

THE DIAMOND TIMES

ISSUE 3 | SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

GOD'S KEY AND NOTES



Past LWML President Ida Mall encouraged her listeners during her keynote address Friday to “step out and step forward,” as joyfully as a proud grandmother as we share Jesus’ love with those around us. As Epiphany people, she reminded us to let the light of Christ shine through so that people may be drawn to Jesus and to know Him better. “God has work for us to do,” she said, and by the Holy Spirit, we are equipped and ready, in words and actions to serve Him with joy and gladness. Ida provided ideas on how to engage and share with others, including through prayer, a Christian message given with a meal, or monetary tip, serving on a mission trip or as a VBS

or Sunday School teacher, or giving of your time, a smile and hug, or even a kind word. “Be alert! God will give you many chances,” Ida chided, as she shared opportunities missed and how sharing Jesus can be a part of daily life. The “Key”—Jesus Christ Above All, engraved on our hearts, and the “Note”—God’s Word, describing Why, When, Who and How Jesus is our Savior, are to be shared with everyone.



A LOGO FOR 2017 AND BEYOND

Participants viewed a video explaining the meaning of our new logo. The heart represents the love and giving nature of God through His children. The drop symbolizes the blood of Christ or a tear of compassion. The cross above all else clearly shows purpose behind all that we do in the LWML.

Our prayer is that this design will get people to take a new look — or even a first look — at LWML, Lutheran Women in Mission and will give our faithful members a sense that their organization is looking towards the future and ready for 75 more years of mission outreach.

NEW MISSION GOAL FOR THE 2017-2019 BIENNIUM!

Delegates approved a mission goal of

\$2,075,000!

This is an increase of \$75,000 from the 2015 to 2017 goal. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



WENDYSUE FLUEGGE, SONG LEADER, BOLDLY PROCLAIMING CHRIST WITH MUSIC IN HER 27TH STATE

BREAKING RECORDS AND TAKING NAMES!

This convention set a record for the largest number of Young Woman Representatives, with a total of 81.



TODAY'S DEVOTION: The cares of this world can sometimes get us down. They don't have to because our Lord wants to take them for us. In 1 Peter 5:7 we read, *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*

TIMELESS MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

For the first of two studies at convention, Deaconess Betty shared colorful LWML history along with Bible study. First, she took us back to the beginning — 1946 — when LWML women were encouraged to make Bible study a focus at home and at conventions. Since then, Bible study has remained a constant at every LWML convention. Deaconess Betty also shared a story from 1967 when Rev. Oswald Hoffman was surprised that the women could break into small groups and discuss Bible passages. She lowered her voice to sound a little more like Dr. Hoffman and quoted him saying, “If the men on the convention floor ever tried to do that, it would result in a fist-fight!” Working in small groups, attendees discussed Paul’s conversion experience. Then she encouraged everyone to get “real” and look seriously at what gets in our way of doing what we are called to do. She said, “The key element of Bible study keeps us focused on who we are and what we do. We keep Christ above all as we continue to “Serve the Lord with Gladness.” Deaconess Betty closed by encouraging everyone “to find a quiet place ... and write your own personal mission statement.”



WOMEN IN SMALL GROUPS REFLECT ON WITNESSING AND SERVING



STANDING IN THE GAP

Sanya Parson, Rebecca’s Garden of Hope, energized the assembly with her enthusiasm as she thanked the LWML for the 2013-2015 Mission Grant of \$100,000. She encouraged us to “stand in the gap for those who do not have a voice.” Through tutoring and teaching, Rebecca’s Garden of Hope stands in the gap for children who may not have come to know Jesus. Since its beginning in 2011, over 200 young people and more than 50 parents have been baptized. LWML is part of that impact: seeing the need, caring for those disconnected from the church, and forwarding God’s work.



GENERATIONS PROCLAIM CHRIST

The LWML 75th Anniversary banner was carried by Alice Decker, great-granddaughter of first LWML President Clara Schmitt, during the Friday morning procession. Also in attendance is Clara’s great-great-great grandson! Alice shared, “It was so moving and overwhelming, getting to be part of all these people proclaiming Jesus Christ above all. It’s also amazing to reflect on the influence one can have for Christ as years go on. Great-grandma would be so pleased with what God has done.”

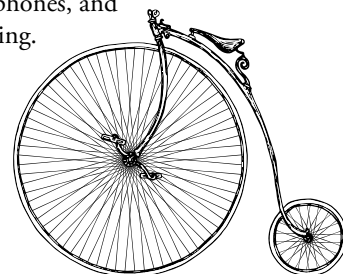
Judy Jeffery Hail, Grangeville, Idaho, created the banner from a design by Amy Gill, Graphics Editor for the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*.

LWML “TRUE PARTNERS” OF THE LCMS

In his first Presidential Decree, the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, praised God for the faithful service of the LWML for the past 75 years. He shared a beautiful video presentation highlighting the work of the LWML. Acting as the feet, hands, and mouth of Christ all over the world, The LCMS and the LWML are “true partners in every sense.” In his travels, he has seen the plaques left behind as a testament to the work and dedication of the mites, prayers, and actions of our LWML societies and districts. The official decree presented to President Patti will be displayed in the exhibit hall at the archivist’s booth.

THEN AND NOW

LWML purchased their first computer for the LWML Office in 1982. Thirty-five years later, the work of the LWML is streamlined by email, websites, social media, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, and even live streaming.



SOUTHWEST FLAIR ON DISPLAY

The Stage Front design reflects the gifts that God has given in the Southwest. The fountain with flowing water reminds us of the water of our Baptism. Colorful mini hot air balloons, beautiful woven blankets, and southwestern plants create a lovely view for all.

MANNA CDs

Don't forget that Manna Recording & Duplication, Inc. is recording and producing CDs of major presenters. Look for their booth near registration to order. Take home your favorite speakers on CD.

WALKERS RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Despite the small confusion a misprint caused, the Mission Walk traveled through the convention center last night. After gaining a few more walkers (for a total of 1,127 participants), they raised over \$61,000 for mission grants. More donations are welcomed. Way to take on the challenge, LWML walkers!

INSTA FRIENDS

Camp Director Jill Clark reports that 46 kids, ages nine months to 17 years, are attending Camp Insta Friends. How do they fill their day? It begins with devotion. Then they enjoy crafts, field trips for the younger ones and a servant activity at the Roadrunner Foodbank for the teens. They are busy!



GIFTS FROM THE HEART UPDATE

- Sheet Sets – 340
- Baby Kits – 161 Plus 50 boxes of baby items
- Health Kits – 1,161 Plus 74 boxes of miscellaneous health items
- School Kits – 229 Plus 23 boxes of items for school
- Underwear – 4,607 items
- 22 Boxes of towels and linens
- \$31,256 in gift cards, cash, and checks

SERVANT EVENTS UPDATE

Many Hands Accomplished Much!

- 432 Marked Bibles
- 100 Hygiene Bags
- 3,000 Personal Care Kits
- 354 Fleece Blankets
- 1,147 Cards for Phil's Friends
- 99 Quilts
- 639 School Kits

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

FRIDAY INFO GATHERINGS

HEART TO HEART ALUMNI REUNION

The dynamic Heart to Heart class of 2017 — 14 Heart to Heart Sisters and 10 district leaders — were recognized by Heart to Heart alumni at their luncheon. Debra Barnet, Jewel Sims, and Angelina Jauregui from the first class were present as well as Pat Reichert, the first Vice President of Special Focus Ministries. The Heart to Heart Sisters shared their stories: working with Muslim women and refugees, teaching English as a Second Language, creating sewing centers, and more. These LWML women are joyous in their love of their Savior and their love for their fellow sisters — those who know Christ and those who have yet to know Him.

850 FIRST-TIMERS

First-timers were welcomed and encouraged by President Patti Ross. Many first-timers laughed about having great fun but needing more sleep! One new district president was eager to see the difference between a district and a national convention.

YOU ARE THE GEMS OF THE LWML

Past President Virginia von Seggern welcomed the record number of young women to their first convention. She shared that sending young women to conventions is one of the best things that LWML has done. She described them as the gems of the LWML.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

During their luncheon, LCEF shared their mission — extending God's Kingdom — as well as the many investment opportunities for retirement, education, church construction, or financial growth.

LWML AND PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS IMPACT LIVES

Rev. Robert Mundahl, LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor, encouraged attendees at the Partners in Mission luncheon to engage with pastors and professional church workers, to take the time to understand, and to share some of the blessings and benefits of working together.

WHAT ARE GIFTS OF LOVE?

Enthusiastically, Linda Gage explained her work as the Gift Planning Counselor for Gifts of Love, an official ministry of the LWML, to help women and men identify their financial priorities now and in the future. "Passing On Your Faith-Wishes-Instructions" is a new resource to share final wishes beyond a will with heirs and loved ones.

QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

"We pray and then pray some more and then pray again," said Nancy Graf Peters, Editor-in-Chief of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, when asked how the *Quarterly* is created. "The Lord knows what we need, when we need it, and He provides it all." Nancy was unable to attend the convention and participate in this first-ever *Quarterly* luncheon because of her husband's illness, but she shared via Facetime from her home in New York. The *Quarterly* staff gave the luncheon guests a peek behind the scenes and welcomed questions.

GERMANY LUTHERLAND

Six hundred people attended the Germany Lutherland Trip luncheon and were treated to a brief Reformation history and pictures of many historical sites. Attendees were encouraged to join Joyful Journeys October 28 to November 4 for a Reformation tour, especially to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on October 31 in Wittenberg, Germany.

KATIE LUTHER



"SOMETIMES I MISS THE CONVENT."
"LORD, IS THERE SUCH A THING
AS A FIVE-MINUTE VOW OF SILENCE?"
ASKED KATIE LUTHER TO THE
CONVENTION ATTENDEES.

DISTRICT PHOTO PICKUP

Photos may be picked up in
the main lobby across from the
registration area.

Saturday
8-9 a.m., 1-2:30 p.m.,
and 5-7 p.m.

Sunday 8-10 a.m.

LUGGAGE STORAGE

If you need a spot to store your
luggage Sunday morning, we've
got you covered. Room #113 Zia
Lounge, East Building will be open
from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



PREPARE TO BE DAZZLED!

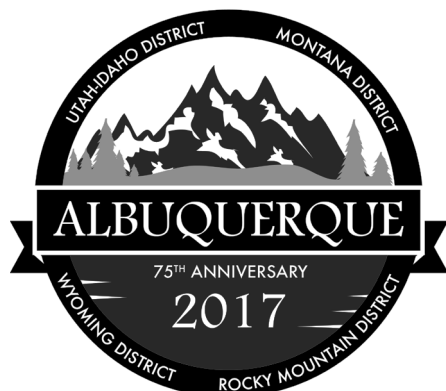
GET YOUR DAZZLE AND BLING READY FOR
TONIGHT'S **DIAMOND DAZZLE CELEBRATION!**
FESTIVITIES WILL BEGIN WITH THE **DIAMOND
DAZZLE PARADE AT 7:30 P.M.**



MISSION GRANTS REPRESENTED BY COUNTRY FLAGS

For 75 years the Lutheran Women's
Missionary League has been
supporting missions throughout the
United States and the world with
mission grants. To date, this support
has grown to 71 different countries!
All praise to God that many know
Jesus Christ as their Lord and
Savior through these efforts. Let us
celebrate with thanksgiving God's
blessings for over 75 years. Since

the 2007 convention in Sioux Falls,
South Dakota, we have been using
country flags from Lutheran Hour
Ministries (LHM) to represent these
countries. However, LHM did not
have flags for all the countries
where LWML has funded mission
grants. LWML has purchased the
additional flags so all 71 countries
are now represented.



2017 ALBUQUERQUE HOST COMMITTEE BADGE

The badge design for the 2017 LWML Convention is in the shape of a circle representing our unity as Lutheran Women in Mission. Within the circle are featured the beautiful mountains that exist in each of the four LWML hosting districts: Montana, Rocky Mountain, Utah-Idaho, and Wyoming. The mountains represent the place where Christ paid the price for our sins. Also on the badge design is "75th Anniversary," honoring the years LWML has served the Lord.

THE DIAMOND TIMES IS PUBLISHED DAILY DURING THE CONVENTION BY THE LWML COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT.

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