

# The Clarion

## August 2020 Volume XXVII Issue 3

### President Laura's Post

*“Rejoice in Hope; Be patient in Tribulation; Be Constant in Prayer”*  
*Romans 12:12*

May 2, 2020 was to be the day for our convention! I did not know it then, but I would have been installed as your new president on that day What a day it would have been! I would have been surrounded by my Sisters in Christ and received lots of hugs! I missed you all that weekend as well as the servant events, mission speakers, and the fellowship in the Word. I *Rejoice in the Hope* that I will see some of you soon, possibly at the rallies, at the retreat, or maybe next year at the conventions both at the district and national level.

I have often thought about God's plan in allowing me to be a rally speaker last year. If you remember, we spoke of CHANGE. Little did we know that change would happen, whether we wanted it or not. What were some of the changes you had to endure this year? Did you start watching church on your TV or computer? Did you get to watch more than one service? Maybe that was a good change. Did you stay at home and stay safe? How did you spend your time? Did you increase your devotional time? I did, and that has truly been a comfort and help to me in these turbulent times. Did you spend time ridding your closets of unused clothes and shoes possibly knowing these items could help others in need. This was another good change.

Some of the difficulties of the times were not being able to see our families, both genetic and church families. The loneliness became oppressive at times. Some of us learned how to do Zoom meetings with our families and friends. Some of us even enjoyed Bible studies on Zoom. This was also a good change. I am an “essential worker” and was able to work during the lockdown. I was able to see people and go out, but even that was a change. There was no traffic on the highway. Suddenly, the Emergency Room was not full. The patients that did come in were potential Covid 19 patients. For the first time in years, I experienced more anxiety in my job. However, even that was a good change because it taught me to be *Constant in prayer*.

Remember the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras from our presentations last year? The river moved? Our river has certainly moved this year. We have had to think about how to do things differently. We have been forced to make changes that we normally would not have done. Considering this, the fall rallies are a perfect example of how things will be changing a little this year. **Working Together** is the theme of this year's rally. When we work together, we can accomplish all that needs to be done. Social distancing and food offerings may have to change. Half day meetings instead of all day may be the change that is needed this year. Different ways to have snacks and fellowship might be part of the agenda. If people are at risk, they may stay home and watch it later. We will be videotaping the rallies and posting them on that **zone's portal** on [lwmlcid.org](http://lwmlcid.org). Maybe those we ask to help us out with the technological things will find that they want to know more about LWML. Would not that be a good change!

## Laura's Message Continued

Change is hard, and it is scary. It is uncomfortable, and “we’ve never done it that way before”. There are some things that NEVER change. God’s amazing grace and protection of us NEVER fails. Thanks be to God! God’s work of salvation NEVER stops. His Word still needs to go out to all nations. We must NEVER stop being lights to our neighbors, our friends, and our families. We do these things at the rallies, hearing of our mission grants, coming together as Lutheran Women in Mission, with the main goal of “bringing the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with Him”. We must elect our new officers. It may be that some people need to vote through email. Some may think of all these changes as a tribulation. We must be *Patient in Tribulation*. Go to God in prayer in all things and put all our fears and anxieties on Him. Psalm 56:3-4 states “*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust, I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?*”

As we get ready for the rallies and look forward to our retreat on Oct 9-10, 2020, let us be ready to “Grab Our Shoes and Go” (this year’s retreat theme). Let us be ready to do the Lord’s work and go boldly in the Way. Trusting in the Lord that whatever happens, it is His will and His plan for us.

I thank God for all of you and look forward to working with you these next four years. I feel so very blessed to know you and have you as mentors and friends. I look forward to seeing you soon and would ask for your continued prayers for your groups, your zones, and your district. God’s Richest Blessings to you all!

Your Servant,  
Laura Stratman

## New Officers Installed



On Tuesday, July 21, at the LWML - Central Illinois District Board Meeting at Camp Cilca, the new officers were installed. All the voting was done through e-mail communications since the convention in late April – early May was cancelled. The officers that you elected were as follows from left to right: Annie Guerettez – Financial Secretary; Nancy Stremming – Vice President of Christian Life; Laura Stratman – President; and Pastor Gaylord Spilker – Counselor. The nominating committee composed of Mary Denham (Chairman), Mary Zumwalt, Velma Price, Brenda Hendricks, and Cherie Engelbart will be installed at the 2021 Convention in Morton. Congratulations new officers!

# Past President Recognition

Past CID President Sheila Lutz handed over the Presidential gavel to Laura Strattman at the LWML Central Illinois District Board Meeting at Camp Cilca. This normally would have been done at the Convention which was planned for late April – early May in Morton. Due to the cancellation because of the COVID 19 restrictions, the official stepping down of the past President and the installation of the new President took place at the first scheduled meeting of the board which was July 21<sup>st</sup>. Laura presented two gifts to Sheila Lutz as appreciation from the board for her dedication and hard work for the past four years as president. The stain glass hanger is designed with the logo of the LWML using dark purple and yellowish orange glass. The wall hanging was started by Laura embroidering the LWML verse and logo on the top two blocks. The other blocks were verses from conventions that Sheila presided over and verses she used in her signature on emails. Marilyn Winter and Sewing Seeds of Kindness group from Immanuel in Altamont sewed the blocks into a beautiful wall hanging.



**Next Clarion Deadline is October 25<sup>th</sup>!**

## Upcoming Events

**LWML CID Executive and Board Meeting – October 8-9**

**LWML CID Retreat – at Camp Cilca – October 9-10**

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

# Quincy Zone News

Greetings from the Quincy Zone! As with most of you, not much has been going on here because of the 'shelter in place' mandate. Now that we are starting to open with church services and meetings, we are prayerful that all the plans we put on hold in April, May, and June, we can now implement. Our Redeemer Ladies Aid of Quincy is pushing forward with their Rummage Sale to be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Items have been piling up since January, so there will be lots of items to look through.

Pastor Steve at St. Johns, Quincy, started a new sermon series in July entitled 'Celebrate'. In his July 12<sup>th</sup> sermon he spoke of the wonderful things that the LWML has accomplished with their mites. He even set out the large mite box so that others could 'celebrate' the giving of mites for our missions.

Holy Cross of Golden will be hosting our fall rally on September 15<sup>th</sup>. President Karen Dickhut says they have gotten techno-savvy and much planning has been done through email communications.

I will be the first to admit that I procrastinated on a lot of things during the shutdown thinking I would have plenty of time to catch up when everything got back to normal, but I have quickly found out that the calendar does not wait on us. Now I must double time to make sure I am ready for the rally and all my ducks are in a row.

I pray the good Lord has watched over all of you and kept you in His grace. I look forward to seeing you at our fall retreat and zone rallies.

God bless,  
Laurie Bronson  
Quincy Zone President

## LWML Sunday



The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time. The theme for LWML Sunday 2020 is based on Jesus' words to the chief priests and Pharisees found in Matthew 21:43 that ... *The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people producing its fruits*. As people of the kingdom of God, God graciously nurtures us and generously gives us everything we need to produce fruit for the kingdom during the fruit-bearing season of our lives. In response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, Kingdom People (in the LWML) produce Kingdom Fruit for the season of our whole life on this earth.

2020 LWML Sunday downloadable materials, authored by Rev. Larry Krueger, are now available from the national website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). To ensure availability and delivery, all LWML Sunday orders should be placed before September 1, 2020.

# Mission Grants

The LWML CID is overjoyed to announce its mission goal for 2020-2021 of \$105,000 with \$78,750 for district grants and the remaining funds to national mission grants. The grants and the order that they will be paid was printed in the May 2020 edition of the Clarion and can also be found at [www.lwmlcid.org](http://www.lwmlcid.org). Please help publicize information about these Mission Grants at regular meetings as well as in church bulletins and newsletters throughout the next year. Listed below are the first three.

## **August 2020 LWML CID Mission Grant #1**

Student Aid for Church Workers - \$30,000

Due to the high cost of becoming a full-time church worker, many students find it difficult to complete their schooling. This grant will provide partial funding to CID students so they may realize their dreams of becoming full-time church workers. These funds will be distributed through the LCMS CID Scholarship Committee. How can I help? Pray that God provides men and women willing to become church workers to spread the Gospel message throughout the world.

## **September 2020 LWML CID Mission Grant #2**

Operation Mercy for Veterans in Danville - \$10,000

The purpose of Operation Mercy is to show God's mercy to our Veterans by feeding their bodies, caring for their souls, and creating a community of fellow citizens and Christian believers at Cannon Place and the Danville Senior Apartments. This grant would help purchase food for the on-site food pantry and holiday meals and continue the worship services, Bible studies, and Sunday school for veterans and their families. How can I help? Pray that God provides the Danville veterans with the love of God and a sense of community through this grant.

## **October 2020 LWML CID Mission Grant #3 –**

“Food for the Children” program in Danville - \$10,000

“Food for the Children” program supplies food on the weekends for students identified by school social workers, who have no or little food during that time. All funds would be used for the purchase of food for the weekend bags. Jesus is introduced to the students through pencils, prayer placemats, bookmarks, and Christian mementos. How can I help? Pray that God uses the “Food for the Children” program to bring these children and their families into His kingdom.

In Christ,  
Pat Heinecke  
Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Mission Grants

# September to Remember

**Giving Tuesday**...a day of giving, is typically celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. This year the LWML is celebrating this event on September 15, 2020 and has titled it “**LWML September to Remember**”. On this day remember loved ones, a mentor, an LWML Sister, a pastoral counselor, or someone who kindles your love for doing the Lord's work. Maybe write a note to someone who inspires you in your walk with the Lord and the support of LWML. Share your LWML story of that person on Face-book, donate toward the LWML Mission Goal in honor of that someone special, and pray for our mission grants.

# Structure/Bylaws

Bylaw(s): (a) rule(s) adopted by an organization for managing its internal affairs. (The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2004)

Even so, the Structure/Bylaws Committee is probably the least favored committee in any organization! How many meetings have you attended that as soon as “bylaws” is mentioned, the eyes glaze over and the mind tunes out? Whether it is for LWML, your local congregation, or any professional or civic organization, bylaws/structure are necessary. They are the guidelines for the organization’s smooth functioning. Bylaws do not exist to take the fun out of being a member, but rather, to structure all members’ activities in order to promote cooperation and working together. They are the mutually agreed upon rules of operation, and the rules to change the rules.

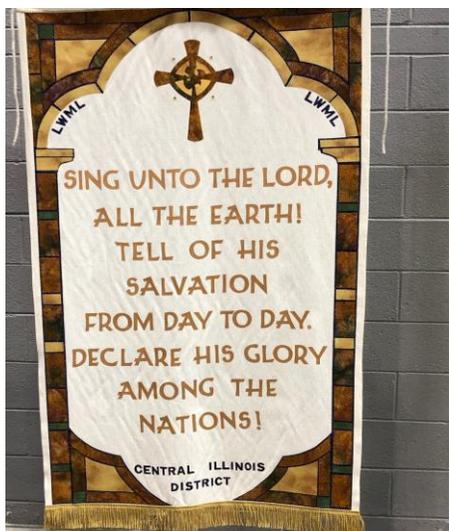
Think of revising the bylaws as home improvement. Every so often, it is time to re-paint, maybe remodel the kitchen or bathroom or create more space for the expanding family. Maybe smaller touches like new pillows or pictures, a new recliner or furniture, a new TV or upgraded technology is your desire. These big and little touches in separate parts of the house make the whole house more livable.

Bylaws also need to be reviewed occasionally to update job descriptions or terminology (“groups” replace “societies”, etc.). Updates are not meant to be nitpicky (although it may seem like it), but to connect the separate parts of the bylaws into a unified whole that gives direction, guidance, and even vitality to an organization. Bylaws tell us what needs to be done, not all the details of how to do it. Within the bylaws is a lot of freedom in how we hold fall rallies and district conventions, how board members do their jobs of recruiting young women, publish *The Clarion*, or develop future leaders within LWML CID.

One action that Robert’s Rules of Order encourages is that everyone involved in any organization “should become familiar with the contents of these rules (*bylaws, standing rules, etc.*) if he/she looks toward full participation in the society’s affairs” (RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed.), p. 15). You know the nooks and crannies of your own home. Get to know the nooks and crannies of the LWML CID bylaws! It really is not an “eye glazing” experience!

Mary Denham  
Structure/Bylaws Chairman

# Banner Schedule



The banner schedule may be delayed because some churches did not have in-person worship services. The original schedule reads as follows:

August – October – Bloomington Zone  
November – December – Lincoln Zone

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. 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 you have any questions, contact Sue McQuire at [publicrelations@lwmlcid.org](mailto:publicrelations@lwmlcid.org).

# Decatur Zone News

Decatur Zone has been blessed with two LWML groups returning to active membership. We are overly excited to have them join our zone in working to serve the Lord. The Decatur Zone who has been active in knitting hats and scarves has given them to schools, homeless shelters for women, and Oasis which is an organization that helps individuals with housing insecurity. Mt. Calvary has adopted South Shores Elementary School to donate food that will be taken home for the weekends to help hungry students. Currently the collection is pasta and sauces. Concordia was able to hold their rummage sale this spring. Some of the money-making events have had to be postponed until later in the fall as things progress with COVID 19 restrictions. Disappointment set in with our members as the cancellation of the Convention in Morton became a reality. All the Decatur Zone churches have been able to conduct services via the many uses of the media. Some have reopened with guidelines. Continuing to work for the Lord and praying for His blessings, our members' faith has been strengthened.

Sandy Haseley Co-President  
Decatur Zone

## Central Illinois District Retreat

The Central Illinois District Retreat will be held at Camp Cilca on October 8-9. The theme is "Grab Your Shoes and Go!" The devotions will be led by our CID Counselors, Pastor Mohr and Pastor Spilker. The registration will be late afternoon on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. The attendees will spend the night in the rooms at the Camp Cilca meeting hall. Meals, games, and Bible studies will be on the agenda for the retreat. Bring your fellow LWML friends and meet new ones! The official registration forms will be mailed to each society president next month.

Cheryl Long, corresponding secretary, shared a joke (with a few liberties) at the board meeting in July that was rather enlightening and thought provoking at the same time. It went like this.....

A guy was lonely and decided in these COVID times that he really needed a pet. It would make life more fun. So, he put on his mask and went to the pet store. He told the owner he wanted an unusual pet, something to brighten his life. After some discussion, he bought a centipede (one of those many legged, creepy, crawly things) and it came complete with a cute little box to use as his home. This guy and his new pet got along great. Every evening he would take him out of the box and let him stretch his many legs. Finally, the Sunday rolled around that he could actually go to church. He decided to take his pet along since he was such a good friend. So, he taps on the box and asks him-'Do you want to go to church with me this morning?' No reply. So, after a little bit, he knocks again and asks a little louder-'Do you want to go to church with me this morning?' Still no reply. The third time he knocks, and he shouts '-DO YOU WANT TO GO TO CHURCH THIS MORNING?' Finally, in a weak little voice from the box he hears this reply- 'I heard you the first time -I am putting on my shoes!'

Let this be a lesson to all of us to never give up asking friends to participate in LWML events. Be patient and kind and pray that our friends will want to join the LWML and participate in our activities that promote service to our loving Lord. So, let us all be centipedes and "Grab our shoes and Go" to the retreat in October!

# Fall Rallies

The county fairs never happened this year. The Illinois State Fair was cancelled. Schools supplies are in the stores, but who knows what the school schedule is. It is a DIFFERENT year! But fall is still just around the corner, and fall rallies are also coming. They may be in a format which will be different than EVER before. There may be a Plan A with a Plan B and Plan C for back up. Some may be in-person rallies, some may be a combination of in-person with an option to watch it online, and some may be a live stream rally with only main speakers present and all is recorded. Regardless of the format, the schedule is listed below. This year's rally theme is "Working Together" based on 1 Peter 3:8 which reads "*Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and humble mind.*" Encourage all your members from your society to attend your local rally.

## September 15

Danville Zone at Immanuel, Danville

Quincy Zone at Holy Cross, Golden

## September 16

Champaign Zone at Friendship Joy, Champaign

Jacksonville Zone at St. Johns, Beardstown

## September 17

Bloomington Zone at Good Shepherd, Minier

Springfield Zone at St. Johns, New Berlin

## September 22

Rock Island Zone at Concordia, Geneseo

Altamont Zone at St. Peters, St. Peter

## September 23

Peoria/Pekin Zone at Christ and Mt.  
Calvary, Peoria

Effingham Zone at St. Johns, Dieterich

## September 24

Decatur Zone at Concordia, Decatur

Lincoln Zone at Christ, Mason City

# In Memory



In loving memory of Eleanor Ruth Schlegl who entered her eternal home on July 22 at the age of 81. Eleanor was a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Quincy. She was Quincy Zone LWML President from 2004 – 2008. She was an elementary school teacher and taught in several Lutheran schools. She also authored devotions, Sunday School, and day school curriculum for Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis. She was such an inspiration to her daughter, Kristi Hosea who is presently serving as the recording secretary for the LWML CID Board. Her funeral was July 25<sup>th</sup> at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Quincy.