



Lutheran Women in Mission

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

Mite Boxes

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" – offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the Synod. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.



Mite Boxes are available from the district, zone, through the LWML Catalog, and/or online.

They are distributed to every woman in a society, and often to each member of a congregation. (Excerpted from the LWML Handbook, page 1, June 2017 version.)

Drop your coins (and paper money) into your Mite Box, asking the Lord to bless your offerings for the mission grants that have been chosen at the district and national levels.

There are prayers and Mite Box devotions available for you to use at your society gatherings. Some of these resources are available as free downloads at www.lwml.org.

Your society shall remit Mite Box contributions regularly to our LWML MN North Financial Secretary; individuals may send their mites to that same district financial officer. Her information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

The LWML Minnesota North District Board of Directors is working on the 2018 Convention to be held in Bemidji at the Sanford Center to be held June 18-20.

The theme is "Forever Written in His Hands" based on Isaiah 49:16a. Isn't it comforting to know that our God loves us eternally and will never forget about us, no matter the circumstances in our lives?

The registration forms will be available at spring rallies and on the website the end of April.



In His Service,
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CHRISTIAN LIFE

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Committee Members

Rev. Matthew Vrudny - Pastoral Counselor
Laurain Jurchen • Peggy McKeown • Kathy Steinmetz

Restoring the Peace

by Lori Salvhus

"Peace on earth, good will toward men." This has been spoken many times and sung many times in the last couple of months. When God's peace dwells in our hearts, we are able to have good will towards others. When hard feelings, grudges, anger, jealousy, envy or other negative feelings invade our thoughts and we allow these to dominate and rule in our minds, God's peace and forgiveness will quickly evaporate.

What can restore that peace? Hearing that your sins are forgiven is the beginning and the most crucial. Absolution is essential. Knowing that you are loved, that God loves you in spite of your sins, setting things right with others, all contribute to having peace settle back into one's heart.

Our Triune God is great and merciful to grant us this peace. May that peace that passes all understanding, dwell in your heart throughout this new year.

Check the LWML website (www.lwml.org) for program helps and Bible studies. The following are a few new additions:

A Chat with Katharine von Bora

– Reformation Remembrance

Be a Gem for Christ! – Treasure, Mites

Love All Around – Love

Spiritual Makeover – Christian Life

INFORMATION NEEDED: We are looking for zone and society articles for publication on the district page of the Lutheran Witness supplement. Please send all article and photos to the Editor at: editor@lwmlmnn.org.

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ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN

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History Challenge**by JoNette Brogaard**

Here we are—the beginning of 2018! My article this time is a challenge to you—to see what you know about LWML MN North... some history and some “due dates” to remember. (*Answers on page 3.*)

- 1) In June 2018, the district convention will be held in Bemidji, MN. How many other times has this gathering been held in Bemidji?
- 2) How many times has the LWML MN North Convention been held in Ontario, Canada?
- 3) Who was the first president of the LWML MN North District?
- 4) What date are mission grant applications due?
- 5) What date are scholarship applications due?

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

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Creative Zone Events**by Kathy Brandt**

Zone planing meetings are coming up and the discussion is always about doing something meaningful, fun and maybe even a little different. The LWML web site lists many ideas for zone rallies. The following ideas are just a few excerpts from “Creative Zone Events”, a resource that is available to download from the LWML web site at lwml.org. Click on the Service menu tab and then click on Leader Helps.

CREATIVE ZONE EVENTS

Adapt these suggestions to benefit your zone as each is unique and travel distance is a factor in planning events. Consider holding spring and fall gatherings at different hours (evening versus morning or afternoon) to accommodate women with various schedules. Be flexible!

MISSION EVENT

Invite a representative of a district or national mission grant recipient to speak. Perhaps a speaker from the mission field is available to speak in person or via Skype.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LCMS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Invite a representative to speak on a specific ministry and give suggestions how groups might become involved (e.g., Lutheran Social Service, youth ministry, parish nurses, or disaster relief).

JOINT ZONE EVENT

Host a joint event with other zones if geographically feasible. This widens the opportunity for fellowship and affordability of quality speakers.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- Invite a district representative to give a brief update on what is happening on the district level at each zone event. This can be any officer, committee chair, or pastoral counselor. Having district representation fosters a healthy zone-district relationship.
- Encourage interaction among participants by having attendees sit at a tables in special ways (birthday month, initials, color of shoes, etc.)
- Set time limitations for devotions, speakers, and business meetings. Let your attendees know what time the program will conclude so they may plan their time commitment.
- Give away LWML products and resources as door prizes and inform women the products are available on the LWML website.

These are only a few examples taken from the LWML resource. To find more ideas. please visit the LWML website and download this resource.

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Marjorie Berndt • Donita Kimball • Patty Wiedewitsch

Ideas for Mission Service...

by Theresa Warnsholz

Thanks to all societies and zones that submitted the Human Care Report. There was a good response from all 17 zones. Many new ideas for mission service were shared. Here are a few of the activities LWML members have been involved with this past year.

Kits galore?

- † Hygiene Kits for local Food Shelf to give out.
- † Backpacks with school supplies to Native Americans.
- † Infant kindness kits (diaper & clothing collection).
- † Many kits (health, layettes, school, back packs) were made and sent to Orphan Grain Train along with lots and lots of quilts and baby blankets and many boxes of clothing and shoes.

Fun activities?

- † Love in Action: Ida Sass exercise group at Good Shepherd.
- † Open gym – free community play-date for kids 8 and under to provide a location for parents to bring their little ones to play and interact with other kids when it's too cold for them to go outside. The kids enjoy active play, sensory play, group games, crafts and snacks (in Ely).
- † A church needed tree ornaments and the ladies made chrismons, photographed them, and made booklets with an explanation of the meaning of each.
- † Recycle used greeting cards for the Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch who use them to make new ones and sell them.
- † We give Portals of Prayer to the VA in our city – they look forward to receiving them.

How about food?

- † Our society purchases soup and crackers and along with homemade Christmas treats, delivers and visits with the homebound members of our congregation.
- † Our noodle-making brings men and women from the congregation together. Not only do they learn the process of noodle making but enjoy getting to know one another. The noodles are sold at our local craft sale and to our congregation. The profits fund many needs that come our way. We had money to share with a family from a different country who relocated to our area.
- † Served funeral lunch for delinquent member/family. They now come to church quite regularly and we are reaching them with hugs and encouragement.
- † We do an annual soup/meal/bazaar in December. Following the event we deliver quarts of soup and cookie plates to the shut-ins, nursing home residents and the sick. We spend time visiting with them.
- † Honor public servants (police, firemen, ambulance crew, sheriff dep't) make plates of goodies.

We can't forget about sewing?

- † At a sewing event, besides the regular ladies, 2 youth-aged boys came and cut material and sewed pieces and strips together.
- † A young lady made over 200 baby hats (for missions and local hospitals) and made youth and adult hats (for homeless shelter and Orphan Grain Train).
- † Donated money to 'Hope for the Destitute Mission – Africa' for purchase of sewing machines.



**IS IT TIME
TO SHARE
WHAT YOU
HAVE DONE?**



Mustard Seed Devotions can be sent directly to your email daily.

For Free! Visit www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions to sign up.

The Minnesota Northern Light 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.

Archivist-Historian Answers:

1) Three -1966,1978, 1994; 2) Three - 1970,1980,1990; 3) Lydia Bode; 4) February 15, even-numbered years; 5) May 15.

2018 Convention Bible Verse: See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands (Isaiah 49:16a NKJV).

MISSION GRANTS

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Mites Can Do “Mitey” Things

by Susan Zeige

In just six months we will be having our LWML Minnesota North District Convention in Bemidji. That also means that mission grant proposals must be postmarked by February 15, 2018. Proposals can be submitted by any member of the LWML MN North District, or any LWML MN society, zone, region, or member of the LWML MN North District Board of Directors.

There are many projects that are currently being supported by the LWML members of our district, many of which are in need of funding. If your project fits the criteria for a grant, you are encouraged to submit that proposal for potential funding. It is important to note that if your project is an International project, it must first be cleared through the LCMS office of International Missions. Contact information can be found at www.lcms.org/internationalmission.

Grant proposal applications can be found on our District website, lwmlmnn.org under Resources. Our Mission Grants Committee looks forward to seeing

the exciting opportunities for funding that will be submitted as grant proposals. If you have any questions, please contact me. My contact information is available on the District website. Blessings to you as you continue to serve the Lord in so many special ways.



Mission Grants Committee Report

A total amount of \$23,900 in mites were raised for LWML MN North grants this past quarter. The Mission Grants Committee recommended and the BOD approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$25,500 for Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination, \$12,900 for Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students, \$2,500 for Caring for Our Pastors (Doxology), \$3,000 for C.R.O.S.S. Appeal. The chart below details the current balance remaining for the 2016-2018 biennium.

7 GRANTS – PAID IN FULL !

We have one more quarter to go before this Biennium comes to a close and three more grants need our mite giving. Thank God for the blessing He gives us each day to be able to support the mission work of the LWML!

REMINDER: The deadline for the 2018-2020 Biennial Mission Grant Proposals is February 15th.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2016-2018 BIENNIUM (Balance as of December 31, 2017)	GRANT AMOUNT	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$15,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 2	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students	\$50,000	\$4,600
Grant 3	Orphan Grain Train	\$9,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 4	Lutheran Island Camp's Christ Serve Academy	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 5	Caring for Our Pastors (Doxology)	\$10,000	\$2,500
Grant 6	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$14,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 7	Gloria Dei School and Church Building in Cap Haitian, Haiti	\$15,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 8	Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Chapel Furnishings	\$5,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 9	Love Works! Lutheran Braille Workers	\$5,000	\$5,000
Grant 10	Bible Translation Field Testing (Partially Funded)	\$4,000	PAID IN FULL
	TOTALS	\$137,000	\$12,100

Memorials and Honorariums October 2017 - December 2017

St. John's LWML, Ottertail, *in memory of Michelle Fenske*
 JoAnn Schoep, *in memory of Marie Weckwerth*
 Immanuel LWML, Parkers Prairie, *in memory of Ione Frandle*
 Zion LWML, Detroit Lakes, *in memory of Janet Nelson*
 Zion LWML, Detroit Lakes, *in memory of Delores Bjerketvedt*
 Family & Friends of Elaine Bohn Gangelhoff,
in memory of Elaine Bohn Gangelhoff
 Betty Reinke, *in memory of Betty Schwarz*
 Betty Reinke, *in memory of Gen Strube*
 Betty Reinke, *in memory of Alta Froelich*
 Betty Reinke, *in memory of Marion Maatz*
 Betty Reinke, *in memory of Delores Mueller*
 St. John's LWML, Ottertail, *in memory of Evelyn Jesnowski*
 St. John's LWML, Ottertail, *in memory of Helen Weinrich*
 Immanuel LWML, Parkers Prairie, *in memory of David Uhde*
 Immanuel LWML, Parkers Prairie, *in memory of Linda Moske*

Send memorials and honorariums to the Financial Secretary, Corles Rainer.

Corles Rainer
8813 71st Street SE
Clear Lake, MN 55319-9465

Remittance forms can be found on the LWML district website at (www.lwmlmnn.org) under the resources menu tab.



2018 LWML Prayer Service

**Living as God's People
by Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner**

The Prayer Service, written by 2013–2017 LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev.

Dr. Robert Roegner, is based on 1 Peter 2:9–12.

Many factors come to mind when we think of who we are — our identity. In his first letter, Peter continually reminds his readers of their identity. Rather than focus on inane worldly details, he zeroes in on what's most important: our standing in the eyes of God or our place in His kingdom.

Peter reminds his readers of who they were prior to being made part of God's family, contrasting that non-status with the present reality of what God had made them. This was especially important for Peter's readers as they compared themselves to the unbelievers around them, and as they fought to retain hope in what may have seemed like hopeless times.

The 2018 Prayer Service is now available as free download at www.lwml.org/prayer-service.



A THANK YOU (www.doxology.us)

Dear LWML Friends,

Thank you very much for the kindness of your generous \$5,000 donation to DOXOLOGY. As you know, your charitable gift is remarkably valuable to the pastors in your district. Your gift signals the LWML's genuine desire to support ongoing advanced training and care for pastors in our Lord's service!

We have begun to share the news of your donation and are inviting Minnesota North District pastors to apply for the grant when they register for the classic, three-part DOXOLOGY program. We trust that each pastor benefitting from the grant will find that the program offers blessings, spiritual refreshment and opportunities to learn even more about caring for the sheep and lambs of their parish.

Your donation, along with grants from charitable Lutheran Foundations, helps enormously to support our ministry to pastors. In just over 9 years we have been delighted to serve over 700 pastors as well as lay leader from those congregations and the pastor's wives. The program has received wide acclaim by pastors from coast to coast who have attended it. We're delighted to have your kind support and are grateful to partner with you in caring for pastors in this very important way.

Thank you again for your generosity of spirit and willingness to share your gifts with us!

Yours in Christ,

Beverly K. Yahnke, Ph.D

Executive Director for Christian Counsel

**LWML Minnesota North District
28th Biennial Convention
June 18-20, 2018**

Theme Verse: See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands (Isaiah 49:16a NKJV).

Location: Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN

Keynote Speaker: Cynthia Kahn, Director of Community Engagement at POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach, www.poblo.org)

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Bruce Timm, pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. Rev. Timm is also serves as a Arrowhead Regional Pastoral Counselor for LWML Minnesota North District

Mites in Action Speakers: DOXOLOGY, C.R.O.S.S. Appeal, Orphan Grain Train

Entertainment: Slew Foot Family Band, Grey Eagle, MN

Hosting Region: Park I

MORE HAPPENINGS AT CONVENTION:

Worship, Breakout Sessions, Election of Officers, Set Mite Goal for 2018-2020 Biennium, Mission Grants Selected, Mite Walk, Human Care Ingathering, Servant Events and much more!

Look for additional information in the April *Minnesota Northern Light* (Spring Issue), the LWML MN North District website, lwmlmnn.org, and the spring packets, which will be given out at the rallies.



**LWML Minnesota North District
2017-2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The following positions will be voted upon at the 2018 LWML District Convention.

- Executive Vice President/Christian Life
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Regional Vice Presidents for Arrowhead II, Lakeland II, and Park II
- Park Region Pastoral Counselor

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

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Elizabeth McTighe, Chairman
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Donna Blesi • Darcy Kleven

Refined by God

by Ruby Prochnow

Greetings from your District Public Relations Chairman. I am encouraging each of you to share with all the ladies of your society and congregation the Light of Christ. Share with them the joy that one receives in studying God's Word. Again I encourage each of you to make God's Word a priority in your life, whether it is in a formal group study or a personal study. You will make connections in your life to His Word.

Several years ago my husband and I visited a silversmith at the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia. As we watched him refining the metal at hand, I thought of the Bible verse: *"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"* (Mal. 3:3).

Shortly after this visit I found an article whereas a woman pursued her interest in the work of a silversmith to make the connection of his job and this Bible verse. She, too, visited a silversmith. She had watched the silversmith as he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, he needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot. She then asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the WHOLE time the silver was being refined. He answered that he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. She asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled and answered, "Oh, that is easy – when I see my image in it."

I, too, at this moment saw the connection. God is our SILVERSMITH. If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and He will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

What does it take?

by Elizabeth McTighe

Our church recently had a second-year seminary student visit us. He gave the sermon and then spoke to the Adult Bible study Group. He was able to give us an overview of seminary life. Now I have always known that there is a lot of studying involved with becoming a minister, but I never realized how much and in what areas. I guess I thought of "easy" subjects like church history and writing sermons (I can see all the pastors out there nodding and agreeing. Yes, very easy!) but there is also Greek, counseling and others whose names I can't remember and in some cases, can't pronounce. All in all, it's a very intense four years and I thank God we have men who are willing to commit to this calling.

This young man thanked the LWML several times during his talk. Our local society helps him out financially and he has received an LWML MNN scholarship. He is so very excited to be entering the ministry and it made me happy to know LWML has been able to assist him. Please continue to remember our seminarians and others studying for full time church work with your prayers and your mites.



I thank God there are those willing to commit to full-time church work and to the Great Commission to Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

YOUNG WOMEN

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A Treasured Family Tradition

by Beth Dinger

Warm greetings to my fellow northern Minnesota dwellers! I hope that this newsletter finds you well, as we bundle up through another cold Minnesota winter. This time of year is always an especially poignant time for me. I'm not sure if it is the Christmas season and the observance of family traditions that it brings, or the beginning of a new year – eagerly looking ahead to making new memories with my husband and four growing children. Whatever the cause, this year I was pondering some of the family traditions that have endured since I was a small child. I realized that one tradition that I treasure is the LWML.

In my mind, the LWML is irrevocably intertwined with memories of my beloved grandma, Louise Blaske. This connection between her and LWML is why I reminisce about her again now. She taught me in Sunday School a couple of different years, and filled in wherever she was needed.

She served as Bible study leader of our local "Ruth Circle". I fondly remember my dad and us four kids being banished to the upstairs of our farm house, or over to Grandma and Grandpa's house when it was my mom's turn to host the lady's group over for a circle meeting. We were allowed back only once the ladies were packing up to leave, so we could be paraded around to exchange greetings and (we hoped) sneak some of the leftover mints and nuts that were always part of those nights.

My grandma rarely served as an officer on the society level, and never, to my knowledge, in any of the district level ones. She preferred to serve in other ways by attending the meetings, the rallies, workshops and conventions when they were close by.

As a child, I could hardly wait to be old enough to be included in the activities of the LWML. Even so, I did not join the LWML until we moved to Barnum, where our current congregation had

an active LWML society. I have now been active in the LWML for about ten years. In that time, I have participated in as many LWML events, both locally and nationally, as I have been able to.

Looking to the future of the LWML, I think about what a wonderful part of my life I find the LWML to be, and I wonder why I didn't get involved sooner. I really encourage other teens, or young twenty year olds, not to miss out on years of enjoying the fellowship with other LCMS women. As the Young Women Chairman, I extend an invitation to all teens and young women to join us this June in Bemidji, MN. The Young Women Committee will be hosting a number of fun get-togethers for our younger convention goers. Attending a convention is always a great time!

Will your teen be receptive to the invitation? Maybe, maybe not! Yet, grandmothers, moms and other members, have ample opportunities to plant the seed in our young that may one day sprout. A seed of "Serving the Lord with Gladness," like my grandmother instilled in my heart. I think that sharing and passing on our love of the LWML is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to our daughters and granddaughters. I pray that the LWML and the mission work it accomplishes would be and continue to be a treasured family tradition for many years to come.



LWML Group Resources

by LWML Growth and Development Committee

Listed below are five objectives from the LWML Growth and Development Committee to encourage group activity. Visit www.lwml.org/growthanddevelopment for more information and ideas.

- Engage groups so they grow in faith and in relationships as sisters in Christ.
- Engage all LCMS church workers and build relationships as we partner in spreading the Gospel.
- Encourage participation in LWML events and activities, involving women and church workers, and spreading awareness of LWML missions and service.
- Equip groups by providing resources that connect women with the mission and ministry of the LWML.
- Enjoy the benefits of Serving the Lord with Gladness!



District Website: www.lwmlmnn.org

LWML Website: www.lwml.org

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan-Feb - Zone Spring Planning Meetings (Visit the Rallies web page at www.lwmlmnn.org for dates and times.)

Feb 10 - Lutheran Witness supplement page deadline.

Feb 15 - Mission Grant Proposal deadline

Mar 15 - Minnesota Northern Light newsletter 2018 Winter issue deadline.

Submit your 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: www.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 Minnesota North District Board of Directors

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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.