see the mission grants that are currently being funded on the national level. Truly, we "serve the Lord with gladness" and as a result of our mite giving, many have been blessed. God's kingdom has been extended as a result of faithfulness in sharing the gifts we have been given.

Archivist-Historian

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 320-846-0984

Did you know that our LWML MN North archived items are kept at the MN North District Office in Baxter, MN? We have space, with shelving, that holds our many items from the past.

I tell you this because – if you're looking for an answer about something (and the answer is in our archives), you need to give me ample time to find it, as I am located 1.5 hours from Baxter. I do make trips to the District Office periodically, so that new items can be filed. I am willing to look up information for you if you need it.

Scholarships

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS due May 15, 2020

Scholarships for Students
 going into Full-Time Church Work

For more scholarship information
 and to download the application form

GO TO
 lwmlmnn.org

Information can be found under the
 Resources menu tab or the Scholarships
 web page.

Mission Grant Report

A total amount of \$9,000 in mites for LWML MN North grants was raised this past quarter. The Mission Grant Committee recommended and the BOD approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$5,000 for Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch Staff and Training; \$2,500 for Sharing Christ With Muslims; and \$1,500 for “Main Street Living North” Ministry Outreach TV Program. The chart below details the mission grants that were paid for the 2018-2020 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2018-2020 BIENNIUM (Balance as of March 31, 2020)	GRANT AMOUNT	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Orphan Grain Train	\$9,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 2	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$15,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 3	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Student	\$50,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 4	Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch Staff Growth and Training	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 5	Trinity HOPE Haitian Feeding Program	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 6	Sharing Christ With Muslims	\$5,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 7	Project 24 Child Care; Christ’s Care for Children Kenya	\$10,800	PAID IN FULL
Grant 8	Lutheran Outreach in Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria	\$8,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 9	“Main Street Living North” Ministry Outreach TV Program	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 10	Gloria Dei School and Church Building at Cap Haitian, Haiti (Partially Funded)	\$11,200	PAID IN FULL
TOTALS		\$139,000	\$0

To God be the Glory – we had a surplus of \$8,635.09 in addition to the \$139,000 listed above. The Board of Directors voted that since we are not gathering in Grand Rapids for the convention, the \$8,635.09 will be applied towards our 2020-2022 mission grant goal.

Human Care

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Committee Members

Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Pastoral Counselor • Sheri Adkins • Patty Wiedewitsch • Jean Tester



Help Needed: If you sew, you can put your skills to use now! Call your local hospital and nursing care facilities to see if they need face masks. If so, there are two patterns at lwmlmnn.org. Go to the Committees Menu and choose Human Care.

You can find additional patterns at:

- <https://www.joann.com>
- <https://www.sewcanshe.com/blog/>

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Committee Members

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Catherine Hollermann • Barbara Rolf

Grand Cayman in the Caribbean

The white beaches of the Grand Cayman consist of coral from the sea which has been broken down by the constant waves washing onto the Caribbean Shores. Approximately a quarter of a mile off shore from the resort we vacation at is a long coral reef naturally placed there by our Creator. We were told that it protects the island and its people from the severity of the sea: hurricanes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. On January 28th, 2020 the island experienced a 7.4 earthquake with small tremors following. The people at the resort experienced frightening large waves swishing in the swimming pools, tremors beneath their feet, and chairs rocking and shaking on the pool decks, but the SEA WAS STILL. The pool was immediately next to the still sea. Tsunami warnings came over the air waves, but the sea remained still. Helicopters hovered over the sea, watching for the tsunamis approaching land. They NEVER came.



Following this experience one noted: no destruction of buildings, no concrete parking lots destroyed, no roads disturbed, and the small homes of the indigenous people living on the seaside were untouched.

Still the natives proclaimed the faithfulness of the Almighty God. In their words they

exclaimed, “God is faithful, and He IS warning us.”

You see, we were told some years ago that 95 % of the people on this island worshipped in church on Sunday mornings. Today the church pews are inadequately occupied, and the natives are very concerned. They welcome us when we worship with them while on the island.

These people, as we are, are a segment of “All Nations”. Matthew 28:19. They share Jesus with all of the Nations, “Serving the Lord with Gladness.” We encourage visitors to the island from the resort by speaking of Jesus as our Savior and invite them to worship with us at the church. What a joy to see the folks who accept the invitation light up as they join us in worship. The natives are such an encouragement to us as we worship with them, and we are such an encouragement to them. It truly is delightful. “We Are Drawn To The Cross”!

The LWML of the MN North District was to convene in Grand Rapids, MN. Our 2020 convention was to have the theme, “Drawn to the Cross” (Joshua 1:9b) June 22 – 24. Even though we are not able to convene, we are “Drawn to the Cross” throughout our lives. We are reminded of God’s faithfulness as we carry out the Great Commission as we move on our life journey. God’s faithfulness is seen on this journey whether, it is through the natural calamities that strike His Creation, the straying of His people from His Word, the inconvenience in our lives because of the COVID-19 virus, or any behavior that draws us away from God, Our Creator.

As I study the logo and theme of that convention that cannot be held due to the pandemic, my heart is stirred to ‘Proclaim the Faithfulness of Our Lord’ as we are;

**“DRAWN TO THE CROSS”
SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!**

Young Women

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Committee Members

Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Pastoral Counselor • Karena Lapolice • Karen Gorentz • Susan Zeige (BOD liaison)

Looking Forward

Looking out my window at yet more freshly fallen snow this morning, it is hard to imagine that spring truly is “just around the corner”, and not far beyond, the blissfully sunny summer weather. I’m Minnesota born and raised, so I am certain winter won’t just quietly fade away, but I know that once again the days are getting longer with more light during my waking hours, and I am wearing fewer layers as the days go by. Spring really is coming! Warmer weather is on its way! Us hardy Minnesotans will once again be rewarded for surviving another long winter with the prize of another beautiful Minnesota-summer.

That first paragraph was the start of my original article back before the COVID-19 pandemic hit in full force, and our lives were changed in many and various ways! My article went on to talk about your summer plans, and invite you to come to our LWML MN North District Convention in Grand Rapids this summer. Alas, that is not to be. While I am disappointed that our district convention has been cancelled due to the pandemic, I am thankful for the people who were so committed to providing an amazing convention, and for the time spent with the BOD working together for our fellow sisters in Christ. There will be other conventions, and I am confident that God is working all of this for our good.

I don’t want to linger on the COVID-19 pandemic for long, as it consumes most of our daily lives enough as it is, but I would encourage each of you to give each other and those in your lives as much grace as possible. Folks are responding to the pandemic in a variety of ways, and especially for those who

are not confident in the love and mercy of our Savior, these are very scary times. Praise God that although times are different and scary (yes, even Christians can experience fear at times), we have the assurance that God is in control, and our salvation is complete. No matter how you are responding to the pandemic, whether with extreme anxiety or with appreciation for a slower pace, or somewhere in-between, we can all find solace in the promises that God has made to us - that we will one day be united with Him in His Kingdom.

Thinking again about my opening paragraph - we are no longer anticipating spring, but now summer. There is so much to love about summer in our great state. While I am not sure what to expect this year – will we be able to have my son’s graduation and party? Will I celebrate my 40th birthday in the same way we had planned? What will the summer look like as many annual celebrations we enjoy have already been cancelled for this year? I’m not sure.

However, I am an optimist, and even if this summer isn’t the same as usual, and we can’t do the things that we had planned, I am sure that there will be many opportunities for us to enjoy the warm weather, make memories, and find other, new ways, to enjoy the many blessings that our loving Father bestows on us.

Be well, dear sisters in Christ. God is with us, and He is good all of the time. All of the time, God is good!



Structure

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Committee Members

Rev. Bruce Timm, Pastoral Counselor
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Summary of the duties for LWML National and LWML Districts

LWML National

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

PURPOSE

The object of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among the women of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service; and to gather funds for mission grants either directly sponsored or approved by LCMS boards or LCMS district presidents, especially those for which no adequate funding provision has been made in LCMS national or district budgets. The phrase “Lutheran Women in Mission” reflects the purpose of LWML.

PROGRAM

- Departments, in concert with the Executive Committee, develop biennial plans of action.
- Each department is comprised of one or more standing committees whose members implement the program of work for the organization.

FINANCES

- LWML mission work is funded through Mite Box offerings and other voluntary means.
- The districts collect mite offerings and retain seventy-five (75) percent or less in the district treasury to fund district grants and programs. The remaining twenty-five (25) percent or more is remitted to the

LWML organization to fund the LWML mission grants and programs.

LWML Districts

The districts – usually conforming to LCMS district boundaries – link individual members, societies, and zones to the LWML. Districts initiate programs and projects as well as implement those of the LWML.

PURPOSE

Districts provide the necessary link that connects the women in LCMS congregations with the mission, object, and goals of the LWML by:

- their presidents’ membership on the LWML Board of Directors;
- educating, equipping, and inspiring the women in their districts to use their gifts in ministry to the people of the world;
- encouraging support for and participation in programs planned by the LWML to implement the objectives and goals;
- gathering funds for mission grants; and
- encouraging use of resources developed by LWML officers and committees.

PROGRAM/CONVENTIONS

The business of a district is transacted at district conventions.

- Conventions may be held annually or biennially.
- If biennially, district conventions are held in even-numbered years (LWML conventions are held in odd-numbered years).
- Local groups send delegates to district conventions as specified in district bylaws.
- District mission grants are adopted in convention as specified in district bylaws and standing rules.
- Districts may request LWML representation at their conventions. Request for such representation is made through the LWML President.
- Any member of the LWML Executive Committee may serve as the representative.

- Districts may sponsor retreats, workshops, servant events, mission service opportunities, Gospel outreach activities, and other programs necessary for achieving the district and LWML objectives and goals.

FINANCES


Mite offerings from local groups are sent to the financial officer designated in the district bylaws.

Subscription costs for the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* are invoiced through the districts. Districts may bill the local groups for their subscriptions.

Districts submit twenty-five (25) percent or more of the mite offerings to LWML. Districts retain seventy-five (75) percent or less for district mission grants and other uses, according to district bylaws and policies.

Costs incurred when district presidents attend LWML Board of Directors meetings are paid by the LWML.

Expenses incurred when a District President attends the LWML convention are paid by the district. Expenses to LWML pre-convention Board of Directors meetings are paid by the LWML and include transportation to and from the meeting, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses for the day(s) of the Board meeting.



Not being able to hold the convention, doesn’t mean that we can’t take a Mite Walk at home. Join your sisters and brothers in Christ to help support the new 2020-2022 biennium mite goal. Check the district website for more information.



2020 Convention Voting

The LWML MN North District is still going to proceed with convention business of electing officers, choosing mission grants, making bylaw changes, setting a new mite goal, and voting on resolutions.

The list of nominee candidates, proposed mission grants and bylaw changes are found on pages 13-19 of this newsletter.

Additional information about the convention and special online events can be found on our district web site at lwmlmnn.org.

The following convention information will be available to view and download:

- Special Financial Remittance form for the convention offerings
- Mite Walk at home
- Proposed Mission Grant Presentation
- Online speaker videos
- Special message from LWML President Debbie Larson

Convention Delegates

Voting will proceed by paper ballot. Each LWML society delegate, and other eligible voters, will receive instructions of how to proceed. The delegate packet will contain the nominee bios, convention resolutions, proposed mission grants, and proposed bylaw amendments. Each certified delegate will fill out a paper ballot, sign and place it in the self-addressed envelope that will be mailed to Lois Sather, who will serve as Ballot Collector. The deadline for mail-in ballots is May 25. Tellers will then tally the convention ballots.

Memorials & Honorariums **January 2020 to March 2020**

- In memory of Paul Leonard from Immanuel, Parkers Prairie
- In memory of Janet Bielke from Zion, Sauk Centre
- In memory of Gloria Ringger from Zion, Alexandria
- In memory of Ardis Horn from Crookston Zone
- In memory of Grace Judisch from Bethlehem, Frazee
- In memory of Joyce Van Eps from St. John's, Ottertail
- In memory of Marianne Davis from St. John's, Ottertail
- In memory of Ardis Horn from St John's Evening Guild Popple Creek, Sauk Rapids
- In memory of Verna Stoehr from Florence Loeschke
- In memory of Ardis Horn from Kathy Brandt
- In memory of Elsie Schamberger Forsythe from Kathy Brandt
- In memory of Don Potratz from Immanuel, Parker Prairie
- In memory of Hildegard Hatlestad from Our Saviors Evening Guild, Crookston
- In memory of Marian Flatau from Laurain Jurchen
- In memory of Marian Flatau from Dave and Sandy Antonsen
- In memory of Marian Flatau from Marian's Family
- In memory of Marian Flatau from Marian's Family and Friends
- In memory of Hildegard Hatlestad from Gladys Wagner
- In memory of Hildegard Hatlestad from Elaine Metzger
- In memory of Jeanene Christianson from Theresa Howrey

Memorial gifts and Honorariums should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Peggy Pasche.

Peggy Pasche
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320-986-2452 (H)
218-731-7629 (C)
financialsec@lwmlmnn.org

Financial Remittance forms can be downloaded from the Resources page of our district website at lwmlmnn.org.



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world.



LWML MN North District
www.lwmlmnn.org
 LWML: www.lwml.org

Submit an article

Does your zone or society have an event or story to share? Please send your article and pictures to the Editor at: editor@lwmlmnn.org

Minnesota Northern Light

Sign up to receive an email notice each quarter announcing when the *Minnesota Northern Light* is ready to download from the district website: lwmlmnn.org

Prayer & Praise Mite Calendar

A great help in your prayer and praise life – especially remembering the mission grants we’re supporting. Download this month’s calendar from the Publication Menu.

LWML MN North District BOD

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2020 LWML Retreat



August 7 - 9, 2020
Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN

Rev. Bruce Timm, Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor, will lead a Bible study based on Ephesians 1:3-10.

Throughout the weekend we will look at blessings of many kinds - spiritual blessings and material blessings, blessings received and blessings shared. We will learn that blessings play an important role in both this life and the next.

There will be time to relax, connect with old friends, and meet new friends.

SPECIAL OFFERS: Bring a "Retreat First Timer" and you receive 10% off the registration price. "Retreat First Timers" receive 25% discount. Also, young women ages 12-18 receive a 25% discount.

- | ITEMS TO BRING | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Bible | |
| Clothes for sun or rain | |
| Insect Repellent | |
| Towel & washcloth | |
| Toiletries | |
| Flashlight | |
| Pillow, bedding, or sleeping bag | |
| Snacks to share (Friday evening) | |

 4:00-6:00 pm
 6:00 pm
 6:45 pm
 7:15 pm
 8:30 pm

 7:00-8:00 am
 8:00 am
 8:30 am
 9:15 am

10:00 am
 10:15 am
 11:00 am

12:00 noon
 1:00 pm
 1:45 pm
 2:00 pm

2:45 pm
 3:00 pm

5:00 pm
 6:00 pm

7:00 pm
 8:00 pm

 8:00 am
 9:30 am
 10:00 am

FRIDAY EVENING

Registration
 Picnic supper
 Get Acquainted Activities
 Bible study based on Ephesians 1:3-10
 Campfire
 Snacks in the Fireside Room

SATURDAY

Registration
 Breakfast
 Ice Breaker
 Session I: What are blessings and why are they important to us?
 Sketch: Blessings for Betty - Part 1
 Session II: Blessings we can count on
 Photos (Group photo, First-Timers, Individual groups)
 Lunch
 Session III: Can "bad" things be blessings?
 Sketch: Blessings for Betty - Part 2
 Session IV: How can YOU be a blessing?

LWML MN North District President
 Free Time - (*Crafts, Christ Serve Ranch tours, pontoon rides, etc.*)
 Dinner
 Sharing: What are some things that have worked in your society/group?
 Entertainment
 Campfire

SUNDAY

Breakfast
 Ice Cream Social
 Worship & Farewell

Retreat updates and a map to LIC can be found on the LWML MN North District website, lwmlmnn.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Corles
 Rainer at: christianlife@lwmlmnn.org or call
 320-743-2131

CUT HERE-----CUT HERE-----CUT HERE

Registration Deadline: August 1, 2020
 (No refunds after August 3, 2020.)

	Before Aug 1st	After Aug 1st
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Sunday	\$125	\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Saturday	\$75	\$85
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Only	\$55	\$65

Choose your housing preference:
 Cabin Retreat Center

Make check payable to:
 LWML MN North District

Send registration form and check to:

Corles Rainer
 8813 - 71 Street SE
 Clear Lake, MN 55319

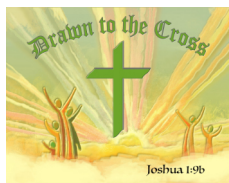
Count Your Blessings

2020 LWML RETREAT
August 7 - 9, 2020
At Lutheran Island Camp

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Special Needs: _____
 Roommates: _____

Check here if you are age 12-18
 Check here if you are a "Retreat First Timer"
 Name of person bringing you: _____



2020 District Convention

Mission Grant Proposals Synopses 2020-2022 Biennium

The following Mission Grant proposals have met the criteria of the LWML MN North District Bylaws and were selected by the Mission Grants Committee to appear on the ballot.

Submitted by the Mission Grants Committee
Susan Zeige (Chairman), Sandra Bakeberg, Carol Ann Sander, Joan Johnson, Carol Westendorf, Rev. Bruce Timm

Grant A – DOXOLOGY Pastoral Care and Well-being (\$15,000) DOXOLOGY is designed to meet the needs of pastors by equipping and revitalizing them to serve their congregations with renewed vigor as a result of this training. Issues that are addressed through this training focus on the core of pastoral effectiveness and congregational life, and enable pastors, their spouses, and lay leaders to work together in ensuring positive results for their congregations. This grant would enable pastors to offset the tuition costs of \$2,200, which many small or financially struggling congregations may be unable to afford.

Grant B – C.R.O.S.S. Appeal (\$18,000) Funding for this grant would enable the seven LCMS schools that are currently operating in the Minnesota North District to meet costs that are not in their current budget. These costs may be in technology, improved programming, or in providing financial assistance to students who desire to receive their education in these settings, but may find it difficult to afford the tuition.

Grant C – Swaddling Clothes (\$10,000) “Swaddling Clothes” is an LCMS program designed to meet the needs of young women needing support in their pregnancies and motherhood by supplying them with items that are basic necessities, including formula, diapers, baby clothes, etc. Redeemer Lutheran Church in Aurora, Minnesota is the only LCMS congregation in Minnesota that offers this service (“Swaddling Clothes”). Distribution of items is done on a monthly

basis and members of the congregation are able to show God's love to families in need through this caring ministry.

Grant D – Project 24, Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,800) This project has been in operation for over ten years and serves the spiritual and physical needs for vulnerable children in Kenya by providing secure boarding facilities. To date, this project is providing support for 190 children, but as additional funds are received, more children can be nurtured in these Christian settings. This grant would provide child sponsorship funds for at least ten children, who are in need of education, medical care, and/or life skills training.

Grant E – Monolith EcoShell Homes for Haiti (\$15,000) In an area that is subject to earthquakes and hurricanes, there is a need to provide safe housing and needed homes for pastors, teachers, and caretakers. This grant would not only enable the construction of safe homes, but also provide needed training and materials for this project.

Grant F – Orphan Grain Train (\$9,000) Throughout the world many are in need of food, clothing, water, medical supplies and equipment, and Scripture-based literature. Orphan Grain Train seeks to meet these needs by providing transportation for these items to show God's love and service to individuals throughout the world. Ninety-three containers of supplies went to people within the United States and to 24 different countries between June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019.

Funding for this project will facilitate the shipping costs of these donated relief supplies.

Grant G – Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination (\$8,000) Jesus set in motion the Great Commission to proclaim His Gospel, but without workers, many are unable to hear the saving Gospel message. Through this grant, men at either of our seminaries will receive equal funding to help offset the expenses for their tuition. This enables these students to have less financial stress and to be able to focus on their studies without worrying about financial burdens.

Grant H – Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students (\$32,000)

Rising costs of receiving an education through the Concordia University system may discourage potential students from enrolling at our universities. This grant would provide financial assistance to students eager to serve the Lord through full-time work in our churches and schools. Scholarships for these students have been offered since 1964; these former students now serve in many varied ways throughout our synod.

Grant I – At Just the Right Time – Mission Central (\$10,000) LWML is a mission-oriented organization and Mission Central is an agency solely for the purpose of supporting mission work. As money is received, Mission Central directs-funds in a quick manner to various missionaries as needs present themselves. Funds may be utilized for transportation to the mission location or within the country missionaries serve, for housing expenses, utilities, language training, and orientation before leaving for an assignment, etc.

Grant J – Lutheran Books for Southeast Asian Families (\$6,500) There is a strong need for Lutheran materials in the language of the people in Southeast Asia today. Lutheran Heritage Foundation is supplying *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, *Luther's Small Catechism*, and *The Book of Concord* in these languages. These books are used not only in Southeast Asia but also in LCMS congregations within the United States (including

Minnesota North). For many Buddhist families, having a book to share with their children in their language is an opening for them to be introduced to their Lord and Savior. These funds would cover the cost of translating, printing, and distributing these materials to Southeast Asia.

Grant K – Connecting People in an Inclusive Christian Housing Community (\$6,500) Bethesda Lutheran Communities will be opening a residence – Bethesda Cornerstone Village – in Victoria, Minnesota in late summer of this year. This housing will provide a residence for up to 52 households of active adults 55 and older and independent adults with disabilities in a Christian environment. This grant would help fund an Activities Manager and social and faith-based programming at this facility so that residents may have the opportunity to be active in an inclusive community of faith.

Grant L – Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch (\$10,000) Campers come to this camp for horseback riding, fishing, and fun, and leave with Jesus in their hearts. This is the desire of the staff that works to share the Word of God with these campers. However, the staff needs training to ensure they can handle emergencies, deal with conflicts, and listen to pain some campers have, and know where to turn in Scripture to share the Gospel message. This grant will provide funding to provide facilitators, training, and resources needed for the work in all camping programs.

Grant M – “Main Street Living North” Ministry Outreach TV Program (\$5,000)

“Main Street Living North” is designed to meet the needs of people who are home bound, in assisted-living and nursing homes, as well as to those without a church to attend on a Sunday morning. This program is produced in Fargo, North Dakota and the funding received would allow for another twenty weeks of continued broadcasting, help update equipment or enable stipends to be paid to the Recording Director/Editor. Through this ministry the message of Christ can be taken to viewers throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, and into Canada.

Grant N – LSF Haiti – Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage (\$10,000) This organization provides a loving place for orphaned children and elderly to get their basic needs met along with medical and daily spiritual care. As a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS, this grant would help provide food for this project at a time where 40 percent of Haiti's population will be facing severe food insecurity as Haiti is in a state of upheaval.

Grant O – Yala Bible Translation and Scripture Engagement (\$5,000) The Yala people in Nigeria, West Africa, have the New Testament in their language, and they are praying for the Old Testament to be finished in their language as well. Yala students eagerly enter the Bible Recitation Competitions; there is joy in their hearts as they are able to read God's Word in their language. The Old Testament is currently being translated; this grant will help to ensure that the Yala people will be able to understand God's Word in its entirety. Bible Translation competitions are held every year to continue the encouragement to read and be engaged in Scripture.

Grant P – Financial Assistance for Food and Clothing Co-op, CTS, Fort Wayne, IN (\$10,000) When seminary students make a decision to leave their jobs and come to the seminary with their families, they no longer have the same financial flow of funds that they had previously, but still have the same financial needs. This food co-op helps reduce the burden by supplying between 80-90% of all families' food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. Each seminary family volunteers a certain amount of time each month in either the food or clothing area, making this a true cooperative. Money supplied by this grant will go to offset the \$7,500 per month cost that is used to purchase grocery items and paper products to fill the shelves.

Nominating Committee Report

LWML MN North District Board Nominees for the 2020-2022 Biennium

The following people have consented to be candidates for office.

LWML DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Kathy Brandt, Ada
Ruby Prochnow, Alexandria

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Brenda Petersen, Wheaton
Mary Scott, Sauk Centre

TREASURER

Kathy Steinmetz, Perham
Kaye Tantari, Duluth

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Arrowhead I RVP

Open for nominations

Lakeland I RVP

Carol Borchers, Moorhead

Park I RVP

Jean Tester, Crookston
Marcia Wittenburg, Lake George

PASTORAL COUNSELOR (Lakeland Region)

Rev. William Aufdenkamp, Elbow Lake/Hoffman
Rev. Keith Brustuen, Montevideo
Rev. Reed Stockman, Morris

Submitted by the Nominating Committee: Doris Weispfennig, Sally Grabuski, Lori Salvhus, Elaine Wolter, Tessa Giru (chairman), Linda Meyer, Carla Patton (District Board Advisor)

2020 Convention Resolutions

2020 - 2022 MISSION GRANT GOAL RESOLUTION

Whereas, We, the Women of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League in the Minnesota North District “Serve the Lord with Gladness” and contribute our mites toward spreading the Gospel through funding various approved mission grants; therefore, be it

Resolved that, A goal of \$140,500 (one hundred forty thousand five hundred dollars) be set for the Mission Grant Goal for the 2020-2022 biennium.

OFFERING RESOLUTIONS

CONVENTION OFFERING #1

Offering #1 will be gathered towards the LWML Minnesota North District Mission Grant Goal for the 2020-2022 biennium.

CONVENTION OFFERING #2 (LCMS Disaster Relief Fund)

Whereas, the LCMS Relief ministry responds to immediate and long term needs following natural and man-made disasters,

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has resulted in a disaster of sickness, death, and economic across the entire world, therefore be it

Resolved that, Convention Offering #2 go to LCMS Disaster Relief Fund.

CONVENTION OFFERING #3 (Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO Food Bank)

Whereas, the Food Bank provides the tremendous blessing of free groceries and household items to all Seminary students and their families,

Whereas, the Food Bank allows students and their families the opportunity to stretch their resources by reducing their out-of-pocket grocery expenses.

Resolved that, Convention Offering #3 go to Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO Food Bank.

2020 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

LWML Minnesota North District Bylaws state in Article XXI AMENDMENTS:

“These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the biennial convention, provided the proposed amendments have been presented for consideration to the Board of Directors, approved by the LWML Structure Committee, and published in the official District newsletter in an issue previous to the convention. By unanimous vote a proposed amendment may be presented to the convention without previous notice. A three-fourths (3/4) vote shall be required for adoption.”

Proposed LWML District Amendment

ARTICLE I Name

Rationale: To recognize flexibility in the names of local organizations. Many different names are used for LWML groups nationwide such as circles, guilds, and societies. All are acceptable. This amendment will recognize all as groups of Lutheran Women in Mission.

Proposed Changes

Strike “societies” and insert “groups”

Current Text

The name of this organization shall be Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Minnesota North District (hereinafter referred to as District), a subordinate organization of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (hereinafter referred to as LWML) as an integrated auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as LCMS). These societies are united to form zones, zones to form regions and regions to form the district.

If adopted will read:

The name of this organization shall be Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Minnesota North District (hereinafter referred to as District), a subordinate organization of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary league (hereinafter referred to as LWML) as an integrated auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as LCMS). These groups are united to form zones, zones to form regions and regions to form the district.

Conforming Amendments

If the amendment is adopted, the same change will be made in: Article I Name; Article III Members, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4,5; Article IV District Organization, Section 1, 2b; Article V District Conventions and Representation, Section 1d; Article VIII Duties of Officers, Section 1f, Section 3a, Sections 5c, 5d, 5g; Article IX Nominations, Section 1g, 1h; Article XIV Pastoral Counselors, Section 1b; Article XV Committees Section 3d, Section 4c, Section 7b, 7c; Article Memorials and Resolutions, Article XVIII – Section 1, 3.

Proposed LWML District Amendment

ARTICLE IX Nominations; Section 1a

Rationale: To ensure a nominee from each Zone is presented for the Nominating Committee ballot.

Existing bylaws read:

A Nominating Committee of six (6) members, one (1) from each region, shall be elected by ballot at a meeting of the Board of Directors in the summer preceding the District Convention. Each zone shall select a nominee at its spring rally planning meeting for its Regional Vice President to submit to the District Board. Not less than seventeen (17), at least one (1) from each zone, shall be nominated.

If adopted, will read:

A Nominating Committee of six (6) members, one (1) from each region, shall be elected by ballot at a meeting of the Board of Directors in the summer preceding the District Convention. Each zone shall select a nominee at its spring rally for its Regional Vice President to submit to the District Board. Not less than seventeen (17), at least one (1) from each zone, shall be nominated. In the event a nominee is not secured from a zone, the Zone President shall be the nominee.

Proposed LWML District Amendment

ARTICLE X Appointed Personnel; Section 1

Rationale: Addition of a chairman for the Young Women Committee.

Existing bylaws read:

The appointed personnel shall be the Editor, Archivist-Historian, and Information Technologist, appointed by the District Board of Directors and shall:

- a. Serve a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are appointed and be eligible for reappointment;
- b. be directly responsible to the President
- c. report to the District Board of Directors at each meeting.

If adopted, will read:

The appointed personnel shall be the Editor, Archivist-Historian, Information Technologist, and Young Woman Chairman, appointed by the District Board of Directors and shall:

- a. Serve a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are appointed and be eligible for reappointment;
- b. be directly responsible to the President
- c. report to the District Board of Directors at each meeting.

Proposed LWML District Amendment

ARTICLE X APPOINTED PERSONNEL; Section 5

Rationale: Addition of the duties of the Young Woman Chairman

Add: Section 5:

The Young Woman Chairman shall:

- a. be a member of the district;
- b. identify, encourage, and provide opportunities for young women to affirm their faith and develop their gifts in service to the Lord;
- c. equip and encourage young women of the LCMS to become involved in the mission of LWML at all levels;
- d. help district leaders seek, develop, and support young women leaders in the LWML;
- e. be an advisory member of the Board of Directors.

Proposed LWML District Amendment

Article XII Board of Directors; Section 1 and Section 4f

Rationale: Addition of a chairman for the Young Woman Committee.

Existing bylaws read:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, Regional Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, with Pastoral Counselors and Archivist-Historian as advisory members.

If adopted, will read:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, Regional Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, with Pastoral Counselors, Young Woman Chairman and Archivist-Historian as advisory members.

Section 4f

to approve the appointed Editor, Archivist-Historian, Information Technologist, standing committees and additional personnel as deemed necessary.

If adopted, will read:

to approve the appointed Editor, Archivist-Historian, Young Woman Chairman, Information Technologist, standing committees and additional personnel as deemed necessary.