

The Clarion

May 2018 Volume XXIX Issue 2



President Sheila's Post

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

What's Your Mission?

The convention is over, so we are done for another year. Right? That is not what we heard from our speaker, Gary Thies. We are missionaries—each of us—all of us. We are *Lutheran Women in Mission*—not for just a convention week, a rally week, a servant event day, a day of Bible study or retreat. Missions are a part of our DNA—the life blood of who we are—to be on God's mission—to be one of God's missionaries. What is God saying to you today? Where does He want you to go?

As a child, the refrain of "Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying" moved me to say, "Send me!" I didn't know that my Jerusalem and Judea were outside my door—not in the holy land. I thought the ends of the earth had to be India's coral strands—not the lost soul whose earth's end might be next door. As an adult, I became part of the LWML. I have served in several offices and on different committees, attended retreats, gone on mission trips, and attended mountain top experiences like our convention, so, apparently, I have done my part. Right? But....**Where does God want me to go now?** Sometimes we all get so caught up in the things we have to do, the jobs we have, the traditions we keep, and the easy path of familiarity that we forget to remember God may have something new for us to do—some new blessing which He wants to bestow on you—on me—if we would just open our hearts, minds, and eyes to see the new path. God has promised us His power, so we need not fear to step out to try a new experience, speak to a new person or someone of a different faith, go on a mission trip, or personally support one who does.

Missionary Gary challenged us not to be lazy Christians—not to be lazy missionaries. We certainly **Look Out!** and see where our mites can help and where our LWML can help, and where we can be on God's Mission. Do I need to look out in a new direction? My prayer for each of us is that we do not grow complacent in what we do. Instead as we **Look UP!** to Him for guidance, trust that He would enable us to **Look In!** and recognize what He has in store for us--no matter what our age or stage. *Lord, let each of us—let me—see the blessing we can be in Your mission. You have richly and freely blessed us, Your women in mission. Thank You for never ceasing to bless us as we live on this earth. Thank you for not letting us "go it alone". You are always there with us, and You have given us each other for encouragement and understanding. Help us to reach every woman in the LCMS and share our story and empower us to live out our pledge to reach out to the lost and erring to bring them into eternal fellowship with You. Amen!*

Sheila Lutz

Lincoln Zone News

The Lincoln Zone has 11 Societies with a total of 91 members. The zone project that has been chosen is helping supply pillow case dresses, eye glass cases, book bags and backpacks for "With God's Little Ones", which is an organization that helps in the countries of Madagascar, Cambodia and Philippines. At the Fall Rally, the ladies collected 113 pillow case dresses, 169 eye glass cases, 25 pair of reading glasses, 35 backpacks, 8 school bags, and \$20.00 in cash. They are continuing to make items for "With God's Little Ones" as a project for this year. An offering, totaling \$725, was also gathered for LCMS Hurricane Relief.

Most of the societies in the Lincoln Zone help with Advent, Lent, and funeral dinners. Spring time brings about other activities such as Easter breakfast, Mother Daughter Banquets, and Confirmation receptions. Some of the societies' members purchase gift cards for seminary students at Christmas time.

One of the zone's societies sponsors a women's Bible Study retreat in February. Several societies tie quilts, make layette kits, assemble health kits, and put together Baskets of Promise for Lutheran World Relief.

Helping Parochial Schools in the Danville Zone

The Danville Zone continues to show their giving spirit by supporting a yearlong project with the help of all eleven societies. The societies in the zone include St. John's-Buckley, Calvary-Watseka, Immanuel-Danville, Immanuel-Loda, Immanuel-Osman, Our Savior-Milford, Peace-Thomasboro, Trinity- Cissna Park, Trinity-Danville, St.John's-Ash Grove, and St. Paul's - Woodworth. The idea began in October of 2016, when the group voted to support our parochial schools as our 2017 zone project. The schools include Christ Lutheran High School in Buckley, Danville Lutheran School in Danville, St. Paul's Lutheran School of Woodworth, and St. John's Lutheran School in Buckley. The results were amazing! \$3783.24 was collected for this important project. We applaud the objectives of these Parochial Schools where students learn God's truths in a wholesome Christian atmosphere and come to appreciate how important God is in their daily lives. Thanks to everyone who donated their time and energy to the mission of the LWML- affirming our relationship with the Triune God so that we use our gifts in ministry to the people of the world.



Above is a picture of Marlene Schultz, (left) current Zone President, and Debbie Lammle, (right) former Zone President, giving the portion of the donation to Kim Wright, (center) Danville Lutheran School Principal.

Next Clarion deadline is July 25, 2018.

Meetings with Meaning

Meetings are necessary to conduct the business of LWML, but they don't have to be long snooze fests! Below are some tips to help with efficiency.

- Prayer, devotions and Bible study – Keep God the central focus of your entire gathering. Never omit time in prayer and in the Word! Browse free downloadable program helps for ideas.
- Planning - What do you want to accomplish in Jesus' name? Evaluate your agenda, asking if each item has meaning.
- Meeting Packet – Consider sending via email a copy of the minutes, financial report, officer and committee reports 7-10 days prior to the meeting. This allows members to arrive informed and prepared.
- Business – Encourage officers and committee chairs to bring recommendations and motions prepared in writing. (The secretary will love you!)
- Mission and Mites Update – Keep the focus mission-minded with information regarding district and national mission grants and the status of the mite goal. Learn more about national mission grants. View the status of the national mite goal.
- Open and close with prayer and thanksgiving for our Lord's blessings.
- Evaluate – Were all participants enriched? Was this gathering worth everyone's time and energy?

God's Blessings,

Michele Clevenger

CID Leader Development Chairman

MISSION GRANTS: 2018 – 2019

(As approved by the delegates at the CID Convention)

A mission goal of \$95,000 for 2018 – 2019 was approved. Twenty-five percent (25%) will be sent to National and seventy-five (75%) will be used for District-approved, prioritized mission projects.

The Mission Grants are listed in the order in which they will be paid.

1. Student Aid for Church Workers-----\$30,000
2. Camp Cilca Christian Growth Center-----\$15,000
3. Food Banks: Fort Wayne and St. Louis Seminaries---\$10,000
4. Removing Barriers (Camp CILCA) -----\$12,000
5. Deaconess Kim Buelmann, -----\$ 4,250
(Refugee Outreach Facilitator)

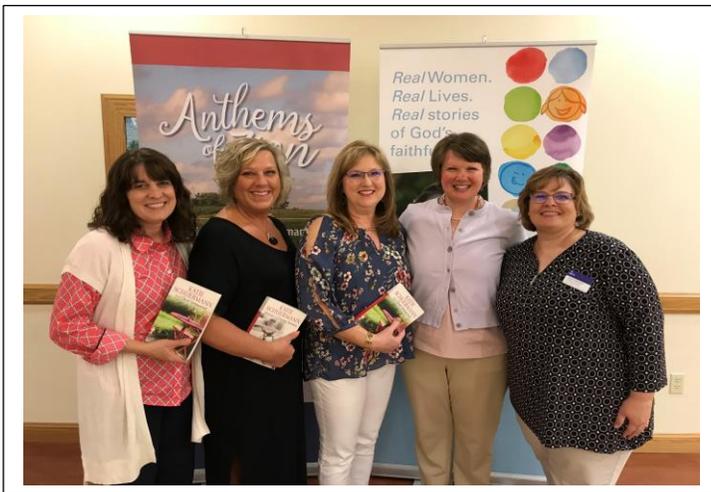


Effingham/Shelby Zone and Altamont Zone

2018 Joy Workshop

This year the Effingham/Shelby and Altamont Zones went together to host the spring Joy Workshop. This made it possible to bring in a special speaker and to fellowship with fellow LWMLers in our own backyards. This is a great idea to encourage across our district. It is great to get to know those who have similar beliefs and goals of spreading the Gospel. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Matthew 18:80 RSV.

Katie Schuermann was the delightful speaker. She talked about the books she has written. Katie is originally from this area. Katie's books were sold, and she signed them throughout the evening. A salad supper was served. Zone counselor, Dr. Rev. James Wright, led a Bible study about JOY in the Bible. There were over 130 in attendance.



Pictured above from left to right: Jana Deadmond, Emily Wall, Sherri Strullmyer, Katie Schuermann, and Annie Guerrettaz at the Joy Workshop. Quilts and homeless mats that were given to Orphan Grain Train at the convention.

Congratulations to New Officers!

The following officers were elected at the convention for the 2018 – 2022 term:

Pat Heinecke - Vice President of Mission Advocacy and Grants

Cheryl E. Long – Corresponding Secretary

Kristi Hosea – Recording Secretary

Linda Soltwedel - Treasurer

Pastoral Counselor – Pastor Michael Mohr

May God bless you as you use your talents for the Central Illinois District LWML!



"THE PRAISING PURPLE SISTERHOOD"

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2018
WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT
Camp CILCA

Guest Speaker: Rev. Mitchel Schuessler National LWML Pastoral Counselor

Enjoy a weekend of praising God through Bible study with wonderful friends and great food. Watch the Clarion and/or attend your Fall Rally for more details.

LWML 38th Biennial Convention



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–

Visit lwml.org/2019-convention to order your 2019 LWML Convention shirt. Proceeds from 2019 LWML Convention shirt sales will help defray expenses of the Convention Host Committee's activities.

Greetings from Pastor Hahn – CID Pastoral Counselor

WHAT A GREAT DISTRICT CONVENTION! It never ceases to amaze to see how God works through His people--or, as we heard Gary Theis say, "not-so-normal" people! To come to Christ Lutheran in Normal and see so many women on Friday quilting and marking Bibles with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts was such a great blessing! Then after supper, we all partake of the Lord's Supper together. Always such a thrilling experience for this pastor! Then what joy it was on Saturday to see God at work through His people in the mission field, to support great mission projects, as well as thanking God for the service of outgoing officers and to welcome and wish God's blessings upon the newly elected officers. God's richest blessings upon all the wonderful women in LWML CID

Recipe for a Courageous Woman

On Saturday, April 7th, 65 ladies and one pastor gathered together at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loda for the Danville Zone LWML Spring Gathering. The theme was "Recipe for a Courageous Woman." All the readings, skits, and the program referenced Bible verses to help encourage, strengthen, and bring peace and joy to women. The speaker was Lisa Lewey-Shields who is the Food Demonstrator on the CI Living Program on WCIA-TV Champaign. Lisa gave many new and interesting tips on food preparation and nutrition. The money collected for the ingathering totaled \$625.00 which was given to the "Hands of Christ" food pantry in Paxton. The gathering was hosted by the LWML societies from Peace (Thomasboro), Immanuel (Osman), and Immanuel (Loda).



At left – Lisa Lewey-Shields gives us many hints on food preparation.

At right – Sandy Spitz is acting a part of the skit "Finding God in the Grocery Store".

2018 LWML-CID ALBUQUERQUE BANNER SCHEDULE

Each zone gets the banner for roughly two months. There should be a brief statement about the banner (who made it, what it was used for, the symbolism of the banner, etc.) in the cannister with the banner. Please use this in your church bulletin so your congregation understands the significance of the banner.

If you have any other questions, please contact Mary Denham, CID Public Relations Chairman at 217.620.0042 (cell) or marydenham@ymail.com.

May – mid -July

Peoria (9)

Mid-July – September

Bloomington (9)

October – December

Lincoln (12)



Next Executive Council and Board Meeting is at Camp Cilca on July 16 -17.

CID Convention – April 27 and 28

"Look Up, Look In, Look Out"

Acts 1:8 reads, But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth is the verse that led to the theme "Look up, Look in, Look out".

The convention began Friday afternoon, April 27, at Christ Lutheran Church in Normal, with "off campus" servant event activities that included tying quilts for Orphan Grain Train, marking Bibles for the lost, cutting diapers for layettes, trimming stamps for mites, and making "home sweet home" bags. A meal and opening church service followed these activities.

The 73rd Annual LWML Convention held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bloomington began Saturday morning, April 28, and was hosted by the Bloomington Zone. Gary Thies from Mission Central was the Keynote Speaker. Central Illinois District President, Sheila Lutz, presided over the business meeting that included the election of officers, updating bylaws, and approving five mission grants totaling \$71,250 for the next biennium. Representing the National LWML was LWML Recording Secretary, Ginger Starrett, who commented, "The opening worship service at Christ Lutheran church was glorious as 300 men and women joined together to hear the word of God and lift their voices to sing beautiful praises."



Friday Events at the Central Illinois District Convention



Saturday at CID Convention

