

# THE DIAMOND TIMES

Issue 4 | SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



"GOD WOULD NOT HAVE KEPT US GOING FOR 75 YEARS IF HE DIDN'T THINK WE WERE WORTH THE TROUBLE."

## TODAY'S SENDING SERVICE

Join us for the Sending Service, Dedication of the Gifts from the Heart, and Installation of the newly elected officers.

## HOST COMMITTEE:

### DAZZLING DIAMONDS!

Thank you to the four districts — Montana, Rocky Mountain, Utah-Idaho, and Wyoming — and the hundreds of volunteers for guiding, coordinating, sorting, boxing, driving, greeting, and the hundreds of other jobs that go along with hosting a convention. We appreciate you!

## PRESIDENT PATTI: ENGAGE, ENCOURAGE, EQUIP, AND ENJOY

Starting with a laugh about standing at such a high podium, President Patti addressed the assembly with her report for the past two years.

"Engage, Encourage, Equip, and Enjoy" has been her personal theme because that's what she sees the LWML doing. "My e-butterfly serves to remind me that God's grace is over everything we do."

President Patti shared some of the ways the LWML has **engaged** the membership and the women of the church: increasing social media, hiring a marketing/communications manager in the office so the LWML message is consistent, designing a new logo, increasing the media presence of LWML, and adding an LWML app. "We tried to increase people's knowledge of LWML and that we are alive and well!"

She highlighted many ways LWML has **encouraged**: educating district presidents, adding news to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, and starting a blog.

New Bible studies, a new DVD Bible study, small devotional books, a future podcast, and online mission grant videos are just some of the ways the LWML is **equipping** women.

Mission Grant recipients have been equipped by the mite offerings. "All the Mission Grants have been paid," she said. "You have stepped out in faith to increase that funding in the coming two years!" She focused on ways that LWML is seeking cost-saving procedures to continue equipping mission workers.

"I've **enjoyed** the past two years, attending district conventions, riding on the Rose Parade float and representing all of you!"

She has also encouraged women to "**enjoy** their service, to serve the Lord with gladness, not glumness. We sometimes feel discouraged, especially if we are in a small group in a small congregation. That's why conventions such as this are so encouraging and uplifting."

The President closed by looking ahead. "God would not have kept us going for 75 years if He didn't think we were worth the trouble. I look forward to the future of LWML as we continue to proclaim Jesus Christ above all in all that we do. I invite you to enjoy the future with me!"

## NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE: Jennifer Huecker

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION: Charlotte (Char) Kroemer

VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH: Angelina Jauregui

RECORDING SECRETARY: Ginger Starrett

PASTORAL COUNSELOR: Rev. Mitchel Schuessler

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Joy Anderson, Chairman; Karen Morrison; JoNette Brogaard; Linda Fees; Sherrie Smith



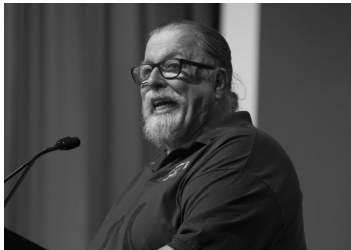
*Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances* (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18a). We can pray anywhere and anytime and we can praise our Lord and give Him thanks for all He has done. For what are you thankful today? Be sure to tell Jesus.

# SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS



## EXCITING TIMES TO BE CELEBRATING

Lutheran Hour Ministries President/CEO Kurt Buchholz presented President Patti Ross the Luther Seal from the Lutheran Hour float in the 2017 Rose Parade. The seal was made with cut yellow strawflower, black seaweed, cut red strawflower, powdered white rice, onion seed, blue stasis, and black beans. He said, "It is an exciting time as you are celebrating 75 years and we are celebrating 100 years to look back at what this combined effort has done but more importantly looking forward ... to what God will do through His people in bringing Christ to the nations and the nations to the church."



## BUILDING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Personal relationships are key for reaching Jews in Israel, according to Steve Cohen of Apple of His Eye Ministries. As he spoke to the LWML in convention, he thanked the group for their vote of confidence and asked for prayers for the many Jews who have never considered Jesus as Messiah. It is important to find Israeli Christians and partner with them, provide missionary training, and offer opportunities such as the Special Ministry Program through our seminaries. He also announced that Rev. Dr. Robert and Kristi Roegner will be joining him and his wife, Nancy, in 2019. President Patti presented a \$100,000 check for this 2015-2017 Mission Grant to further God's work among the Jews in Israel.



## GOD PLANTS MISSIONARIES AND GROWS FAITH

Rev. Kevin Robson, LCMS Chief Mission Officer, shared recent impacts of Mission Grants. "LWML has been right there ... for 75 years making a profound impact on the lives of multitudes."

Rebecca Schaff shared her work at the Lutheran Chapel, University of Minnesota, with domestic and international students. Students often turn to peers to understand faith. International students often turn to campus ministries to learn English and American culture. "We don't have to worry about if

people will be offended, for God's Word is the truth, and at the end of the day, that's what stands." Rebecca closed by speaking Galatians 1:3-5 in Chinese, then translating into English.

Chenhshi (Li) Hanson spoke about growing up Buddhist and its uncertainty. Had they done enough? She came to be a Christian through Concordia Middle School, ChiaYi, Taiwan. After her Baptism, her sister also came to faith. "Both my sister and I are very thankful that the Gospel's seed that has been sown on the campus to individuals has sprouted and has grown. It has been spread."

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## SATURDAY LUNCHEONS ENGAGE AND EQUIP!

### APPLE OF HIS EYE REACHES HURTING PEOPLE

Nancy Cohen is excited for Apple of His Eye Ministries to be the first RSO to host missionaries from the LCMS in Israel. She stressed that "people there are hurting and need our unconditional love" to a full ballroom at their luncheon Saturday. As the Great Commission sends us out into the world, it's our "obligation to the Jews to tell them about Jesus," she said. It's better to offend them by telling them about Jesus, Nancy shared, than to condemn them to hell by not sharing God's love with them. Nancy pleaded for our prayers for the strength to reach out to these people.

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR)

In 2016 the LWR shipped \$13.3 million worth of quilts and kits throughout the world. Past LWML Presidents Gloria Edwards and Linda Reiser serve on the Board of Directors of LWR and shared with the lunch attendees the work and efforts of the organization. The LWR helps out in all types of disasters and is there to lend the helping hand.

### EVERYONE IS A MISSIONARY

Rev. Kevin Robson, LCMS Chief Mission Officer, described about the mission work that has been going on here and abroad. Robson shared a video of the LCMS disaster response team in Perryville, MO. The team used the disaster response trailer provided by the LWML through a 2015-2017 mission grant. "It is a joy to help people in times of crisis," stated a member of the team. Robson noted that, "everyone is a missionary where God has planted us." Missionaries Rebecca Schaff and Rev. Carl Hanson also shared stories from the mission field.

### DONNA PYLE: EQUIPPING TO SHARE

In spite of the sound system malfunctions, Donna Pyle engaged the 500+ audience as she shared her passion for studying and teaching God's Word. "We need to know **whose** we are — and who we are — to be ready to enter the mission field."

### BRIDGES

"Crossing cultures by building bridges" is the message The Lutheran Hour

speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz shared. He encouraged us to "be ourselves in Christ for others" that we may bring Christ's message of salvation to our neighbors far and near. Will you build a bridge?

### VICAR TIM NORTON

#### LCMS INDIAN MINISTRIES

The Navajo nation is one of the largest and most challenging mission fields in the United States. The majority of residents are non-Christian. There are no native leaders such as deacons or pastors. Mistrust of the "white man's religion," unique language barriers, poverty, hunger, abuse, and generational trauma are all challenges to receiving the message of the Gospel. The church provides a much-needed safe place for comfort, spiritually, and physically. The small town of Navajo, New Mexico, where Vicar Norton works, is on the largest Indian reservation in the United States. Vicar Norton and his family plan to stay when he is ordained at the end of August at Shepherd of the Hills, Navajo, New Mexico.



## A DAZZLING SURPRISE!

Last night's Diamond Dazzle Celebration was a well-kept secret and a night of fabulous entertainment! Thank you to the creative team behind it all: Philip J. Hohle, producer (LWML *Prepare to Serve* video series); Rebecca Smith, soloist; Rev. Bill Engfehr, LWML Convention Audio Visual Producer; Terry Herald, composer (*The First Rosa* for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod); the Diamond Dazzle Cast and Crew from Austin and Performance Artists from Albuquerque.

Search for #LWML75 on social media to see the fun photos shared last night, and add the tag to your own photos to include them in the stream!



## FROM POCKETS OF LOVE

### CONVENTION OFFERING #1

#### LWML MISSION GOAL 2017-2019

The Standing Rules of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Bylaws state that the offering received at the convention Communion service shall be designated as a contribution to the mission goal of the LWML.

**TOTAL OFFERING: \$45,123.55**

### CONVENTION OFFERING #2

#### LWML 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

#### THANK OFFERING

The LWML 75th Anniversary Thank Offering has been designated for the advancement of the LWML Endowment Fund.

**TOTAL OFFERING: \$49,105.84**

### CONVENTION OFFERING #3

#### BILINGUAL "WORKER PRIEST"

This offering will be used to serve people on the US/Mexico border with Concordia Lutheran Church, Chula Vista, California.

**TOTAL OFFERING: \$39,904.81**

### CONVENTION OFFERING #4

#### GOD CARES ABOUT YOU

This offering will be used to support this mission as it serves a diverse population living in the poorest area in the "International Zone" of the city of Albuquerque, NM.

**TOTAL OFFERING: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

# 2017-2019 GRANTS SELECTED!

*The following mission grants were chosen for the 2017-2019 biennium.*

When the voting assembly was faced with a vote about the two Mission Grants that were tied, LWML Past President Jan Wendorf stepped up to the microphone and encouraged the assembly to consider increasing the mission goal to fully fund both. "We prayed before we voted. We asked for God's direction. I don't think it's any surprise that we have a tie at the end. I feel that God wants us to step forward and make our mission goal just a little higher." The assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor.

1. Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children – \$40,000
2. Mercy House for Women and Children – \$100,000
3. Christ for Veterans and Their Families – \$27,750
4. Tanzanian Sewing Center – \$25,000
5. Current Missionary Need – \$100,000
6. Lutheran Children's Books for Families Worldwide – \$100,000
7. Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt – \$100,000
8. NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless and Hurting – \$100,000
9. Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund – \$80,000
10. Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti – \$100,000
11. Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries – \$93,000
12. Completion of Lukonda Lutheran School Buildings, Uganda – \$48,000
13. Equipping Youth to Witness for Life - Y4Life – \$25,000
14. Laborers of Love – \$100,000
15. Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities – \$100,000
16. Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants – \$100,000
17. Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team – \$25,000
18. Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians – \$75,000
19. RECONNECT to the Body of Christ, Circuit 28 – \$50,000
20. Prison and Jail Ministry Synod-wide Conference in 2018 – \$36,500
21. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips – \$60,000
21. Raising Pastors and Deaconesses – \$97,000

## BIBLE STUDY #2: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

"What does God want the LWML to be doing in the next 75 years? What does God want each of us to be doing tomorrow?" asked Deaconess Betty Knapp at the start of Saturday's Bible study.

"From the very beginning, the word 'missionary' has been in our name!"

"Leaders left no doubt that the focus of the LWML was the word 'missionary' and not speeches, resolutions, or other aspects of faith and life." She highlighted seven women involved in outreach, including Mary Banta, known as Chinatown's Angel of Mercy and Martha Boss, a medical missionary to China and Hong Kong.

"But we aren't all called to serve on foreign soil as missionaries. For 99% percent of us, our response to God's call to go and serve won't be recorded in a book. Yet our response to God's call is not any less important. In fact, it is equally important. Because there are people whose lives intersect with ours, whose only experience with hearing the saving message of the Gospel may come through us."

In closing, she shared how the themes from each of the 37 conventions have told the LWML story, truly reflecting God's purpose in our lives.







### CAPTURING MEMORIES

If you would like to view photos from this convention, as well as past conventions, visit [www.bbmpphoto.com/lutheranwomen](http://www.bbmpphoto.com/lutheranwomen). Just enter your name and email address to enjoy these visual memories. Many thanks to our convention photographer, BBM Photography, for making these photos viewable by all.

### PICK UP YOUR DISTRICT PHOTOS

Have you picked up your district photos? They may be picked up at the photo table in the lobby across from the registration area Sunday after 8 a.m.

### CELEBRATE LWML WITH THE PRAYER SERVICE

The 2017 LWML Prayer Service is available for download at [www.lwml.org/prayer-service](http://www.lwml.org/prayer-service). Rev. Dr. Steve Turner designed the service, "Celebrating 75 Years of Commending Christ from One Generation to Another."

### INTERPRETER TO THE DEAF: THE SILENT GOSPEL

Former pastor for the deaf, and current missionary to Macau China, Rev. David S. Bush, along with freelance interpreter Lynda Nix, brought the liturgy to life for our hearing impaired LWML members at opening worship.

Nix was Bush's pupil 29 years ago and Bush, despite his busy schedule, was thrilled to sign for the convention when Nix asked him to partner with her.

Both interpreters stress the importance of having Lutheran-trained interpreters for our churches since some theological jargon is difficult to interpret. As a result, some uniquely Lutheran concepts can be lost. For instance, when a service opens, the Lutheran interpreter refers to God by pointing up. Once the elements are consecrated, God is referred to by pointing to the bread and wine because Christ is truly present there.

Nix stated, "We are not just signing words, but communicating concepts. We have a blank canvas and paint a picture."

### THE MEMORIAL BOOK



In the prayer chapel is a memorial book for remembering all the faithful women who were called to their rest during the past biennium. This book will travel from convention to convention, honoring those women who are with us in our hearts.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 38<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION IN MOBILE, ALABAMA, JUNE 20-23, 2019



### POST-CONVENTION SURVEY

We want to hear about your convention experience. A post-convention survey is available online at [www.lwml.org/2017-convention](http://www.lwml.org/2017-convention).

### A UNIQUE CONVENTION EXPERIENCE FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDEES

*Nancy Graf Peters, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Editor-in-Chief, was unable to attend convention, but she watched live video. Here she shares some of her experience.*

We have an active online community here! We are praying for each other, supporting each other, asking questions (How can I see the convention manual?), and sharing words of appreciation. (No one chats during prayer, Bible study, or keynote, just during the transition times.)

We learned a number of people cannot attend convention because they are ailing. Others had planned to attend, but then a husband or family member got sick at the last moment. We comfort each other. So good!



To have everyone out here watching in real time and taking the opportunity to pray for each other means so much. As a result, we are enjoying all the love of convention right here, sitting by our computers or devices.

I'm so thankful for the words of encouragement our online buddies share.

**LWML LIVESTREAMING STATISTICS:**  
Thursday's Opening Worship was viewed by 1,452 people including viewers from Buenos Aires, Argentina; Ontario, Canada; and people from 44 of 50 states. Friday's convention proceedings had 2,710 views.

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

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THE CONVENTION NEWSPAPER STAFF WOULD LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ADDED EXTRA SPARKLE TO THE DAILY NEWSPAPER: CAREFUL PROOFREADERS,

THE STAFF OF THE LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY, AND CAROLYN BLUM.



## LWML 2017 Albuquerque Convention

# Post-convention Devotion

In the pre-convention devotion, I mentioned Shakespeare so it seemed fitting to quote him again with “parting is such sweet sorrow.” Coming down from the high of praising God in the midst of so many old and new friends, listening to the inspirational stories and messages, and basking in the fellowship of thousands of believers makes us want to linger a bit longer even if we have loved ones awaiting us at home.

Can you imagine what the disciples felt after sitting at the feet of Jesus Himself and then having to say good bye after all they witnessed. In Luke 24:44-53, Jesus gives them His parting words which we can use to encourage us as we depart from one another.

What purpose did we meet? Luke 24:44-47

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What are we to do now? v.47-49 (Since we have already been clothed with the Holy Spirit through our baptism, we need not stay in the city any longer.)

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Once Jesus ascended above all, what did the disciples do? V. 52-53.

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Using this as an example for us, we can keep worshipping him as we return to our Jerusalems, wherever that may be, with great joy and continually meet in our churches blessing God and extoling Jesus’ name above all! Go back to your homes and share all that God has done and keep in his Word.

Reflect on your days together in New Mexico and recall some of the highlights you can share with those at home, the funny stories, the tearful moments, the inspirational words, and distribute the wealth that you have learned about Jesus’ name above all because as we say in the Lord’s prayer “hallowed be thy name.”

Lord, we continue to praise and glorify Your name even when we may be sad to depart this place. Enrich our witness as we return home so others may hear of Your wondrous works and Your gracious salvation. Encourage us and keep us safe as we are absent one from another, in Your precious name. Amen.



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LWML Sets 2017-2019 Mission Goal at \$2.075 Million**

ST. LOUIS, June 26, 2017 — The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) welcomed 3,471 people with 850 as first timers to the LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 22–25, 2017, under the theme "Jesus Christ Above All". The convention theme was based on Philippians 2:9.

Delegates to the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML adopted a \$2,075,000 mission goal for the 2017-2019 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 22 mission grants as men and women respond in prayer and offerings during the next two years. LWML chose to support the following mission grants, pledging their support with prayers and mites (offerings) given over the next biennium:

1. Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children – Mercy Meals of Siouxland, \$40,000
2. Mercy House for Women and Children – Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint, Michigan, \$100,000
3. Christ for Veterans and Their Families – LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces, \$27,750
4. Tanzanian Sewing Center – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), \$25,000
5. Current Missionary Need – LCMS International Mission, \$100,000
6. Lutheran Children's Books for Families Worldwide – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$100,000
7. Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt – Lutheran Hour Ministries, \$100,000
8. NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless, and Hurting – Christian Families United for Progress, \$100,000
9. Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund, \$80,000
10. Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti – Ministry in Mission, \$100,000
11. Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries – Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission, \$93,000
12. Completion of Lukonda Lutheran School Buildings, Uganda – Lutheran Church Uganda, \$48,000
13. Equipping Youth to Witness for Life - Y4Life – Lutherans for Life, \$25,000
14. Laborers of Love – Lutheran Braille Workers, \$100,000
15. Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities – Bethesda Lutheran Communities, \$100,000
16. Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants – Ministry Focus, \$100,000
17. Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team – LCMS Office of International Mission, \$25,000
18. Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians – Lutheran Indian Ministries, \$75,000
19. RECONNECT to the Body of Christ, Circuit 28 –Texas District, \$50,000
20. Prison and Jail Ministry Synod-wide Conference in 2018, \$36,500
21. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips – MOST Ministries, \$60,000
22. Raising Pastors and Deaconesses – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia, \$97,000

The voting body elected the following to serve as officers, Counselor, and nominating committee:

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| Jennifer Huecker, Missouri District<br>Vice President of Christian Life            | Joy Anderson, Minnesota South District<br>Nominating Committee     |
| Charlotte (Char) Kroemer, Oregon District<br>Vice President of Communication       | Karen Morrison, Kansas District<br>Nominating Committee            |
| Angelina Jauregui, Pacific Southwest District<br>Vice President of Gospel Outreach | JoNette Brogaard, Minnesota North District<br>Nominating Committee |
| Ginger Starrett, New Jersey District<br>Recording Secretary                        | Linda Fees, Nebraska South District<br>Nominating Committee        |
| Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, Southern Illinois District<br>Junior Pastoral Counselor   | Sherrie Smith, Northern Illinois District<br>Nominating Committee  |

Lastly, LWML President Patti Ross unveiled the new LWML logo. The logo was shared during the President's report and was also shared via LWML social media channels and Livestream. For more information on convention highlights visit [www.lwml.org/2017-convention](http://www.lwml.org/2017-convention).

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries, and to support global missions.

LWML news releases are available *on the LWML website*.

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