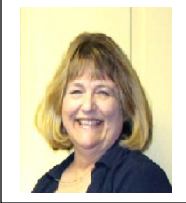


The Clarion

February 2020 Volume XXIX Issue 1



President Sheila's Post

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

What Promise of Jesus is Guiding Your Next Step?

In a recent devotion time with friends, the leader/author asked, "What *promise* of Jesus is guiding your next step?" God is the same – yesterday, today, and forever, but we are not. We are constantly growing and changing from step to step, from glory to glory. So ... what promises of Jesus have guided the LWML CID for 75 years?

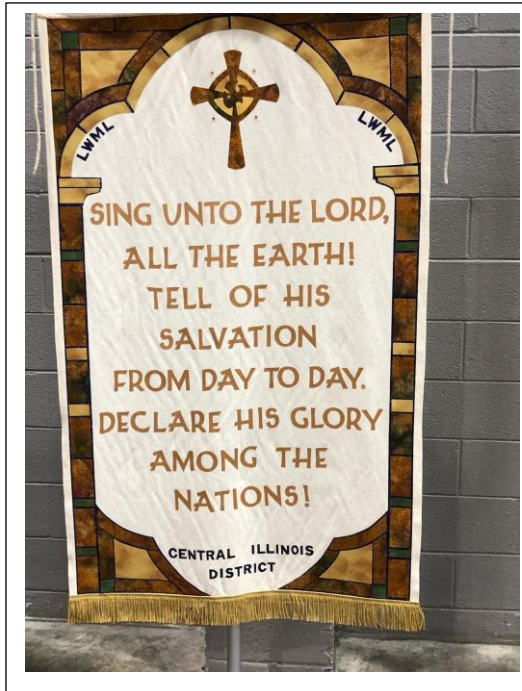
I will never leave you or forsake you. +++ I know the plans I have for you. +++ We are built on the Rock. +++ You are the light of the world ... the salt of the earth. +++ Cast all your care on Him. +++ The God of all comforts ... comforts us in our trials. +++ The Advocate, the Holy Spirit will teach you all things. +++ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. +++ So do not fear for I AM with you. Do not be dismayed for I AM your God. I will strengthen and help you ... uphold you with My righteous hand. +++ My grace is sufficient for you. +++ For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. What promise of God is one of your **guideposts**? Which **directs** your next step?

For almost 75 years (1946's convention was a constitutional convention only without a theme), from the 1947's theme of *Be Strong and Work, Saith the Lord* to 2020's theme of *Proclaiming Jesus*, as we have changed and grown, we have worked and proclaimed and met to be *Joyous Workers in the Lord*, to *Shout Joy – Share Love*, to *Bloom Where (We) are Planted*, as *Friends in Faith*, to declare *The Lord is My Light*, to *Proclaim Liberty to All*, so we can be *In Step With the Master*, and because we are *Drawn to the Cross to Let (our) Light Shine*. What promise of God is directing your steps as you **proclaim Jesus**?

Change happened during my four years as president, and change will continue to happen as we move forward in May under a new LWML CID president. God does not leave us unchanged. Let's **celebrate the change**! As we ask God to create in each of us a new heart, what path will that new heart take? Are you ready to celebrate the past, present, and future of *Lutheran Women in Mission*? Are you ready to Proclaim Jesus to your friends and family? Are you ready to be exhorted by our speakers? Are you ready to bring someone with you, to work and be strong, and share your sisterhood in the LWML, to share friends old and new, and to share God's plan of salvation for His world? Look up, look in, and look out! We are all **His** witnesses and **His** missionaries. Are you ready to keep on filling your Mite Box while beginning to step out in your neighborhood ... or another state ... or another country ... as a missionary? What will you do next to proclaim His redeeming love ... His mission? He has called us each by name; we are His! What promise of God is guiding your **next step**?

Sheila Lutz
LWML CID President

National Convention Banner



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).

Schedule for Banner

Every church in the CID will have an opportunity to display this banner. Each zone gets the banner for roughly two months. During the winter months of December and January, the zone that is assigned may get it a little longer because of Advent and Christmas activities as well as winter weather conditions. Some zones may need it a little longer; some a little shorter.

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 marydenham@ymail.com.

2019-2021 LWML-CID MOBILE, ALABAMA BANNER SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Jan. – March	Effingham/Shelby (15)	Sara Wendling wendfarm@wabash.net
April - June	Altamont (9)	Elaine Stuckemeyer restuck8@gmail.com

Rock Island Zone



The joint mission fundraiser between Immanuel, Rock Island, and St. Matthew, Milan, entitled “Cookies-n-Cards” proved to be a fun event. Sisters in faith made greeting cards to raise over \$800 to support five mission families from Russia, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, and Spain. LWML Rock Island Zone would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support. Checks were mailed immediately after the event. May God’s blessings be on all who share God’s mercy and salvation. Pictured are Deb Toal on the left, Pam Shrake in the center, and Sandy Young on the right.

Giving Tuesday a Success!

Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2019 Giving Tuesday challenge which was held on December 3rd. Because of you, approximately \$36,012.56 was given for mission work this Giving Tuesday. This means that LWML, through your generous gifts, met the matching amount of \$20,000 made possible by two generous donations. That brought the total to \$56,012.56 given to support the 2019-2021 National LWML Mission Goal. **You are making a difference in a changing world!**

Mission Grants



God’s blessings have been bestowed on the 2019-2020 LWML CID Mission Grants with the first four grants of \$39,600 being funded. The first grant of \$30,000 was given to “Student Aid for Church Workers” in October of 2019. The second grant of \$3,600 to “22 Dinners Kare 9 Military Ministry” was awarded in November. The third grant of \$5,000 to “Lutheran Center for Religious Freedom” was awarded in December. The fourth grant of \$1,000 to “Baskets of Hope- Bibles for Critically Ill Children” was awarded in January 2020. Please continue to gather your mites for our mission projects!

In the top picture, LWML CID Corresponding Secretary, Cheryl Long (right), presents Basket of Hope-Springfield Branch Coordinator, Addie Farris (left) with the \$1,000 check to be used to purchase Bibles for critically ill children and teens. Some of the Bibles and the "Baskets of Hope" that the children will receive are also pictured.

In the bottom picture, LWML CID Vice President of Mission Grants, Pat Heinecke (right), presents the \$3,600 check to Trinity (Auburn) Women’s Guild Treasurer, Ruth Hallerberg (middle) and Rev. Martin Kaufmann (left). The check is to “22 Dinners- Kare 9 Military Ministry” to fund their church’s monthly dinners for local veterans with the support of comfort dog, Dinah.



Quarterly Information

Attention all LWML societies!!! Make sure that the CORRECT number of *Quarterlies* needed has been reported to your zone presidents. Remember, this is the only time during the year that decreases or deletions can occur unless a group officially disbands, the church closes, or there is some other extenuating circumstance.

Important Pricing Information

For the first time in 9 years, prices are increasing due to increased paper and postage rates.

- One to 9 copies to a single address is \$7.50 per copy per year
- 10 or more copies to a single address is \$6.00 per copy per year.

Individual copy prices for those wanting to order extra copies of a single issue apart from a subscription are \$2.00 per additional single copy purchased plus postage. This does not affect subscription prices. Current subscribers need to be aware that they should report lost or damaged copies promptly to make sure they get replacement copies. Sometimes, the USPS does deliver bulk copies on separate days, depending on the volume of mail. Periodicals have a lower priority than first class mail. However, if your group does not receive all their copies within one week of when the first batch of copies is received, they should notify Brenda Hendricks (mhendrick@mchsi.com) who will notify the office so that replacement copies can be sent.

Labor of Love

What do you do with a quilt that a dear friend had begun and was unable to finish? Call on your fellow sisters! Alberta Weber, a veteran quilter, began a quilt. As time went on, she and her husband had to move to Prairieview Lutheran Nursing Home in Danforth. While their home was being prepared for sale, her sewing materials and supplies were donated to St. John's Ladies Aid in Buckley, where Alberta was a long-time member. There the unfinished quilt was discovered. Donna Schumacher, a fellow quilter, gladly stepped forward to complete the quilt. Alberta was very pleased to see her now beautifully finished quilt which was donated to Prairieview Lutheran Home for their annual quilt auction last September. Alberta was present for the auction and was amazed to watch her quilt sell for a record \$2,500! Alberta, 86 years old, went home to see her Lord on November 15th. Her labor of love was completed. Pictured is Alberta (left) and Donna (right).



Mite Goal

Where has the year gone? It is hard to believe that there is only two months left until March 31, which is the end of our fiscal year. At our 2019 LWML District Convention the mite goal was increased from \$95,000 to \$104,800. We are not near that goal yet, so keep those checks coming. Always be grateful in your prayers for the generous hearts of the ladies of the Central Illinois District! Those filled mite boxes can do so much!

Linda Soltwedel,

Treasurer

Lincoln Zone



The 57th Annual Lincoln Zone LWML Fall Rally was held September 26, 2019, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Manito with 58 people present. Annie Guerrettaz, CID Christian Life Chairman, presented the topic on "Change is Good. You Go First." It emphasized the need to consider the different generations that should be considered when trying to plan meetings. Change is not something that we need to fear. The goal should be to try new things to involve all women of our congregations. Each attempt is a learning experience. ALWAYS stay focused on the mission of LWML which is to bring the lost and erring to Christ. LWML CID President Sheila Lutz brought us news from the District, and Rev. Tim Hahn led us in Bible Study. The ingathering was collected for **With God's Little Ones**. The attendees donated 240 dresses, 248 eyeglass cases, 143 school bags, 87 backpacks, 23 bottles of children's vitamins, 4 packages of underwear, and \$55.00 cash.

(The LWML societies of Lincoln Zone showed their faith in 2019 by making 420 quilts as well as school kits, personal care kits, and baby kits which were shipped to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. May God be Praised!)

"Running the Race – Looking to Jesus"

The logo for the National LWML Convention in 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky, has been chosen. The theme is based on Scripture verses from the book of Hebrews: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:1-2).



The symbol is shaped like a horseshoe, which is appropriate, as horses are a large part of the Kentucky culture. Ancient Greeks awarded horseshoe-shaped laurel wreaths to victors of competitions. In our logo, the laurel wreath symbolizes our victory in Christ. The banner was a method of announcing an official proclamation. Our banner proclaims that we are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

Convention attendees will focus on Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament, joyfully celebrate our salvation with song and prayer, and serve our neighbors through witness and mission. Put June 24 through June 27, 2021, on your calendar! May the LWML CID ladies "race" to the convention for a great three day adventure filled with worship, business, and fellowship!

Staying Energized As A Leader

Dear LWML Leaders,

Welcome back to *Tips for Leading with Confidence*. We pray this leadership tip will be beneficial as you serve our Lord through the LWML. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Being a leader can be exhilarating but sometimes a leader may feel chronically tired, lose interest in their goals, or lack motivation to serve. These are all signs of Leader Burn Out. Here are some suggestions to stay energized as a leader.

- Find a friend that you can fully trust. Discuss what you are feeling and experiencing. Share your concerns of how it might be impacting your leadership.
- Write down everything that has happened in your life over the past year. Both the relaxing and stressful times. Review the list with your trusted friend for items that may cause burn out.
- Ask other leaders what they do to stay motivated. Leaders need others they can rely on as difficulties arise.
- Explore the “Clifton Strengths assessment” a self-personality profile. This will identify ways you naturally lead and will point you towards success.
- Journal your thoughts and questions. Take them to God in prayer, asking for the wellness of being the leader He has called you to be.
- Recharge by doing something you enjoy on a regular basis. Be creative. It can be writing, taking pictures, going for a walk, or just spend a few days with family or a friend.

Be proactive in preventing burn out so that you may accomplish great things as a leader.

But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).

(LWML Leadership Resources)

Upcoming Events

LWML CID Executive and Board Meeting – February 24-25 – at Camp CILCA

LWML CID Convention – April 30 – May 2 in Morton

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

Next Clarion Deadline is April 25!

Upcoming Servant Events

Christmas 2019 has passed and now our eyes turn to 2020 events. The ladies of the Peoria/Pekin zone are busy planning for our 75th anniversary district convention in April. The years' servant events are taking shape and should be as much fun and have as much variety as ever. Our Gifts from the Heart this year will be for **Living Alternatives in Pekin**. Stay tuned for the list of needs. They will be sent in the invitation letter for the convention.

Orphan Grain Train will be attending our convention again this year! Please look for items to donate and bring! Last year the truck was half full. Please go to ogt.org and click on the donate tab. Scroll down to the bottom to see the list of acceptable donations. There are many items that can be asked for at church for collection and brought to convention. There is so much need.

Our off-site servant event this year will be at the **Midwest Food Bank**. If you have never been there, it is quite the place. There is no limit to the number of volunteers for this event. Anyone who goes will have a job to do and will see a short presentation of the mission there. They do some awesome work. Please wear casual clothes and comfortable shoes as cleaning may be one of the jobs to be done.

A new event this year will be to make dresses for **With God's Little Ones!** I am so excited about this. We will need new **or very gently used pillowcases**. The pillowcases can be any size, just please wash them (whether new or used) before bringing. All ladies who want to do the actual sewing need to bring their machines. We will also be needing **thread**, white or black generally works, but others can be brought. **Half inch and quarter inch elastic** will be needed as well as double **fold bias tape** as one package of the biased tape will only do one dress. Look for sales! **Rick rack, lace, and appliques** will also be appreciated for embellishments for the dresses. The ladies will be putting together kits for those creative ladies who want to take one home to finish later. Donations of **3-yard pieces of cotton fabric** will also be welcomed. Three yards makes 3 little dresses. Come with your creative hat on! You do not need to be able to sew as there will be a need for ironers, cutters, and pinner.

Also, back this year will be **marking Bibles, trimming stamps, cutting diapers**. There will also be **quilts** to tie. Plan to join the busy, busy ladies in the LWML-CID! I hope to see you all in April.

Laura Strattman,

Human Care Committee Chairman

Convention Keynote Speaker



Jan Struck is a mother of 3 children with 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Jan is remarried after a divorce and is retired from her career as a trainer/consultant in the field of healthcare technology. She grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she attended a Lutheran two-room school. She finished her education at Valparaiso University where she received her theater/English degree.

She is truly blessed to serve the Lord as a popular speaker who leads Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats. Jan has traveled extensively in the States, as well as Canada. Her involvement with LWML has enabled her to bring the gift of laughter to numerous district and national conventions.

With over 40 years of experience in teaching, motivating, and entertaining her audiences, Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and uses her sense of humor as she shares her life with fellow travelers and leaves them laughing. Her trust and faith in Christ are her reasons to make a "joyful noise unto God"!!

**Look what's coming for our 75th CID Convention!
There are some "NEW" activities this year so please take note!**

**75th Central Illinois District Convention
April 30 – May 2, 2020 @ Bethel Lutheran Church, Morton**

"Proclaiming Jesus...75 years of Serving the Lord with Gladness"

Psalm 71:17

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. *ESV*



March 31, 2020 - HOTEL Reservation DEADLINE (rooms are reserved under "LWML")

Holiday Inn Express
140 E. Ashland St. Morton, IL 61550
309-263-2417

"NEW" April 30, 2020 – Thursday Evening @ 7:00pm

Worship Service with communion with fellowship after the service.

May 1, 2020 Friday Morning

"NEW" 8:00am Registration with Silent Auction Theme Baskets to support Mites,

"NEW" 9:00 am – Bible Study with coffee break @ 10am

"NEW" 10:30 am – Bible Study

"NEW" 11:45 – Lunch #1, Lunch #2 – Rally Info and Lunch #3 - How to Write a Mission Grant

"NEW" 12:30pm – Convention Choir practice

1:00pm Servant Events

**"A BLAST FROM THE PAST" 6:00pm, Friday - 75TH Anniversary Banquet at Countryside
Banquet Facility**

Located @ 659 School St, Washington, IL 61571.

A buffet meal will be served with entertainment provided by Jan Struck.

May 2, 2020 – Saturday 75th CID Convention

LWR Breakfast

7:30 to 8:30am – Registration. Orphan Grain Train and Gifts from the Heart will be collected.

8:45 - Convention begins

Jan Struck will be our keynote speaker. There will be Breakout sessions to attend and we will enjoy a catered lunch, a Convention choir and other special music.

"NEW" voting Delegates will need to show registration during the 1st Breakout session in order to receive a ballot

Please be aware that Bethel has a Saturday evening worship service starting @ 6pm. We need everything cleared up in the Sanctuary and the Narthex by 5pm. The Praise band starts practice in the Sanctuary at 4pm.

Thank You for your consideration.

More detailed information will be coming in the Invitation letter.

