



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LEAGUER

Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

Spring 2023, Volume 17, Issue 3

Together in Him - LaDonna Stanosheck lmstano@gmail.com
(402) 360-5202

Together in Him, we "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations!"

In June of this year, we have the privilege of attending the national LWML convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am so excited to "Celebrate the Lord of the nations." But what is meant by "nations"? The Bible (ESV) gives us the answers:

Acts 17:26, "And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth."

Revelation 7:9, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands."

Habakkuk 1:5 says, "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told."

We know that God's ultimate plan and desire is and always has been to save people from every place on earth, the whole world, everyone. So we must share that plan with all, by spreading the Good News of salvation through Jesus. And how do we "celebrate" this? By remembering what we all were before he saved us...sinners, with no hope. But then God sent Jesus to all nations and bestowed on us his mercy and grace by sacrificing his only son. And he daily bestows on us his grace and mercy and this is to all the world.

And so, we join together with all other believers and we celebrate what God has done for us. We daily live a life of celebration of his mercy. We share this wonderful news with others, and we try to live a life of love and joy, so others know why and what we celebrate.

The LWML committee, Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations, recognizes that there are gifted women from many family backgrounds throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. So I am delighted to announce that Hannah Nunnenkamp-Engelman has agreed to be our new coordinator of this program in our district. She will be attending training in the days prior to convention.

We also will be taking Kenzie Pasold and Mallory Calvert as Young Woman Representatives to convention for the first time. Praise to God that we can continue to share and celebrate with all nations the grace that has been given to us!



MISSION GRANT PAID

Hispanic Ministry



SOCIETY AND ZONE NEWS

Hygiene Kits



SEEK AND SERVE

Serve One Another



MEET THE YWRS

Kenzie and Mallory

Seek & Serve - "Serve One Another"

On Saturday, April 15, LWMLers from both the Nebraska North and Nebraska South Districts met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Island. The day began with a welcome from Sherry Berger, Nebraska South District President. Molly Dixon, a member of the LWML Christian Life Committee led the group in Bible study. Lunch was served.

Everyone then moved to the Grand Island Orphan Grain Train location, split into two groups and began service for the afternoon. During the afternoon 50 boxes of clothing were packed and many more clothes were sorted. At Mercy Meals (which is just across the parking lot), 4,968 meals were packed. This all happened in 2½ hours.

The following ingathering items were gathered and donated:

- 142 new underwear
- 438 pairs of new socks
- 42 hygiene kits
- 6 new tshirts
- \$260 cash for Orphan Grain Train
- \$330 cash for Mercy Meals



Mission Grant Check Presented



President LaDonna Stanosheck was able to present our third mission grant check to Siouxland Hispanic Ministries. Pastor Paul Flo accepted the check on behalf of the ministry.



2022-2024 Biennium - Mission Goal

\$80,000



- **Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool - \$6,000**
- **Running the Race with Mission Central - \$6,000**
- **Siouxland Hispanic Ministry - \$7,500**
- **The Fatherhood Initiative Project, Lutheran Family Services, \$7,500**
- **Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Food and Clothing Bank - \$3,000**
- **Logos Bible Software, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis - \$4,500**
- **Daughters of the Savior - \$5,000**
- **Chancel furnishings for the University Lutheran Chapel/UNL - \$7,500**
- **Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central and South America, partially funded - \$3,000**
- **YWR: Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool - \$2,022**
- **Academic Year 2022-2023 Church worker Scholarships - \$15,000**
- **Academic Year 2023 -2024 Church worker Scholarships - \$15,000**

Note: Grants in Purple Indicate that they are PAID

LWML Convention - Omaha - 2025

Host Committee Chair - Crystal Miller

2025lwmlconventioncrystal@gmail.com
(402) 290-0190

Planning Continues for Omaha 2025

The 2025 Host Committee Leadership Team met on April 28-29. Lisa Stirtz graciously hosted us in her home, so there was no cost to the team other than the transportation to get there. It was a great weekend of getting to know one another as well as planning our invitation to Nebraska and our booth for the Milwaukee convention.

Our next event will be off to Convention in Milwaukee to learn from those who are on the Host Committee Leadership Team for 2023. Deb Gutz and Lisa Stirtz are looking for volunteers to help work the 2025 Convention booth in Milwaukee; if you are interested, please reach out and let them know. There will always be a team present, so it's a great way to make friends and encourage people to head to Nebraska in 2025.

Departmental Coordinators:

- Communications - Molly Dixon (Nebraska South)
- Creative Enhancements - Sherry Berger (Nebraska South)
- Properties and Worship Support - Linda Fees (Nebraska South)
- Personnel Resources - Deb Gutz (Nebraska North)
- Guest Services - Lisa Stirtz (Nebraska North)
- Co-Treasurers - Karla Koehler (Nebraska North) & Norma Hansen (Nebraska South)

There are many opportunities to serve on the 2025 Host Committee. If you are interested, please let me know. Next up is for us to fill Committee Chair positions. Please fill out a volunteer form (available on the website). Special needs are: Administrative Assistant, Golf Outing Chairman, and Child Care/Youth Chairman. Please prayerfully consider these positions. You will have lots of helpers and God will guide us as we do each of these things.

Prayers are requested for this team, for willing volunteers and for the planning process as we move forward.

Jeanette Beune - Financial Secretary

bjbeune@gmail.com
(402) 529-6495 (H), (402) 380-7813 (C)

Financial report for December 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

Mite Offerings from Societies	\$12,003.49
From Donations	\$ 215.62
From Memorials	\$ 265.00
Special Offerings	\$ 2,270.84
Thrivent Choice	288.00
Payments in Kind - to Mites	<u>\$ 1,218.69</u>
Total Mites	\$16,261.64

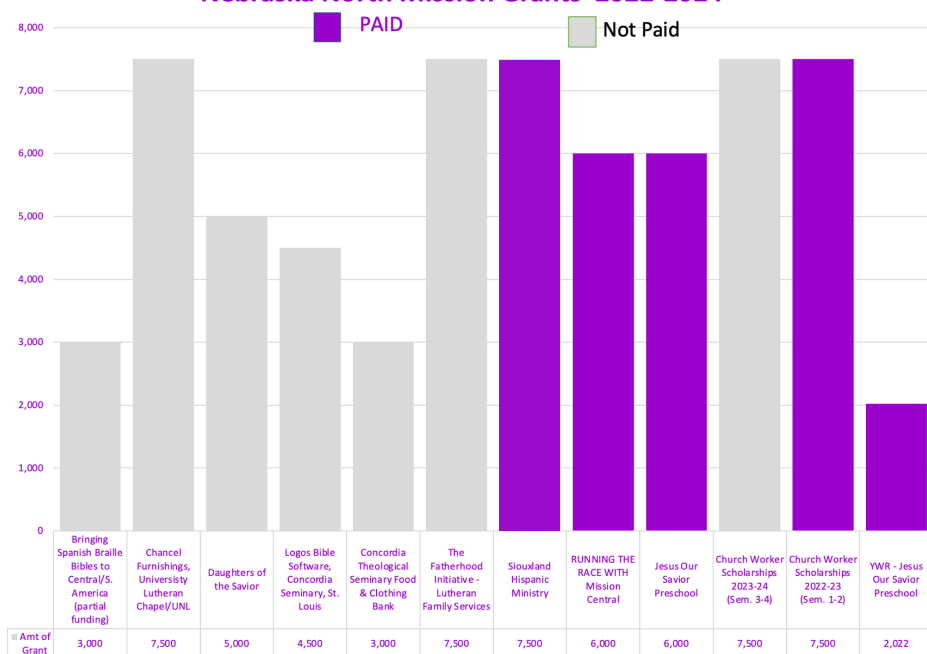
Memorials from December 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

From	For
St. Paul Altar Guild, Bancroft	Betty L. Nelson
Pilgrim Women of Pilgrim, Bellevue	Sonya Beach
Rachel Jensen	Delores Dahnke
Elizabeth Johnson	Lorena Kumm
Immanuel LWML, Laurel	Larry Stark
Our Savior Tabitha, Norfolk	Jane Witt
Our Savior Tabitha, Norfolk	Donna Johnson
Immanuel LWML, Osmond	Joan Koehler
Zion Priscillas, Plainview	Lois Huebner
First Lutheran, Plattsmouth	Patsy "Pat" Nelson
First Lutheran, Plattsmouth	Doris Carmichael
Hope LWML, South Sioux City	Janice Andersen
Hope LWML, South Sioux City	Shirley Billiar
Lisa Stirtz	Pastor Dan Heuer
Our Redeemer, Lydia, Wahoo	Kathryn Miller

Other Income

Interest income	\$ 48.43
Memorials not for mites	\$ 65.00
Bookstore sales	\$ 70.64
Special Offerings (non-mite)	\$ 107.50
Quarterly Subscription Income	\$ 5,497.50
Total other Income	\$ 8,646.28

Nebraska North Mission Grants 2022-2024



Carol Weber - Vice President of Communications

carolweber@windstream.net

Theme: Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

(C) 402-719-8325

Scripture Verse: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12-13, ESV)."

What does it mean for God to be our Lord? After all, we can't celebrate the Lord of the Nations until He is our Lord. So, let's consider the verse that supports our national convention, and as we look at it, let's put ourselves in there: Blessed is the woman whose God is the Lord, the women whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from the heaven; he sees all the children of man, all the women of the world, and specifically for us, all the women of LWML...and he sees me.

God sees you...God sees me. With all the many times we are so busy with whatever we deem to be important that we forget even to be aware of God, let alone celebrate Him, God is nonetheless entirely aware of us and watching over us, seeing us, and blessing us. Take a moment to consider that truth. It made me slack-jawed in awe. And then, to my shame, I thought about how often I'm distracted from celebrating God by the things that fill my life. The honest truth is that I'm a sinner, and I will continue to be distracted from all the things God would have me do and be and think. But there's another honest truth that's even bigger: God sent Jesus to live on the earth, to do so without sin, and then to die a death of shame to pay for all our sin. As a beloved hymn puts it, "The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him (LSB 439)." But we all know that the story doesn't end there. Jesus rose from that death, and we certainly don't forget to celebrate that! What an amazing God we have. God is our Lord. God has chosen us. God looks down from heaven, and He sees all of us...whatever our color, whatever our location, whatever our language, God sees *all* the children of man. That is certainly worth celebrating. And even when I get distracted from celebrating that, God is still my Lord, watching over me, filling my life with blessings worthy of celebration.

Lynette Koehler, Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Celebrate the Lord of the Nations - Psalm 33:12

hlkoehler@ptcnet.net

It sounds like the LWML National Convention is going to be a big party. Bring it on! I can't wait to be among the thousands of women gathering in Milwaukee to celebrate our Savior.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen his heritage (Psalm 33:12, ESV)!"

We are blessed to have this opportunity to celebrate our relationship with God when we gather in Milwaukee. We get to worship together, raise our voices in praise, and have the opportunity to learn more about God's Holy Word.

Doesn't this remind you of how people flocked to Jesus to hear His teaching? Not having radio, TV, the internet, or newspapers didn't seem to slow the spread of Jesus' ministry. The more He spoke, the more people wanted to hear. Add to His Word the signs Jesus performed and you can see why the people believed in Him and why some of the priests and church officials were against Him.

All through history—Old Testament, New Testament, dark ages to modern times—there have been believers and those that persecute believers. Being God's chosen isn't defined by lines drawn on a map but by the Holy Spirit working in our hearts with God's work to make us His.

Jesus commands in Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (ESV)." This is our opportunity to spread God's word: we get to talk to all the people we meet along the way, the people we meet in Milwaukee—not just the ones attending convention—and all the people we tell what we learned at convention when we get home. May the Spirit be busy working in the hearts of all nations!

See you in Milwaukee.

Jared Hartman - Sr. Pastoral Counselor

God's People!

pastorjaredhartman@icloud.com
(W) (402) 529-6583 (C) (317) 691-5892

What makes up the Christian Church? Well, it is her people. The Church, the Holy Bride of Christ, is God's people gathered by the Holy Spirit, where the Gospel is preached faithfully, and the sacraments are administered rightly. The Christian Church confesses together the truth of the Scriptures in the ecumenical creeds: The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian. These are, by the power of the Holy Spirit, correct, brief statements of the Scriptures. As Lutherans, we recognize this in our confession of faith in the Book of Concord. Specifically, we learn the Apostles' Creed at a young age from the Small Catechism. These simple explanations of the faith cement the way we walk together in Christ as Lutherans.

This summer, I will not be physically walking with you in Milwaukee at the LWML convention, for you will be under Pastor Burma's most excellent care. I will be with you in prayer and our common confession of the faith as you travel, receive God's word, and are gathered with the whole Christian Church around the altar as you commune for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. There, Christ will be known to you, "in the breaking of the bread (Acts 24:35, ESV)." Together with the angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven (including all the purple ladies of all nations who have gone before us to heaven), we await the resurrection of the body and sing, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" Amen.



Suzanne Totten - Vice President of Human Care

That's One Big Number

tottens1944@gmail.com
(H) 402-564-1455 (C) 402-276-6306

How exciting it must be for a child to first learn to write or count to 100! For them that's a big number. Equally exciting for that child is later mastering the use of a calculator or a modern device for computing larger sums. Those are some even bigger numbers. But what about 8,022,445,075 and counting? That is really one big number! Is this the number of stars in our solar system or the grains of sand on a beach? No, this is the number of people living on the earth! And our awesome God is Lord of them all--all people from every nation. The immensity of this boggles the mind and is more than we can comprehend. But our faith tells us it is so.

But, to me, there is a number that is even more amazing. It is the number 1. When I pray, I am speaking with my Lord, 1 to 1. Yes, God is the Lord of the nations, of billions of people--but he is also MY LORD! I haven't gotten lost in the numbers or fallen through the cracks. He still knows my name; he knows me heart and soul. Though I sin daily, he forgives me freely. When I grieve, he wraps me in his loving arms and comforts me. When I fall, he picks me up and helps me find my way. He is never too busy to listen to my cries for help. Instead of being a small part of some really large number, I feel like it is just the two of us walking side by side.

And by his grace, he offers this to all his children. He is always there ready to forgive, comfort and listen to each of us--1 to 1. In this life, It doesn't get any better than that! Praise be to the Lord of the Nations!

Getting to Know Our Nebraska North YWRs to Milwaukee

Kenzie Pasold

Kenzie is a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Norfolk. She is currently working as the Communications Director at Christ Lutheran Church and School. Through her involvement at church, she works alongside her colleagues to point their congregation and community toward Christ. She accomplishes this through social media and marketing for both Christ Lutheran Church and School. She is married to Garret and they have one son, Harrison. Kenzie is a fun and outgoing young woman who wishes to help spread the love of God to others through various activities she is involved in such as the parent organization for the church's childcare where she can share the love of Christ and appreciation to the childcare workers.



Mallory Calvert

Mallory is a member of Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City. She works as a Dental Assistant at North Sioux Dental Clinic. Currently, she has been a chair on her church's board of education for the last three years as well as being the church's Sunday School Superintendent. During this time, she has been involved in increasing the children and youth activities in her church both through VBS as well as through Sunday School. She has also helped in starting an annual Rally Day Sunday School picnic at her church. She is the mother to two children that regularly attend Sunday school with her youngest being enrolled in preschool at St. Paul's Lutheran School. Mallory is highly motivated, energetic, and is always willing to help when needed.



What's your 80?

St. Matthew Ladies Aid, Meadow Grove

This group of LWMLers completed health kits for their celebration of the LWML 80th Anniversary. The health kits were donated for disaster relief, the homeless and/or refugees through Orphan Grain Train. All members of St. Matthew's congregation were invited to help during Sunday coffee hour.



Jeanette Groppe, Archivist/Historian

Editor's note: Below is an historical account of Jeanette Groppe's interaction with Mormons. If you would like further information on interacting with those of the Mormon religion, we encourage you to meet with your pastor for further ideas and instruction.

When I was a little girl we belonged to St. Paul in the tiny village of Winslow. My grandparents were charter members and all my aunts, uncles and cousins belonged to this church. I started Catechism in first grade and my first memory verse was "Jesus wept." I also learned I could not sing the way I was naturally inclined. If I wanted to sing I had to sing their way.

My favorite memories are of VBS and Mission Festival. We had VBS all day and it ran for two or three weeks and I loved it. . . getting to color big posters featuring pictures from different nations, singing songs, making crafts. What's not to love about that? But above all we learned about these people who left the United States to go to another nation, sometimes very dangerous areas, and tell people about Jesus. I dreamt about being a missionary.

Mission Festival was an all-day affair at all the churches. At Winslow we had sack races, three-legged races, kick the shoe for the ladies, and awesome noon meals. And our speakers were actual missionaries. They were back from the mission fields abroad. How exciting to hear them. They were teaching Christ to the Nations, to people who knew nothing about Him.

I was going to be a missionary. I was going to spread God's Word to the nations because HE is the Lord of the Nations. It didn't really work out for me the way I expected. I find myself at times very tongue tied when it comes to talking to non-Christians. I can't seem to say what I want even though I pray about this a great deal.

However, perhaps I did do something on one of our travels. We were in Utah and, of course, we had to see the Mormon headquarters. I wanted to see where the choir did their recordings. The minute you walk in the gates, two young people meet you with a book in hand and immediately start talking about Mormonism. For once, my tongue worked. I asked to see the book. It was the Book of Mormon, so I proceeded to tell them about Jesus being the Son of God and what He has done for the whole world. Every argument they gave me, I had an answer. I think they got tired of me and left. My husband is off to the side laughing. Soon two others found us. My husband just walked off and I started in again. This happened a third time. If I remember correctly, these young people were from Scotland, Sweden, Japan and Korea. After that nobody approached us. I don't know if word got around to stay away from me or what. Maybe this was my chance to really Celebrate my Lord of the Nations with someone who needed it. I don't know if the Spirit swayed their hearts that day through my words, but I pray the truth brought light and joy to them. They, and so many more, need to know about our Lord and Savior.



Immanuel - Columbus

Mite Tree



LWML Members set it up in the church fellowship hall at Immanuel Lutheran church in Columbus--as people file past the counter getting their donut/coffee, they can pick up a mite box or put their change into the big mite box that is set there. This a great way to remind the congregation of our "Mission Mites in Action" and during the month of February, the tree was transitioned to a Valentine tree!

LWML Store - Sharing God's Grace and Love with Others

Did you know that one of the main purposes of all LWML products is so that we can share our faith in Jesus with others. Often our logo is a conversation starter for discussions of our faith and how we live that out through the LWML. Pictured are some of the soon-to-come and newer items.

First, the LWML processional cross has been replicated into an ornament. Think of what a wonderful gift and/or conversation piece this could be. I've always thought this cross was beautiful, but it wasn't until the design work for the ornament began that I recognized that the gold pointed pieces around the center circle are actually women: heads inward, with dresses on and feet pointed outward.

The second item is a replication of a widow's mite. The mite was an actual coin and this is a reproduction. Imagine the faith you can share through this conversation piece.

These two items are new and will be available at convention. I'm sure you'll be able to order on line after convention.

The four other items are currently available to order from the LWML store. The two different styles of cards are to share or to use for yourself to help you in your faith walk. The zipper pull and necklace with the LWML logo are both great conversation starters to share the mission and ministry that God provides through LWML.

I encourage you to look into the items at the LWML store, and see how God would have you use them in your witness to Him as well as in your own faith journey.

Also, if creating resources for LWML and other people is something that excites you, I encourage you to fill out a Personnel Resource Profile Form. LWML is always looking for volunteers to serve on committees which create these resources. Be in prayer and see if God is leading you to serve LWML in this way!

