

The Clarion

May 2020 Volume XXVII 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

Proclaiming Jesus 75 Years ... and *Counting* ... of Serving the Lord with Gladness!

May 2, 2020 was to be the last day of convention – speakers enjoyed, lessons learned, votes counted, new officers installed, and celebration enjoyed. Life in this spring of 2020 was not what we thought it would be, but *our thoughts are not God's thoughts*. Instead, we relaxed at home when we wanted to be celebrating in Morton. **But** ... God knew what we needed. This past month may have put some of our leaders through a technology bootcamp, because we could not do things the same way as before. What is God teaching us through all of this? How are you serving the Lord with gladness when you cannot go and participate in servant events, pray, study, or worship side by side ... when we feel we are missing out on things? Are you finding new ways to communicate? Are you resting in God more? Are you realizing what "*Be still, and know that I am God*" can mean?

Next year, we will celebrate with a new president and officers in place and new reasons to celebrate. *And* ... we will celebrate with the same plans for speakers, agenda, and activities that were planned for this year. It will be the 75th **convention and** the 75th **anniversary** of LWML CID. Make plans now to set aside the weekend of April 29-May 1 to be in Morton. I know we all will be ready to hug more, smile more, rejoice more, and praise and serve the Lord more!

One thing I missed (other than the hugs!) was the chance to say thank you to all of you for allowing me to serve as your district president. These years have been busy but joyous. We have celebrated at zone rallies in all our zones and at conventions in Altamont, Bloomington, and Danville. We have gathered at retreats with one another, from learning how we are a part of God's vine to a time of JOY with our sisters in SID. We have traveled to national conventions in Albuquerque and Mobile. We have adopted new bylaws, relied more on e-communication, held two strategic planning meetings for the future of our district, looked for missionaries in our local areas, listened to mission speakers, learned that each one of us is a missionary, found a new way to choose a nominating committee, added one more board member, and launched a new website.

During these four years, one of my goals was to have the women of the LWML CID take a mission trip. Although the timing was not right for people to go, a mission trip is still a goal for our district. In the future, when the trip details are announced, please make every effort to join in the blessing of serving others. We in LWML are experienced in sending others to mission fields by supplying support through our mites. We support local missions in our local societies by quilting, stamp collecting, or whatever mission activity is one your group has done for years or months. But ... we like our comfort. Someone once told me that they could not go on a mission trip because they would not be able to sleep in their own bed. Another told me they could not go to help a Hispanic mission because it was all a political ploy and against their political views. At that time, I had only been on one mission trip and was not sure how to answer best. God used these statements to speak to me. *Why do we go on mission trips?* It is not for our own comfort. It is not about politics. It does mean sacrifice of my comforts to give perhaps lifelong comfort and aid to someone else, and, especially, to bring the love of Jesus to them.

President Sheila's Message - Continued

I now have been on several trips. It is a joy to go, and what God has taught me has been invaluable to my life. Each one who goes on a trip, doing what seemingly is a small part, means a great deal to those to whom God sends us to minister to. **We are Lutheran Women in Mission!**

So ... let's celebrate the past ... but remember we do not dwell there any longer. Let's look forward to the future ... but not wait until it comes to act. We live in the present, even in these days of change, so let's continue each day to step out and Serve Our Lord with Gladness!



All praise and glory be to our Wondrous God,
Sheila Lutz

Since National LWML President Debbie Larson could not be with us in Morton this year, she gifted outgoing President Sheila with a necklace featuring Debbie's logo –Christ: We are Held by His Word, Inspired to Share His Gospel, and Surrounded by His Grace. She also gifted Sheila with a certificate which reads:

"Certificate of Appreciation is presented to Sheila Lutz for service as President of LWML Central Illinois District and as a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Board of Directors/President's Assembly from 2016-2020. We prayerfully ask the Lord's blessing upon Sheila as she continues to serve Him wherever and whenever He has need of her."

Debbie Larson, President

We Are Not Alone!

Due to the COVID19 Pandemic 29 out of 40 conventions have been cancelled across the nation.

Upcoming Events

**LWML CID Executive and Board Meeting – July 20-21 – at Camp CILCA
(Newly elected officers will be installed.)**

LWML CID Retreat – at Camp CILCA – October 9-10

LWML National Convention – June 24-27, 2021, in Lexington, Kentucky

Election Results

By your vote, the following have been selected as **officers** for 2020-2024:

President:	Laura Strattman
Vice President of Christian Life:	Nancy Stremming
Financial Secretary;	Annie Guerrettaz
Counselor:	Rev. Gaylord Spilker

By your vote, the following will serve on the **Nominating Committee**:

Mary Denham – Chairman
Mary Zumwalt
Velma Price
Brenda Hendricks
Cherie Engelbart

By your vote, the Mission Goal of \$105,000 was approved by a vote of 215 (yes) to 8 (no).

By your vote, the following grants will be funded: (75% of \$105,000 goal is \$78,750.)

- 1 - # 1 Student Aid for Church Workers \$30,000
- 2 - # 7 Operation Mercy in Danville \$10,000
- 3 - # 12 Danville's Trinity Lutheran's 'Food for the Children' Program \$10,000
- 4 - # 2 Large Print Braille Bibles & Dev booklets/Effingham \$10,000
- 5 - # 5 MOST Ministries Filters for Clean Drinking Water \$5,000
- 6 - # 11 Bringing Christ's Light/Lutheran Braille Workers Peoria \$5,000
- 7 - # 19 Soldiers of the Cross \$3,000
- 8 - # 10 Train Up a Child Teen Camp in Alaska - Partial \$5,750

Women With Mission



Members of Women With Mission (Evening LWML Group) at Trinity in Springfield, collected many books at their March 2020 meeting. These books will be given to The Triple Heart Foundation, an organization that collects children's books for the NICU wards in local hospitals. The books provide bonding opportunities for the families as the parents read to their babies. This provides an opportunity for the parents to hold their babies, and the babies can hear their parents' voices. The parents then get to keep the books they read, thus building their child's home library. This is just one of many mission projects that allow Women With Mission to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Banner Schedule



April – June: Altamont Zone

Contact: Elaine Stuckemeyer
altamont@lwmlcid.org

July: Decatur Zone
Contact: Sandy Haseley
decatur@lwmlcid.org

This beautiful banner for the 2019 LWML convention in Mobile, Alabama, was created and designed by Barb Rauh of Holy Cross Lutheran in Moline. She has been making the Rock Island Zone banner for the LWML CID district convention for the last three years. The border of the banner was intricately created to resemble a stained-glass window, and the emblem at the top represents all three persons of the Trinity...Father as the Creator of all the earth, the Son as He died on the cross, and the Holy Spirit as He descended as a dove. The banner carries the LWML convention Scripture Verse: "*Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations*" (1 Chronicles 16:23–24a).

Every church in the CID will have an opportunity to display this banner. Please feel free to utilize the society ladies and/or the LWML CID board members in your zone to help transport it from one zone to the next (i.e. a person in the northern part of one zone meeting up with someone in the southern part of the next zone that it is going to).

There should be a brief statement about the banner (who made it, what it was used for, the symbolism of the banner, etc.) in with the banner. 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 publicrelations@lwmlcid.org.

Message from Public Relations Chairman

Since our 75th Celebration District Convention is now re-scheduled for next year in Morton, I just wanted to send hugs to everyone. All of us are missing each other and wishing we could be talking, laughing, singing, praying, and praising our God together. We will just have to celebrate that much more next year! In the meantime, though, it has been a pleasure serving as your Public Relations Chairman these past four years and working with all of you. May God bless all of you as you continue to "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in the LWML CID and your local societies.

May God Bless You,
Mary Denham

Next Clarion Deadline is July 25th!

Final mites deposited for the fiscal year 2019-2020 totaled \$96, 607.75!

Quarantine Encouragement

What have you been doing during this quarantine? A better question is “How have you been doing during this quarantine?” Have you been thankful for increased time spent in God’s Word? Have you been lonely? Have you been angry that you are stuck at home and cannot see friends and family?

We all have had different reactions to this quarantine. On the day, the Governor extended the stay safe at home for another month, I became extremely morose. Now I knew for sure that events that I had looked forward to would not happen. While I had kept busy, I guess God was not done teaching me His lesson yet. I looked for scripture verses to help me. **“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer” from Romans 12:12** was the verse that struck my heart the most. Rejoicing is not so hard, as I tend to be a “glass half full” type person. Patience, on the other hand, is not my strong point. You see, I want things done yesterday. My prayer and devotional life were not all they should have been either, because I was “so busy”. When this all began, my calendar was filled almost every day. I made daily “to do lists” because I was “so busy”. Suddenly, my calendar was filled with white out. What was I going to do with my time? The convention was cancelled, my workdays at church were cancelled, and I could not even go to work for two weeks.

The best thing that has happened to me is that I have developed an awesome devotional life. Through those devotions and Bible studies, I have realized that although life as I know it has stopped, the work of the Church must keep going. The saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is the best news and gives the peace that we all need in these times of tribulation.

I have an incredible stash of fabric in my basement, so I thought, “I’ll make masks”. I have successfully made masks for several weeks. I have also worked on a quilt that I started 3 years ago after taking an instructional class on quilting. I have started some Christmas projects that I have wanted to do for two years.

So, how are you doing in this quarantine? Are you praying for your Pastor, church family, friends, and family? Are you staying in God’s Word that is so rich in encouragement? Are you continuing to do those projects for your LWML group so that your gifts will overflow when we return? Are you checking in with those church family members that are alone and maybe do not have family to care for them? Are you lonely? Call someone and spend time with them on the phone. Maybe you are just the one they need to hear from that day. I pray that you and all your families are well. I miss you all. I pray that you are all staying “busy” in the Word and the work of the church while also taking care of your families and friends. Most of all, be constant in prayer for patience in tribulation and rejoice in hope! God bless you all.

Laura Strattman, Human Care Committee Chairman

Keeping in Touch

COVID-19 times call for doing lots of things differently. Corresponding is one thing that has come to the forefront. We are thankful for the many technologies that keep us in contact with family and friends. We can watch our church services online and even Zoom our LWML monthly meetings. It certainly has been a time of learning “new tricks for old dogs”.

One other change has been the cancelling of our District Convention. Much work had been put in by the Peoria/Pekin zone and now is put on hold. Thanks to those who worked hard to get it organized and thanks again to them for looking forward to hosting us next year. The other change this brought was the voting for our mission grants and officers from home. Thanks to the officers and Pastor Hahn as well as appointed members whose terms are finished. It has been a delight and inspiration to work with you all. You all have kept our minds on missions and moved us forward in that work. The leadership has been great!

In conclusion, keep in touch with your family, church family, and friends in these COVID days. Correspond in any way you can. Stay Safe!

Cheryl Long, Corresponding Secretary

Leading with Confidence

Dear LWML Leaders,

Here are the latest LWML leadership tips taken from Part I and Part II of “Leading With Confidence”. I hope it helps to get all of the newly elected officers started successfully on their next adventure of ‘Serving the Lord with Gladness’! Congratulations to the newly elected officers!

Here are some points for the *outgoing* officer to consider:

- Update records, files, forms, guidelines, calendar of events, and directories that belong to the office. These should be in order.
- Remove unimportant or personal correspondence from files. When in doubt, do NOT throw it out.
- Upload pertinent information on a flash drive so it can be used for updating documents. Save it in *Plain Text (*.txt)* format so it can be shared among software programs.
- Items of historical significance should be sent to the archivist-historian if you have one.
- Review together, with the new officer, all files, and materials on paper or on flash drives.
- Highlight items of extreme importance.
- Remember that you are there as a servant, resource, and mentor; make yourself available.
- Make certain there is an understanding of what and when things need to be done.
- Thank God for the opportunity that you had to serve Him. Pray with and for the new officer, asking for the Lord's continuing guidance for her.

Here are some points for the *incoming* officer:

- Know that you have been chosen by God to fulfill the duties of this office.
- Read the Scriptures, pray, and thank God for the opportunity to serve Him in this way.
- Obtain leadership information from the LWML website (www.lwml.org). Click the “Service” tab, and then “Leadership Development.”
- Sign up to receive “Tips for Leading with Confidence” on the LWML website. If you do not already receive these in your email inbox, now is a good time to subscribe!
- Stay in touch with the outgoing officer and use her as a resource.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions!

Stay save and may God bless!

Michele Clevenger, Leader Development Chairman

See you in Lexington!



The excitement is building for the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League’s (LWML) upcoming convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021! The theme is “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus,” based on Hebrews 12:1-2. The goal is: “Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord.” Mark your calendars and make plans to come to the rolling hills of bluegrass country.

