

The Clarion

February 2019 Volume XXII Issue 1



President Sheila's Post

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His Holy Name."
Psalm 103:1**

Morning by Morning New Mercies I See

As I sit in my sunroom with my cup of tea, I am amazed at how the snow makes all things look new. In this new year, with the new snow, in my (relatively) new house, my attitude is new, too. ***The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in Him." Lamentations 3:22~24***

I look forward to the tasks the Lord has given me to do, and I seek His face, not only for guidance for these tasks He has given, but also for new things which He may have in store for me~~perhaps something I've never done or never done "that way" before.

God has been so gracious to us, *the Lutheran Women in Mission*, in Central Illinois, and, under His guidance, the LWML CID has much planned for this year: a district sponsored mission trip to Butler to help box and send out Bibles and Christian materials to people around the world; remembering that *He Knows My Name* and learning about missions around the world and close to home from one another and from seven different speakers at our district convention in Danville this coming April; the late June opportunity to join LWML sisters from across the nation in Mobile, AL, as we gather *In Praise to the Lord*; the fall opportunity to gather together with women of our local areas as we unite at the fall rallies; the opportunity to greet familiar faces and meet new ones and learn from Deb Burma when we join LWML SID at the October Fall Retreat at Lake Williamson (Carlinville). I hope you will come and join me in any or all of these activities as we work and play and learn together.

But... what about **my** day-to-day living and activity? How can I **this day** dedicate myself to Him with all that I am and have? How can I be His harvest field worker **today**? How can I **live out the pledge** that we all have spoken so often? **How** can I, this week, use my hands to work for Him, my feet to go on His errands, and my will to do **His will**?

Morning by morning new mercies I see that I have received from our gracious God as He changes me from day to day, as He gives me new and old tasks to do, as He calls me into new obedience, as I guard my lips, and as I open my arms and my heart to others.

It is a new year. It is a new day. Like the fresh snow outside my window, God has made me remember that I, too, am white, through His purchase—I am blood bought and redeemed. I am so fervently grateful that I am His own and live with Him.

Where You lead~~wherever and whenever~~I'll go~~with a joyful, hope-filled heart and a song on my lips. Thank-you, God, for these LWML sisters with whom I travel. Amen & Amen!

To God be the Glory!
President Sheila

Happy New Year(s)

Is there more than one HAPPY NEW YEAR? The new church year began on the first Sunday of December 2018. January 1 began a new calendar year (2019—can you believe it!!). Our district LWML's new fiscal year will begin on April 1, which means the deadline for mites is March 31. We each will be celebrating our own new year as our birthdays roll around! Each new year holds promise and energy!

A new year of promise and energy provides the chance to do new things and maybe keep a few resolutions!!! Clean out those files – do not just look at them, actually clean them out! Add travel to your agenda - maybe squeeze in that mission trip to Love Packages in Butler, Illinois, in late March. Attend a national LWML convention. It's in Mobile, Alabama in late June! Is this the year for some new programming for your LWML society? Think outside the box when it is time to plan your zone's fall rally! Find new and creative ways to recruit younger women.

As interior decorators are often quick to point out, all it takes to re-energize a room is something simple like new throw pillows or new artwork. Even a few minor changes can re-energize your gatherings, which energizes your members, which can energize your congregation towards the mission of LWML. Challenge yourself and your society to try one small NEW change to create new energy so that the saving message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continues to be spread in your area and around the world.

Mary Denham
Public Relations



Lincoln Zone News



Lillian Heins is an honorary member of Zion Ladies Aid, Zion Lutheran Church, in Lincoln. She was honored at the LWML Christmas Luncheon for celebrating her 100th birthday on December 3rd. Lillian Heins lives in an assisted living facility where this picture was taken at an open house in her honor arranged by her family. Happy Birthday, Lillian!

God has given each of us gifts to serve Him and our neighbor. Lincoln Zone LWML ladies are using their gifts to serve the Lord and people in foreign countries. The Ingathering for our 2018 Fall Rally was a fine example of how we serve others. Items which were sewn for "With God's Little Ones" totaled 154 girls dresses, 118 eye glass cases, 86 school bags, and 65 backpacks. Also donated were 32 packages of girl's briefs and 17 bottles for children's vitamins. All these items will be taken to either Madagascar, Cambodia, Philipians or Uganda by Rudy and Dorothy Schaser.

342 quilts were made in 2018. Lincoln Zone LWML ladies are using their gifts to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. This is the total made from six of our societies. They also made numerous baby, health, and school kits. These ladies certainly have a heart for serving the Lord.

Central Illinois District Convention in April



The Central Illinois District 74th Annual LWML Convention hosted by the Danville Zone will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, at 1930 North Bowman Avenue in Danville. The convention will begin at 8:45 am on Saturday, April 27, in the church sanctuary. Registration and morning refreshments will begin at 8 am. Lunch will be a catered meal. Orphan Grain Train truck will be in the church parking lot on Saturday so you may drop off items before attending the convention. A used purse swap will also be held on Saturday. You may donate a slightly used purse in good condition. In exchange,

\$1 or more may be donated to our Mission Grant fund to “purchase” a purse from the table. A free will offering will be taken at the end of the convention for the mission work of the speakers.

The theme for this year’s convention is “He Knows My Name” taken from Isaiah 43:1b. *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.”* We are honored to have Rev. Elliott Lutz and wife, Katy Lutz, as our keynote speakers. Pastor Lutz is pastor at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Both Pastor and Katy have done mission work in several locations. They will also be speakers at two break-out sessions. We are privileged this year to have two husband-wife missionary teams beside the Lutz’s for our break-out sessions. Rev. Dr. Robert and Kristi Roegner have worked with “Apple of His Eye” Mission Society and will be the first missionaries to Israel. They are passionate about telling Jewish people and Gentiles that Jesus is the promised Messiah and invite them to respond in faith. At the last LWML convention, Dr. Roegner finished his term as LWML Counselor. Dr. Martin and Marie Dicke serve the Lord through the LCMS as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Dr. Dicke was the Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Peoria, Illinois, from 2002-2016. Judy Sacotnick will be leading two more break-out sessions. Judy is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Danville and coordinator of their Operation Mercy and the many activities at Cannon Place, a shelter for homeless or at risk for homeless Veterans.

There will be two side luncheons held besides the main luncheon. There will be one for the YWR’s and one for zone presidents and Fall Rally chairmen. Friday activities, including servant events, will begin at 1:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church at 824 East Main Street in Danville. Plan now to attend this special event with informative speakers and fellowship with your LWML sisters!

Convention Speakers



Pastor Elliott and Katie Lutz

Elliott and Katie reside in Omaha, NE with their beautiful daughter Noel. Elliott is a native of the CID, growing up in Pekin, IL. He is now a campus pastor for Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. He also serves as the Pastor of Missional Living, equipping people to become disciple makers that live life everyday as mission trip to their own neighborhood and community. His first call was to a mission plant church in Columbus, NE. Elliott enjoys playing music and making people laugh.

Katie has a huge heart for missions and working cross culturally. She served as a GEO Missionary with LCMS World Mission, spending time serving in Peru and the Dominican Republic. Currently, she works with the immigrant population of Omaha, teaching English as a learned language in the public schools. Katie enjoys playing volleyball with her husband, even though she is much, much better than he is.

Servant Events at CID Convention

Winter does not last forever! Thank heavens! Spring will bring the district LWML Convention at Danville. This year's Servant Events and Gifts from the Heart will be focused on providing Christmas gifts for around 200 veterans and their families in December 2019. Cannon Place is a shelter for homeless and struggling veterans in the Danville and surrounding areas. They currently house about 100 people. Trinity Lutheran Church in their Operation Mercy provide a food bank, monthly church service with a meal afterwards, and many other services to the residents of Cannon Place throughout the year. This is where we come in.

Our servant events this year will be extensive. We are providing Christmas gifts for around 200 people that attend the Christmas party at Trinity Lutheran Church in Danville in the beginning of December. The additional persons at the party are at risk veterans from the area, but they do not stay at Cannon Place. These gifts will include a full-sized quilt, socks, underwear, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, and shaving cream. The personal care items have been requested by each zone, and your president will know what is to be collected.

In addition to the Christmas gifts, we will have two offsite servant events that involve Cannon Place. We will be preparing and serving a meal at Cannon Place. We will be purchasing food (with grant money) and sorting it for the food bank. These offsite events will give you the opportunity to meet with the veterans and see the needs of this population.

Other servant events on Friday of convention weekend will include marking Bibles for the LLL state fair booth and distribution, cutting diapers out of T-shirts for layettes, trimming stamps, and tying a few quilts. We will be pleasantly busy!

Saturday we will again have the Orphan Grain Train available! They are so excited to come as we filled their truck last year. Ron was very thankful to be called again to come and told me that our donations last year came just in time to fill a need in Tanzania! How awesome is that!

Our Gifts from the Heart will be gathering laundry soap and rolls of quarters to be distributed at Cannon Place. The other Gifts from the Heart will be collecting money for LCMS Disaster Relief.

These winter storms have been a good thing. Being inside has given me the opportunity to work on my quilts for Cannon Place. I am so excited to be working with the Danville Zone on the Christmas gifts for the veterans. I am so thankful to have been approached by some women last year at the convention in Bloomington to get the ball rolling for this year. Be thinking Pekin/Peoria!

It is my blessing to serve as your Human Care Committee Chairman. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

In Christ,
Laura Strattman

LWML PRAYER SERVICE 2019

GOD CARES FOR YOU!



The 2019 Prayer Service, written by past LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. Allen D. Anderson, is centered around the acronym for "CARES" and based on Psalm 94:17-19: *If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, "My foot slips," your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

All downloadable from www.lwml.org.

Lodging for CID Convention

Rooms are reserved at both the Holiday Inn Express and the Hampton Inn in Danville for Friday night, April 26. These rooms are available with either one king bed or two queen beds with the price, including tax and breakfast. It is the same for either type of room. The rooms and rates at these two hotels are guaranteed until April 1. The reservations are listed under LWML CID.

Holiday Inn Express
310 Eastgate Drive
Danville, IL
(217) 442-2500
\$132/room/night

Hampton Inn
370 Eastgate Drive
Danville, IL
(217) 442-3300
\$125 /room/night

Other possible motels in the area: Riverside Inn (Best Western)
57 South Gilbert Street
Danville, IL
(217) 431 -0020

Sleep Inn and Suites
361 Drive
Danville, IL
(217) 442-6601

Tips For Leading With Confidence

Dear LWML Leaders,

Leaders can get busy taking care of business and neglect themselves. Taking care of your body, mind, and soul will leave you energized to take care of others. The Leadership Development Committee challenges you to one of these activities this week.

Practice Self-Care

Body -- Take a walk or reach for a glass of water rather than that extra cup of coffee or soft drink.

Mind – Make a phone call to an old friend just to connect or spend time in appreciation of God’s wonderful creation.

Soul – Meditate on a Psalm and apply to your life or make of list your blessings and thank God for them.

God’s Blessings.

Michele Clewenger, Leader Development Chairman

National Mite Offering Report

(As of December 31, 2018)

Mission Goal for 2017-2019 Biennium: \$2,075,000.00

Total Mites Received: \$1,625,840.99

Total Mites Still Needed: \$449,159.01

(January, February, and March 2019)

Praise to the Lord for the nearly \$1,625,000 received so far, and we pray for His blessing upon the grant recipients still waiting for funding in order to compete their planned Gospel outreach.

38th Biennial Convention – Mobile, Alabama



Date: June 20–23, 2019

Location: Mobile, Alabama

Theme: "In Praise to the LORD!"

Scripture Verse: *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.*

Declare his glory among the nations (1 Chronicles 16:23–24a).

President: Patti Ross

Thank you to Bev Soltwedel who organized the CID Bus for the Convention. Her contact information is delnbev@gmail.com and (217)-821-4033.

Registration forms and convention details are in the Winter 2018 Quarterly.

Everything about the convention is available at www.LWML.org.

Praise Him and Magnify Him Forever!

Greetings from the middle of the Polar Vortex! As I write, wind chills are below zero (though thankfully up to single digits) and I'm glad to be indoors in the warmth. Like many of you, I'm muttering under my breath about how nice it will be when the warm sunshine of summer arrives. But like many of you, I'm pretty fickle, because when that sunshine arrives, I will be muttering about how it's too hot and wondering when it will start cooling off. We always seem to be discontent with what is and striving for what is not.

Tradition has preserved for us the *Song of the Three Young Men*, the praises sung by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as they were standing in the midst of the fiery furnace. (You can find this song as Canticule 931 in *Lutheran Service Book*. A hymnic paraphrase is also found as #930.) At first blush, as they sing about "You winter and summer, bless the Lord. / You dews and frost, bless the Lord. / You frost and cold, bless the Lord. / You ice and snow, bless the Lord," it might seem like these men in the midst of the furnace are trying a mind over matter - "Think cool thoughts" – survival technique. But then we remember: these three men are not alone. A fourth person "like a son of the gods" (Dan. 3:25) is walking with them. Jesus, the one who saves, was with them to deliver them. No matter how dark our road, no matter how dire our circumstance, our God is with us to protect and preserve us. Christ has walked the road (LSB #424) of our temptations and the punishments our sins deserve, He has fought our enemy for us, and He has won!

So bring on "time's wild wintry blast!" (LSB #748:2) Bring on "summer and winter and springtime and harvest!" (LSB #809:2) Bring on "cross and trial!" (LSB #756:1) We "walk with Jesus all the way" (LSB #716:5), so all of these opposites - fire and ice, hot and cold, summer and winter – these all join "in manifold witness to [God's] great faithfulness, mercy and love" (LSB #809:2) for us in Christ. And in all these, we (like the three young men in the furnace) call upon all creation to "Praise Him and magnify Him forever!"

God bless you as your winter rolls into spring and as we fix our eyes upon the declaration of God's promise fulfilled in the empty tomb.

Pastor Mohr

CID LWML Junior Counselor



Servant Event on March 29-30, 2019!

This event will be held at Camp CILCA and Love Packages Ministry in Butler, IL. Love Packages is a ministry aimed at putting Bibles and Christian literature into the hands of the people around the world. More information can be found about Love Packages at www.lovepackages.org.

Schedule:

Friday, March 29 – 6 p.m. – Arrive at Camp CILCA for supper then enjoy an evening of Bible study by Deaconess Dorothy Krans, fellowship and fun

Saturday, March 30 - 7:00 a.m. – Enjoy breakfast, make your sack lunch and then travel to Butler (about an hour drive)

Saturday, March 30 – 9:00 a.m. – Arrive at Butler and help to sort and package materials until approximately 3:00 p.m.

Cost:

Friday evening and Saturday = \$35.00

Saturday only = \$10.00

Donations:

Materials such as Bibles (new or used), tracts, religious books, magazines, daily devotionals, CD's or DVD's. For a full list, please see the website.

Or a monetary donation to help defray shipping expenses made payable to "Love Packages"

This Servant Event is limited to the first 25 people, so get your reservation in early!



Name _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail _____

Society & Church _____

T-shirt size: _____

Payment Amount _____

Please send registration form and payment (made payable to "LWML CID") by **February 21, 2019** to: Pat Heinecke 2676 N 2400th Avenue Golden, IL 62339

Next Clarion Deadline is April 26!

The Clarion is the official newsletter of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of the Central Illinois District. The LWML is an official auxiliary of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS).