

The Clarion

February 2023 Volume 26 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

Happy New Year!

Have you made your resolutions for 2023 yet? Have you already broken your resolutions? Resolutions take commitment. You must tell yourself you are going to do something and be sure and follow through. You must be tenacious, steadfast, and stubborn about giving them up. Resolutions, such as dieting, quitting a bad habit, or daily Bible study, must be practiced until they are a given part of your life. So much so that if you don't do them or "cheat", you feel you are missing something. They become a part of how you spend your day, and of who you are. Even so, we, being the fallible creatures that we are, often stumble along the way.

Have you ever made a resolution or a promise to God that you are not going to do something, or you are going to start doing something faithfully only to fail, often on the same day. How disappointed we become in ourselves when that happens. That is when we must turn to God, pray for strength, tenacity, and courage to start over again. God knows our frailty but loves us anyway and that gives us the strength we need to carry on and try again.

My New Year's Resolution this year was to begin the Through the Bible in a Year series, found on lwml.org. So far, so good. But I must tell myself to do that first thing in the morning or the "to do" list gets in the way. I find that if I start the day in the Word, everything goes a little smoother.

Recently, a guest pastor preached at our church. He was talking about "the peace of the Lord". He gave a wonderful illustration that has stayed with me for many weeks. He spoke of the eye of a hurricane being the calmest part of the storm. While the outer part of the storm has wind speeds upwards of 150 mph, the eye has much calmer winds of 15mph. Staying in the eye, you often have sunny skies and calm breezes. The point is this, stay in the word, connected to God, so the peace of the Lord can be with you. While the world and all its' evil swirls around us, and we are feeling overwhelmed, we need to keep centered in the word of God so that we can know peace. That is my prayer for all of you.

We have several opportunities this year to stay connected to the Word. **LWML CID 78th Annual District Convention will be held in Quincy, Illinois on April 28 and 29, 2023.** Friday's Servant Events and communion service will be held at the Lutheran Church of St. John in Quincy and

Saturdays' Convention will be held at the Oakley-Lindsay Center in downtown Quincy. **The theme is "Thy KING-dom Come" based on Zechariah 9: 10b, "His Rule shall be from Sea to Sea, and from the River to the Ends of the Earth".** We are pleased to have Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer as our keynote speaker. Cindy Steinwedel will be our mission speaker from LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) here in Central Illinois. Please be on the lookout for the invitation letter that should be coming out the first week in March.

The 40th Biennial Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 22-25, 2023. I am sure that many of you have already registered. Registration is totally online this year. Please assist your ladies that may not be as computer savvy as you. Deadline for early registration is March 14, 2023. **The theme this year is "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" based on Psalm 33: 12-13" Blessed is the nation whose God is Lord, the people whom He has chosen as His heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man".** The Lutheran Ladies Lounge Ladies will be our Saturday entertainment and Jan Struck and Abby Goehring will be our humorous interrupters. Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz from the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) will be our keynote speaker. We will be grounded in the word and uplifted to be in the world without being of the world.

On **July 18, 2023**, we will again be hosting a leadership day at Camp CILCA. The presentation that day will include much of the information given at **Assembly of Leaders meetings in October 2022**. If you are a group leader, zone leader, or just someone who would like to learn more about LWML, please plan on attending. Watch for more information about this later.

The Fall retreat will be held on October 6-7, 2023, at Camp CILCA. The ladies of the LWML CID will be embarking on a **"Journey of Faith"**. We will be studying and working on ways to increase our spiritual growth! Save the date and join us for a refreshing and uplifting weekend.

National Convention

The Lutheran Women in Mission of the North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and South Wisconsin Districts invite you to the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in beautiful Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 22-25. The theme will be "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man." (Psalm 33:12-13). Milwaukee, called the City of Steeples, is home to the Discovery World Science, Harley Davidson, and Milwaukee Art Museums; the Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, the Milwaukee County Zoo, the Historic Third Ward, and much more. Come enjoy the cool breezes off Lake Michigan. Convention registration opened January 9. This year registration will be entirely online. Read all the details in the winter issue of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly or on the LWML website at www.lwml.org. Come and "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" in Milwaukee!

Next Clarion Deadline - April 25th

Mites! Mites! Mites!

As I write this article, it is February 1. Already! The words of LSB, Divine Service 1 Post Communion Canticle come to mind. As we sang them this past Sunday, I thought how fitting. “Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done.”

We thank the Lord for the blessing of presenting mission grant #4 check to President Mohr, a familiar face. We sing His praise as we support the district education endeavor. Telling everyone what he has done is our LWML mission and privilege.



Keep the mite projects in prayer and the mites flowing into your mite boxes. We have a rapidly approaching mite deadline and mission grants are wanting and waiting to be funded.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for many mites to fund our four grants. May our mite offerings continue to be used to bring Christ to the nations and to help those in need of your grace. To You be the glory! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Chery Long
VP of Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants

Banner Schedule

February 2023	Peoria/Pekin (10)	Kristel Zobrist 309-231-9763 peoria.pekin@lwmlcid.org
April 2023	Quincy (8)	Stephanie Flesner 217-779-8609 quincy@lwmlcid.com
June 2023	Rock Island (11)	Mary Donegan 309-781-2632 rockisland@lwmlcid.com

Champaign Zone Rally

The Champaign Zone Fall Rally was held the morning of September 14 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Champaign, Illinois. The theme was "Light up the World with Christ". "What's Your 80" collection was for light bulbs and bigger size diapers and wipes. A total of 137 bulbs were donated to Empty Tomb and 2,597 diapers and wipes were donated to the Crisis Nursery.

53 ladies, guests, and pastors were blessed with Pastor Gaylord Spilker's Bible Study which was based on our theme. Ladies from Immanuel Lutheran Church brought the banner that was made for the CID convention. Thanks for sharing it with us. Pam Spilker, past LWML CID President, was in attendance. Nancy Stremming gave us updates on CID activities and events.

Pastor Rodney Blomquist was the speaker, and he talked about the Prison Ministry Grant, where any CID pastor or congregation member may apply for the cost of religious materials that the applicant provides to a correctional center or jail in central Illinois. CID Prison Ministry does not order or keep material on hand. They reimburse people after they purchase materials that go to the correctional center/jail.

The performance of "Make the World Bright" skit was enjoyed by all. Zone Officers will continue as before-Velma Price as treasurer, Jan Bundy as secretary, and Karen Stoll as vice president. Linda Kovell was elected the new president.

May God continue to bless our groups in the Champaign Zone.



Left: JoEllen Tappendorf shares the LWML Store items at the rally. Right: Pastor Blomquist, speaker, and Velma Price, Champaign Zone Treasurer, enjoy some refreshments from the coffee bar before the rally begins.

“What’s Your 80?”

Several groups in the Central Illinois District participated in the “What’s Your 80?” program to celebrate the 80th year of LWML. Some of the great projects will be highlighted with pictures in the article below. It is not too late to think of a project before the National Convention in June!

Effingham/Shelby Zone



The Ladies Aid of Grace Lutheran Church in Dieterich, Illinois has held two collections to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the LWML. The first collection was for the Family Life Center in Effingham, Illinois. Pictured left to right are Linda Wright, Elaine Probst, and Jane Westjohn. The second collection was for Aspire Alternative High School in Effingham. Pictured are Linda Wright and Elaine Probst.



Lincoln Zone

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from Zion Lutheran School at Mt. Pulaski in the Lincoln Zone helped assemble 80 personal care kits which were sent to Lutheran World Relief.

“What’s Your 80?”

Quincy Zone



Top left: Immanuel Lutheran Church and Student Center in Macomb collected 246 pairs of new underwear as part of the "What's your 80?" project for LWML. The underwear was part of the bigger collection of items that was taken to Springfield for Orphan Grain Train.

Top right: The Ladies Aid Society of the Lutheran Church of St. John (organized in 1879) marked the 80 year anniversary of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League with “What’s Your 80?” The group collected 80 items for the Open Hands Food Pantry housed at St. John’s. Adams County as well as people from neighboring counties in Illinois use this resource.

Lower left: The Clayton Good Shepherd LWML group’s “What’s Your 80” project was to collect at least 80 bottles of juice for the Community For Christ Assistance Center food pantry in Camp Point. The goal was exceeded with a donation of 101 bottles!

**The 78th Annual
Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Central Illinois
District Convention**



Thy KING-dom Come

**Zechariah 9: 10b "His Rule Shall Be From Sea to Sea,
and From The River To The Ends of The Earth."**

Lutheran Church of St. John

Oakley-Lindsay Center

Quincy Zone

April 28-29, 2023