



QUARTERLY ECHO

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Nebraska South District

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Summer 2020

Trust

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free (LSB 729 v.1).

Trust! Do I trust that the person next to me, within the allotted six feet, is not carrying the coronavirus? Do I trust that I will be able to travel to see my family this summer? Do I trust that we will have our convention in September? The answer is simple. No. I don't trust any of these. However, (and you know where I'm going with this) I DO TRUST CHRIST! I trust Him to protect my faith in this time of uncertainty and always.



Have you heard anyone say, "Everything is turned upside down," in the past few months? I have. I see all this as a problem and it is scary, but in our faith life perhaps we need to think that God has "turned everything right side up." We have more time to pray, to be in the Word, to "*be still*," as Psalm 46:10 tells us. When it all gets to be too much and we want to just go back to the life we knew in early March, we can trust our Lord and remember in the end our "full salvation, great and free," is what we need more than anything else in this world.

With that being said, I do have uncertain news to share with you regarding our 40th Biennial Convention: "**2020 Vision ... for All.**" Please know that much thought, prayer, and research has gone into these plans and will go into any future decisions. Our goal is to glorify our Lord and Savior by using the resources He has given while maintaining our physical and mental health.

When: We plan to have a one-day convention on Saturday, September 19. It will hopefully be in person, but if necessary we will meet online. The District Executive Committee has decided to omit the Friday activities.

Voting: Delegate forms, signed by the society president, are due August 1. Directions will be included in the balloting information which will be sent out the last week of August. Delegates will be able to vote electronically or by paper ballot. This will allow all delegates to vote, even if they do not attend the convention.

Registration: Please **refrain from registering until July 1**. This is the date the Executive Committee will share a decision how our convention will be held, face to face or online. This will eliminate the need for registration fees to be refunded should a face-to-face convention not be held. This allows one month for delegate registration and two months for general (or non-delegate attendee) registration.

Mites: We have an amazing opportunity to serve the Lord with our treasures now. We are very close to our District Mission Grant goal, but since our societies or groups are not meeting, our mite offerings are down. While we support our district grants, we also support our national LWML grants with our mites. What a joy to show God's glory to the world by helping spread His love through our gifts! We ask each member to prayerfully consider giving a gift to our Lord who has richly blessed us, in one of the following ways:

- Send a personal check to Financial Secretary MaryBeth Sanchez (P.O. Box 7 – Brule, NE 69127). Checks should be made payable to: **LWML Nebraska South District**.
- Joyful Response! On our website www.lwmlnesouth.org there is a link to the LCEF Joyful Response program. You can set up a one-time or recurring online gift to LWML.

Again, please prayerfully consider how the Lord is calling you to share His work with His people.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever and for all (LSB 729 v. 6).

Blessings,

Katy Gifford

402-245-4618 (Home) or 402-360-1503 (Cell)

blessings@sentco.net



A Vacation Memory

Memories of family vacations I took as a child came to mind recently. Most summers we found ourselves loaded into our car in our “assigned” seats (it happens not only in church pews, but cars as well). My seat was right behind my dad’s, the driver. My memory was not of the locations we traveled to, although sometimes it was to visit family and other times to places we had never seen before, but the inevitable conversation.

The conversation went something like this. “Are we there yet, Dad?” spoken by one of the three of us kids. “Not yet, we’ve got a ways to go.” “How long, Dad?” “A few more hours so sit back and enjoy the trip.” “I just want to get there.” “I know.”

No doubt the question, “Are we there yet, Dad?” was spoken as a result of being tired and frustrated of being cooped up in the car. We were weary of the journey, though we looked forward to the journey’s end. Being grown up I haven’t asked that question of my father for quite a while, or have I? My expression is no longer “Are we there yet?” but “How long, O Lord?” Maybe you have expressed the same weariness to our Father as well. “How long, O Lord, will this coronavirus last and impact my life?” “How long, O Lord, do I have to stay away from church or wear this mask in public?”

When we ask the question, “How long, O Lord?” we are in good company as the voices of our forefathers voiced the same words. The psalms express, “*How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself forever?*” (Psalm 79:5), as well as “*How long must Your servant endure?*” (Psalm 119:84). The prophet Habakkuk chimes in with, “*O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear?*” (chapter 1, verse 2). Sound familiar?

When we ask, we should also listen to His response. It is God who says, “*the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us,*” (Romans 8:18) and “*nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord,*” (Romans 8:39). Listen to the One who knows your journey is not easy and says, “*Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest,*” (Matthew 11:28). And He will.

On the journey with you!

Pastor Mike Neidow

Jr. Pastoral Counselor



Church Worker Student Support

Our Church Worker Student Scholarships mission grant supports future pastors, teachers, musicians, DCEs, and deaconesses. This grant aims to help alleviate the financial burden as these students study for service in the Church. We still have one more semester of scholarships to pay in our 2018-2020 biennium and need to have the funds in our treasury by June 15. Besides scholarships, we have also supported these students with our prayers, greeting cards and gift cards.

Last year, as our Scholarship Committee read the applications, we were impressed with the goals and aspirations of these young people as they look forward to using their talents to serve our Lord. They are excited to share the love of Christ and Gospel message. Please continue to support students at our Synod’s universities, colleges and seminaries with your prayers and mites.

Eileen Zentner

VP Gospel Outreach/Mission Grants

LWML Church Worker Scholarship Applications Due June 1



NOW is the time to encourage all students in the Nebraska South District, who are studying to become full-time church workers, to apply for an LWML Scholarship. Scholarships up to \$1,000 will be given for the 2020-2021 school year. The scholarship forms may be obtained online at www.lwmlinesouth.org or from any congregational society president. All applications must be postmarked or sent via email **on or before June 1, 2020**. If you have any questions, please call Randi Warneke at (402) 705-6547 or e-mail rjwarneke@hotmail.com.

Seek and Serve Day: Home Edition

When District Presidents Katy and Lisa (Nebraska South and North respectively) met in the summer of 2019 to start making plans for Seek and Serve Day 2020, they never would have guessed how God would allow things to happen as April 25 finally came. Meeting in York just couldn't happen, but we did meet. "We will Serve the Lord with Gladness together ... just apart," was a comment President Katy made many times. And God blessed the service!

Women from both districts and beyond joined together ... just apart for Bible study led by Remkea Ockander. Remkea is the director of youth and family ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fremont. The study was based on John 21:1-14 and entitled *Breakfast with Jesus*. If you would like to listen, it is posted on YouTube. You can find it at <https://youtu.be/wTTu9H43e2s>. (Fun Fact: The Bible study has been watched over 200 times. That is over twice as many people as we usually have at Seek and Serve Day.)

After Bible study, women from both districts (and the Ohio District!) joined in for sharing on a Zoom meeting. We talked about our "Fishing Spot" – the place where we go to get away from the stress of life, especially during this time of Covid-19 when life can be overwhelming and uncertain. Many smiles, prayers, and joys were shared. Women served the Lord by baking, sewing masks, tying quilts, coloring cards, crocheting baby blankets, and much more.

Thanks to all who were a part of Seek and Serve Day: Home Edition!



Some of the Zoom eventparticipants.



Memory Blankets

**Please ask your pastor if he needs more memory blankets.
They can be requested from President Katy (contact info on page 1).**

DISTRICT CALENDAR



June 13, 2020	via Zoom (details to follow)
September 18, 2020	6 p.m. via Zoom (details to follow)
September 19, 2020	Younes Convention Center, Kearney
October 17, 2020	St. Paul, Doniphan
November 14, 2020	St. Paul, Kenesaw
February 6, 2021	TBD
June 12, 2021	TBD
June 24-27, 2021	Lexington, Kentucky
August 2021 (date TBD)	TBD
November 2021 (date TBD)	TBD
September 16-17, 2022	Younes Convention Center, Kearney

BOD Meeting
BOD Meeting
District Convention
EC Meeting (by President invite only)
EC & BOD Transitional Meeting
BOD Meeting
EC Meeting
National LWML Convention
BOD Meeting
EC Meeting
District Convention

Spring Workshops Cancelled; God's Troops Deployed

(by Publication Staff Member Gretchen Gebhardt)

Sometimes God calls us to do difficult things. Sometimes He calls us to stay home. We obey out of love for our Lord and love for our neighbor.

The 2020 spring workshops were not held because of the coronavirus disease 19 pandemic. People can spread the virus before they know they have it. We don't want to risk infecting anyone, so we stay apart even when we want to worship together, greet our friends face-to-face and hug those we love.

But we continue to "Serve the Lord with gladness" even while we are quarantined. People serve others by making face masks to protect those who need to be out. Quilt making is done at home instead of together. Parents are teaching their children at home. Younger people run errands for those who are more vulnerable. We are taking advantage of the many opportunities for online worship and Bible studies including on the LWML web site, www.lwml.org.

**"Serve the Lord
with gladness"**

— Psalms 100:2

What is your group doing during this time? St. John LWML at Seward distributed the *Quarterlies* and asked members to work on the Bible study at home during our regular time when we are scheduled to meet together. Members were assigned to call their sisters in Christ to offer support or just a bit of companionship. Blankets and cards that would have been finished at Seek and Serve Day were finished by members at home. Cards were sent to show support for high school graduates. Notes of encouragement are sent regularly through regular mail, e-mail, and our new Facebook page. The opportunities are endless.

Perhaps the greatest service we can offer at this time is our prayers for each other, for the ill, for those on the front line fighting the disease, for our leaders and for solutions to the many problems facing our world today. We continue to pray that God would "bring the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with Him."

It's true that Christian soldiers did not meet at the spring workshops this year. God's people have been deployed to offer service and fight evil in other ways.

Zones Plan for 2020 Fall Rallies

Zone:	Date:	Location:	Theme:
Beatrice	Sunday, October 24	Zion, Tobias	TBA
Deshler	TBA	St. Mark, Ruskin	TBA
Falls City	TBA	TBA	TBA
Grand Island	TBA	TBA	TBA
Hastings	Sunday, September 27	St. Paul, Kenesaw	TBA
Holdrege	Sunday, October 25	St. John's, Wilcox	Serve the Lord with Gladness
Kearney	Saturday, October 3	Trinity, Lexington	Focus
Lincoln	Saturday, October 3	Redeemer, Lincoln	TBA
McCook	Saturday, October 3	St. John, Culbertson	Peace in Jesus, Peace in Prayer
Ogallala	TBA	TBA	TBA
Seward	Sunday, September 13	St. Paul, Malcolm	In Praise to the Lord
York	Sunday, October 4	Faith, York	Come Unto Me

As plans are made or finalized by zone planning committees, zone presidents or their contact persons, you are encouraged to forward updated information to VP of Communication and Webmaster Cassandra Tomsen at ctomsen@hotmail.com. This information can then be added to the "For Zones" section on the LWML Nebraska South District website (lwmlnesouth.org).

The website is a great resource and has a lot of information to keep everyone informed and up to date!

LWML Nebraska South District's 40th Biennial Convention

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Nebraska South District will meet in convention at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, September 19, 2020. According to Article V, Section 2 of the District Bylaws, "the voting body of the convention shall be two (2) certified delegates from each society, elected district officers, zone presidents and past district presidents who are currently members of the Nebraska South District LWML."

The credentials of the delegates shall be in the hands of the Recording Secretary at least two weeks prior to convention. (Completed and signed **delegate forms need to be received by the registrar prior to August 1** to assist in the voting procedure this year.)



(designed by Arlene Kothe of St. Paul's, Central City)

2020 Vision for All

Registration **will open July 1** for our Nebraska South LWML District Convention on September 19, 2020 at the Younes Center in Kearney under the theme "2020 Vision for All." Our theme verse is Luke 2:29-32, "*Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.*" These verses were used to write our Nunc Dimittis! The Convention Committee and host zones (Deshler, Grand Island, York and Hastings) are ready to welcome you! Here are several items of interest:

If you are attending and **NOT** your society delegate, you can find the form as a separate attachment with this ECHO issue or you have the option to register online at <http://www.lwmlnesouth.org>. **Delegate** forms will be sent to society presidents of active societies. Delegates have a special registration form, which needs to be **signed by their society president** in order to vote, and completed forms (and checks) are to be mailed to the registrar.

Saturday morning starts with a Communion worship service. Then throughout the day we will hear inspiring words from:

- Keynote speakers Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner and his wife, Kristi, and their work with Apple of His Eye Ministries;
- Bible study leader Rev. Richard Snow, president of Nebraska District;
- LWML national representative (also national treasurer) Karla Koehler;
- Gifts of Love Counselor Carol Von Soosten (also planned giving counselor with The LCMS Foundation);
- Pastor Brent Smith of Mission Central;
- Steven Whitney as our song leader; and
- Mission speakers are being planned to provide mission updates, focusing on ministry within our district and the work the Lord is doing here in Nebraska.



The Roegners



Steven Whitney



President Snow



Karla Koehler



Carol Von Soosten

Saturday lunch will be a soup and salad bar. The evening dinner/banquet will include the following choices: fresh garden salad, pecan bleu salad, smoked beef brisket, chicken piccata, twice baked mashed potatoes and green beans with bacon. The IMPROVables from Concordia University-Seward will entertain us at the evening banquet.

Some things about convention will be very familiar: Bring your own coffee. Anticipate the room might be cold, so plan accordingly. Voting will again be done outside the general session time. A silent auction with themed baskets from zones (approximate value of \$25) and all proceeds go to our mite offering. Time to visit the exhibits. Seating will again be "classroom style" (long tables facing the front), and it will be open seating so delegates can sit with their society members if they wish. Gifts from the Heart (ingathering) will still be collected. Be ready to share the joy our Savior gives with hugs, encouragement, and challenges to go home with a clearer 2020 vision to "extend His kingdom."

Two things will be new! There will be no servant events since we are not meeting on Friday. The delegate voting process; delegates will receive information on this process by the end of August.

Check the district website (www.lwmlnesouth.org/) for updates regularly. This will be a very important tool to keep everyone informed of any changes and is an easy way to communicate with convention attendees! Please continue to keep convention planning in your prayers as the Executive Committee is planning to make any needed decisions in early July. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Kirstin Hopkins
2020 Convention Co-Chair
402-621-1422 or k.hopkins07@yahoo.com

Convention Housing Information

The time is near when we will all be together at the Younes Center in Kearney for our LWML Nebraska South District Convention on September 19. You can call to make your hotel room reservation if you wish to arrive on Friday evening and/or stay over Saturday night. All three hotels listed are near the convention center and offer free breakfast.

Please mention the LWML convention to get the special rate.

Comfort Inn	\$97.95 + tax	308-236-3400
Fairfield Inn	\$109.95 + tax	308-236-4200
LaQuinta Inn	\$97.95 + tax	308-237-4400

Deadline to book your room is August 18, to insure rate and room availability, so don't delay. **If the convention would be changed to an online format, be sure to call and cancel your reservation at least 24 hours before your reservation date!**

If you would like coffee or tea at your convention seat, remember to bring your own as it won't be available in the convention hall.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email: md41148@windstream.net. See you soon!

Margaret Dunn
Planner/Meeting Manager



The District Executive Committee approved the following convention items at their March meeting:

- Offering designations will be:
 - Offering #1 will go towards the new biennium 2020-2022 mite goal
 - Offering #2 will go to Apple of His Eye Ministries
- 2020-2022 Mission Grant Goal will be: **\$105,000.00**

Gifts from the Heart

Recipients of this ingathering are Orphan Grain Train and Host Zone agencies:

- **NEW** socks and underwear for **all ages** and sizes (both men and women, boys and girls);
- Diapers - all sizes (newborn to pull-ups, especially sizes 4, 5 and 6);
- Baby wipes;
- Wal-Mart or Visa/MasterCard gift cards in \$10-\$100 increments.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Gifts from the Heart. If you are willing to help with the event, please contact me or Coleen Classen. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

Debbie Rasberry, VP Human Care
(402) 752-3517 or dferrellrasberry@windstream.net

Coleen Classen, Human Care member
(402) 534-2501 or colleen.classen11@gmail.com



Reminder ... **Non-delegates** can **register for the convention online** via the Nebraska South District website found at: <http://www.lwmlnesouth.org/> or mail in the registration form (and your check) to the registrar. The GENERAL registration form is included with this issue as a separate attachment.



What's Planned for YWRs and Teens?

Convention is always an anticipated event in the world of LWML. As the Leader Development Committee looks to our district convention in September, let us share with you a little of what is planned for the teens and Young Women Representatives.

During meeting sessions, the YWRs will sit with their zone presidents while the teens will gather together at their own table. This will give the YWRs time to connect with their zones and learn more about the LWML from those who are more experienced. The teens and YWRs will meet with Nebraska South District President Katy and National LWML Treasurer Karla Koehler. It is during this time that YWRs will receive their YWR pins.



There is more to be planned for the teens and YWRs, and we hope to see many of both at the convention in September!

Brianne Stahlecker
Leader Development Chair
brianne.lwml@gmail.com

Tentative Convention Schedule

Saturday, September 19

- 8:30 am Singing
9:00 am Opening Processional
Opening Worship with Offering #1 for
2020-2022 Mission Goal
Review of Candidates, Bylaw changes, and
Mission Grants
Keynote Address: Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner
Greetings from LWML Nebraska North District and LLL
12:00 Lunch/Recess
1:15 pm Singing
Bible Study with President Snow
Singing and Offering #2 for Apple of His Eye Ministries
LCMS Nebraska District Mission Update
Mobile YWR Report and
2021 LWML Convention Invitation
LWML Representative Karla Koehler
Retreat Invite
Voting Results
Gifts from the Heart Dedication
Installation of officers
Adjourn
6:30 pm Banquet
The IMPROVables from CUNE

Summaries of Proposed 2020-2022 Mission Grants (Each delegate will vote for only 10)

___ 1. \$10,000 Orphan Grain Train Central Nebraska shipping to Baltic Countries

Central Nebraska OGT ships between one and three 40-foot containers each year to Pastor Artis Eglitis in Latvia for distribution to children in orphanages, as well as needy adults, in the Baltic countries. Shipments generally include quilts and blankets, summer and winter clothing, coats, shoes, toys, bikes, hygiene supplies, wheelchairs, walkers and crutches, school supplies, hospital beds and medical equipment, as well as other items specifically requested.

___ 2. \$3,000 Food and Clothing Co-op at Concordia Seminary Food Purchase, Fort Wayne

This Food and Clothing Co-op plays a key role in caring for the needs of your future pastors and deaconesses by providing clothing, household items and up to 85% of their groceries for the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne student body at no monetary cost to the student. As an actual cooperative, each family works an agreed amount of time each month to receive points they will use to purchase grocery items.

___ 3. \$7,500 Missionary Support at Just the Right Time/Mission Central

LWML Nebraska South mite dollars will be used solely for the support of LCMS missionaries whose goal is to spread the Gospel and Love of Jesus Christ. Mission Central's Mr. Gary Thies and Rev. Dr. Brent Smith are in regular, frequent contact with our missionaries in the field and will be ready to direct your funds immediately where needed.

___ 4. \$5,000 Leadership Learning Community for Pastors in Nebraska

Workers who have healthier work, family, and social interactions can serve better. The Leadership Learning Community is designed to give pastors tools and encouragement to better integrate work, church and personal life together in a healthy way. Participating pastors will also be given tools to help them influence and lead the members of their congregations while developing these Christian leaders to put their faith into action.

___ 5. \$3,000 Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage/Lutheran Family Services of Haiti

This grant would be used for Lutheran Family Services of Haiti's cradle-to-grave ministry during a dire time. Violent demonstrations against government corruptions and the president's scandal-ridden past have brought the country's shaky economy to a virtual standstill. Food and fuel are in extremely short supply. A mission grant would help provide food for the Center of Refuge Orphans. It would also help staff and operate the Jacmel Lutheran Home.

___ 6. \$7,000 KNGN Enhancement and Upkeep Project

The KNGN Enhancement and Upkeep Project is a program meant to reinforce the continuing efforts and dedication by KNGN to not only develop, distribute and create high quality, distinctly LCMS radio programming, but also to maintain the already existing base of LCMS programming we've collected and created from across the globe. KNGN is located in McCook; the programming is also available on-line.

___ 7. \$5,000 Bible Books for Families in Ghana/Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Many Christians live in Ghana (Africa), but there is an ever-growing number of Muslims, and the old animist ways of idol worship also persist. Pastors in the LCMS partner church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, are requesting Lutheran-based Bible storybooks, Small Catechisms and devotions - translated in the language of their people - to help keep their families' faith in Jesus Christ strong, and to share the Gospel with unbelievers.

___ 8. \$5,000 Komba Old Testament Translation/Lutheran Bible Translators

The Komba people of northern Ghana, West Africa, have the New Testament in their heart language, the language they understand. The Old Testament, presently being translated, gives the account of moments in history such as Creation, sin entering the world, the Law, the need for a Savior, the promise of the Savior, and the lineage of Jesus. The Komba people need both Testaments to truly understand God's Word.

___ 9. \$10,000 Tuition Assistance for Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool, Winnebago, Nebraska

This grant would provide tuition for children to attend this preschool on the Winnebago Reservation in northeast Nebraska. At our school many students hear about Jesus for the first time. These preschoolers often live in single parent household and in poverty. The purpose of our preschool is to spread the true Word of God to our students and their families.

___ 10. \$5,000 Support for Concordia Seminary's International Graduate School Students, St. Louis

Concordia Seminary respectfully asks for a mission grant to help support the education costs of its Graduate School's international students. When these students earn their advanced-level theological degrees and return to their home countries, they, as seminary professors and church leaders, will have key roles in the carrying out the Great Commission. However, few of these students have access to the resources to fund their education costs.

___ 11. \$7,500 Lo Family Ministry Grant/Mission of Christ Network

In Southeast Asia, the majority of the Hmong people are not Christian. There is a great need for pastors there to be theologically trained and supported so they can effectively proclaim the Gospel in their communities, many of which are remote mountain villages. This grant money will enable the Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo, a Lutheran missionary in Thailand, to provide much needed training to the Hmong pastors.

___ 12. \$3,000 Gospel Outreach to International Students, Lutheran Chapel, Lincoln, NE

God is bringing hard to reach areas of the world right to our doorstep. The Lutheran Chapel is serving, building relationships and sharing the Gospel with students from countries like China, Iran, Pakistan and Bangladesh. This grant will help us reach these students by providing free moving help, connecting them to an ongoing relationship via connection meals, and placing the Gospel message in their native language in their hands.

___ 13. \$5,000 Missionary Pastor Paul Flo and the Siouxland Hispanic Ministry

Hope Lutheran Church, led by Pastor Mike Awe in South Sioux City, NE, has recently called Pastor Paul Flo to be the first ever full-time missionary/pastor for Siouxland Hispanic Ministry. Pastor Flo's call includes collaboration with and training local congregations for meeting the needs of our Hispanic neighbors. Our prayer is that God might use us as instruments in forming a thriving and self-sustaining ministry in which Hispanics of all ages come to know Jesus Christ.

___ 14. \$5,000 Adopt an Orphanage

The goal of the Adopt an Orphanage Mission is to provide each child with the love of Jesus and let them know that Jesus is their Savior. We do this by providing medicine, vitamins and hygienic products. It is an ongoing mission from Orphan Grain Train that was founded by Rev. John and June Reehl, and these new funds would continue this mission.

___ 15. \$5,000 Hannah House

The goal of the Hannah House project is to provide spiritual growth, education and life skills to assist orphans in functioning outside of life in the orphanage, similar to what parents provide their children when they leave home at the age

of 18. We will be developing pre-education in Russian orphanages with directors and teens through mentors and deacons from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ingria (ELCI) and Orphan Grain Train.

___16. \$5,000 Mental Health Access for College Students and Millennials in Lincoln Area

The state of mental health in our country is at a crisis level, and young adults between 15-24 years old are at a high risk for depression, suicide, and other mental health concerns. The University Lutheran Chapel and GracePoint Institute for Relational Health are partners in downtown Lincoln, serving students and nearby residents with Christ-centered ministry and counseling opportunities. Your grant will provide funds to ensure that Christian counseling will be accessible to college students and millennials, regardless of their ability to pay.

___17. \$8,000 HIS Kids Camp Scholarships and Bunks

This grant is to continue offering His Kids camp at a reduced price to ensure all God's people with special needs can afford to attend camp and learn about Jesus. It will also assist in upgrading bunk beds and mattresses to allow the proper support, health requirements, and comfort needed for many of His Kids campers.

___18. \$32,000 Church Worker Student Scholarships

This grant would support future pastors, teachers, musicians, DCEs and deaconesses. These future church workers attending one of our LCMS synodical colleges and seminaries often graduate with large amounts of debt. This grant aims to provide scholarships to help alleviate the financial burden as these students study for service in the Church. Students would receive up to \$1,000 per year.

___19. \$5,000 Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness/Lutheran Braille Workers

This grant will help increase production of Bibles and other Christian materials in Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Audio-Digital formats and allow thousands of people worldwide who are Blind or Visually Impaired gain access to God's Saving Word in a manner which serves their needs! Materials are sent to recipients free of charge.

___20. \$8,000 Lutheran Family Services Military and Veterans Services Program

Lutheran Family Services Military and Veterans Services program assists all active members of the military and veterans, regardless of discharge status or ability to pay. LFS provides military clients with direct clinical services or therapy, telehealth, and peer-to-peer services.

**___21. \$2,000 DOTS-Daughters of the Savior ... Depending on the Savior,
Wives of Pastors Retreat/Nebraska District**

When pastors accept a call, wives often do not have the same opportunities to connect with congregations and communities. Even if she develops friendships, she may be uncomfortable sharing family concerns/challenges for fear of being judged or negatively impacting her husband's ministry. The goal of this project is to connect pastors' wives so they have a safe place to be fed by the Gospel, create friendships and encourage one another to be equipped to partner with their pastor husbands.

**___22. \$3,000 Training Leaders to BOLDLY declare Y'shua as Messiah IN ISRAEL/
The Apple of His Eye Mission Society**

God's chosen people, the Jews have been central to His plan for world-wide salvation. Gentiles, grafted into God's plan, are called to bring the Gospel back to them. While some missionaries serve in Israel, there's been no LCMS effort there. The Apple of His Eye Mission Society is sowing seeds and training Israeli Messianic leaders so the Holy Spirit can draw others to Himself, granting faith in Jesus as Messiah.

NOTE: Delegates - Ballots with more than 10 marked will be considered invalid and will NOT be counted!

Young Women Representatives - Vote for 1

___ 1. \$3,000 Healing Spaces for At-Risk Children/Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch impacts over 1200 traumatized children each year with the healing power of the Gospel, starting with a living space that meets a child's needs for safety, belonging and security. By providing child-friendly, trauma-sensitive furniture for the Ranch's Cornelsen Cottage, the Nebraska South District LWML will create a healing environment for the Ranch's youngest boys, ages 10-13, as they grow toward Christ-centered hope and healing.

___ 2. \$3,000 Alaska Native Language Bible Storybooks/Alaska Mission for Christ

Alaska Mission for Christ-LCMS proclaims and practices the love of Jesus throughout the state in various culturally sensitive ways. Responding to the Alaska Native language crisis, AMC is publishing and distributing Gospel driven Bible storybooks in Native languages. These books are distributed by servant event teams in numerous villages and bring the love of Jesus to both children and adults.

More Mite Ideas from Marlys and Alberta ...

In the past two issues were options of "fun and meaningful ways to collect mites" compiled by Marlys Geiselman and Alberta Leising from St. John, Oxford (and submitted by Marion Casburn, president of Trinity LWML of Lincoln). Below are the last options included in their list:



"Quiz Bowl" - Instead of a calendar each month, you get a list of Bible questions (one for each day and the answers are on the back side). You read the question, if you are correct = 15 cents; each wrong answer = 20 cents. Each month has a different set of questions. Several suggestions are "Name That Tune" (using hymns) or "Who Said It?" with the example: "You shall be with child and his name shall be Jesus."

"Advent Calendar" - This one was the most labor-intensive one! You make an Advent calendar by gluing two papers together for each person. The top paper has "windows" cut in it and the bottom one has the "gift" to thank God for. Each day a window is opened and you give thanks to God for that gift: pets, jobs, Jesus, etc. (Bless the hearts of these ladies as they cut 31 little windows for the month of December and for all the ladies they prepared calendars for!)

"Special Day Calendar" - Each month has its special days. On these special calendar days, participants are encouraged to give extra (i.e., holidays like Memorial or Labor Day = \$1, also include church holidays like Ascension Day or Pentecost, etc.),

Suggestions from Marlys and Alberta:

- Stress that it's up to each person to give what they want or are able. They are not forced to put in what's suggested because after all, it's just a suggestion! A person can put in more or less, it's up to them!
- Be sure to print on the calendar or sheet why we are doing this. Funds collected go to LWML mites!

Do you have a unique way that you or your society collects mites? Please submit to the editor as an example for others to consider. Thank you!

Special Gifts Fund Update



Even though we are working from home these days, the work to spread God's Word continues. The Special Gifts Fund recipients from this last quarter are waiting to "Go and Tell" later this year or in 2021. They are:

- Tim Rippstein with the St. John, Seward, mission team of 14 college students, graduates and adults who will share the message of Jesus Christ with 800 residents through the means of a Bible and Basketball Camp at Akiachak, Alaska. Village elders invite the team back every year.
- Rev. Michael Meyer with a team from The Rock Lutheran Church, Seward, for a mission trip to Amatitlan, Guatemala where they will be conducting a VBS for children, with women's activities and teen education.

The Special Gifts Fund Task Force met in October and December 2019, and March and May this year to look at the Special Gifts Fund's Gift Acceptance Policy. We have used a model policy provided by national LWML and have prepared a policy which was presented at the February 8 Board of Directors' meeting. This policy gives guidelines for accepting gifts from cash and checks, securities, real estate, insurance policies, tangible person property and many other types of property. Please consider including LWML Nebraska South District in your will, living trusts, or retirement accounts.

At this time, our funds are in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. The task force is looking to start an endowment fund with The LCMS Foundation. If the LWML Nebraska South District members decide to approve this move, we pray the endowment fund gives you a choice of placing your gift in the endowment for future growth from investment dividends, or in the regular Special Gifts Fund to be used immediately.

This fall at convention, Carol Von Soosten will provide a valuable resource for those interested in planning gifts for LWML, either at the national level or for our district. She is also helping us work on the guidelines for developing the endowment for gifts received and in coordinating with national LWML Gifts of Love. She works closely with The LCMS Foundation and also with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Susan Thomas
Special Gifts Fund Chairman
susan.shadyacres@gmail.com

Memorials and Joy/Thankofferings January 1 through March 31, 2020

Memorials In Honor of:

Olga Franzen	Laverde Baehr	Velma Litster	Marilyn Henkel
Mary Ann Steinkruger	Beverly Nissen	Alvin Suhr	Elaine Madsen
Bernita Neujahr	Pastor Limmermann	Dee Traphagan	Ruth Shields
Helen Hinz	Leona Wudke	Wallace Keen	Willard Roedel
Lois Boerger	Fred Boerger	Adeline Kuhlman	Velma Lutz
Pearl Blum	Lois Bures	Meredith Ulbricht	Mabel Schmidt

Joy/Thankofferings in Honor of:

Louise Fischer (90th birthday) Bev Quandt (90th birthday)
Geraldine Stirtz (85th birthday)

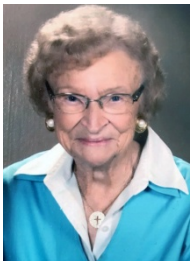
Prayer Service Offerings In Honor of: (none this quarter)

2018-2020 Joy, Memorial, Thankoffering gifts given to Lutherans For Life (2018 mission grant request partially funded)
2018-2020 Prayer Service offerings given to Trinity Cookers Easy as 1-2-3 (2018 YWR mission grant request not funded)

Called Home

God calls us to serve with gladness and then He calls us home. Two former presidents of Nebraska District South LWML are now celebrating in their real home with Jesus. These women were willing servants and leaders who lived their faith. They were a joy to know and even after their deaths, they serve as mentors to many. We thank God for blessing us with these women and for the many others whom He used and continues to use as examples of faith which is active in love. May we also be His faithful servants.

Bernita Neujahr (May 17, 1929 - January 29, 2020)



Bernita was president of Nebraska District South from 1976-1980.

Bernita taught at St. Paul's Lutheran School, a one-room school near Gresham, Nebraska. With her husband, Ray, she raised four children. She attended many national and international conventions. She also taught Sunday school, confirmation classes, and played the organ at church. One of her greatest passions was collecting teapots. She traveled around Nebraska and surrounding states using her teapots to speak about God's Word. She also helped to establish Peace Lutheran Church in Waverly, Nebraska.



Bernita Neujahr

Edna Moll (August 30, 1935 ~ May 3, 2020)



Edna was president of Nebraska District South from 1996-2000.

Edna served alongside her husband, Rev. James Moll, at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Deshler, Nebraska, and at other congregations. He served alongside her on many LWML projects and at many events. Together they raised three children. Many members will remember Pastor and Edna organizing bus trips to national conventions. Their good humor and enthusiasm filled the long hours of travel. She shared her talents in many ways including taking on the role of cleaning lady, as a convention humorous interrupter.



Edna Moll

For all the faithful women Who served in days of old,
To You shall thanks be given; To all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness In tasks Your wisdom gave.
To You their lives bore witness, Proclaimed Your pow'r to save (LSB 855 v. 1).

Do you enjoy word puzzles? Included with this issue, as a separate attachment, is a Quarantine Exercise puzzle.

Answers will be included in the fall issue!

2018-2020 Mission Grants

"Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold."

(Grants in **bold** uppercase means **paid in full**)

Amount

PAID

Biennium ends

June 30, 2020

**(mites needed
by June 15)**

Time Left in

Biennium to

Meet Goal

May 2020

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN SHIPMENT TO THE BALTICS

Church Worker Student Scholarships

LCMS MISSIONARY SUPPORT BY MISSION CENTRAL

MERCY MEALS OF GRAND ISLAND, NE

HIS KIDS, CAMP LUTHER

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES/AT EASE

OPERATION BARNABAS FOR
COMFORT DOG CONGREGATIONS

CHAPLAIN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEDICAL
MISSION TRIPS

HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM/TRINITY HOPE

SEMINARY EDUCATION FOR NEW PASTORS IN
SOUTH SUDAN/LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE/POST ABORTION
CRISIS HOTLINE EXPANSION

YWR - JESUS OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL
AND OUTREACH/SNACKS

2018-2020 TOTAL MISSION GOAL

\$10,000

\$33,000

\$10,000

\$10,800

\$10,000

\$10,000

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$7,500

\$1,910

\$2,790

\$105,000

\$10,000

\$25,000

\$10,000

\$10,800

\$10,000

\$10,000

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$3,000

\$7,500

\$1,910

\$2,790

\$97,000

As of 5/1/2020



Deadline for next ECHO:

August 1, 2020

Please send news from your society to:

Linda Hammer ♦ 215 South St ♦ Staplehurst, NE 68439

Email: l_hammer@hotmail.com



A Friendly Reminder



Plan for convention!

Each zone is encouraged to bring a banner/baby quilt to be carried by the zone president at the September District convention processional. Also bring a basket of items worth about \$25 to be included in the silent auction with proceeds going to District's mission goal.



PRAY for our Nebraska South District Convention Committee as they make final arrangements for our upcoming convention! Also say a prayer of **THANKS** for their efforts and service!



Non-Delegates ... register after July 1

for the convention online via the District website (or mail in a registration form and check before September 10). **All attendees** (and all members) ... check the user-friendly website regularly for convention updates and other District news.

Go to: <http://www.lwmlnesouth.org/>

Send in your mites! Since many societies did not meet the past several weeks or months due to COVID-19, members are encouraged to get their mites to their society treasurer so a check for society mites are sent in or members can send directly to Financial Secretary MaryBeth Sanchez **so mites are received before June 15** to help LWML Nebraska South District meet the 2018-2020 Mission Grant goal and other financial needs.



PRAY for our LWML Nebraska South Convention Nominees who have allowed their names to be placed on the ballot to serve during the 2020-2022 biennium (see spring issue for details) and safe travel for all participants attending the convention.