



Look Behind the Scenes with New Eyes

BY DARLENE KECA AND REV. GORDON NAUMANN



The 2018 [LWML English District] convention was coming to a close. President Jan Simmons had just attached the LWML District President's pin to my jacket. My term began.

One thing I wasn't prepared for was the resignation of our newly elected Junior Counselor. But, God had a plan. *Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble* (Matthew 6:34).

Senior Counselor, Rev. Eric Carlson, suggested I contact LCMS English District President Rev. Dr. Hardy, who assured me he would find us a Junior Counselor. The email received from Rev. Hardy read, "I have spoken to Pastor Gordon Naumann, a young pastor, who is willing to serve with joy." And so, three weeks before the Mobile convention, his term began. Our district is non-geographic, so the 2019 LWML Convention gave us the opportunity to meet as a group and get to know each other. God had a plan!

Darlene Keca
LWML English District President

Experiencing the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile

There are simply no adequate words to describe how uplifting it was. There were over 3,000 in attendance at this convention, but it didn't feel like these were just people who get together for a concert ... with half of them as lost as you are!

Every single person I met had an amazing story to tell, and I am awestruck. I can't believe I became a pastor without knowing such organizations and support systems existed. You cannot be but inspired.

I thank God the bishop approached me to give me this opportunity and 'volunteer' me as Counselor for the English District. When it was put upon me, I thought, 'okay, another responsibility,' only to realize this is one of the most intense blessings I have received in my life! Praise God! So was the theme of our convention! It brings tears to my eyes just thinking about it ... and how some just don't know about it and may never experience the joy that must be produced in the soul who attends.

We don't have many "Aha!" moments in our lives, but this was one of them. It also dawned on me that this must be why we have so many faithful women in our churches. This wasn't a typical church convention, either. This should be how every convention is focused! It is ALL mission focused. To give you a glimpse, they have raised over 100 million dollars for missions in 77 years. Praise God! I should say, "we," because they really do get the church involved, but they are so organized and so mission minded, I almost still can't believe it. Praise God!

But, put a significant body of a whole Synod into one room; I really shouldn't be so surprised. It's only what I've been preaching on for ten years and what we've been taught to believe our whole lives ... but to be given the gift of sight is a true blessing and strengthening for the soul. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! To God alone be the glory, but I thank my dear sisters in Christ of the LWML! God bless you!

Rev. Gordon Naumann
English District Counselor

Pictured from left: Rev Gordon Naumann, Sara Hilmer, Darlene Keca, Emily Terry, and Stephanie Arndt