



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LEAGUER

Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

Fall 2022, Volume 17, Issue 1

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*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4
Skip the stress and rejoice!*

Wow, when I saw that theme for this Leaguer, my first thought was...I just became district president...do you really think I can skip the stress??!!

But then I took a deep breath and said a little prayer and said to myself...Yes, I can decrease this stress with the help of God. And it always works! Plus, I have so many wonderful mentors and people to work with, that they ease my stress also. It has been a joyful, busy, wonderful few weeks since convention and what a great convention it was. It was so great to hear those Mites in Mission speakers and to know what our little boxes, when all put together, can really do for Jesus. And to *finally* be together in person...how wonderful was that?

Hugs and joy and laughs and catching up were so wonderful.

I have been busy planning meetings and getting great volunteers for committees and everyone has been so willing to help. One new committee we will have has been tasked to research how to set up an endowment for our district. With some wonderful, large, memorial gifts coming to us, we need to plan for the future of our district.

I hope you will all receive one of the new bookmarks that Crystal had made. One side lists our new mission grants and the other side has your executive committee names and contact information. If you ever have a question or concern, please reach out to one of the officers.

My goal during my term is to attend at least one spring or fall gathering in every zone. So, I hope to meet a whole lot of you in the next four years!

God bless you, dear Christian women and men who help to serve the Lord with gladness.



2022 DISTRICT COVENTION

Convention Recap



SOCIETY AND ZONE NEWS

Service with a smile



2023 LWML CONVENTION

Milwaukee



WHAT'S YOUR 80?

Celebrating 80 yrs of LWML

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



Nebraska North
District Convention
2024

Hosted by:
The Norfolk Zone
Plan to be there!



Orphan Grain Train - Presentation
2018-2020 District Treasurer Karen Peters presented a check in the amount of \$3,402 from the third offering at the 2022 District Convention.

2022 District Convention

Joy Notes from - Lisa Stirtz

Nebraska North LWML convention was a tremendous success and blessed by God. It took us a while to meet in person again, but we did it, and how great it was to see our LWML friends again. "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus" was our theme, and we fixed our eyes on Jesus in many ways. We heard from missionary Jan Franzen with Russian Orphanage; Missionary Quintin Cundiff and family going to Riga, Latvia; Comfort Dog Program Warren and Mary Hellbusch and dog Eden; Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry by Pastor Paul Flo; Mission Central Gary Thies; Jesus our Savior Lutheran Preschool in Winnebago from Sheryl Tietz; and Concordia Seminary Ft Wayne Deaconess Katherine Rittner. All these special people had such delightful stories of how they fix their eyes on Jesus everyday in the mission work they do.

We heard from District President Richard Snow, Concordia University Bernard Bull, our friend Deb Burma was our Keynote speaker, Pastor Cory Burma was our Bible study leader, and Pastor Jared Hartman led us in worship service along with several other area pastors.

Our Ingathering for Lutheran Family Services and Camp Luther was a huge success. For Camp Luther we collected copy paper, aluminum pans, postage stamps, work gloves and \$1,075 in gift cards and cash. For Lutheran Family Services we collected diapers, baby wipes, baby clothing, toys, and \$1,155 in gift cards and cash. Thank you, LWML ladies.

We selected new mission grants and had three offerings totaling a little over \$11,000. Again, thank you, LWML ladies.

We elected new officers, LaDonna Stanosheck, Sara Huwaldt, Pam Williams, Nancy Schlote and Pastor Cory Burma. Thank you, LWML ladies and Pastor.

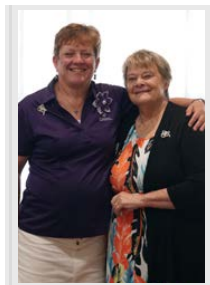
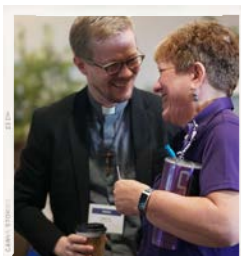
We also had Gifts of Love Gift Planner Carol vonSoosten and LWML National Representative Kathy Pavelock and their words of encouragement.

I want to thank Rachel Jensen and Joan Plummer, Convention chairman, and all the work they did to make the convention run smoothly.

Thank you everyone for coming to the NE North Convention and let us always remember to Fix our Eyes on Jesus.

I also want to thank you for the support during my four-year presidency of NE North. God truly blessed me with a wonderful experience, and I made some lasting friendships.

God Bless you all.



2022 District Convention



Jeanette Beune - Financial Secretary

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February 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022

Mite Offerings from Societies	\$21,816.02
From Donations	\$450.92
From Memorials	\$7,245.00
Special Offerings	\$2,075.04
Thrivent Choice	\$1,051.00
Convention Offering #1 - Mites	\$4,401.37
Purple Auction @ Convention	\$2,003.42
Piano Entertainment @ Convention	\$420.13
Table Decorations Sold @ Convention	\$55.00
Payments in Kind to Mites	<u>\$1,788.18</u>
Total Mite Offerings	\$41,306.08

Memorials

From

- Bancroft S. Paul Alter Guild
- Beemer, St. John Ladies Missionary Society
- Bellevue, Pilgrim, Women of Pilgrim
- Bellevue, Pilgrim, Women of Pilgrim
- Bellevue, Pilgrim, Women of Pilgrim
- Bellevue, Pilgrim, Women of Pilgrim
- Benash, Kenneth
- Columbus, Christ Ladies Aid & LWML
- Kilburn, John & Mary
- Laurel, Immanuel Lutheran Women's Society
- McAllister, Peg
- Norfolk, Christ Priscillas
- Pierce, Zion Katherine
- Plainview, Zion Ladies Aid
- Plainview, Zion Ladies Aid
- Plattsmouth, First Lutheran
- Plattsmouth, First Lutheran
- Wahoo, Our Redeemer Lydia

For

- Harold Nelson
- Norma Schlickbernd
- Erna Duckworth
- Ethelyn Hoings
- Lynne Sledge
- Shirley Bialy
- Betty Woolery
- Lueva Hellbush
- Betty Wollery
- Herman Volersen
- Rev. Charles Gierke
- Ila Friedrich
- Sue Brohagen
- Bryan Gloe
- Troy Hall
- Deloris Schroeder
- Flo Carver
- Gayle Schwenck

Other Income

Interest Income	\$22.60
Convention Offering #2	\$3,558.00
Convention Offering #3	\$3,102.00
Convention Ingathering for Camp Luther	\$250.00
Convention Registration & Meals	\$18,228.25
Convention T-Shirts	\$30.00
LCEF Convention Sponsorship	\$500.00
Exhibitor Fees & Meals	\$719.00
YWR Project - Special Gifts Fund	\$2,022.00
Book Store Sales - Spring Gatherings & Convention	\$3,650.47
Name Badges	\$39.00
Estate Proceeds (Rethwisch estate)	\$40,000

*Note: An endowment committee has been appointed to develop a Nebraska North District endowment fund and policies around disbursements of estate and other gifts given to the district. Members of the committee are: Monique Wolske - Chair, Karen Peters, Lisa Stirtz, & Marianne Slama.

Pastor Jared Hartman, Senior Pastoral Counselor

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Rejoice in the Lord Always!

With the Advent and Christmas Season soon upon us, we look forward to the Holiday Joy. Decorating, cooking, gift wrapping, crafting, shopping, and parties are just some of the things which give us Holiday Joy. Yet, while these fine gifts of Creation are ways we honor the Savior's birth, they give us fleeting, temporary joy. Towards the beginning of the New Year, our decorations are put aside, and the trappings of the Holiday Season go away. There is sometimes a little bit of sadness which goes with that.

Never fear, because Christians have the lasting joy of their hope in Christ Jesus. That lasting joy is with us when times are good, for sure, but it is a generous gift to us when times are bad in this vale of tears. Hope in the crucified, risen, and ascended Christ and our salvation won for us on the cross, is always in the forefront of our joy in this world. Jesus Christ is the Joy to the World, for he has come and will come again. Peace be with you!

Convention 2022 - Ingathering



Those who donated ingathering items at the 2022 Convention were very generous! The items were donated to Lutheran Family Services -Fremont and Camp Luther - Nebraska. In addition to all of the items pictured, there were \$2,500+ of gift cards, cash and checks, postage stamps, etc.



Back row left, Marianne Slama, Gwen Lindberg, Virginia VonSeggern, Lorna Hollman, Janyce Warneke, LaDonna Stanosheck. Front row left, Monique Wolske, Lisa Stirtz, and Crystal Miller.

LaDonna Stanosheck, President

What a joy-filled day I was privileged to have, when I was invited by the past district presidents to their annual gathering. Gwen Lindberg graciously opened her home to us to gather together and laugh, give and receive hugs, talk and for me just listen!! What an amazing group of Christian ladies and the years of experience in LWML in that group was awe inspiring. At one point, I asked each one there, "What is your why?" I wanted to know why they joined LWML and why they dedicated so many years of service to this organization. That was truly a blessing to hear their stories.

Suzanne Totten - Vice President of Human Care

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Joyful but a little off-key

I love to sing in church, and try to encourage my grandchildren to do the same. But imagine my chagrin when my 10-year-old grandson, Sloane, asked me this question, "Do you know why I don't like to sing when I sit next to you in church? It's because when you hit a bad note, someone might think it's me!" I had to mull this over a bit before responding. Should I be offended and ignore it, or laugh it off? Since we have a close and teasing sort of relationship, I decided on the latter but with a teaching moment.

"Sloane, why do we sing in church? Is it for fame, money, or approval? No! We sing to celebrate the marvelous things God has done for us and to keep His Word in our hearts and in our church. He wants us to sing and He doesn't just want to hear the beautiful voices, but the voices of all His children. Singing praises to God is a joyful, joyful thing, and it never sounds off-key to Him! So let me keep on singing the best I can and with you singing along beside me!"

I can't report that Sloane is no longer a little embarrassed sitting next to me in church. I've heard no further comments. Maybe he's just being polite, but I doubt it. I am happy to report that he is now participating in the children's choir and I'm praying that he will do so with a joyful heart, and with Christmas fast approaching, he will have an even more special reason to rejoice. He may hit a few bad notes, but because he is so loved, God won't care and neither will I!



Lynette Koehler, Vice President of Gospel Outreach

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Rejoice!

I have a friend who has a wall hanging that says something like "I choose you, everyday, over and over, I choose you. Without doubt, without fail, I will keep choosing you." This is a perfect statement about them; they work together everyday and you can tell they really enjoy each other's company. They remind me of my grandparents; if Grandma was walking by Grandpa's chair, he would grab her, pull her down onto his lap and steal some kisses. What a blessing to have someone who chooses you like that after all those years.

Guess what? We are all blessed like that because God, our heavenly Father chooses us every day. God chooses us, forgives us, protects us, provides for us and gives us all our daily needs.

Why? Because of His great love for us. God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to save us all from our sins. We are lucky, we are blessed, we don't deserve it, but what a wonderful gift we have been given.

Fall is coming eventually and then all the Holidays we look forward to. Halloween (costumes and candy, I'm really a seven year old in my mind), Thanksgiving, and the big one, Christmas. Of course, both these Holidays give us a reason to think about how we have been blessed and how we should thank God and rejoice over all our great gifts.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4. As the verse says, rejoice, but we should do this the whole year, not just during the holidays. When you are feeling stressed and short of time during the upcoming busy season, remember, take a minute, say a prayer, read your Bible and just see if you don't feel less stressed, less busy and less frazzled. Rejoice!

What's Your 80?

Celebrating 80th anniversary of LWML by Joy Circle LWML St. John, Pierce

Joy Circle LWML of St. John's Lutheran Church—Pierce used a work night in February to put together and sew taggies for babies. As a Thrivent Financial member, Carol Taylor had submitted an idea for an Action Team event and received a Community Impact Card (debit card) to help with expenses. The LWML society then hosted a baby shower March 13 to honor their pastor's wife, Grace Tuma expecting their third child in April, and to benefit Bright Horizons*-Norfolk.

All ladies of St. John's church were invited to participate. President LeAnn Herbolsheimer gave the welcome and a prayer to begin the shower. Carol read LWML devotion, "How to Be a New Mom Mentor" based on the Bible verse from 1 Thessalonians 5:11a: Therefore encourage one another and build one another up. Jill McElhose prepared prizes and shower games. Table decorations were given away as door prizes. Refreshments of tea sandwiches, decorated cake, punch, coffee and water were served.

Monetary donations were given to Grace to use toward photography fees and a portrait of their growing family. She also chose a taggie for the expected baby and was given a hand-made baby blanket for their daughter Lydia and a towel for their son Micah.

One of our goals was to collect at least 80 items for this charity benefit, as LWML is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Joy Circle delivered to Bright Horizons in Norfolk on March 15 more than 80 items (28 hand-made taggies, one hand-made blanket, 16 packages of baby wipes, 29 packages of diapers and pullups, six cans of powdered baby formula, one baby lotion, one baby wash, \$105 in gift cards to Walmart and Target and 32 baggies, each containing an LWML Mustard Seed Devotion and two pieces of chocolate candy).

*Bright Horizons is a resource for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, with offices in Norfolk, O'Neill and Ainsworth, Nebraska. The crisis line in Norfolk is 402-379-3798, and the office staff (located at 601 E. Norfolk Ave. in Norfolk) can be reached at 402-379-2026 or www.brighthorizonsne.org.



Pillowcases for Haven House

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concord - Celebrating 80 years of LWML

The women of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Concord, Nebraska, created 80 pillowcases to commemorate 80 years of the LWML. New material was used to piece together and sew pillowcases and some pillowcases were purchased and then embroidered. These 80 pillowcases were given to Haven House Family Services Center, Wayne, Nebraska that offers crisis intervention and prevention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.



Carol Weber, Vice President of Communication

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Always!

Rejoice in the Lord always! I never struggle always to rejoice in my Lord's love and grace and goodness...when I actually think to stop and do so. My struggle is to STOP. To ignore my lists and scheduled commitments, and to reflect on the goodness of our Lord. So the trick is to find a way to rejoice even while busy, right? And this upcoming season is so very busy. I'm already fussed at the idea of all the leaves that will fall on our small yard—fourteen bags' worth last year; that's a lot of raking! I'm feeling behind the season, because I haven't yet pulled out my fall décor. I'm thinking about the celebrations fall holds, and my head is whirling...I imagine yours is as well, as we face all that's ahead of us this season. So what are we to do? Stop. That's it. Rejoice in the moment and take the next step. I'm reminded of the story of Martin Luther, who took a full hour every morning to pray. At one point, he had such a busy schedule that he declared that, instead of taking that hour to pray in the morning, he was simply going to have to take *three*! And therein is the secret. As we hurry through the busy-ness ahead of us, remember to be in constant communication with our Lord. Don't simply look for the time; TAKE it. When we do that, we can't help but rejoice in the Lord always!

Quilts for Orphan Grain Train

Zion St. John Quilt Ladies

The Zion St. John Quilt Ladies of rural Wisner, NE and area friends have donated 150+ quilts to Orphan Grain Train from January through May of 2022. A woman from the community sews the majority of the quilt tops, another person then irons the tops and then they are ready to be layered so that when we gather together the quilts are ready to be tied. We took a break during the summer while our "sewing room", a former school classroom, was remodeled with new windows and a fresh coat of paint. We know the quilts will bless those in need.



Fleece Blankets for Graduates

Zion Lutheran Church - Plainview

The Priscilla ladies of Zion Lutheran Church in Plainview, NE tied fleece blankets for this year's high school graduating class. This will be the third year they have given the blankets to the graduating seniors. The blankets are presented to the students following a church service with a message of God's love and blessings.



Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 22-25, 2023
Add it to your calendar
God will bless you!

Celebrate the
Lord of the Nations
Psalm 33:12-13

Hygiene Kits for Orphan Grain Train

Grace Ladies Aid - Wayne

Grace Ladies Aid from the Wayne Zone completed our mission gift of 96 hygiene kits to send to the refugees of Ukraine through the Orphan Grain Train. Our goal was to make 80 in honor of LWML's 80th birthday. We surpassed that and made 96 kits. We decided since it is our Grace Ladies Aid's 95th birthday this this year we would honor that milestone also. We received a \$250 Thrivent card to fill in after we counted the collection of items from the congregation. We met our goals and are so thankful for the gifts from the congregation.



Pam Williams - Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Give Thanks!

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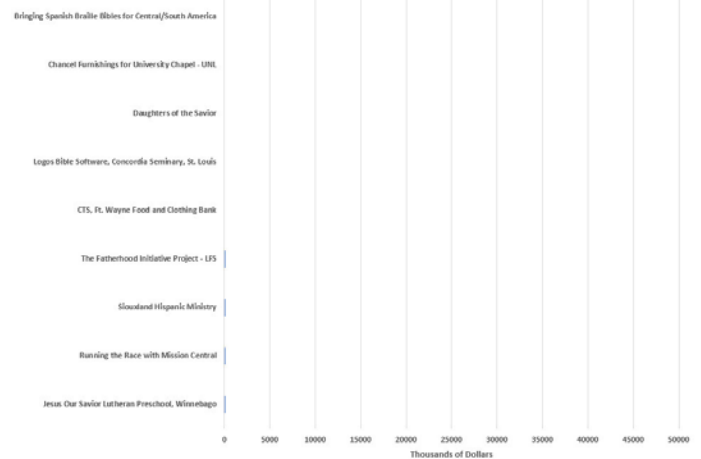
Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. 1 Chronicles 16:8

I am honored to represent Nebraska North District as Vice-President of Gospel Outreach. I met with Joyce Buehe and have looked at the information on the mission grants the delegates chose at the July convention.

I'm so excited to share information about our mission grants - national and district. We chose 9 missions at convention, and I can hardly wait to present the first check to Jesus Our Savior Preschool at Winnebago! Those children are so open, and they take what they learn at preschool home with them and teach others about His saving grace. I'll take pictures and bring back comments from the recipients to share with you.

At the district level we pay the grants in the order in which they were selected which is why Winnebago will be the initial recipient. National LWML pays the grants in a different manner, so you see some receiving partial payments at times and seems they skip around. Getting that explanation is something I want to do because, well, inquiring minds want to know. I also think that understanding how a group operates makes a difference.

I have included a graph in this Leaguer, and each following issue, so we can see the progress our Mites are making. Eventually, before the 2024 convention, the chart will be all black. Whenever you walk by your Mite box, say a quick prayer of thanksgiving for the sacrifice Christ made on the cross for me and you. Just think of sharing his love with those around you, especially the ones who are unaware of the gift of salvation. Oh, and you might also want to add a Mite to your box also!



Mission Grant Goals

Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Grace Ladies Aid - Wayne



Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid of Wayne, NE made 37 fabric kits for Lutheran World Relief and more will be made next month. Sandra Wriedt, owner of Just Sew, is closing her business and has been most generous in gifting the fabric

