

## **A Message from President Cheryl**

*For the fruits of His creation, Thanks be to God.  
For His gifts to every nation, Thanks be to God.*

*For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, Thanks be to God.  
LSB 894 vs. 1*

This Clarion article is being written just days after our October board meeting. Yes, Fall has finally arrived. With that, harvest has been in process. By now, most if not all fields are cleared. The thriving green turned brown, dried up, and became dust. Even if you do not live in the country; it is a good possibility that you saw or were in that harvest dust. The changing seasons are one of God's many blessing for us here in the Midwest.

Yes, this puts me in mind of another harvest. The mission of the LWML is to share the Gospel and that harvest always there, waiting for us. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.' Matthew 9:37 We have opportunity to share God's grace with so many. May we be sharing God's Word with those around us and as we have an opportunity, share with those around the world. Our mites reach out to so many. We may never see the result but the Holy Spirit will do the work.

Each zone held a rally in mid-September. With the theme -You are Precious in His Eyes- we heard from Dave of LCMS CID Life Coordinator and Kristen of LCMS Mercy. Through Bible study we were reminded that those we serve as well as each one of us, is precious in God's eyes and is loved. The fall retreat focused on blessings. It reminded us of the MANY blessings we receive and share.

In the months ahead convention plans will be made. April 24th & 25th of 2026 will be that date. We look forward to the fellowship and blessings of that day.

As I close, the recent themes of these articles have been loosely focused around our April 2025 convention theme of Planting the Seed. Our crops have been planted and now harvested. Time to start again. So it is with the Word of God. A continuous planting and harvesting. We may not see the fruit of the harvest, but the Triune God does! Keep planting those seeds! As for my Holsteins, they have gone from the green pastures here at my house to the full feed lot over and across the road. I will miss them as I counted to 14 each time I saw them. May each of us continue to be on the full feed of the Bible each day.

As I neared the end of this article, I was texted that your mites have fully funded the first grant - Student Aid for Church Workers. To God be all thanks and Glory!

For the harvest of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,

Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God. LSB 894:3

# LWML 1<sup>ST</sup> MISSION GRANT FUNDED



As the photo shows, the first Mission Grant to “Student Aid for Church Workers” for \$30,000 was paid on October 24! Praise the Lord for our generous LWML women and God’s generous blessings on all of us.

The National LWML changed their September 16 Giving Day to Mission Possible Day — a day to come together, in faith and action, to make an eternal impact through the mission grants they support. I want to use the same slogan, “Mission Possible Day,” this year as the CID’s cheer to encourage all our LWML’ers to strive to meet or even exceed our mission goal this year! Wouldn’t that be an amazing feat! Our Mission Possible Day will be March 16, as that is when all mites must be submitted.

The rest of the 2025-2026 grants to be funded are:

1. LCMS Disaster Relief - \$10,000
2. CID Dollars for Mission- \$25,000
3. Healing Spaces for At-Risk Children - \$10,000
4. Just for Moms - \$3,544
5. Our Savior Lutheran School in Uganda – \$3,956

So, maybe develop a group project such as a soup supper, bake sale, cookie drive, or other great ideas, to raise extra funds for the CID LWML mission goal of \$110,000. Let us get those mite boxes full again and mite monies mailed to Financial Secretary, Lea Stuckemeyer (504 E 1700<sup>th</sup> Ave. Beecher City 62414).



Remember **Mission Possible** is our cheer!!

Pat Heinecke

VP of Mission Advocacy and Grants

# *LWML CID Zone Happenings*

## *Rock Island Zone & Quincy Zone*

### **Rock Island Zone**

#### **Mt Calvary Lutheran Church LWML, Galesburg, IL Quilt Report:**

We have been very richly blessed in 2025 in receiving material, thread, and willing workers to sew and tie quilts together for shipping to Minneapolis. MCLC will be taking 12 boxes totaling 29 quilts on Oct. 20 to First Lutheran Church which is our local gathering place. Material was large enough to make backs of the same material (64x84) or piecing 2 different materials together. The material also allowed for 11" squares to make the top (60x80) without having to sew pieces together to make an 11" square.

A personal thank you to Kay Shoop and Rachel Macek (and her friend Judy Harvey) for material and thread, Lori Engel for sewing squares together, Rose Morris, Janet Laugesen, Deb Thompson, and Pastor Sommerer who tied quilts.

When we make and send a quilt, we are not only comforting someone we have never met, but providing an object that is useful in ways we probably never imagined.

In addition to being cozy, clean new bed cover, it can be:

- \*a baby carrier, tied around a mother's neck
- \*a market display, spread on the ground and piled with vegetables
- \*a sack for transporting those goods to market
- \*a sunshade
- \*a shawl

and most importantly \*a constant reminder that someone, far away, cares a lot!

### **Quincy Zone**

#### **Macomb Immanuel Lutheran Church and Student Center**



Western Illinois University female members of the Immanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry in Macomb hosted a tea on April 12 for their mothers and all the women of Immanuel.



Women of all ages that are members of Immanuel Lutheran and Student Center in Macomb joined the college students and their mothers in enjoying a variety of flavors of tea, sweets, and pleasant conversation on a beautiful spring afternoon in the Library of the Student Center near the Western Illinois University campus.

## *LWML Sunday – Champaign Zone*

LWML Sunday was celebrated on Sunday, October 5th, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Osman. The LWML ladies displayed some of the quilts and dresses that they had made since last November. The group made 88 quilts which will be divided between Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. They made over sixty dresses for Dresses for Africa. The ladies were greeters and readers. The altar was adorned with purple and yellow flowers. Pastor McPike explained LWML to the congregation before the service started and used the LWML as two examples in his sermon. The small mite boxes were available on a table in the back of the church for all members to take home and fill with change and a large mite box was available by the offering plate in the back of the church. \$56 was collected in the large mite box. The color LWML cover was used for the bulletin, and an insert was printed which listed the projects that the ladies had participated in this past year. The bulletin board at the back of the church was also decorated in purple and yellow with LWML information on it. Our goal of spreading the message of our Savior to many people in many places with our mission grants and our local projects was indeed the focus of the day!



# LWML CID Fall Rally - September 2025

## Champaign Zone & Peoria/Pekin Zone

### Champaign Zone

The Champaign Zone Fall Rally was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mattoon on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> with registration at 12:30 followed by the program. There were 44 people in attendance, which included speakers, ministers, etc.

We had two charities for the ingathering. Fruit cups and mac-n-cheese cups along with \$160.00 was given to their school backpack food program, and baby items along with \$140.00 was given to the Choices Pregnancy Center in Mattoon.

Lynn Moody and Pat Martin from Grace Lutheran Church in Paris, did the "A Revealing Conversation" skit.

CID President, Cheryl, mentioned making the Student Aid for Church Workers a permanent mission every year, possibly combining Fall Rallies, and converting conventions from annual to biennial, just to name some highlights. More discussion will take place and will be voted on in the next District Convention to be held in Decatur next April.

Our guest speaker, Kristin Freeman of LCMS Manager of Mercy Engagement had an interesting presentation. Wish we would have had a question/answer period after her talk.

Linda Kovell provided the responsibilities of the VP officer and asked in a few communications' prior the Rally, if anyone was interested, being that term was expiring. Linda also asked for nominations from the floor the day of the Rally. No one stepped up and thus we will not have a VP.

Rev. Gumz, who has been with LCMS only 5 weeks, spoke on behalf of Pastor Michael Mohr. The Champaign Zone Fall Rally next year will be held in Paris at Grace Lutheran Church. After the Rally, Pastor Herzberg of St. John's gave us a tour of the new high school for those that wished to see it.

### Peoria/Pekin Zone



Peoria/Pekin Zone Fall Rally was held on September 17, 2025, at St. John's Sand Prairie Lutheran Church in Green Valley. 35 people attended. We collected 191 food items and \$250 for St. John's food pantry and 176 glasses and \$20 for Most Ministries. Wilma Ogden and Debra Ogden volunteered to be our Co-Presidents for the Zone. They both shared how they use the LWML Mailbox Program at Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria.

# ***LWML CID Fall Rally – September 2025***

## ***LWML Happenings – Effingham/Shelby Zone***

### **Effingham / Shelby**

The Effingham-Shelby zone of LWML held their 80th fall rally at Trinity Lutheran church in Stewardson IL on September 17, 2025. The theme was You Are Precious in His Sight! The ingathering was given to the Crisis Nursery of Effingham. Unscented wipes, individual drinks and snacks were collected. 1025 items and \$795 were collected and donated to the Crisis Nursery. Meghan Rewers, director of Crisis Nursery, gave a talk about how the organization is run, how many children are served, the grants they receive that help them run on a day-to-day basis and how all donations are also much appreciated. Her van was filled with many boxes of donations. Some crocheted quilts were also given to her to give to clients. The tables were decorated with coloring books, art supplies and baby toys that were given to her also.

Pictured below is Megan Rewers, Director of Crisis Nursery



### **Effingham/Shelby – Pillow Case Dresses**



A group of ladies from St John's Lutheran church of Louisville from the Effingham-Shelby zone have been making pillowcase dresses for 5 years. We made around 300 dresses and they have been given to Orphan Grain Train or given to local people going on mission trips.

Ladies who have helped with this project are Faye Pearson, Anita Worthey, Linda Schymick, Sue Heiden, Kitty Wendling, Sherri Miller and Tonni Micklantz.

In 2025,40 dresses were taken to Costa Rica, 50 were sent with the Orphan Grain Train, and 40 dresses to Uganda. The pictures show dresses in Costa Rica and Uganda. The dresses through the years have been send with local churches and individuals who went on mission trips to Costa Rica, Haiti, and Uganda.

Pictured: Faye Pearson and girls from Uganda wearing dresses made by the LWML Group.

# ***LWML CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca***

## **Count Your Blessings, Name Them One by One!**

As the old spiritual hymn says, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God has done," happened a lot during the CID LWML Retreat on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at Camp CILCA. The 2025 Retreat, "Count Your Blessings" was attended by 32 people on Friday evening and 39 people on Saturday. Friday evening's activities centered around a Prayer Service entitled "Blessed are They..." based on the Beatitudes. Senior Counselor Rev. Ryan Meyer led the service. After the prayer service, retreat attendees participated in two service projects. Forged by Fire, a national LWML mission grant award winner, needed cross necklaces made for each person receiving food during a national disaster, and 193 necklaces were completed. The second project coincided with the Ingathering by the Zone presidents of hygiene products for the Inner-City Mission in Springfield, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorants, combs, soaps, baby wipes, hand sanitizers, etc. 48 complete Blessing Bags and 15 partial Blessing Bags were assembled for the Mission. The evening ended with fellowship time of watching the movie, "The Blessing Bracelet" or playing games.

On Saturday, the day began with uplifting music and continued throughout the retreat, led by Karen Dickhut, Quincy St. John's Lutheran. Annie Guerretaz, the Retreat chairwoman, opened the day with a short devotion about the Lost Lamb written by past LWML district president Joyce Dodge, which was accompanied by a beautiful photo of the Lost Lamb. The photo was given away by a silent auction held at the end of the retreat with all the funds being donated to our mission goal.

Pastor Meyer led the different sessions of the retreat: (1) What are blessings and Why are they important to us? (2) Blessing we can count on – spiritual and material, (3) Can "bad" things be blessings?, and (4) How can YOU be a blessing? To summarize the key points of the retreat:

- We share the same covenant blessings that God promised to Abraham because we share in the same faith as Abraham.
- As Christians, we can count on spiritual blessings such as eternal life, peace, forgiveness, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- God will provide for our material needs in this world.
- Blessings may no always be apparent to us.
- It is important to share our blessings (both spiritual and material) with those around us (both friend and foe).

5 very animated LWML'ers portrayed different parts in "Betty's Blessings", a sketch which told about a typical mom who at first forgets her blessings then realizes she has so many to be thankful for and how she can share them with others.

Throughout the two days, over \$353.00 was collected for mites. Our delicious meals were made and served by Camp CILCA. As a remembrance of the retreat, each person made his/her own blessing bracelet to help remember the blessings God has given so freely to each of us.

Thanks to everyone who helped to organize this retreat and to those who attended. We hope many more will attend in 2026.

Annie Guerretaz and Pat Heinecke

# LWML CID Fall Retreat at Camp Cilca

## Photos

