

The Clarion

February 2022 Volume XXV Issue 1

President Laura's Post

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?” Romans 8:36

Did you ever play the game “Telephone” as a child? A person tells a short story, or a phrase to their neighbor, and that person states it to the next and so on. By the time the phrase or story gets to the last person in the room, it is usually nothing like it started. Often the facts are so wrong that the story does not resemble the truth.

During Bible times, word of mouth is how news was spread. While doing my devotions around Christmas time, the story of the shepherds and what the angels had told them about the baby Jesus was the topic. “When they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told to them concerning this child”. (Luke 2:17) They were so excited about what they had seen, they could not contain themselves. They told everyone what they saw! Do you think the people they spoke to thought they were insane or foolish? Martin Luther states in his sermon for the Second Sunday of Christmas (Luther's Works 75:252) ...”But the shepherds, full of faith and joy, cheerfully were fools before men for God's sake. A Christian also does the same. For God's Word must be considered as foolishness and falsehood in this world.”

How about us? Do we get so excited about the baby Jesus that we cannot contain ourselves? Does the story of the nativity and how God humbled Himself to be born of a virgin to live a perfect life for us excite us? Does the fact that He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins excite us? Sounds rather foolish, right? Or was it? Jesus had been foretold for centuries before He was born.

At a customer service presentation at a hospital where I worked long ago, I remember them telling us that if a customer has a bad experience, they will tell ten to twenty people. If they have a good experience, they will tell one to five people. I remember thinking at the time if I was that way also. I resolved to become more cognizant of what I spread about my experiences at this place or that. I try to express by gratitude for good service or good work intentionally, but I confess that I do not relate my wonderful experiences as often as my bad ones.

What better experience can we have than to be baptized into the Christian faith? We should be so excited we cannot contain ourselves. Even if we told only one to five people, would that be more than we are doing currently?

That is what LWML is all about! It is our Mission! **As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. We joyfully proclaim Christ!! The LWML has so many resources and avenues that allow us to proclaim Christ! Through our zone, district, and national events, we encourage each other in our walk with God. Through our resources at lwml.org, we study the Word of God so that we are “always *prepared* to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in us”. (I Peter 3:15) We joyfully proclaim Christ! We support mission grants that place missionaries in the field and prepare pastors to serve throughout the world. We let our light shine so that others give glory to God our Father!**

Equipping others begins with equipping ourselves. I hope that all of you saw the LWML eNews from December 21, 2021. The LWML now has a calendar that you can download monthly to read through the Bible in one year! How better to equip us than to be in God's Word daily! If daily Bible reading is part of your New Year's resolution, begin here. I know that we are already a month into the year, but do not be discouraged, begin in February and end at the end of next January.

Upcoming events to equip and encourage you this year include our **District Convention April 29-30th, 2022**. The theme is **"Reunited as Women in Mission" based on Hebrews 10:25a "not neglecting one another...but encouraging one another"**. The plans are coming along nicely. Servant events will be at St. John's Lutheran Church in Chatham, IL on Friday. They will include making dresses for girls all over the world which will unite us in our service to others! Friday evening will include a communion service which will unite us together in the body of Christ! Our Friday evening entertainment will be National Convention humorous interrupter, Jan Struck, which will unite us in God's gift of laughter and friendship. Jan will also be our keynote speaker for the convention on Saturday. Mission grants will be voted on which will unite us in our support of missions. New leaders will be voted on which will unite us in our ongoing mission of proclaiming Christ throughout the world!

Another event to encourage and equip us this year will be a **Leader Development session** during our board meeting on **July 26th, 2022**. Leaders of groups throughout the district will be encouraged to attend to learn more about the LWML, gain skills on how to do business, and to learn from each other some new ideas for continually uplifting and encouraging our fellow Sisters in Christ!

Our Fall Rally theme this year will be **"Light Up the World"**. More to come about this shortly. I look forward to reuniting with those I did not get to see in 2021!

Our **Fall Retreat** this year will be a combined retreat with the Southern Illinois District which will be held at Camp CILCA on **October 7th and 8th, 2022**. Our theme will be **"God's Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms"**. It will be led by Diane Grebing, current District President of LWML SID, and author of the retreat material. What an awesome experience this will be! We will be united with our sisters from SID!

So many things to look forward to in 2022! God bless you all and thank you all for being Women in Mission.

**Your Sister in Christ,
Laura Strattman**

Upcoming Events

Executive Committee and Board Meeting – February 21-22

Central Illinois District Convention – Springfield – April 29-30

LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin – June 22-25, 2023

Mattoon Ladies



St. John's Ladies Aid members of Mattoon, Illinois, collected over 80 toilet paper tubes to make "fire starters" as one of their fundraisers at their Christmas Bazaar on November 6, 2021. The "Fire Starters" contained dryer lint stuffed inside toilet paper tubes and were wrapped in pretty Christmas paper and ribbon. The fire starters could be used for igniting campfires or fires in wood burning stoves or fireplaces.

Some were sold in small bundles and others were included in S'mores Kit gift baskets. It took several weeks to collect dryer lint to stuff over 80 tubes, but we had fun turning commonly disposed household items into cute-looking crafts

"I Have Been Blessed!"

This is my last report for the Clarion as a new Treasurer will be elected at the LWML CID Convention in April. I have been blessed in many ways during the years I have served as your Treasurer. It has been a joy to get to know so many of you ladies and Pastors over the years. I am continually amazed at the generosity of the ladies of this district. We set a mite goal of \$105,000 and to date you have contributed \$69,501.96. We have been able to fund the first two mission grant projects totaling \$40,000 plus send over \$17,000 to National to fund their projects. With two months left in this fiscal year we still need \$35,500 to reach our goal, but I am confident that with the Lord's help we will reach that goal.

A good way to contribute to our mite goal is through the use of your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA. A tax-free donation can be sent directly from your IRA to the LWML CID Mite Account. I would be happy to discuss this option with you if you have questions.

The Lord bless you as you serve Him with gladness.

Linda Soltwedel,
Treasurer

Next Clarion Deadline is April 25th!

Human Care Report

Make your plans to attend the Central Illinois District Convention on April 29-30th! The servant events will be trimming stamps, making little dresses, knotting quilts, or working at a food bank. Gifts from the Heart will be going to the Orphan Grain Train. They will have a large box truck in Springfield on Saturday, April 30th, from 7:30-8:30 AM. They need many items. Check their website at www.ogt.org to get the complete list.

Lincoln and Danville Zones collected warm clothing for Afghan Refugees. 13,000 refugees were sent to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Most of them came with little clothing. They are being relocated to various places in the United States. Many of them have gone to Milwaukee. Thank you for helping them stay warm this winter.

I know many have collected and sent things to victims of tornadoes in Kentucky. I am sure those gifts were deeply appreciated.

Human Care Chairperson
Sharol Bolton

In Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to the family of Lois A. Wenthe, age 84, who passed away on January 2, 2022, in Anderson, South Carolina. She was the Central Illinois District LWML President from 1968 – 1970. Her graveside services were held at Oakridge Cemetery in Effingham. Memorials were given to the LWML at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Anderson, South Carolina. Her warm heart and kind smile will be missed.

77th Annual LWML CID Convention

The 77th Annual LWML CID convention will be hosted by the Springfield Zone. Pre-convention activities will be on Friday, April 29th, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Chatham. Friday dinner and evening activities and the Saturday, April 30th convention will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Springfield. The theme for the convention is "Reunited as Women in Mission" based on Hebrews 10:25a which says, "Let us not give up meeting with each other...but encourage one another." LWML's favorite humorous interrupter, Jan Struck, will be our keynote speaker! Registration information will be mailed out early mid-March so be on the lookout!



Banner Schedule

Mobile, Alabama Banner Schedule:

January – March 2022

Peoria/Pekin Zone

Kristel Zobrist

309-231-9763

kkzobrist@gmail.com

April – June 2022

Quincy Zone

Laurie Bronson

217-617-7267

quincy@lwmlcid.org

Lexington, Kentucky Banner Schedule:

February 2022 – March 2022

Danville Zone

Carol Schuldt

815-383-2119

onargafarm@gmail.com

April 2022 – May 2022

Bloomington Zone

Karla Hasler

309-824-4363

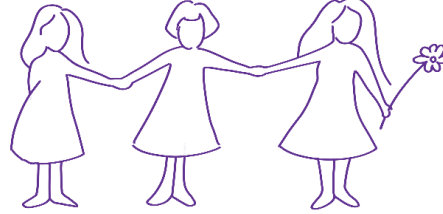
karlajo54@yahoo.com

Dresses for Africa



The ladies of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman in rural Fisher (Danville Zone) made sixty-five pillowcase dresses for Dresses for Africa in the last few months. They were sorted by sizes and shipped last week. Little Dresses for Africa (LDFA) is a Christian organization which offers relief to all parts of Africa and many countries beyond, by distributing little dresses, made primarily of pillowcases, to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy. These little dresses are made and donated by volunteers from all over the world and are distributed to the children in need. They are shipped through postal services, containers, with mission teams, and with humanitarian organizations.

These dresses serve as “little ambassadors” to encourage and honor young girls and to establish relationships with villages so that continued work can be accomplished through clean water, primary education, and community. Over eight million dresses have been sent to 97 countries since the formation of this organization. The dresses that our ladies make are sent to Rockford, Michigan, where there is a collection site. Our ladies have now sent 499 dresses in the last five-plus years. Brenda Hendricks, Susan Martin, Connie Warsaw, and Diana Zimmerman used their time and talents to sew these dresses. As their website states, “we are not sending dresses, we are sending hope”.



Reunited as women in mission
-Heb. 10:25a

LWML Central Illinois District • 77th Annual Convention • April 29 & 30, 2022 • Springfield

APRIL 29 & 30,
2022

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77th LWML CID CONVENTION Springfield, IL

JAN STRUCK



LWML'S FAVORITE
HUMOROUS
INTERRUPTER!

Friday, April 29

St. John's Lutheran Church,
Chatham
Servant activities

Saturday, April 30

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Springfield
77th LWML CID Convention
Jan Struck, keynote speaker & breakout

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE EVERYONE!