#### 2024 Winter Issue

## Lutheran Women's Missionary League MINNESOTA NORTHERN LIGHT



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



..." for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, Walk as children of light." (Ephesians 5:8)

Greetings Dear Sisters in Christ!

Every year around the end of October the days begin to get shorter, and the darkness of night comes earlier and lasts longer. By the end of December, we start to have a little more daylight again. For many the darkness and dreariness of November and December are guite difficult to deal with. Isn't it wonderful that by Christmas, the birthday of the Light of the World, we start to have more sunlight? Our moods improve, our ambition increases, we look forward to a new year and a fresh start. This year our district convention theme is "Walking as children of Light." For once we were in darkness, sinful and destined to eternal death, but now we are "children of light," children of our heavenly Father. We can look forward to eternal life with Him. What a wonderful promise we have, eternal life because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our hope in this promise allows us to be the light to others.

This year our convention at Cragun's Resort will feature Katie Schuermann, Christian author of the best-selling books in the "Anthems of Zion" series. She will be our keynote speaker on Tuesday, speaking about "Light in the Lord." We are excited to have her with us for our convention.

Other highlights are the breakout sessions on Monday. We have four breakouts featuring

speakers on "Compassion and healing," Human Trafficking rescues, Parish nurses and healthy living, and the work of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Each speaker will present their topic twice on Monday afternoon.

We have "Mites in Action" speakers from Swaddling Clothes, Orphan Grain Train, C.R.O.S.S. Appeal, and we will hear from some of our scholarship recipients.

This year the registration for lodging and meals will be online and handled by Cragun's resort and will require a credit card. The 2024 Convention Registration Form for the convention will be included in the Spring Packet and will be posted on the *lwmlmnn.org* website, and included in the *Minnesota Northern Light* Spring newsletter. The registration will need to be printed out and sent in by mail along with a check for the registration.

We are asking attendees to recycle their convention tote bags from previous years. We also have a limited number of new bags available. It will be fun to see the bags from previous conventions.

We are excited and look forward to this year's convention. We truly hope that the Love and Light of Jesus will shine through for all those attending. See you June 3-5 at Cragun's Resort!



Kathy Brandt LWML MN North District President president@lwmlmnn.org

## Minnesota Northern Light

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DAILY DEVOTIONS

district website, www.lwmlmnn.org.

convention web page on the

Mustard Seed to your email daily. Visit www.lwml.org/ mustard-seed-devotions to sign up.

# LWML MN North District 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention



"...for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

Dates: June 3-5, 2024

**Place:** Cragun's Resort and Conference Center 11000 Cragun's Drive, Brainerd, MN

**Theme:** For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (Ephesians 5:8).

Our Keynote Speaker is Katie Schuermann, nationally know author of several books including the *Anthems of Zion* series. She is a pastor's wife and lives in Champaign, Illinois. Her topic is "Light in the Lord."

There will be a Bible study, Mites in Action speakers, a Mite Walk, singing, entertainment, food, and fellowship.



Watch for more information to come in the next few months.

**Breakout Speakers**: Mary Scott on Parish Nurses, Rev. Mark Peske on Compassion and Healing, Caleb Monson on Human Trafficking and a representative of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch on the programs and services they offer.

## **Convention Tote Bags:**

This year we will be recycling convention bags! If you have extra convention bags that you don't use and would like to donate, please bring them to your spring rally and the RVP will collect them!

Our **entertainment** for Tuesday Evening will be Rev. Matthew Meyer from Callaway Minnesota, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

## Silent Auction at Convention:

Instead of the LWML store, we will be holding a silent auction at convention. Donations are welcome! Monies will be used to offset the costs of the 2024 Convention. For more information please contact Karen Gorentz at 218-234-3716 or karenlwml@gmail.com.

### **Convention Registration:**

The Minnesota North District Convention will be held at Cragun's Resort June 3-5, 2024. Registrations will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will need to be completed by May 3rd. After May 3rd, you may not get a room. Please note that your room reservation and meal package will be processed by online registration on Cragun's website. Mid April, the 2024 Convention Registration form will be included in the 2024 Spring Packet and will be available to download from our district website at *lwmlmnn.org*.

## Nominating Committee:

The following positions will be voted upon at the 2024 LWML District Convention. President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Arrowhead I RVP, Lakeland I RVP, Park I RVP, and Pastoral Counselor for Park Regions

If you have any names or know of anyone willing to serve on the district board, please contact.

Phyllis Sommers LWML MN North Nominating Chairman SommersPhyllis3@gmail.com 218-689-8237

#### Human Care Jean Tester, Chairman humancare@lwmlmnn.org

## Let Your Joy Show

During this last month when I heard sermons for the end of the church year and collected reports on what 'good works' our Societies have done. I grow nervous of the reason for our good works. I also attended a family funeral in another Christian church that only absolves their parishioners of their sins on their death beds. Even after that, the deceased family was asked to continue to pray for him in case there was still a sin left for which 'he' hadn't atoned. What joy should be in our hearts that we KNOW that our sins are washed away.

These are my pastor's words to tell us we will be with Jesus in heaven. "Not because you are so good, but because you trust only in Christ's goodness for you – He has lived for you, keeping the commandments. He has died for you, paying for all your sin. He has risen for you, to give you eternal life. THERE is your hope and confidence. And because of that faith, you will live a life of love and service."

A life of love and service sounds like the human care lists that I have been receiving. When we feel the joy of knowing and hearing, at least once a week, that our sins are forgiven, how can we help not to show care and mercy to our neighbors. We have faith, and joy in that faith. How do we share that with others? They can't SEE it in our hearts. So, we share joy by doing those acts of caring and sharing, the evidence of our faith. Just as at the Last Day the Lord will point out the only visible evidence of our faith, here today it is the evidence that we use as we share and witness to our communities. "Not that those works save us. They most certainly do not. Only Jesus Christ

JOY

for us – in His life/death/ resurrection – can do that." Thank you! Thank you, Lord!

(All quotations are from Rev. Steve Bohler's sermon on Nov. 26, 2023, Our Savior's, Crookston.)

Structure Karen Gorentz, Chairman structure@lwmlmnn.org

## Have Faith!

I can often be heard telling my friends, "Have Faith, it will all work out." One day, my friend Frank stopped me and said, "What is your definition of Faith?" Now, this friend is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, however, because of farm life he doesn't attend Sunday Services. His mom is a strong Christian, and he grew up going to church.



Frank has been going through some difficult times lately. His business is struggling, his friendships are broken, and in addition to all this

his sister-in-law died of cancer this fall. He also has regrets about not spending more time with his father, who died of cancer in the early 2000s.

Frank is a Christian, but his beliefs are wavering. I keep telling him to "Have Faith" (I think he is tired of me saying it, but he needs to hear it!). I told him, that if God didn't want me in his life, he wouldn't have put me there.

To answer Frank's question of Faith, "Faith is believing in God. Having an understanding that there is more to this world than you and I. Faith is believing in eternal life. Faith is knowing you have a purpose and that you are put in this world to do God's work. Faith is trusting in God's promise of mercy and forgiveness in the Savior, Jesus; who also promised to strengthen and comfort us by the Holy Spirit. Faith is using your talents to benefit those of others in God's Kingdom. Faith is loving your friends and neighbors like God loved us as seen with the cross and empty tomb. Faith is counting your blessings. Faith is believing in God's timing and his Word."

Frank may be going through some tough times. His world may seem like it is falling apart. It's my job, as a Christian and believer in Jesus Christ, to make sure that the Holy Spirit works within him so that he continues to 'Have Faith'.

#### Scholarships Teresa Klatt, Chairman scholarships@lwmlmnn.org

"What then shall we do, brothers? Shall we lie about and quit doing good and forsake love? May the Master never allow this to be so---at any rate not among us! Rather, let us hasten with eagerness and strong desire to bring every good work to perfection. We have seen that the righteous were adorned with good works; and the Lord Himself, having adorned Himself with good works, rejoiced. Therefore, since we have this pattern, let us go forward in His will without sin; let us work the work of righteousness with all our strength." This is an inspiring quote by Clement of Roman, one of the first church fathers who knew the Apostles.

Righteousness seems like a daunting task for us. If we are honest with ourselves, it is impossible. We are tempted to think that God does not actually mean complete righteousness, but instead he probably means striving for righteousness or "Just do the best you can". However, God's Word tells me in Romans 3:12, "All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." So, you see, there is no

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart, With tender mercy cheer me. Earth has no pleasure I would share. Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake. Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word. Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place May glorify Thy lavish grace And help and serve my neighbor. Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile. Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy comfort still afford.

righteousness in me. How then can we do this work of righteousness? Praise the Lord that we don't have to do anything to achieve righteousness. It is Christ Himself that does the work of righteousness in me. As Clement writes, "The righteous were adorned with good works" and He rejoiced because of it. Christ has adorned us when we were baptized. He continues to adorn us when we hear His Word and while celebrating the Lord's Supper.

Because we are adorned with Christ, we hasten with eagerness and strong desire to bring every good work to perfection. Let us be courageous and walk with confidence with Christ in our daily vocations. Let us encourage men be faithful pastors, holding strongly to His Truth. Let us not be afraid to be Christian teachers, Christian parents, men, women and children. Let us trust that God will work righteousness in whatever we do, even if we don't see it. Do not be afraid!

The following hymn, Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart - LSB #708, is commonly sung at call nights, ordinations, and installation services. This majestic song deserves to be sung with great gusto because it perfectly expresses the confidence sinners like us have in our God and Lord.

> Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home, That I may die unfearing; And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep Until Thy reappearing. And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see, O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend, And I will praise Thee without end. Text: Public domain

Follow this link to hear this song being sung at a Higher Things Gathering, <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> watch?v=WotE5TM66f0

Please pray for and consider donating to your local Lutheran Women's Missionary League. They are blessed with the opportunities to support people in their Christian journeys.

The Minnesota North District LWML Scholarship Committee is currently working on grants to raise money for those studying to be pastors and church workers.

Follow this link to learn more about the scholarships: <u>https://lwmlmnn.org/scholarships.html</u> Note: The deadline for Scholarship Applications is May 15, 2024.

Mission Grants Marcia Wittenburg, Chairman missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org

A total amount of \$14,500 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$2,000 for Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination; \$2,000 for Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students; \$2,000 for "Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program; \$2,000 for DOXOLOGY Pastoral Care and Well-Being; \$2,000 for Project 24, Christ's Care for Children -Kenya; \$2,500 for New Shepherds for South Sudan; \$2,000 for Connecting People in an inclusive Christian Housing Community.

The chart below details the current balance remaining for the 2022-2024 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2022–2024 BIENNIUM (Balance as of January 9, 2024)	GRANT AMOUNT	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Orphan Grain Train	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 2	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$18,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 3	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 4	Lutheran Island Camp, Summer Camp Program Updates	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 5	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students	\$32,000	\$4,000
Grant 6	Swaddling Clothes	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 7	"Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 8	Doxology Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000	\$7,000
Grant 9	Project 24, Christ's Care for Children - Kenya	\$10,800	\$2,800
Grant 10	New Shepherds for South Sudan	\$7,500	\$1,000
Grant 11	Promoting an Inclusive Christian Housing Community of Faith	\$13,700	\$6,200
	TOTALS	\$145,000	\$21,000

#### Public Relations Jolene Henning, Chairman publicrelations@lwmlmnn.org

Time to get the word out. That's right, the convention is just around the corner.

The Publication Committee is working hard on ways to promote the district convention in June.

If you have any questions, I am available and excited to share the LWML mission with others. I am looking forward to the convention and the people I will meet. I look forward to share the LWML story. "..for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

#### Minnesota Northern Light

#### Church Workers Jolene Henning, Chairman churchworkers@lwmlmnn.org

Out committee continues to be available when we have New Church workers in our district. It is important that we begin their journey with the knowledge of what LWML means to the Church Workers. We have not had any orientation for New Church Worker since August, but our committee continues to be available.

There is a new LWML group in Fairhaven. I feel that this new group is part of Church worker responsibility. There are always so many questions and so much excitement with a new group, that they certainly need to be among the priorities our committee focuses on. These women are working very hard to become part of our LWML family and our committee will continue to assist them any way we can.

I await any new worker listing given to me from the District Office of New Church Workers. It is always a privilege to meet them.

God has given me the opportunity to work with all of these wonderful people and as I learn I feel like this has truly been a gift! God's Blessings to All.

## **Memorials & Honorariums**

#### October 2023 to December 2023

#### In memory of...

Jerry Hetland from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Roger Paulson from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Tim Malmgren from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Eugene Bremmer from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Arland Klein from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Darlene Witt from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Dorothy Nietzert from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Orvin Ost from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel Dorothy Prigge from Bemidji, Trinity Afternoon Guild Betty Kohler from Detroit Lakes, Zion Suzzy Jones from Detroit Lakes, Zion Franny DeBoer from Jean Tester Edie Danielson from Jean Tester Ester Berger from Alexandria, Zion Karen Eggers from Alexandria, Zion Marilyn Hanson from Dolores Larson Dwight Borgenson from Wayne & Jeanetta Heinrich Arlene Karels from Wayne & Jeanetta Heinrich Wallace Norby from Wayne & Jeanetta Heinrich Marilyn Goetsch from Wayne & Jeanetta Heinrich Marilyn Goetsch from Bellingham, Trinity Shirlev Diekman from Alexandria. Zion Marjorie Richter from Jean Tester Harvey Wildburg from Jeanetta Heinrich Rose (Bunny) Hein from Duluth, Mt. Olive Donna Kalpin from Alexandria, Zion Edie Danielson from Crookston, Our Savior's Doris Volker from Crookston, Our Savior's

Memorial gifts and honorariums should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Jan Carlson, 408 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, Princeton MN 55371. Phone: 763-631-0399 (C), *financialsec@lwmlmnn.org*.

The financial remittance form can be downloaded from the resources page of our district website at *lwmlmnn.org*.

#### Christian Life Valerie Johnson, Chairman christianlife@lwmlmnn.org

## Maybe Your Gift Is ...

As Christian Life Chairman I am to provide information on leadership and inspire women to use their God-given talents. We all have talent, whether we know it or not. Encourage women to step up in leadership by putting their names on the ballot for an office nominee. We are all busy, and that life can get in the way, but know that God is always with us and never gives us more than we can manage. I am giving members from my group a free gift this advent season and having them share their gift with another person. The devotion entitled "Maybe Your Gift is..." may be found on the *lwml.org* website.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:10-11)



I am sharing a program with all Christian Life people entitled LWML Mailbox

Member. This program is a way to reach the women of your congregation who may not be participating in the established Lutheran Women's Missionary League activities. This program promotes the value of LWML and allows women to discover how God can work in their lives and vocations wherever they go. Familiarize yourself with the resources that are available at <u>www.lwml.org/posts/mailbox/</u> <u>mailbox-member-program</u>

#### Young Women Ruby Prochnow, Chairman youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org

My, OH, My! Where does the time go? We now have passed fall and anticipate the beautiful season of winter: SNOW, SERENITY, AND BEAUTY. This fall I was so blessed to spend time in Branson, MO with family and friends. Perhaps you all know that Branson and its entertainment world is a special 'wholesome' spot to visit. While there, I saw the Biblical theatrical production, Queen Esther, at a world-renowned theater. I want to share with you that I can apply it in my life situations by concentrating on this true biblical account.

At times I experience frustrating moments whether it is in my job, family, community, country, and so on. I can seek the power of the Holy Spirit to bridle my tongue and wait for the right time when encountering these 'out of control' events. Queen Esther and her guardian, Mordecai, gave God time to act. They willingly waited as God orchestrated the situation during this 'out of control' event. Read the book of Esther to know the "whole story" growing as you move forward in your journey of life. *Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2).

In planning the MN North District Convention "Walking as Children of Light," on June 3-5, 2024, we will experience disappointments and frustrating moments. You may also have frustrations or questions in your decision to attend the district convention. My prayer for you is to ask God to direct your plans and wait for the above-mentioned power of the Holy Spirit to lead you to attend. Young Women, I pray you will come and enjoy what God will provide you when you attend. This gathering will give you an opportunity to meet other Sisters in Christ who share each other's love of the Lord. You will experience games, door prizes, and devotions: Fun and Fellowship -Serve the LORD with gladness!

Leader Development Carole Borchers, Chairman leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org

## Time for a "Clean Sweep?"

How does your Lutheran Women in Mission group balance the old and the new? What do you save and what do you toss? Are there boxes of table decorations and files lurking around that haven't been used in years, but you're keeping them "just in case" you need them? Maybe you need a "Clean Sweep" party!

The "what to save and what to toss" issue also affects our events and meetings. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League struggles with removing outdated practices and ideas to make room for new ones. Not all traditions need to be dropped of course, but we need to ask hard questions about saving only that which is really beneficial to our mission so we can move forward in our service to the Lord.

What works for one group may not work for another, as the gifts and talents of the women differ. Congregations vary by size, rural and urban needs, culture, and demographics. Therefore, there is no one solution for growth that will satisfy every group.

We need to continue exploring, believing, and trusting that what we have in the LWML is a gift God wishes for us to share with others. The work that we do through our local groups in service to our Lord and according to His will is valued and blessed by God.

Look at the focus of your group:

**Are you in God's Word regularly?** He is the power: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit* (Romans 15:13 NIV).

Are you sharing your talents and resources with those in need? He is the refresher: whoever refreshes others will be refreshed (Proverbs 11:25b NIV).

Are you displaying Jesus as the purpose of your group? It is in Him that we should put our trust: and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord (Proverbs 16:20b NIV).

A tribute to the late Alma Kern in the Spring 2012 issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* includes a quote that she wrote for the magazine in 1968: "Women no longer need the women's society of the church as a social outlet." Alma goes on to say that we do, however, have something very valuable to offer to today's women that is still true today: "We've got Good News! Jesus has given us the 'pearl of great price.' Let's display it as a jeweler would — in the most attractive way possible. Let's tell it with excitement, enthusiasm, and variety."

Have you searched for new materials? Free resources for local groups, missions, young women, leaders, Heart to Heart Sisters, and others are downloadable at *lwml.org*. Check out the full range of products and resources at the LWML store at <u>www.lwml.org/</u> <u>store</u>. Order products online or by phone at (800) 325-3040.



Additional leadership information can be found at: www.lwml.org/developing-leaders

#### Minnesota Northern Light



#### Web Links

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

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- Committee Members Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy Nancy Moll

# Lutheran Women's Missionary League Minnesota North District



"...for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

# **ATTENTION YOUNG WOMEN!**

We are looking for Young Women to attend the LWML MN North District 31<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd, MN, June 3-5, 2024.

There will be...

- games,
- devotions,
- special activities,
- and lots of time in fellowship with other young women.

The convention theme "Walking as Children of Light" will be evident throughout the convention. Our Keynote Speaker will be Katie Schuermann, an author of several Christian books including her award-winning "Anthems of Zion" series.



www.cph.org/anthems-of-zion-series

If you are interested, please consider joining us in June for an inspirational and fun time "Walking as Children of Light."



For more information, please contact Ruby Prochnow at 320-808-3371 or email youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org.

Visit LWML Minnesota North District - www.lwmlmnn.org



## LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT **31ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION** JUNE 3-5, 2024 **CRAGUN'S RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER** 11000 CRAGUN'S DRIVE, BRAINERD, MN



"...for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." **Ephesians 5:8** 

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KATIE SCHUERMANN** "LIGHT IN THE LORD"

BIBLE STUDY

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS MITES IN ACTION SPEAKERS FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP ENTERTAINMENT MITE WALK SINGING

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT AT: WWW.LWMLMNN.ORG