

DES MOINES WEST ZONE LWML SPRING RALLY *via* ZOOM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
VAN METER, IOWA

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021
9:30 *am*

He Helps Me



Serve Others

"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

LWML Des Moines West Zone Spring Rally

Trinity Lutheran Church, Van Meter, Iowa

April 24, 2021

Welcome.....	Diane Koch Trinity Lutheran, Van Meter
Call to Order.....	Kathryn Sprecher Zone President
LWML Pledge.....	Page 3
Opening Devotions	Rev. Ed Durand Trinity Lutheran, Van Meter
Introduction of Speaker	Diane Koch
Speaker	Ellie Menz IOWAY Director
"Lutheran Women, One and All" (page 3)	Donna Foltman
Business Meeting	Kathryn Sprecher
Minutes of Fall 2020 Rally (page 5).....	Susan Knutzen
Correspondence.....	Susan Knutzen
Treasurer's Report (page 7)	Brandi Lee

Committee Reports

Christian Life	Patti Thies
Historian	Terry Rowley
Leader Development	Sandra Meyer
Mission Servants	Vacant

2021 National Convention

1. Sandra Meyer, Mt. Olive serve as zone delegate; Kathryn Sprecher, Trinity, alternate
2. Mission goal and mission grant selection – voting prior
3. Officer election and bylaws – done at convention
4. COVID protocols

Unfinished Business

1. Still have need for a Mission Servants Chairman
The Mission Servants Chairman shall:
 - 1) alert members to opportunities and challenges for mission service in the church, community, and world;
 - 2) serve as Lutheran World Relief chairman;
 - 3) encourage active participation and provide materials and suggestions for mission service programs;
 - 4) serve as liaison between the DLWML Mission Servants Chairman and societies;
 - 5) make available Mite Boxes and encourage members in the giving of mites;
 - 6) attend meetings of the DMWZ Executive Board.

New Business

1. Standing Rules

Invitation to Fall 2021 Rally	Beautiful Savior, Polk City
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------

Installation of Counselor

Announcements

1. Sam Lee resignation as district secretary – Rosemary Steffen appointed
2. Nominating committee for president and treasurer
3. District Retreat at Mission Central has been canceled for 2021

Closing Devotions Rev. Ed Durand
Zone Counselor

Attendance Report

Beautiful Savior, Polk City	_____
Faith, Adel	_____
Gloria Dei, Urbandale	_____
Mt. Olive, Des Moines	_____
Shepherd of the Valley, WDM	_____
Trinity LWML Guild, DM	_____
Trinity WWW, DM	_____
Trinity, Van Meter	_____
Guests	_____
Pastors	_____
Total	_____



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

-  Held by God's Word
-  Inspired to share HIS Gospel
-  Surrounded by HIS Grace



The League Pledge

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption
we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have;
and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields,
we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us.

We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him,
our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises,
our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold
to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power
of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring
into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

LUTHERAN WOMEN, ONE AND ALL

Lutheran women, one and all, we have heard the Gospel call;
We by faith have seen our Lord crucified and then restored;
We have seen Him pay the price, for our sins a sacrifice.
Him we Lord and Christ acclaim and unite to praise His name.

Lutheran women, young and old, well we know His challenge bold;
"Help to take the Gospel light to a world in darkest night.
By example in the home, by inviting those who roam,
By our prayers for sinners lost, by our gifts for missions' cost."

Lutheran women, coast to coast, in the Lord a mighty host.
Let us all united be in the Holy Trinity.
One in faith, in hope and love working for the Lord above,
Till, our earthly labors done, we in heaven, shall all be one.

Used by permission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

LWML
Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML New Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
www.lwml.org



Our speaker is Ellie Menz, who has been serving as the IOWAY Director for Iowa District West since August 2001. IOWAY (Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth) offers opportunities for youth and adults to become personally involved in mission service outreaches and mission trips. As the District Disaster Response Coordinator and LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Teams) trainer, she has organized many work teams and collection of items for families affected by tornados, floods and other disasters. She and her husband live at Jefferson. They have two children and three adorable grandchildren.

*Serve the Lord
With Gladness*

"He Helps Me Serve Others"

Today we will be hearing about LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team). The LCMS website states, *"Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The goal is to prepare congregations and individual members to be better prepared when a disaster strikes and to help them know how to respond within their congregations, and in word and deed, within the greater communities."*

The theme of today's rally came from an LWML Mustard Seed, "Goodness is simply showing kindness to others. It is a generous giving of ourselves as well as our possessions. Goodness is the ability to identify with others and their needs and then, whenever possible, help without expecting anything in return." Those who have had LERT training do just that. They go where the need is, to serve others, whether it be after a tornado or flooding. They provide physical labor, prayer support and lend a listening ear.

Our lives over the past year have been altered in many ways – a derecho, snow squalls, and a pandemic. So many plans made and changed or canceled. From how we worked at home, to canceled vacations, to our way of worship, to seeing family and friends. How did you react to these "disasters"? Did you find new ways to help serve others? Did you call people to check on them? Did you help by doing their shopping? Did you help clear out a yard of fallen debris? Did you keep the people affected in your prayers? Did you support an organization financially?

Through all of this we know that God has been with us - as we serve others or allow others to serve us. How will God continue to use you in serving others – being Lutheran women in mission.

Kathryn

Des Moines West Zone LWML Zoom Fall Rally Minutes

Saturday, October 3, 2020

Before the rally began at 9:00 a.m., Ann Bass instructed the group on how to use Zoom.

Connie Mekus gave the official welcome to the Fall LWML Zone Rally via Zoom held by both societies at Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Moines. The theme was "Mission Eyes – Mission Opportunities".

Kathryn Sprecher called the Fall Rally to order.

Those in attendance recited the LWML League Pledge.

Pastor Weiss lead the opening devotion with thoughts on what is happening in 2020. He cited Revelation 22:20 reflecting how *Kingdom people produce Kingdom fruits with Jesus' grace*.

The assembly watched a video clip of the singing of "Here I am, Lord".

Kathryn introduced our speaker Rev. Keith Haney, Iowa District West Assistant to the President for Mission, Stewardship, and Human Care. He demonstrated through scriptures how we can connect others to Christ following the three steps of pray, look, and be prepared to share your story. Then he answered questions from the members.

A South Dakota LWML video was used to lead the assembly in singing, "Lutheran Women, One and All".

Kathryn opened the business meeting.

The minutes of the 2019 Fall Rally and 2020 Spring Rally are in the booklet and were approved as explained. Susan Knutzen read the correspondence. The treasurer's report was explained by Brandi Lee and will be placed on file. The treasurer's reports still need to be audited. Kathryn informed the assembly that ETCH now goes directly to Ohio. She also reminded that we should keep mites coming in.

Christian Life: Patty Thies' report is in the rally booklet. We will need to see what the Prayer Service will look like as it gets closer to the event.

Historian: Terry Rowley's report is in the rally booklet. Kathryn reviewed the quiz about the 2015 National Convention held in Des Moines.

Leader Development: Sandi Meyer's report is in the rally booklet.

The 2020 Iowa District West Convention is still out there to watch. Kathryn informed the assembly that \$151,401.87 in Mission Grants for 2020-2022 were approved and are available to review on the LWML page on the Iowa District West (IDW) website. One of the recipients is the Orphan Grain Train in Clemons. The convention offerings and new officers were shared and can also be found on the website.

Mission Servants: Kathryn reminded the societies that their mission report is due soon.

Unfinished Business:

Kathryn announced that we still need a Mission Servant Chairman. The position requirements are listed in the rally booklet.

New Business:

Election of officers were held. Vice President, Sandi Meyer, and Secretary, Susan Knutzen, were both unanimously elected to a second term of their respective offices.

District structure chair has asked Zones (and even societies) to review their bylaws and standing rules regarding meetings due to situations such as a pandemic.

The 2021 National Convention is still planned for Lexington, Kentucky this coming summer. Susan Knutzen made a motion that Sandi Meyer would be our delegate and Kathryn would serve as the alternate. Ann Bass seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Presentations to the YWR's are being planned. Kathryn has a Bible and their YWR pin. She informed the assembly that we will be able to have this year's YWRs (Jessica Wardenburg, Shepherd of the Valley, and Marisa Waldschmidt, Gloria Dei) and two new YWRs attend the 2022 IDW Convention.

Kathryn encouraged us to go to the lwml.org website to get an update on the current national mission goals. Below are the breakdowns.

- Mission Goal = \$2,100,000
- Mites Received (as of 8/31/20) = \$1,418,968.37
- Total Mites Still Needed = \$681,031.63
- Mites Needed Per Month (7 months remaining) = \$97,290.23
- September to Remember = \$90,726.48 + \$10K matching = \$100,726.48

Announcements:

Invitation to the 2021 Spring Rally was extended by Diane Koch, member of Mary and Martha Service Opportunity Group from Van Meter. A date will be announced later.

Kathryn informed the assembly that at the District Board meeting they had received an LWML face mask. They are available for purchase for \$5.00. She will check on how they can be purchased.

Rally offering should be sent to Brandi. She will have someone with her when she counts the offerings.

The District Fall Retreat has been postponed. Something may be planned for the Spring.

The prayer service has already been addressed.

See the IDW website to see the new district bylaws. The most important issue changed has to do with the convention having to be held at Camp Okoboji. There is a need for other places to be considered in case of an emergency.

There will be a Bible study on Psalms starting on October 15 with a mite challenge. For more information check the e-news. Lisa Wilson can sign you up if you want to receive the e-news.

YWR's national applications are due by the end of October.

For more information go to www.lwml.org or for District news go to <http://idwlcms.org/lwml.php>. You can also "friend" the district and national LWML on Facebook.

Kathryn needs the following from each society: officer list and mission service report. Quarterly orders need to be sent to Brandi by the end of the month.

Ann Bass reported that Donna Snow will be doing a Bible study Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 pm.

Maribeth Erickson informed the assembly about the ingathering presented to Agape.

Rev. Durand, zone counselor, presented the closing devotions by sharing Philippians 3. He told us how he has shared his faith at a coffee shop in Ft. Dodge when applicable with what he calls his "Band of Odd Little Misfits". He encouraged us to reach out to others that we run into. He ended with prayers and then we all recited the Lord's Prayer.

The fall rally ended at 11:00.

Zoom Rally Attendance: 33

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Knutzen, Secretary

**Des Moines West Zone Spring Rally
Treasurer's Report 04/24/2021**

Bank Balance -9/17/2020 \$ 903.68

Receipts:

LWML Mites Received	\$	3,041.04
Quarterlies	\$	477.00
Fall Rally Offering	\$	180.00
		\$ 3,698.04

Disbursements:

LWML Mites to District	\$	3,041.04
Quarterlies	\$	477.00
Rev. Keith Haney (Fall Rally Speaker)	\$	50.00
		\$ 3,568.04

Bank Balance -3/17/2021 \$ 1,033.68

Society Mites Received**

Beautiful Women in Mission	\$	231.69
Women: Word and Walk	\$	114.08
Trinity LWML Guild	\$	112.00
Women of the Word - LWML	\$	696.35
Mt. Olive LWML	\$	476.43
Women's Guild of Gloria Dei	\$	574.04
Faith Lutheran Women's Guild	\$	688.47
Mary & Martha Society	\$	147.98
		\$ 3,041.04

Brandi Lee,
Zone Treasurer

**Mites received after the 15th of each month will be added to the following month

CHRISTIAN LIFE REPORT

The 2021 combined Des Moines West and East Zones Prayer Service was held via Zoom on Saturday, March 6th. It was entitled, "He Prayed *with* Them" based on Acts 20:36b and was written by past LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Robert Mundahl. Approximately 35 people "attended." I would like to thank everyone who was involved in making this happen – Pastors Schonkaes and Durand, Kathryn Sprecher, Des Moines East Zone Christian Life Chairman Marie Miller, and all the readers. The offering went to the Iowa Food Bank, but I have not heard what the total was.

On March 30th I started considering what else I would include in my Christian Life article when I noticed that it was National Pencil Day. A few years ago, when I was living in Minnesota, the district LWML president shared something about pencils that she had found on the internet so I thought I would pass it along to you. She did not say who wrote it, and I have embellished it a little, especially adding a couple Bible references. If we were having our Spring Rally in person, I would give you a pencil to go along with the following, but I can't do that in our virtual rally. You might consider doing that with your own group sometime, though.

A pencil maker told the pencils he had just made five important lessons just before putting them in the box they would be sold in:

1. Everything you do will always leave a mark.
2. You can always correct the mistakes you make with God's help.
3. What is important is what is inside of you.
4. In life, you will undergo painful sharpenings which will only make you better.
5. To be the best pencil, you must allow yourselves to be guided by the hand that holds you.

I added a sixth one – Always remember that there will be several of you in this box, and it takes a lot of pencils to do God's work. You cannot do it alone.

We all need to be constantly sharpened. This parable, as well as First Corinthians chapter 12, may encourage you to know that you are a special person with unique God-given gifts, talents, and abilities. Only you can fulfill the purpose which you were born to accomplish. In Ephesians 2:10 we read, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Never allow yourselves to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and cannot be changed. Like the pencil, always remember that the most important part of who you are is what's inside of you, and then allow yourself to be guided by the hand of God.

In your own personal Quiet Time you could search for Bible verses that would support the six statements above. Or if you use this in a group, you can do this in small groups of two or more if your group is large enough to do so. Assign each group a different number, allow a certain amount of time to come up with at least one Bible verse, and then have each group share the Bible verse or verses they came up with.

I would also like to share what one pastor did in a sermon. Everyone was given a pencil as they entered the sanctuary. In his sermon the pastor asked people to tell how the pencil could help describe God, Christianity, or their relationship with God. This is another Christian Life feature you could share with your group. Some of the answers might be the same as the ones above. Other possibilities would be "God erases our sins," "The six sides remind us of the six days it took God to create the universe before He rested," (if the pencil has six sides), and "The wood reminds us of the wooden cross on which Jesus died." Some might comment on the significance of the color of the pencil you give them, and some might share verses or truths that refer to some form of the word "write."

Have fun with either of these exercises. The pencils you hand out can be either sharpened or unsharpened, and that could influence how people answer the questions, especially in the second exercise. Another thought would be to also hand out erasers with the pencils – either the kind that go on a pencil (but don't put them on the pencil) or larger ones and ask why they received them. I'll let you come up with possible reasons on your own! May these two Christian Life features be spiritually uplifting for you as an individual or as a group. You may never look at a pencil the same way again, and you might even remember next year when March 30th rolls around that it is National Pencil Day!

Patti Thies
Des Moines West LWML Zone Christian Life Chairman



Upcoming LWML Conventions		
2021	Lexington, Kentucky	June 24-27
2022	IWD, Camp Okoboji	June 16-18
2023	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	June 22-25

Zone Rally Schedule

Fall 2021 Beautiful Savior, Polk City
 Spring 2022 Faith, Adel
 Fall 2022 Gloria Dei, Urbandale
 Spring 2023 Mt. Olive, Des Moines

Iowa West District Mission Grants (2020 – 2022)

1. Orphan Grain Train, Central Iowa Branch \$10,000
 2. Financial Aid for IDW College Students Studying for Fulltime Church Work \$25,000
 3. Concordia Seminary Food Bank – St. Louis \$12,000
 4. Serving Hungry Children of the World with Meals & the Gospel \$12,000
 5. Agape Pregnancy Center, Des Moines \$5,000
 6. Reaching “Invisible” Elders with the Gospel of Jesus \$20,000
 7. Women in Service Helping Exclaim Salvation - W.I.S.H.E.S. \$20,000
 8. Lutheran Bible Translators - Rev. Carl Grulke \$5,000
 9. Remembering Whose U R \$20,000
 10. Ministry in Mission – Jacmel Lutheran Home \$10,000
 11. Bringing Children to Jesus – Little Lambs Preschool Scholarships \$7,200
 12. Her Health Women’s Center – Healthy Relationship Education \$2,600.94
 13. Bringing Christ into the World Through Music \$2,600.94
- TOTAL = \$151,401.88**

2019-2021 NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS

1. Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya — Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenya	\$80,000
2. Teach Me Too — Preschoolers with Learning Needs — Lutheran Special Education Ministries	\$100,000
3. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa — Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$100,000
4. God's Grace for This Generation — LAMP Ministry, Inc.	\$100,000
5. God's Word Changes Everything — Lutheran Bible Translators	\$95,000
6. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala —	
7. Lutheran Church of Guatemala and Child Beyond International	\$100,000
8. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families — Camp Restore Detroit	\$100,000
9. Lights for Christ Scholarships — Divine Savior Lutheran Church, Zacapa, Guatemala	\$45,000
10. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation — Wind River Lutheran Mission	\$40,000
11. Ministry in Motion — Trinity Lutheran Church, Mobile, Alabama	\$58,000
12. Touching the Living Word — Lutheran Braille Workers	\$100,000
13. Women's Witness and Mercy Asia — Mission Central	\$100,000
14. Digital Media Development — Lutherans For Life	\$30,000
15. Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln — University Lutheran Chapel, Lincoln, Nebraska	\$50,000
16. Pre- and Post-Seminary Training for Local Church Workers — Mission Training Center, Africa	\$62,650
17. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow — LCMS School Ministries	\$80,000
18. Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere — KFYO Radio	\$60,000
19. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction — Office of International Mission	\$50,000
20. Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO	\$100,000
21. Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border —	
22. Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas	\$98,400
23. LCMS Deaconess Ministry — LCMS Office of International Mission	\$39,523
TOTAL MISSION GOAL (includes inreach) = \$2,100,000	



IOWA WEST DISTRICT OFFICERS

President: Jane Morris, Clarinda

Vice President Gospel Outreach & Special Focus Ministries: Tracey Stetzel, Casey

Vice President Servant Resources & Christian Life: Carmen Thiedeman, Westside

Secretary: Rosemary Steffen, Greenville

Financial Secretary: Ruth Downey, West Des Moines

Treasurer: Nancy Goddard, Council Bluffs

Nominating committee Chair: Deb Osborn, Denison

Pastoral Counselors: Rev. Merle Mahnken, Schleswig, Rev. Kyle McBee, Atlantic

DES MOINES WEST ZONE OFFICERS

President

Kathryn Sprecher
279-1123 (h), 710-2849 (c)
kspreche@aol.com

Vice President/ Leader Development

Sandra Meyer
229-1240 (c)
Sandimeyerdm@gmail.com

Secretary

Susan Knutzen
201-3415 (c)
s.knutzen@mchsi.com

Treasurer

Brandi Lee
250-9321 (c)
blschultz852@gmail.com

Christian Life

Patti Thies
epthies72@gmail.com
964-3583 (h)

Historian

Terry Rowley
249-9753 (c)
mtzmrowley@mchsi.com

Mission Servants

Vacant

Counselor

Rev. Ed Durand
269-3289 (c)
durande@ymail.com

DES MOINES WEST ZONE SOCIETY PRESIDENTS/CONTACTS

Beautiful Savor, Polk City

Patti Thies
epthies72@gmail.com
964-3583 (h)

Faith, Adel

Ann Carrick
acarrick324@hotmail.com
360-0709 (c)

Gloria Dei, Urbandale

Tammy Scott
hawks331@gmail.com
321-8077 (c)

Mt. Olive, Des Moines

Donna Foltman (contact person)
ddfoltman@msn.com
868-8794 (c)

Shepherd of the Valley, WDM

Maribeth Erickson
mkerickson74@gmail.com
(712) 660-2051 (c)

Trinity LWML Guild, DM

Connie Mekus
clmekus@aol.com
669-4857 (c)

Trinity, Women: Word and Walk, DM

Kathryn Sprecher
kspreche@aol.com
279-1123 (h), 710-2849 (c)

Trinity, Van Meter

Diane Koch
dianekoch@gmail.com
205-7894 (c)