



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

# LEAGUER

Website: [lwmlnebraskanorth.org](http://lwmlnebraskanorth.org)  
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

Summer 2018, Volume 15, Issue 2

## Joy Notes from Lisa

BY LISA STIRTZ

God has chosen me to be your president for the next four years, and I feel very honored and blessed to accept this responsibility. God has a plan for us in these four years and I look forward to the challenge and JOYS it will be to serve you as president. God will be assisting us, showing us the way, and equipping us with a great TEAM to do this work.

God speaks to us and the great thing about God is that He is big enough to speak to all of us wherever we are, whatever is happening in our lives. God's Word is alive and my goal is to have that JOY in all things that I do, and to assist you as you share that JOY with others in your church, home, community, or at work. We can multiply our individual growth as we encourage one another with the JOY that we will share.

JOY came to us at the LWML convention in many ways....Zone Presidents carrying the baby blankets for the processional and then sharing that JOY with others. Listening to Donna Pyle and Brent Smith talking about the JOY of the mission field. District President Richard Snow sharing his JOY of us basking in the sun, and soaking up God's Word and sharing that JOY with people around us. Seeing all the Young Women Representatives and Young Teens, and the JOY they were having becoming friends and seeing what LWML is all about.

The purple auction was pure JOY and knowing that the money there was going to help with our mite goal. Our interest sessions and servant events and the JOY knowing that we were helping others, and listening to people share the JOY of their mission field. We had the JOY of prayer by Pastor Williams and Pastor Kohlmeyer when we had sisters of the LWML that needed our prayers. And I believe the greatest JOY of the whole convention was hearing of the mission grants we will be supporting for the next two years, and the JOY of the new officers who will be helping to lead the NE North LWML.

Again thank you for your love and support as I start this adventure as your president. At any time I would love to hear from you with questions or JOYS and I want to help.

My husband Craig and I live in Gretna where I am the Preschool Director of Wee Lambs Preschool at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Craig works for the NE District and Concordia University as a gift planner counselor. We have three married children. Our son Tyler is married to Chelsea and they have one 6 year old son Liam and a child due in September, our son Jordan and his wife Morgan, and our daughter Kari and her husband Ryan. ( all married within the last year)  
God bless you as you share the JOY with others everyday.



### INTRODUCTIONS

Who will lead Nebraska North LWML in this biennium?



### CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

What were some of the highlights?



### MISSION GRANTS

What Missions will we be funding and praying for this biennium?



### UPCOMING EVENTS

What are the upcoming LWML Activities?

## 2018-2020 Biennium

### Mission Goal - \$75,000

Scholarships - \$30,000

Grant(s) Total - \$ 45,000

1. Mission Central – Missionary Support - \$10,000
  2. Jesus Our Savior Preschool Tuition Assistance - \$10,000
  3. Financial Assistance for Food and Clothing Co-op - Fort Wayne Seminary \$10,000
  4. Chaplain Scholarships for Medical Mission Trips - \$6,000
  5. Seminary Education for New Pastors in South Sudan - \$7,500
  6. Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) Curriculum Resources - \$1,500 (partial)
- Young Women Representatives
- UNO On-Campus Outreach Events - \$2018
- Youth in Mission
- His Kids Camp Scholarship to Camp Luther- \$218



*In Gathering Abundance*



*Serving the Lord with Gladness - Servant events*

### Upcoming Events!

Zone - Ainsworth  
Date - September 22  
Place - Christ - O'Neill  
Time - 10 a.m.  
Speaker - Leif Hasskarl

Zone - Columbus  
Date - TBA  
Place - TBA  
Time - TBA  
Speaker - TBA

Zone - Fremont  
Date - October 7  
Place - Trinity - Howells  
Time - 1:30 p.m.  
Speaker - TBA

Zone - Norfolk  
Date - October 13  
Place - St. John - Battle Creek  
Time - 9:00 a.m.  
Speaker - Heidi Goehmann

Zone - Omaha Tri-Zone  
Date - October 21  
Place - First - Plattsmouth  
Time - TBA  
Speaker - Brent Smith

Zone - Plainview  
Date - October 27  
Place - Christ - Creighton  
Time - TBA  
Speaker - TBA

Zone - Wayne  
Date - October 16  
Place - Hope - South Sioux City  
Time - 9:30 a.m.  
Speaker - Michael Awe

Zone - West Point  
Date - September 24th  
Place - St. Paul - Wisner  
Time - 4:00 p.m.  
Speaker - Susie Leffers







# 2018 Convention Highlights







## 2018-2020 Executive Committee Contact Information

### District President – Lisa Stirtz

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### Vice President of Communications – Suzy Awe

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### Vice President of Gospel Outreach – Joyce Buethe

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### Vice President of Servant Resources – Debra Gutz

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### Recording Secretary – Karla Koehler

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### Treasurer – Karen Peters

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### Jr. Pastoral Counselor – Marcel Kohlmeyer

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### Mite Offerings

Mites from Societies - \$9,944.86  
Mites from Memorials - \$690.00  
Mites from Special Offerings - \$801.91  
Mites from Convention Offerings - \$11,578.71  
**Total Mites - \$23,015.48**  
Interest Income - \$3.26  
Memorials not for mites - \$10.00  
Convention Offering #2 & #3 - \$7,805.65  
Conv. Registration, Meals, T-Shirts - \$18,773.09  
Store Sales at Convention - \$2,071.58  
Donation other than to mites - \$200.00  
**Total Other Income - \$28,863.58**

### Memorials

Jean Schneck - Arlington, St. Paul LWML - \$20.00  
Ruth Beckenhauer, West Point, St. Paul LWML - \$10.00  
Leona Janke - Wayne, Grace Ladies Aid - \$10.00  
Nathie Nelson - Norfolk, Our Savior Tabitha - \$10.00  
Lillie Gilster - Sou. Sioux City, Hope LWML - \$50.00  
Lyle Christensen - Wahoo, Our Redeemer Lydia - \$10.00  
Chuck Pohlman - Norfolk, Christ Pricillias - \$25.00  
Jean Schaecher - Norfolk, Christ Pricillias - \$25.00  
Orphina Ackerman - Beemer, St. John Ladies Mis. Soc. \$10.00  
Adeline Sahs - Adeline M Sahs Estate - \$500.00  
Elvira Jensen - DeLene Freudenburg - \$20.00  
Dorothy Ambroz - Norfolk, Christ Circle - \$10.00  
Total Memorials - \$700.00

# Officer Introductions

## Shelley Freudenburg - Financial Secretary

What a true blessing it was to be with you all at Convention. It was an honor to be able to count all our money given in love over the two days of convention. Thanks to Deb Gutz, Donna Taylor, Karen Peters and Stacy Coffey for the help during the convention it was much appreciated. I have enjoyed these last two years being your "depositor" of funds and will continue this position for the next two years. Please contact me at my new email address if you have any questions or concerns. she1ld844@gmail.com. Thank you for allowing me to serve you in this capacity, to God be the Glory!!

## Joyce Buethe- Vice President - Gospel Outreach

His Light on our path. What a wonderful time sharing with the women and men of the LWML.

Our path. Often, I have wondered about this as I have tried to make it my path. I have many times put my boundaries on where I want or think the path should be. When my husband Terry expressed interest in attending the seminary in the mid 1990's, I declared that "I don't play the piano! I don't teach Sunday school! I'm not moving to St. Louis! and I'm not going to be a pastor's wife!" God laughed. I did move to St. Louis and was the wife of a pastor, but it's still no to the other two. Our path, mine and God's, He is with me on that path no matter how many twists and turns it might hold or how often I try to be in control. God has now opened a new turn in His path for me.

It is a step out of my comfort zone but I know that He will light this path just as He lights all our paths.

As a district, we were blessed to be able to pay the last mission grant to Camp Luther for the 2016-2018 biennium after the convention. Our mites will now work together to fund the mission grants that were selected at the convention. Each of these grants is on that path that is lit by His light. Pray as our mites work together to spread His light to the paths of others.

## Karen Peters - Treasurer

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Isaiah 2:5

As registrar of the Nebraska North Convention, I was unable to be at the convention sessions or activities, but I had the opportunity to meet many of my LWML sisters. My favorite part of the convention was the Pre-Convention Prayer Service and Crystal's President's Dinner. Spending time with this group is so uplifting. I am looking forward to serving as the district treasurer and carrying on the projects and activities of the district. May God continue to bless the Nebraska North LWML as we walk in His light.

I am a member of 1st Trinity in Bloomfield. Daryle and I will be marking our 50th anniversary in August. We were blessed three children and six grandchildren. Our son Jon is deceased, and his wife has remarried since the convention. After I finish writing this, I am packing my bags to go on a mission trip for Thrivent Builds and Habitat for Humanity to the Dominican Republic. This is my first mission trip, but several in the group have been on many trips, and their comments increase my anticipation of going on this mission trip.

ANNOUNCING

## *Seek and Serve* Joint Servant Event Nebraska North & South LWML

APRIL 27, 2019

St. John - Seward

More information soon!

## Suzy Awe - Vice President - Communications

His Light On Our Path

Every time I think about our convention I smile. It was such a fabulous time of worship, friendship, and stewardship of our mites. His Light is certainly shining on our path. I am Suzy Awe, Vice President of Communications for our LWML Nebraska North District. I have the privilege of making sure the Leaguer, the Website, the display, and other communication resources are available to the district members and more.

A "communication" highlight for me at the convention was the lunch chat with Past District Presidents. I was so honored to host this event and to ask the questions. There were so many stories of God's light shining on the path of each and every past president. They had wonderful stories of working with their executive committee and Pastoral Counselors. They told delightful stories of convention memories and invaluable mentors. They shared how God strengthened them and led them to lead our District in His love, grace and mercy. Each story rang true to our LWML Mission Statement; "...to assist each woman of the LCMS in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world." Each of these ladies show an excellent example of the mission statement. May God bless our new President to shine through God's Light to every member on the path.

## LaDonna Stanosheck - Vice President - Christian Life

"Lift high the cross" is one of my favorite hymns. The new LWML logo has the cross as it's main-focus and our convention logo had the cross as the same main-focus. Lifting the cross before us to lead us in whatever direction the Lord would have us go. The Word and the Cross lighting our path. What a great theme and what a great convention. I want to thank anyone and everyone who had any part in making this a wonderful time of Bible study, singing, learning and yes, some necessary business. I was blessed to have lots of wonderful people step up and help me out, more than they had expected! But what a wonderful feeling in leaving our convention .... excited about what the Lord has in store for NE North LWML. New officers, new mission projects and wonderful things for the women of this district to accomplish for the Lord. As your VP of Christian Life, I hope I will be able to help all ladies of the district find new ways to enrich their own person walk with God. There are so many wonderful devotions, Bible studies, skits and more on the national website and I hope to help make these more available to all, as I attend zone events. May God bless the work of our district richly in this next biennium.

## Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer - Jr. Pastoral Counselor

Reflections on Convention

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119:105).

"His Light on our path" was the theme of convention this past June. The Keynote speakers, Donna Pyle and Rev. Brent Smith, did an excellent job at highlighting this theme as we reflect on how God's light shines in our lives and through our work in LWML, together in Christ's mission to seek and to save the lost. Donna's story of being in a dark cave and how a single light from a match illumined the whole cave was a thoughtful example of how the light of God's Word overcomes the darkness of sin, Satan and death in our lives and world.

I also had the pleasure of bringing my two daughters as teen representatives. Their enthusiasm was contagious as they shared the things they had learned and taken part in. The convention was a wonderful time of fellowship for all ages! It was a privilege for me in another way as I was elected to serve as the new Junior Pastoral Counselor. I previously had the honor of being appointed to serve out Pastor Feddern's term and to work with Pastor Williams for the past year and a half. I have been a pastor for 13 years, in the district for 8½ years and served congregations in Iowa and Nebraska. I currently serve St. Peter Lutheran Church (Orchard) and St. Paul Lutheran Church (Venus). From 2010-2014 I was Zone Counselor in the Plainview Zone. Through all of it, it has been a pleasure to serve and share God's Word with the wonderful ladies of our district, as His light shines upon our path!

## Deb Gutz - Vice President - Servant Resources

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Deb Gutz and I have been an LWMLer for 35 years -- I enjoyed being on the Board so much over the past four years as treasurer, that when I was asked if I would put my name in for VP of Servant Resources, I prayed about it and said yes I would. I am actively involved also in our own society at Immanuel in Osmond. Being with other ladies studying the bible and with the joy of their fellowship, my love of the Lord has grown so much -- and so has my love of the color purple! 💜

THE CROSS -- The cross above all else -- this is the purpose behind all things LWML. We do everything to the glory of God! Yes, there are the business matters to attend to, but God is in the center of it all. The reason I enjoy working with these ladies, is the joy in their hearts and returning that love to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by serving others with a joyful heart. At the District convention, it was so uplifting to hear all the ladies voices singing praises to God and listening to all the wonderful speakers. Also, when you think how much love was poured out in all the mite offerings -- the first Convention offering, the Rock-A-Thon, the Purple Auction, and the extra freewill offering at the evening entertainment -- wow, over \$11,500.00 was raised. Plus money collected for 2nd and 3rd offerings at convention, brought in over \$4,000 to Jana Inglehart and over \$3,600 was split between Camp Luther and the scholarship fund. Love was overflowing at convention. I pray that love carries over to our zone and society meetings over the next two years as we celebrate God's love for us and our love of God in return!

## Last Mission Grant of 2016-2018 Biennium Paid



Betty Poppe, retiring Vice President of Gospel Outreach presented the final Mission Grant of \$9,000 to Camp Luther for Mission Leader Development.



## Karla Koehler - Recording Secretary

Blessings on your day everyone! My name is Karla Koehler and I am humbled to be your Recording Secretary. I was elected in 2016 and will serve until 2020. As I reflect back on our convention theme, "His light on our path" and I am constantly reminded how we as Christians are part of that light when we reflect God's love for all of us. We are that light when a child needs comforted, when our friends need a listening ear, when a family member needs care, when we work at our jobs, and really everything we do especially in our relationships.

After a convention I read a story on social media that has stuck with me. Perhaps you read it too. It can be found at [www.shounashanks.com](http://www.shounashanks.com) and is titled "An Unexpected Note that Left Me Breathless." Shauna spoke at Christmas event and received this note from an attendee:

"This happened last night after the ladies Christmas Party with a young lady that I invited with her mother. I was in Dollar Tree last night and there was a lady and two kids behind me in the LONG line. One was a big kid, one was a toddler. The bigger one had a pack of glow sticks and the baby was screaming for them so the Mom opened the pack and gave him one, which stopped his tears. He walked around with it smiling, but then the bigger boy took it and the baby started screaming again. Just as the Mom was about to fuss at the older child, he bent the glow stick and handed it back to the baby. As we walked outside at the same time, the baby noticed that the stick was now glowing and his brother said, 'I had to break it so you could get the full effect from it.' The author then stated, "I almost ran because I could hear God saying to me, 'I had to break you to show you why I created you. You had to go through it so you could fulfill your purpose.'" That little baby was happy just swinging that 'unbroken' glow stick around in the air because he did not understand what it was created to do which was 'glow.' There are some people who will be content just 'being' but some of us that God has chosen, we have to be 'broken.' We have to get sick. We go through divorce. We have to bury our spouse, our parents, best friend, or child because, in those moments of desperation, God is breaking us but when the breaking is done, then we will be able to see the reason for which we were created."

What a beautiful reminder as we struggle with the brokenness in our world and our own struggles. Let us let God's light shine in us as we go through trials, tribulations, and triumphs. In good times, in bad times, in times of plenty and in times of need, let us Praise him and let us share His light as He lights our path! Spend time in His Word and reflect on how he can work through you and with you. "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:16.

## Rev. Barry Williams - Sr. Pastoral Counselor

The Cross above all else.

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17) Thus began our struggle with the tree. This luscious green tree that was to be left alone became an unavoidable temptation.

I spent a lot of time in trees in my youth. From elms to cedars to apple and apricot, from maple to cherry and peach, I climbed them all-even a few I could not name. Perhaps my favorite was the elm. It had branches larger than the trunks of most other trees in our yard. It had footholds in just the right places for me to scramble up so I could look down at the world. I felt as mighty as the tree itself when nestled in its branches. Then came the dreaded Dutch elm disease and I found myself on the other end of a two-man saw from my brother as we spent a long summer cutting that once majestic tree into firewood. How quickly life can be ended.

So it was also for our Savior. One moment he is riding into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna," and the next moment the crowd is shouting, "Crucify!"

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then ""they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' ' For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23:26-31)

On that dry, wooden cross, Jesus died for our sins. From the first sin of Adam and Eve with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil to when Jesus returns again, He died for all sins. That cross, that cruel crucifixion cross has become the place we look to know the price for our sins has been paid. So too the cross stands above all else in the LWML logo to remind us that Jesus died for us.

Thanks be to God.

## Peg Kumm - Vice President - Human Care

### AWESOME CONVENTION-AWESOME WOMEN OF LWML

Ladies of LWML NE North, what an awesome group of women in mission you are.

My name is Peg Kumm and I am your Vice President of Human Care. When you elected me two years ago, I was somewhat concerned wondering if I could do this. I prayed a lot and God has given his guidance and help along the way. Being the VP of Human Care is one of the most rewarding positions in LWML.

I didn't realize how many can use our help. From right here in NE Nebraska, the US, and around the world. In my position I am the one that you contact with suggestions for our gatherings from collections at our EC meetings, retreats, conventions, etc. I then contact the organizations and along with them we determine what their needs are. I then present them to the EC committee to give suggestions to the BOD to vote upon. I can tell you that those who receive your gifts are very grateful. We have done small gatherings from collecting socks or mittens, to the large gathering we did at the June district convention for the Bright Horizon facilities in O'Neill and Ainsworth food bank. If you happened to walk by the library room where we collected all the items, you had to be as amazed as I was at the amount received. It was overwhelming and brought tears to my eyes seeing the generosity extended. When I called Linda at Bright Horizons to tell her we had a slight problem, that the one van they thought would hold our donations would not begin to hold everything she just couldn't believe it.

When the young worker arrived to start loading, she had to recruit several more volunteers with vans to help haul it away. In all it took 7 vans to move it away. They were in awe. Here is the number of items you brought to fill the shelves at Bright Horizons:

- Gift Cards to Walmart- \$485 and cash
- Household Cleaning Items:
  - Bleach – 7 bottles
  - Pine Sol – 10 bottles
  - Ammonia – 2 bottles
  - Furniture Polish – 2 bottles
  - Disinfecting Wipes – 61 containers
  - Comet Cleanser – 7 containers
  - Toilet Bowl Cleaner – 23 containers
  - Laundry Soap – 27 bottles
  - Fabric Softener – 1 bottle
- Paper Products:
  - Kleenex – 165 boxes
  - Bathroom Tissue – 83 assorted packages
  - Paper Towel – 153 rolls
  - Napkins – 43 packages
- Food Items:
  - Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, beef) – 153 cans
  - Vegetables – 62 cans
  - Fruit – 340 cans
- Food Items (Continued):
  - Sauces (pasta, pizza, etc.) – 61
  - Canned pasta – 24 cans
  - Apple Sauce – 18 jars
  - Dry Rice, Pasta, Noodles – 358 packages
  - Pancake Mix – 69 boxes
  - Pancake Syrup – 36 bottles
  - Cereal – 146 bags and boxes
  - Dry Potato Mixes – 11 boxes
  - Many more single food items to list
- Baby items
  - Diapers – 100 count
  - Infant Formula – 18 cans
  - Powered Dry Milk – 5 bags
- Toiletries & Hygiene Items (cont.)
  - Sanitary Products – 4 boxes
  - Hand Soap – 4 bottle
  - Shave Gel – 7 bottles
  - One large bag of miscellaneous toiletries
  - One large bag of children's socks – 185 pair
- Toiletries & Hygiene Items
  - Tooth Brushes – 132
  - Tooth Paste – 16 tubes
  - Combs – 22
  - Large Bars of Soap – 34
  - Lotion – 16 bottles
  - Hand sanitizer – 6 bottles

We also had someone bring in 10 baby quilts which were donated to Lutheran Family Services.

As you can see your kindness and generosity was overwhelming and very much appreciated by Bright Horizons. It will stock their shelves greatly and help many women and their children. Also sent with our items were book marks and mustard seeds from LWML with words of encouragement and bible passages to give to each woman to let her know about Christ and His ever help and presence for and with her. Thank you LWML sisters for the wonderful outpouring of your Gifts of the Heart at our convention. With your help my position is very rewarding and humbling.