

The Clarion

May 2019 Volume XXII 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

Celebrating the Past and Looking to the Future

Did you miss it? What wonderful days we had in Danville...receiving more quilts than we needed for the Christmas gift bags, worshipping and communing together, learning, hugging, welcoming three new societies, laughing, and listening to those in mission talk about being a Lutheran Woman in Mission around the world and in our own back yard. We selected new grants, voted to exceed the mite goal set by the grants committee so we can fund all the grants on the ballot (WOW!), did some of the usual as well as tried something new, and heard from last year's grant recipients. We are all called by name and held dear by our God so that we tell others of *His Name*.

And, if you were in Danville, *what can you share?* We should never go away from any LWML event unchanged in some way: with something new to share with the knowledge of something new that we can put into practice...to make a new friend...to find a new opportunity where we can act. What will you share about because the Lord has called you and knows you by name?

One thing we can share in our groups is the news that next year will bring change (Oh, my!) when we celebrate our **75th convention** in the Peoria/Pekin Zone. We will try some things "*we've never done that way before*"...like having convention on 3 consecutive days (Thursday evening to Saturday afternoon), do some *things we haven't done for a long time*...like a Friday evening banquet, and still *retain some of the familiar*...like selecting grants, attending breakout sessions, and hearing a great speaker. Watch for upcoming news of how each zone will have a special part in this *grand celebration*.

But... between now and then, there are many days to *listen* to God's call and *live out our pledge*. God has me encounter people for His purposes-- in places I least expect—like when getting a pedicure. On Good Friday, it happened again. Jenny, the wonderful Vietnamese woman who works on my toes and washes my feet, was chatting away in her native tongue with the other stylists, so I didn't understand, and wasn't paying attention, when she suddenly turned to me and said, "Sheila, I'm a Buddhist, and I don't know. **Why do you call this Friday Good?**" Now, Jenny has seen me working on Quarterly edits as I sit in her chair and has received a copy after she asked what I was doing, but we don't often talk about Christ. I felt God's grace wash over me as He gave me the words to give her a simple answer. I also had a copy of a video that my church had given to each family to share with someone who didn't know about the gift of salvation. I put it in my purse that morning, hoping to talk to her. She was overcome that I would share such a gift with her...and I get the opportunity to see if she has any questions when I go back. God didn't let me miss this time to share, like ones I have missed in the past.

As I prepared for convention, I wondered if I truly was prepared to share *wherever and whenever* He has need of me...where I am in the unlikeliest of places or when I am not paying attention. I know I am more aware, and I know that (paraphrasing our speakers) even when we try to share God with others and we think we have failed, we need not fear that for God has called them, too, by name, and He knows when the seed will take root and just how the Holy Spirit will make it grow.

We will have many days of *wherevers and whenevers* during the next year. **Will I see with mission vision? Will I be ready with an answer? Will you?**

Communication!

Notes from your Corresponding Secretary-Notes! Yes- that is what I do. Communication is such a big part of everyday life. From morning to evening we communicate. Whether to get something started or something done, we need to communicate. Spreading the Gospel is that way also. One aspect of my 'job' is to let the LWML personnel know about our meetings and responsibilities at those meetings. Our ultimate goal is to spread the gospel around the world. Ways of communicating have changed drastically in recent years. Most of you always keep your phone next to you. My flip phone makes most of my family laugh but because that is what I have- they sometimes must talk to me IN PERSON. Let's not lose that personal communication skill. While notes, texts and emails are great- don't forget to be personal in your communication as well. Wonderful opportunities to be Women in Mission happen then!

Cheryl E. Long, Corresponding Secretary

Quilting Project



Many pieces of fabric of many colors and sizes were put together with busy and loving hands to design, sew, and tie 229 quilts. These loving hands belonged to about seven women who are members of St. John Lutheran Church in Dieterich, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wheeler, and some community friends. The quilts were displayed on the pews and dedicated at the March 31st worship service. A few of the quilts will be kept on hand for gifts or for special needs in the community. Most of the quilts will be shipped to Orphan Grain Train or Lutheran World Relief.

2018-2019 Mission Goal Exceeded

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The LWML CID exceeded its 2018-2019 mission goal of \$90,000 for grants! 75% of that, or \$67,500, was to be given to the mission grants selected at the 2018 Convention. Those were:

- \$30,000 for Student Aid for Church Workers;
- \$15,000 for Camp CILCA Christian Growth Center Repairs;
- \$5,000 for each the Ft. Wayne and the St. Louis Seminary Food Banks;
- \$12,000 for Camp CILCA "Removing Barriers" program; and
- \$4,250 for Deaconess Kim Bueltmann support of her work in Germany.

With the power of God and all LWML CID women's generosity, our goal was surpassed by \$7, 571.36! That allowed for the last grant to Kim Bueltmann to be fully funded at \$10,000 and the remaining balance of \$1,821.36 was awarded to the "HOPE Medical Mobile Unit in the Quad Cities". Praise the Lord!

Serving Our Neighbor By Caring



For over 20 years, the Altamont Zone has continued to show love to their neighbor by gathering food to support the Seminary students in St. Louis. These gifts of love are gathered during the month of November and taken to the Seminary in St. Louis so they may be placed in the food bank. This helps the Seminary students and their families during the holidays.

The Altamont Zone consist of 9 groups. They are as follows: Bethlehem LWML, St.Paul(Blue Point) Ladies Aid, Immanuel Ladies Aid, and Zion Ladies - all from Altamont, plus St.Peter LWML/Ladies Aid, Salem Ladies Circle, Immanuel Augburg Ladies Aid, St.Paul Ladies Aid, and Holy Cross Ladies Society.

The most recent project was sewing quilts for Veterans in Danville. All of the Altamont Zone Ladies groups went over and beyond making beautiful quilts for the Veterans and Orphan Grain Train. These ladies enjoyed the fellowship together with their LWML sisters.

St.Paul (Blue Point) has 9 young women in their group. Doing special projects has encouraged them to serve their Lord through the LWML. Using their talents to serve their Lord with gladness has affirmed their faith with the Triune God.

All the Altamont Zone societies were busy during Lent as they served Lenten dinners. They are now planning programs for Mother's Day and fall rallies. More importantly, they are continuing to serve with joy and a smile as they help others in their communities.

Pillowcase Dress Designer



Helen Hoffman, a member of Trinity Springfield's Ladies Aid, was honored at the Springfield Zone's Mother, Daughter, Grandmother Tea and Fashion Show held on March 10th. Helen, 98 years young, recently completed her 350th pillowcase dress for "Little Dresses for Africa". The dresses are given to girls around the world who may never have owned a dress of their own. Helen was presented with an original pencil sketch of a young girl joyously wearing her very own pillowcase dress. The artwork was created by Chloe Gross, daughter of Pam Gross, who is the president of Ladies Aid at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Petersburg. When you send a dress to this organization, you send hope to a child. If your society is interested in supporting this project, go to www.ldfaconnect.com for details.

Alabama – Here We Come!



Date: June 20–23, 2019

Location: Mobile, Alabama

Theme: "In Praise to the
LORD!"

Pictured above are the Central Illinois District's delegates to the National Convention, as well as Pastoral Counselor Michael Mohr and President Sheila Lutz. These ladies were invited to the Executive Board meeting at Camp Cilca in March to receive their checks for their expenses for the convention. They also ate lunch together as they discussed the important details about the convention.

Quilt Dedication



The LWML ladies of Peace Lutheran Church in Thomasboro donated two quilts to the servant events at the Central Illinois District Convention. On Sunday, March 31, Pastor Podoll dedicated the quilts in the Sunday morning regular worship service. The ladies who sewed and tied these quilts are pictured. From left to right they are Ronda Scott, Lois Wood, Evelyn Miller, Corky Kirts, and Joanne Wallace. Two ladies who are not pictured but helped with the quilts were Karla Podoll and Margo Hays.

Next Clarion deadline is July 25th!

**Next Executive Council and Board Meeting is at Camp Cilca
on July 15 – 16.**

Fashion Show And More!

Pillowcase dresses for Africa were the inspiration for a mother, daughter, grandmother tea and fashion show. Girls of the Springfield Zone churches modeled 35 pillowcase dresses of the 75 dresses lovingly created by the ladies of St. John Lutheran Church of New Berlin. The dresses were given to the Orphan Grain Train. The 150 guests also generously brought thousands of dollars of baby gifts for the Springfield Pregnancy Care Center. The ladies enjoyed this wonderful time as they enjoyed beautifully decorated tables, delicious food, shower games, and of course the very cute girls in their adorable pillowcase dresses. The dresses and gifts for the pregnancy center confirm that returning to the Lord the gifts He has given to us can be fun and fulfilling for the young and old!



The Beautiful Models!

Lap Quilts...Lap Quilts...and Lap Quilts



The LWML ladies of St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Peter have been busy. They recently made and tied 32 lap quilts through the help of a Thrivent Action Team Card. The ladies purchased colorful material which they cut and sewed into quilts. The Youth Group also helped tie some of the quilts as a part of their regular meeting. The ladies enjoyed quilt tying and luncheon get-togethers to complete the project. Some of these lap quilts were given to members of their church and community who are suffering from cancer and some were given to members in nursing homes. (Thrivent Action Team Cards can help organizations finance servant projects. Ask your local Thrivent members for details.)

Welcome New Societies!!

Violetas De Cristo Rey at Christ the King Lutheran Church in East Moline – Rock Island Zone

Trinity Ladies at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pekin – Peoria/Pekin Zone

St. John's Women in Faith at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pekin – Peoria/Pekin Zone

Mission Grants: 2019 – 2020

(As Approved by the delegates at the CID Convention)

A mission goal of \$104,800 for 2019 – 2020 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. 22 Dinners – Kare 9 Military Ministry----- \$3,600
3. Lutheran Center Religious Liberty in Washington DC----- \$5000
4. Bibles for Critically Ill Children and Teens-----\$1,000
5. Internships for CUC Church work Students-----\$17,000
6. “With God’s Little Ones in Ankepaka, Madagascar----- \$2,500
7. Lutheran Laymen League Booth at State Fair-----\$5,000
Creating a Lutheran Library for East African pastors-----\$5,000
9. Crossing the Gap Prison Ministry-----\$2,000
10. Providing “Connect to Disciple” Workshops-----\$7,500



Break-Out Sessions at Convention



Following the theme of the convention “*He Knows My Name*” all the break-out session speakers had a message for us as we share the good news of salvation. Pictured on the left is Dr. Robert and Kristi Roegner who emphasized “He Knows the Names of His Children in Israel”. Pictured in the center is Dr. Martin and Marie Dicke who shared the message “He Knows the Names of His Children in Papua New Guinea”. Pictured on the right is Judy Sacotnik, Operation Mercy Coordinator, who shared the message of helping the veterans which relates to “He Knows the Names of Those Who Serve”. Pastor Elliott Lutz also led a session on “He Knows the Names of His Children – Right Outside Our Doors”. The central theme for all these speakers was “serving wherever and whenever He has need of you.”

"He Knows My Name"

Isaiah 43:1 reads "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."
This is the verse that lead to the theme for the 74th Annual Convention.

The convention began on Friday afternoon, April 26, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Danville, with a variety of servant events for the ladies to work on. The results were amazing! The donated quilts were packed in 200 Christmas gift bags for the Veterans at Cannon Place, 140 veterans were served a home-cooked meal, 110 diapers were cut for layettes, thousands of stamps were trimmed, and 135 Bibles were marked. A meal and church service followed these activities.

The 74th Annual LWML Convention held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Danville began Saturday morning, April 27, and was hosted by the Danville Zone. Pastor Elliott Lutz and his wife, Katie, from Omaha, Nebraska, were the keynote speakers. Central Illinois District President, Sheila Lutz, presided over the business meeting that included voting on proposed by- law changes, the financial secretary and treasurer's reports, and voting on mission grants. The women who were not delegates enjoyed a variety of break out session speakers.

We were all invited by the Pekin-Peoria Zone to Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton for next year's convention which will include 3 days of activities to celebrate the Central Illinois District 75th Birthday.



Friday Events



Saturday at CID Convention



Pictured in center are Pastor Elliott Lutz and wife, Katie Lutz, who were keynote speakers and break out session speakers.

