

The Clarion

May 2023 Volume 26 Issue 2

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

Those of us who attend District Conventions regularly are not surprised by what goes on there. We know that many ladies and some gentlemen will show up to serve the Lord with gladness. One of my ladies came as a first timer. She could not say enough about the Bible study, the worship, Pastor Dale Meyer's keynote address, and the keynote speakers. She was all about the Word and encouraged to live in the Lord. I listened to Pastor Dale Meyer's address and the focus on the Ascended Lord Jesus Christ! Christ humbled Himself to come to earth, live the perfect life in my place, was crucified, died, rose, and ascended so "that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity" (from the explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, in Luther's Small Catechism). Oh, the comfort that comes to us knowing that Christ is over all! As our King, Jesus rules over all creation, especially for the good of His Church! We are part of His kingdom of grace now here on earth, serving Him as best we can as sinners. We look forward to becoming part of His kingdom of Glory in heaven, serving Him for all eternity!

As I reflect on the Convention this last weekend, I am in awe of all that was accomplished in Quincy. Thirty-six quilts were tied, thirteen hundred zipper pull kits for the Illinois State Fair LLL Booth were assembled, many stamps were trimmed, and one hundred fifty cards were lovingly made for the veterans in Quincy. Three hundred boxes were given to three local charities in Quincy. As usual, the ladies of the LWML CID do an awesome job of caring for their neighbors, and I thank you!

While we serve Him in the LWML, there are many opportunities to grow and stay prepared to see Him on the glorious day of His return. **Coming up June 22-25, 2023, is the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.** The Central Illinois District will have over 130 ladies and gentlemen present. **We will "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations"**, based on the theme verse from **Psalm 33: 12-13. "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"**. There will be opportunities for Bible study, worship services, and speakers to let you know that our Savior does indeed reign! You will be in fellowship with your Sisters and Brothers from around the world. If you have never gone, you are in for a treat!

Please note that there will not be any district photos taken at the convention. **Our District Caucus will be the only opportunity we have to do a district photo. Our CID Caucus will be held on Thursday, June 22 from 4:40-5:25pm.** Please be sure and make it. **The location will be in your newsletter upon your registration.** I look forward to seeing many of you there!

July 18 will be Assembly of Leaders training at Camp CILCA. Attending this training will give you useful skills to use with your groups, zones and if you choose your district. There will be team building, relationship building, and friendship building. If you attended last year, you may come again as the content will be totally different than last year. Please let your Zone President know that you would like to attend by July 10. And if she asks you to attend, go with her! You will not be disappointed.

Our **Zone Rallies** will be held in the **second and third weeks of September.** Nancy Stremming gave the packets to the zone presidents at the convention. Our theme this year will be **“God’s Boundless Love” based on John 13: 34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another”.** I cannot wait to see the creative ways the theme will be presented throughout the district, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. I know that many zone presidents and other officers are up for election. I pray that if you are asked to serve, you will prayerfully consider doing so. You will be blessed by your service. And remember, **God does not always call the equipped, but He equips the called.**

Our Fall Retreat will be held on Oct 6-7. We are going on a cruise, a **“Journey to Faith: The Trip of a Lifetime”.** The Bible studies will be focused on personal spiritual growth. Bring a friend to be your “roomy” and join us on our cruise!

In closing, please remain focused on our risen Lord who lives and reigns over all things in Heaven and on Earth! Keep oil in your lamps by being in the Word and in the Sacrament of the Altar.

As always, I thank God for all of you!

Laura Strattman
LWML Central Illinois District President

Banner Schedule

June 2023

Rock Island (11)

Mary Donegan

309-781-2632

rockisland@lwmlcid.com

Next Clarion Deadline – August 25th

Mites! Mites! Mites!

Praise God From Whom and To Whom the Mites Flow!

As we have wrapped up the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we are overjoyed that we were able to meet our District Mite Goal as well as the National Goal. To God be the praise! Our eight grant recipients replied with thanks upon receiving the funds. These thanks were shared at convention with all of you. It is good to look back but guess what? We now need to move forward and go on. Grant proposals are being accepted for consideration for 2024-2025. Consider a MISSION MINDED need that you know of and write a proposal. The form is on the website, and I would love to see several come in. For now, let's Praise God for the bounty He has bestowed on us!

Convention Ingathering and Servant Events



We had a wonderful Ingathering on Saturday, April 29th at the District Convention in Quincy. About ninety-eight boxes were collected for Community for Christ Assistance Center along with \$1,228. About seventy-two boxes of items were collected for Open Hands Food Pantry of The Lutheran Church of St. John along with \$575. Also, about one hundred twenty-four boxes were collected for the Veterans Home along with \$399. Thank you for all the generous donations!

Thank you to everyone who participated or helped with the Servant Events at The Lutheran Church of St. John in Quincy. We had one hundred and fifteen busy workers. They made 1300 zipper pull kits for the LLL State Fair booth. They tied thirty-six quilts which will go to Orphan Grain Train in the fall. They made one hundred cards for veterans. They also trimmed over 1000 stamps for mites. Thank you for "serving the Lord with gladness!"

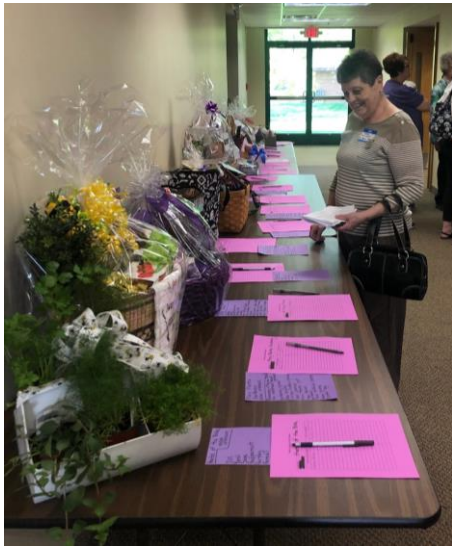
Sharol Bolton,
Human Care Chairman

CID Convention April 28 – 29

"Thy King-dom Come"

The convention began on Friday afternoon, April 28th, at the Lutheran Church of St. John in Quincy, with a variety of servant events for the ladies to work on. A meal and worship service followed these activities.

The 78th Annual LWML/CID Convention held at the Oakley-Lindsay Center began Saturday morning, April 29, and was hosted by the Quincy Zone. Pastor Gaylord Spilker led the approximate 193 attendees in an opening Bible study. The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, the past speaker of The Lutheran Hour and past president of the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Cindy Steinwedel, regional coordinator in Central Illinois District Lutheran Early Response Team, were the keynote speakers. Central Illinois District President, Laura Stratman, presided over the business meeting that included voting on proposed by-lay changes, the financial secretary and treasurer's reports, and voting on mission grants. The women who were not delegates enjoyed a variety of breakout session speakers. The attendees were invited by the Rock Island Zone to next year's convention which will be held in late April.



CID Convention in Pictures



Young Women Reps for National Convention

The Central Illinois District is sending four Young Women Representatives to the National Convention in June in Milwaukee. Following is a short biography of three of the four women.



My name is Christina Antemate. I attend Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, IL. My husband and I have four children. I am a part time Administrative Assistant. Some of the things I enjoy doing are baking, reading, writing, and raising chickens. My first time attending an LWML National Convention was in 2021 at the Lexington, Kentucky convention. My mother went as a delegate, and I tagged along. It was an eye opener! I learned a lot about all the missions the LWML supports and seeing all the women there was very encouraging to me. Also, I heard many great speakers. I am honored to represent the LWML CID as a YWR at the 2023 Milwaukee Convention. I am looking forward to connecting with other women of the faith, hearing about the mission work, and deepening my relationship with Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that God continues to bless the work of the LWML and that many more lives will be transformed!

I am Nicole Boeder, and I live in Springfield, IL. I split my time between Concordia and Trinity Lutheran Churches in Springfield. I am married with four kids (two of which are foster children). I have a teaching degree from Concordia St. Paul, MN and am currently a stay-at-home mom. I enjoy creating silly videos for social media, reading, writing, hiking, and swimming. I am excited to meet other women in the LWML and hear how different groups are living out the mission of God in their congregations. The first and only national convention I attended was in Albuquerque, and it was a wonderful experience. At the Milwaukee convention, I hope to learn more about how God is at work through the LWML all over the world and connect with as many people as I can from various places and circumstances. I then want to learn how to continue sharing the love of God with everyone I encounter when I return home.



Date: **June 22–25, 2023**

Location: **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Theme: **Celebrate the Lord of the Nations**

Young Women Reps for National Convention



Hello, my name is Anne Jesgarz. I live in Decatur, Illinois, where I attend St. John's Lutheran Church in Decatur. I am currently the 5th and 6th-grade Religion and Social Studies teacher at the Lutheran School Association here in town. Next school year, I am so excited to be teaching 5th-8th grade Religion. In my spare time, I love traveling, reading, walking out at the park, and playing board games. I am so excited to be a Young Woman Representative from the CID. I have never been to a National LWML Convention before, but this summer in Milwaukee I look forward to having the opportunity to learn more about the LWML. I am also excited to meet together with other Lutheran ladies across the nation to grow in God's Word.

Mission Grants

At the convention in Quincy on April 29th the mission grant goal for the 2023-2024 was announced as \$105, 000. We once again have a tremendous job in front of us. The women of the LWML CID will be able to accomplish this goal! Please pray daily that God provides these funds for the following projects that were voted on at the convention. They are listed in the order of funding.

Student Aid for Church Workers for \$30,000

Lutheran High Transportation – Springfield for \$25,000

Resourcing LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) with RV Rapid Response Center of Disasters for \$10,000

Hope for the Hopeless for \$10,000

Well House Bible Study Support - Quincy for \$500

Our Savior Lutheran School – Magamaga, Uganda for \$3250

“What’s Your 80?”

Several groups submitted

“What’s Your 80?” articles and pictures. They may not appear in this edition but will appear in future editions of the Clarion.

Voting Delegates for National Convention

The voting delegates for the LWML National Convention were recognized and given their stipends for the National Convention at the Executive Meeting held at Camp Cilca in March. Each zone is represented by one voting delegate at the convention.



Danville Zone Spring Fling

Wind and light snow did not hinder the Danville Zone LWMLers from driving to Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman in rural Fisher, Illinois for the Spring Fling. 44 guests enjoyed a breakfast brunch starting at 9 AM which was provided by the ladies from Immanuel - Loda, Peace - Thomasboro, and Immanuel - Osman. The group was entertained by the speaker, Mary Dickinson, master gardener, from Loda. She spoke on growing succulents. The Loda ladies provided the door prizes which were Shamrock plants given to ladies in certain categories - like oldest, most grandchildren, and traveled the farthest. The tables were decorated with painted flowerpots with colorful flowers in them on light pink covered tables. Loda ladies also provided the table favors which were small flowerpots with a pack of seeds.

A skit was performed after the speaker. The skit was taken from the LWML website and was entitled "Ready, Set, Grow". Annette Warsaw, Connie Warsaw, Marsha Warsaw, and Brenda Hendricks from the Osman group performed the skit which had a setting of a garden club group discussing flowers that had a Bible verse attached to them.

The registration fee was \$5 or a donation to Will's Garden which is located on the roof at the Carle Foundation Hospital in Champaign. It was started in memory of a young boy who died of cancer at Carle. A donation of \$335 was collected.