

The Clarion

November 2019 Volume XXII Issue 4



President Sheila's Post

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

Planning for Change

Change is happening. Leaves are changing colors and will soon fall from the trees. Reformation celebrations give way to Thanksgiving plans which will lead into our Advent preparation for Christmas joy and worship.

This fall, we heard that we can plan for change...that we can be the first to change...that we can go where change leads us. 2020 will bring changes in leadership, in nominating committee operations, and in our convention itself for LWML CID.

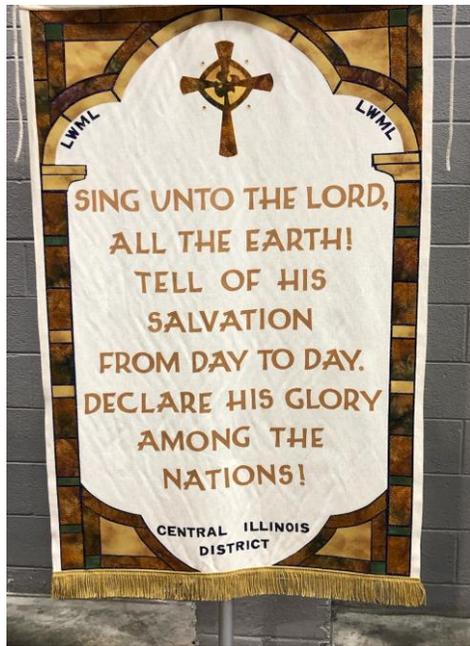
Convention 2020 will be a *Celebration* under the theme *Proclaiming Jesus...75 Years of Serving the Lord with Gladness!* It will be a change to have the convention on *3 consecutive days*, to have a *whole morning dedicated to studying God's Word*, and to go back to having a convention *banquet with entertainment*. You will choose from *six breakout sessions*, be delighted to hear *Jan Struck* speak on Friday and Saturday and be blessed to have *LWML President Debbie Larson* speak to us and join us for our celebration.

Some of you may already be thinking. I can't. It's too expensive; three days is too long; it's not what I'm used to; I don't want to be bored. So...I'm asking you to *plan for the change now*. Think about it now. *Too expensive?* Registration will remain the same and several activities will have no fee. Set a few dollars aside each week between now and convention. It will cover any extra room or gas costs. *Too much time?* This is a reunion and a celebration. This time away from home to celebrate the grants we have been able to fund for 75 years. It will celebrate friends old and new. It will give us time to learn and laugh. Plus, it will give us concentrated time in God's Word and His mission—all time well worth the spending. As you have planned for other reunions or anniversaries, plan for this one as well. *Too different?* I find the more I participate in LWML and other God-directed activities, whether my regular activities or something new, the more I learn and the closer I grow to God. I think God likes to change things to keep us feeling alive and new. *Fear being bored?* Be sure to attend the Friday servant events and use your hands and feet for His service. *Bring a friend!* If you're not a regular convention attendee, *this is the one to attend*. Planning for this is a *joy!* Other things which you can look forward to are the convention choir, a mission fair, a silent auction to jump start the next mite fund, and some surprises yet to be revealed.

Watch for more information to come your way from the convention committee and your zone president. *Pray* for our convention, for those who will attend, for the new officers, and for the grants to be selected. *Pray* for the time of joy we will experience. I will be *praying* for each of you.

*Serving with you and praying for you,
Sheila*

Schedule for National Banner



Every church that has a LWML society in the CID will have an opportunity to display this banner. 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 banner container. Please use this in your church bulletin so your congregation understands the significance of the banner. If this description happens to be missing, please contact Mary Denham, and she will email this information. *If the banner needs to be pressed, please iron it on the back (high heat is okay).*

If there are any other questions, please contact Mary Denham at 217.620.0042 (cell) or marydenham@ymail.com.

<u>Date</u>		<u>Contact Person</u>
October – December	Champaign Zone	Allison Arends anrarends@cawi.org
January – March	Effingham/Shelby Zone	Cherie Engelbart engelbart@mmtcnet.com

“The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same”

The title of this article is, I am sure, a phrase with which you are familiar. There is a lot of validity to this statement, especially as we think about the recently completed LWML Fall Rallies. The theme was "An Unchanging God in an Ever-Changing World." We heard a lot about how times have changed through the generations. As generations have gone by, we have seen how overall attitudes have changed, how work ethic has changed, how ways we communicate have changed, among other things. Some of the changes that occur have been good, others not so much. One change that is alarming is people's attitude regarding church. We live in a world where people do not prioritize going to church like they used to. We also live in a world where people are ignorant of our Lord and Savior.

This is where the mission of LWML comes in and really becomes important. Where am I going with this? Here is where things stay the same. God never changes, and His Word never changes. This goes for His Law and His Gospel. The Ten Commandments are not some "old school philosophy" that is now outdated. They are a part of God's Word and are just as valid today as they were when they were written. The good news is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is also not some "old school philosophy." The Gospel is a part of God's never-changing Word that is true for us today as it has been since the Bible was written. LWML supports so many people who are dedicated to bringing that Gospel message to our ever-changing world. There is great joy in the work that the Holy Spirit does through you ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

In closing, my encouragement to you is to continue to have joy in the work that our Lord is doing THROUGH YOU, and to remember that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which assures of forgiveness, life, and salvation, are FOR YOU now and always.

In Christ,
Pastor Tim Hahn,
Senior District Counselor

Fall Rally – Rock Island Zone



September 24, 2019 was a bright and glorious day for the 74th Annual Rock Island Zone Fall Rally in Galesburg. After a season of so much rain, it was wonderful to gather with 89 women and Pastors who are dedicated to Christ's commission to spread the gospel and His love throughout the world. The societies donated 2066 'Gifts from the Heart' items to "Loving Bottoms", a local charity which distributes much needed diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, and adult incontinence products to those who otherwise would not be able to obtain those items. LeeAnn Porter of Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank is pictured above with her gifts.

What a happy occasion it was to officially welcome 'The Violetas de Cristo Rey' from East Moline as our newest LWML Society of the Rock Island Zone. God has truly blessed this new group with a desire for missions and service. Receiving their charter in the above picture are (right to left) as follows: Pastor Dominguez, Cecy Nunez, Laura Dominguez, Giseal Patricio, Lorenz Aguilar, and out-going Rock Island Zone President, Sandy Young.

Speaker Laura Strattman (CID Human Care Chairman) challenged the group to be innovative as we engage women of today to participate in mission work. The Rally Theme "An Unchanging God in a Changing World" which was based on Malachi 3:6 was also the topic of the afternoon Bible study by CID Counselor Pastor Tim Hahn. Other CID guests and speakers included Vice President Dawn Zerkel and Christian Life Chairman Annie Guerrettaz.

The Galesburg LWML society is a vigorous group and hosted a special day, filled with renewed and new friendships, delicious food, study in God's Word, songs of praise, Gifts from the Heart, and sharing of projects. It truly was a day reflected in the words of the Jean Kammerer's new hymn, '*With joy we come (came) together*'!

Giving Tuesday – December 3

Giving Tuesday, observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, takes the focus off the commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday and, instead, celebrates giving back. The goal of LWML is to use Giving Tuesday to spread the Gospel message by collecting money and raising awareness for LWML Mission Grants, which share the love of Jesus throughout all nations. This Giving Tuesday, you can **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT** when you donate to the LWML Mission Goal, thanks to two anonymous donors who will match up to \$20,000!

Fall Rally – Pekin/Peoria Zone

The Peoria-Pekin Zone Fall Rally which was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Peoria was uplifting for the 45 attendees. Joyce Close was elected as our new Zone Secretary/Treasurer to serve along with Barb Jennings as President and Suzanne Heinz as Vice President.



Pictured above from left to right are Dawn Zerkel and Laura Strattman, Donna Bordener and Phyllis Draper, and Pastor Tim Hahn who led the Bible Study.

Fall Rally – Jacksonville Zone



The Jacksonville Zone Rally was held on September 18th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Arenzville. The theme of the rally was “Unchanging God in a Changing World”. Pastor Michael Mohr, CID Counselor, was the main speaker, and he educated the guests with the power point about change. The acronym FROG – Fully Rely On God - was the graphic used for the decorations. Their invitation read “What to do with a box of cake mix, frosting, napkins, balloons, party favors, and a small gift? You can make birthday bags! The birthday bags will be donated to local food banks for them to distribute to families with children who are having a birthday party.” The ladies donated 44 bags which will make some children very happy on

their birthdays! Each guest took home a dish cloth with FROG acronym on it as designed by Jackie Wessler of Arenzville. It was a beautiful day of friendships, Bible study, singing, and encouraging for the LWML ladies.

Upcoming Events

CID District Board Meeting at Camp Cilca – February 24-25

75th Anniversary CID Convention at Morton – April 30 – May 2

Mighty Mites by a Mighty God

The first 2019-20120 LWML- CID Mission Grant has been fully funded to the Student Aid for Church Workers through your mites and donations. Praise the Lord! Those \$30,000 will be used to fund the education of our CID future church workers through the CID Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund assigns over \$123,000 to assist students with their university and seminary tuition. On the average, those expenses are above \$33,000 per year so it is easy to see the great need of our CID students.

Even though our pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters seem like so little, when we gather them together, great things can be accomplished by God's grace. Kristi Hosea, LWML-CID Recording Secretary, is shown presenting the funds to Pastor Mark Miller, LCMS-CID President. May we always remember the Lord gives us all these many blessings.



Upcoming Central Illinois District Convention

The Peoria/Pekin Zone has been busy putting together the details for our 75th CID Convention which will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Morton. Many of our societies have filled the committees needed to run our convention. This will be a 3-day Convention! It will start on April 30th and conclude on May 2nd. Mark your calendars now!

Here is what you can look forward to:

Thursday night – Communion Worship service

Friday morning - 2 Bible studies and lunch

Friday afternoon – Servant events

Friday Evening – 75th Anniversary Banquet @ Countryside Banquet Facility in Washington

Saturday – 75th CID Convention

Holiday Inn Express in Morton has rooms blocked for the event if anyone wants to make reservations now please call 309-263-4400. Ask for LWML rooms.

Freezer Meals



A few members of the Rebecca Circle at St John's Lutheran Church in Green Valley gathered recently to prepare "Freezer Meals". These meals are made with recipes that can be easily frozen and easily prepared. These meals are given to anyone within the congregation (or friends of the congregation) who have a need. This gift of a meal sends Christian love for spiritual comfort along with a delicious meal for physical comfort for those who are in various situations of need in their community.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I first and foremost praise and thank God for guiding the district in selecting me to be one of the Young Women Representatives (YWRs) from our district to attend the National LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama.

The trip to Mobile was exciting and interesting. It was a long day on the bus on that Wednesday just to get to Jackson, Mississippi. Upon arriving in Mobile on Thursday, we checked into our hotel. Then we hurried to the Convention Center to get busy. I worked at the Gifts from the Heart room where I sorted and wrote the amount on the Walmart and Target gift cards that were given. The gift cards needed to be rubber banded into groups of ten of the same monetary value. Other YWRs helped by sorting the sheet sets, baby kits, and health kits.

The meet and greet for the YWRs was next. We were welcomed by and introduced to the committee members. Each YWR who was present at that time received a piece of a picture. We had to find the other two people with the other pieces to complete the picture. Thus, we had our prayer partners for the convention. My prayer partners were from the Eastern District and Texas District.

Other highlights from Thursday I enjoyed were being in our district photo, receiving my National LWML YWR pin at the LWML CID caucus before seeing the puffer fish (Miss Purple Puffer) being tossed around at the caucus meeting. I did have some time to check out the Exhibit Hall, especially the LWML store. The opening service was interesting. In all the years since I have been confirmed, I have always used the individual cups for the wine. This was the first time I used the common cup.

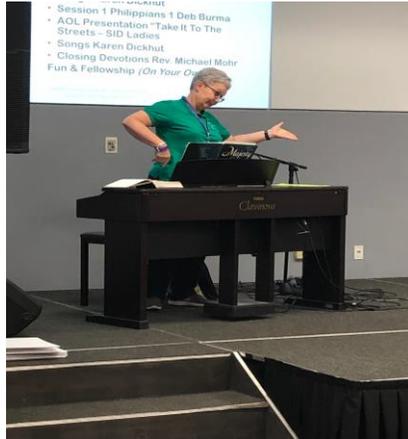
On Friday, June 21st my morning highlights were walking with President Sheila in the Banner Procession, getting to sit up front with the other delegates, singing, and having lunch with the other YWRs and the YWR Alumni. At lunch we had a presentation by a lady from Thrivent Financial on being aware of our finances. Then the committee members each shared their story of how they each got involved in LWML. Another highlight was getting to choose 3 out of 31 mission grants to give to Sheila for her to vote on. It was very difficult to choose which three of the grants as all of them were wonderful. Two of my grants Sheila decided she would vote for were Digital Media Development-Lutherans For Life and Mission Outreach for At Risk Young Women in Africa-Lutheran Hour Ministries.

On Saturday June 22nd, I had a great time participating in the Mission Flag Procession. I got to carry the sign for the country of the Philippines while the other YWR I was partnered with carried the flag. Once done with that, I got in line with the other YWRs to walk on stage. There were 81 of us. It was a tight fit on the stage. President Patti was impressed with the number of us and made a comment that if there were any more, they might need a bigger stage! I enjoyed all the Mites In Action speakers. I really enjoyed Jan Struck's humorous interruptions. Each time she came out, you knew that you were going to be entertained.

So, all in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the convention. Daphne, Gabby, and I were indeed busy and very tired by the end of each day. This was my very first national convention. I wished that I would have had more time with my prayer partners, more time to see the exhibits in the Exhibit Hall, more time to talk with the other YWRs, and more time to participate in other activities like the servant events and maybe the choir. Perhaps in the future I will go to another national convention, because there is so much to see and do.

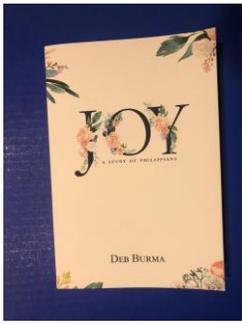
God's Blessings to you,
Rebekah Bruer

SID/CID Retreat In Pictures



**A Woman of JOY:
From CHRIST, In CHRIST, Through CHRIST**

SID/CID Retreat in Words



JOY! JOY! JOY! 132 ladies gathered at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Illinois, for two beautiful fall days to study the letter of JOY in Philippians. The group of combined LWML ladies from Southern Illinois District and Central Illinois District listened to Deb Burma, an author and leader of women's, children's, and family ministries, as she led three sessions based on her recently published book entitled *Joy* which concentrates on Paul's letter to the Philippians. Between the sessions, the ladies sang songs accompanied by Karen Dickhut, a music teacher in the Brown County Schools. There were presentations by the Southern Illinois District ladies entitled "Take it to the Streets" and by the Central Illinois District ladies entitled "Cultural Generation". Saturday morning's worship service highlights were the sermon by Pastor Krenz and the celebration of Holy Communion. An offering was taken during the service which totaled \$1664.08. This offering was designated for the National Mite Goal.

All the delicious meals were served in buffet style in the cafeteria building. The selection of food was amazing. The LWML store operated by Annie Guerrettazz and friends was open in the Activity Building during sessions. Friends were made, ideas were shared, God's word was studied, and these LWML members were all blessed with enthusiasm as they departed on Saturday afternoon.

In Sympathy



Our sympathy goes to the family of Mildred Marie Renken who served in many offices in LWML at both the local and district level. She served LWML CID for many years as District Bylaws Chairman. Mildred Marie Renken, 91, of Effingham went to be with her Heavenly Father while being surrounded by her family on Tuesday, October 15, at her residence. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Glenn E. Renken. She loved being a pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, godmother and treasured her many friendships. Mildred and Rev. Glenn Renken's 45 plus years of ministry in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod took them to Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, Dieterich, Illinois, and Altamont, Illinois. Funeral services for Mildred were held on Monday, October 21, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont. Burial was in the church cemetery in Altamont.

Next Clarion Deadline - January 25

The Clarion is the official newsletter of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of the Central Illinois District. The LWML is an official auxiliary of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS).

