



LWML SID

Special

Pre-Convention

Edition

20/20 Vision: All Eyes on Jesus! VIRTUAL CONVENTION

In keeping with our theme **20/20 Vision: All Eyes on Jesus!** for the LWML SID convention, the LWML-SID Board of Directors voted to go to an all virtual convention. The COVID-19 pandemic and health restrictions were all taken into consideration, and after much prayer, we voted to hold a virtual convention so we could keep our focus on Jesus, *the Author and Perfecter* of our faith.

With this decision, we extended the registration deadline for delegates. We want all groups to be represented for the voting; therefore, the delegate's name, address, and money **MUST BE IN BY AUGUST 1, 2020** to Marie Voges, Registration chairman. Please find the form on the sidlwml.org website. We are **not accepting guest registrations** for this convention and **NO LATE delegates** will be accepted after the deadline.

Every voting member will receive an envelope around **August 20, 2020** It will include a convention manual, instructions for the voting process, ballots, and a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope for your ballots. These ballots will need to be returned by **September 10, 2020** to Marie Voges. The ballots will be held securely until the counting is done by each committee's tellers in mid-September. The results will be posted on our website on October 1, 2020.

Our financial team will be mailing out another letter to encourage your group or you as an individual to consider a gift for the convention offering and a monetary gift for the ingathering, which will go toward the scholarship fund at Metro East Lutheran High School. Please prayerfully consider donating toward both funds. Your gifts will help students attend a Lutheran High School and help get us started off to reaching our Mite goal for the 2020-2022 biennium.

All elements of our virtual convention will be posted at **www.sidlwml.org** on October 1, 2020. You will be able to view these clips at your leisure. The worship service, welcome, President's address and the final voting reports from the nominating committee, grant committee and structure committee will be recorded on September 26, 2020 at Columbia. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, will have a presentation along with three of our past mite recipients, from the 2018-2020 biennium. There will also be a video sharing what our national LWML President, Debbie Larson and the Executive Board of Directors have been working on, as well. Be sure to check out all the details and share them with your LWML sisters.

Let us continue to Fix our Eyes on Jesus and make this virtual convention a joyous one!

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Convention

We encourage you and your groups to host a watch party to view the convention. Snap a photo or send a line to let us know how your group “saw” the convention this year. Perhaps you can incorporate the Mission Moments speakers into your monthly meetings. Or use the convention speaker as part of your LWML Sunday promotion. Have fun using this virtual convention to encourage more Lutheran Women to be in mission for Jesus.

Debra Albers & Deb Wudtke - Team A&W, Convention Co-Chairs

Introducing our Keynote Speaker for the 40th Biennial convention of the LWML-SID....The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer

By Deb Albers

I am beginning with a personal story of Dr. Meyer. The Jr. Confirmation Class from Hoffman took a field trip to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in the spring. When my son returned home that evening, he proudly announced, “I’ve seen the PRESIDENT!” He was talking boldly of our Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. My 8th grader was so overwhelmed because this man had invited my son’s class into his office at the Seminary. It might as well have been the Oval Office at the White House. You see, Dr. Meyer comes to preach at our church around Christmas every year and all my sons love to hear him preach. Tyler was so excited that day because he had seen someone FAMOUS! I am sharing this with you because I too am excited to announce that the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer will be addressing our convention this biennium. I cannot wait to hear what Dr. Meyer will share with us regarding our convention theme!

Dr. Meyer is a “famous” man, and he has a divine calling from the Lord to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Meyer began preaching right here in our neck of the woods. His first call was to St. Salvator, Venedy; and St. Peter, New Memphis. He served there from 1974-81. He was a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary from 1979-81, then served as an assistant professor, teaching classes in New Testament and homiletics, and as the director of Resident Field Education (1981-84). He continued his Pastoral pathway to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville (1984-88). Dr. Meyer has done just about everything to proclaim the Word of the Lord. He served as The Lutheran Hour Speaker for 12 years. He also hosted the national television show *On Main Street* for Lutheran Hour Ministries. Dale has written numerous sermons and columns for the Lutheran Hour Ministries. He writes an online daily devotional called “The Meyer Minute”, which has been published as a book, “*Timely Reflections*.” The Lord has blessed him with many talents to share the Gospel message with others.

Dr. Meyer has served The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the church at-large over the years in several capacities. He served as third vice-president of the LCMS from 1995 to 1998. He was a charter board member of the Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA), has served as an honorary director of God’s Word to the Nations Bible Society and as a member of the Standing Committee on Pastoral Ministry for the LCMS. He was pastoral adviser for the Southern Illinois District of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League and has served as first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and circuit counselor of the LCMS Southern Illinois District. He served on the Board of Trustees of the American Bible Society from 2001 to 2013.

In 2005, Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer became the 10th President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He has served there faithfully for 15 years. He officially retired on June 30, 2020. Dr. Meyer will be greatly missed by faculty, staff, and students. He continues to serve the Lord on campus teaching, mentoring students, and working with the gift officers in Advancement.

CANDIDATE RESUMES

LWML SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT BOARD

For Pastoral Counselor:

Rev. Steve Jacobsen

Home Church: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Carrollton, IL

Pastor Steve Jacobsen of Bethalto, IL and I have served as Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Carrollton since 1999. I have been a circuit counselor; member of my district's board of directors; LWML zone counselor; president, secretary and treasurer of a local ministerial alliance; a pastoral advisor for Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ; helped with district convention preparations; served as a chaplain for local emergency services; helped form the 501c3 corporation for our local food pantry; and helped with the site selection for our district mission school in East St. Louis; and worked at various times with older adult retreats, Lutheran Camps, Habitat for Humanity and the CROP walk and Life chains.

Rev. Sean R. Smith

Home Church: Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Dual Parish of Immanuel-West Point (Campbell Hill, IL) and St. Paul's-Wine Hill (Steeleville, IL) I serve as host of KFUE Radio's "Concord Matters" and served the District as Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School Pastoral Counselor and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors (2016-2018); Southern Illinois District Board for Congregational Support (2018-Present); and Southern Illinois District 2021 Convention Planning Committee – Communications Chair. Serve LWML as SID Lower Kaskaskia Zone Pastoral Counselor (2018-Present).

For Vice President of Christian Life:

Name: Helen Mayer

Home Church: Trinity, Conant (Pinckneyville)

Service to Congregation: Sunday School teacher, altar duty

Society Offices Held: President, Secretary

Zone Offices Held: President, Secretary, and Vice President

District Offices Held: President, Recording Secretary and Vice President of Organizational Resources

For Vice President of Communication:

Name: Kathy Nagel

Home Church: Trinity, Red Bud (Prairie)

Service to Congregation: Sing in choir, attend Bible Class, assist in Christmas Church decorating and volunteer at local Lutheran Braille Workers Sight Center

Society Offices Held: Past President, Past Vice-President and serve on committees as they arise

Zone Offices Held: None

District Offices Held: None

Name: Lucy Thompson

Home Church: Good Shepherd, Collinsville

Service to Congregation: Sunday School teacher and Women's Day of Renewal committee

Society Offices Held: Secretary

Zone Offices Held: None

District Offices Held: Vice President of Communication, Recording Secretary

For Vice President of Gospel Outreach:

Name: Debra Albers

Home Church: Bethlehem, Carlyle (Ferrin)

Service to Congregation: Currently – Sunday School Teacher, Ladies Aid member and religion teacher; Past service – youth leader, choir member, Sunday School Superintendent and Assistant

Society Offices Held: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Visiting Committee, Flower Committee

Zone Offices Held: President, Secretary/Treasurer and V.P. of Communication

District Offices Held: V.P. of Christian Life, V.P. of Communication, Committee on Young Women, V.P. of Human Care, PR Coordinator, V.P. of Special Focus Ministries, YWR to 1999 convention and delegate to Tampa Bay.

Name: Mary Gray

Home Church: Our Savior, Carbondale

Service to Congregation: Organist, Choir member, Music Committee Chair, Faith Community (parish Nurse, Health Ministry Committee member and past Confirmation, Sunday School and VBS teacher

Society Offices Held: Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate to District Conventions

Zone Offices Held: President-Midstate and Greater Egypt, Delegate to National Conventions

District Offices Held: President, Vice President for Mission Service, Corresponding Secretary, trained for Heart to Heart Sisters Program

National: Board of Directors, Chair of Tellers for Officers' Election at convention, Chair LWML Consultant Task Force, Chair Mission-Ministry-Vision/Lutheran Women in Mission Consultants, Chair HOPE Committee

For Recording Secretary

Name: Barbara Misselhorn

Home Church: St. Paul, Steeleville

Service to Congregation: VBS Co-Chairman for 8 years; Bi-monthly church newsletter since 2010; Delivery of tape ministry to shut-ins; Candle Committee for altar (filling of oil); help with funeral dinners; entertainment for Mother/Daughter/Friends Banquet held yearly; entertainment for Dual Church Christmas Party (every other year)

Society Offices Held: President – 2 years

Zone Offices Held: Chairman of Christian Life

District Offices Held: None

Friday Night Activity Changes/Young Woman Representatives

This has been quite a year for the Young Woman Representative (YWRs) planning committee. They had to cancel the Spring Retreat because of COVID restrictions. They decided to condense it into our Friday night convention activities. Now that Friday night activities are not happening, the originally planned retreat will be saved for the 2021 Spring Retreat. The ingathering activity of packing purses for homeless and abused women will be done by the YWRs on October 3, 2020 at 9 am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville. Any young woman between the ages of 22-35 is welcome to attend that morning. Besides packing purses, the young women will have an

opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas for Young Women in Mission. If your congregation does not have someone attending that can bring the items gathered from your group, please contact your zone president to see if she can help you locate someone from your area that is attending.

The other activity that was planned for Friday night was the Mite Market. If your congregation has items made for the market, please save them for the 2021 Spring Retreat. We will set up the Mite Market at that event.

2020-2022 MISSION GRANT REQUESTS – SID LWML
Delegates Will Vote for Eight (8) Grants

1. American & International Campus Ministry; SIU Carbondale \$4,000

The American and International Student Ministry at SIU Carbondale is a word and sacrament based ministry of Our Savior Lutheran Church. Table Talk, the weekly Bible study and home-cooked meal for students, has doubled in size after a large graduating class left campus. Several students are musicians who sing in the choir and play an instrument (ie. trumpet, flute, clarinet) during worship. Chinese Bible Fellowship continues to bring new students to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ through study of Scripture and the catechism, authentic Chinese food, celebrations such as Mooncake Festival, as well as English conversation partners. Recently a Chinese infant was baptized and two Chinese adults were confirmed. There is also a growing ministry for young people with traumatic brain injury and their families, providing a weekly Bible study and counseling.

This grant of \$4,000 would cover purchases of Bibles and Catechisms in English/Chinese, Bible Study materials, materials for conversation partners and printing cost of bi-lingual worship bulletins.

2. Student Assistance Fund Scholarships – Southern Illinois District \$4,000

Some time ago the Student Assistance Fund was started by memorials directed for such a fund by two faithful LWML members whose mothers were taken to their Heavenly Home. Since the start of the fund, the principle has grown with the addition of special gifts designated for the fund principle and we pray that the fund continues to grow through such special gifts. The earnings of the funds are available for scholarships. Those earnings, plus any special gifts designated specifically for scholarships, have helped numerous students attending our colleges to become teachers, DCE's, deaconesses, and presemenary.

During 2013-2015, the earnings of the Student Assistance Fund were supplemented by a special designated gift of \$10,000. This past biennium (2018-2020) the \$4,000 from the Student Assistance Fund Scholarship Grant was added to the fund earnings, making helpful scholarships possible for the applicants. As we look forward to the next biennium, the current interest rates remain very low, providing minimal earnings that can be used for scholarships.

This grant of \$4,000 would add another \$2,000 each year to the earnings that accumulate for scholarships which are divided among the 10 to 15 applicants.

3. Seminary Student Scholarships – Southern Illinois District \$8,000

Many young men and second-career men who wish to answer the call to become pastors find it difficult to meet the rising cost of providing for their family's everyday living expenses, housing, and books as they pursue the training needed to become a pastor. SID LWML scholarships, in answer to the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, would be very helpful for seminary students. The recipients of these scholarships must be members of congregations located in our Southern Illinois District (SID) and must be attending one of our Synodical seminaries. If insufficient SID students apply, applications from vicars/field workers serving in our Southern Illinois District can be considered for these scholarships.

This grant of \$8,000 would provide much needed help with not more than \$4,000 of this scholarship money being awarded for the 2021-2022 school year and the balance awarded for the 2022-2023 school year.

4. Orphan Grain Train Domestic Disaster Relief \$4,000

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is a Christian volunteer network whose mission is disaster and humanitarian relief for people in America and around the world. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us. OGT stated in 1992 at Grace Lutheran Church in Norfolk, NE and is a recognized service organization of the LCMS. 2018 and 2019 were devastating years for many of our brothers & sister all over our country. Wild fires in California; devastating flooding in South Dakota, Central Nebraska, parts of Texas, and parts of Iowa; F3 tornado in central Iowa; Hurricane Florence & Michael from Florida all the way up the east coast; volcano in Hawaii. That's just mentioning a few of the natural disasters. Orphan Grain Train continues to send to all areas that need help – quilts, bedding, food, water, drywall, insulation, tools, cleaning supplies, storage units for supplies but that also contain sleeping quarters and shower units, hay for cattle, posts and wire to repair fences and any rebuilding supplies needed. OGT is committed to long term help. OGT needs financial help so they can continue to provide the financial aid, the construction materials and relief supplies to the families that have lost everything from these devastating disasters.

This grant of \$4,000 to Orphan Grain Train will help ease the suffering of countless families that have to start over rebuilding their homes and lives.

5. LCMS Missionary Support; Mission Central, Mapleton, IA \$4,000

Our missionaries need our prayer and financial support. The main priority of a missionary is to bring the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to people who have never heard the Good News and to teach and support those who have. Missionaries who are called and sent by our LCMS must now find their own funding. This becomes a real challenge for them and takes time away from their real calling. Mission Central, under the leadership of Gary Theis, in Mapleton, Iowa has become a very effective arm of our LCMS. Mission Central has raised mission awareness and has the volunteer help of

98+ individuals to help with meeting the physical and financial needs of many of our missionaries. Every penny sent to Mission Central for missionary support is used for that. None is spent for salaries, overhead, utilities, etc. This funding will help send workers to the harvest field and/or assist them while there.

This grant of \$4,000 will help provide some of the financial help a missionary and his family need to be able to go to the mission field and share Jesus.

6. Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op; Fort Wayne, IN \$2,500

The Food and Clothing Co-op of CTSFW plays a key role in helping students feed and clothe their families during their seminary years. Nearly 60% of the students are married, second career with families. It can be difficult for the spouse to find adequate employment because employers know they will only be available for a short time. The Food Co-op is currently able to supply between 80% and 85% of all food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. Because it is an actual cooperative, each family volunteers a certain amount of time in either the food or clothing area doing work that needs to be done, earning points that they can redeem on shopping day for whatever they choose in the Food Co-op. Items in the Clothing Co-op are free. In fiscal year 2018-2019, 185 students and their families (approximately 435 people, with over 150 children) were served. Food items are provided for special events for residential students. Currently the Food and Clothing Co-op spends approximately \$7,500 a month on items such as 175 dozen eggs, 250 packages of cheese, 300 gallons of milk, 200 bottles of 100% fruit juice, 600 pounds of ground beef, 3500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, other perishable items and additional grocery and paper products to fill the shelves.

This grant of \$2,500 would be used to purchase only perishable food items each month which would then be given directly to the students and their families.

7. Y4Life in Washington, DC; Lutherans for Life \$4,000

Y4Life is the youth division of Lutherans for Life. Every January, Y4Life holds a conference in Washington, DC in conjunction with the March For Life. This conference provides educational opportunities that engage and encourage our youth to become Leaders 4Life, supporting and upholding life at all stages. The mission focus is to equip, engage, and empower Lutheran youth to be Gospel-motivated voices for LIFE in their churches, schools, communities and the nation. Youth from our Southern Illinois District have participated in this activity.

This grant of \$4,000 (\$2,000 per year for 2 years) would be used to provide transportation for churches and schools with Y4Life teams in the Southern Illinois District to the 2021 and 2022 March For Life / Y4 Life Conference. Any funds not needed for transportation would be applied to conference expenses.

8. Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School (Centralia) Rev. Mueller Mentor Grant \$4,000

The Rev. Timothy Mueller Mentor Grant was established in 2013, in honor of Rev. Mueller's dedicated service to CORLHS, to use to help students attend CORLHS. The high school is in an agricultural area where tuition becomes a burden for many parents who wish their children to have a Christian secondary experience. The grant is used for scholarships with high priority given to students who have indicated an interest in the teaching or preaching ministry as a future vocation.

This grant of \$4,000 would be used to solidify the Rev. Mueller Mentor Grant fund and would then be distributed to students in need of aid.

9. Camp Wartburg-"Shepherding Sheep" Camp for People with Disabilities \$5,000

The "Shepherding Sheep" camp connects young people who are willing to serve with youth and adults who are challenged by mental and/or physical disabilities. The common denominators between these two very different groups are that they are difficult "to reach" and "to engage" in "regular" church life; and they are often overlooked when it comes to service in the church. Many of the campers with disabilities are unchurched and with limited life experiences. A week at camp gives them enormous freedom where they are considered important and that what they say matters. A bonus is that they become teachers, engaging the sometimes timid and restrained youth in the simple pleasures of interaction, singing, examining nature with a childlike curiosity, and just thoroughly enjoying the moment. The youth volunteers learn to reach outside their comfort zones and experience the satisfaction of serving others. Both groups hear and share God's Word and join in praising Him, as well as participating in traditional camp activities. In addition, the camp gives a time of respite to the campers' caregivers back home. Past staff and volunteers have pursued careers working with people with disabilities as a result of their experience at "Shepherding Sheep" camp. In order to make the "Shepherding Sheep" camp affordable, this week is subsidized. The breakeven price would be \$475 but participants are only charged \$250. A high camper-to-volunteer ratio is desired... 1 to 1 if possible. Safety and new experiences are of primary importance.

This grant of \$5,000 would be used to subsidize the cost of those attending "Shepherding Sheep" camp.

10. Shared Prison & Jail Ministry with Southern Illinois District-LCMS \$6,000

Each week between 15 and 20 professional church workers and lay prison/jail ministry volunteers go to 19 large prison settings, 2 state mental health facilities, 3 youth facilities, and 3 jail settings to bring the Good News of the Gospel to prisoners, both males and female. This is done under the guidelines of the SID Task Force on Prison & Jail Ministry,

under the auspice of the Mission Board of LCMS-SID. LWML-SID has been an ongoing supporter of the project through mite grants. At several of these institutions, the prison ministry person/team may be the only one going in on a regular basis to share the faith through worship and/or Bible study programs.

This grant of \$6,000.00 would be used to assist in purchasing Bibles, Portals of Prayer, and other Bible study materials; for training in Prison/Jail Ministry; and other Prison Ministry financial needs as approved by the SID Task Force on Prison & Jail Ministry for 10 Prison and Jail Ministries served by SID pastors.

11. LCMS U at SIUE-Edwardsville Campus Ministry Outreach Program **\$3,500**

The Campus Ministry Outreach Program at SIUE is a current mission ministry for the LCMS-SID and Trinity Lutheran Church (Edwardsville). Ongoing support and prayers from the LWML-SID has helped keep this ministry going. This program includes a range of activities from Bible Study, college/campus ministry conferences (sometimes with other colleges), to some just plain fun activities, like bowling and eating together. Not all events are costly, nor is everything paid for the students. The focus is simple: Believe, Teach and Confess Jesus Christ to the students at SIUE, which can be profoundly difficult in the present culture.

A grant of \$3,500 would help provide for materials, such as snack food for Bible Study Hour, campus ministry website, books, handouts, brochures and devotionals; and for activities, including funding for travel, guest speakers, fellowship meals, and conferences.

12. Lutheran Books for Southeast Asian Families **\$4,500**

In the Buddhist stronghold of Southeast Asia, introducing the Christian faith is a difficult task. The challenges are many: Converts risk rejection from their families or, in some countries like Vietnam, intense persecution – even death. However, Lutheran Heritage Foundation translators have found that younger people are more open to learning about Christianity. As seeds of the Gospel take root throughout Southeast Asia, new needs have arisen for Lutheran materials in the people's own heart languages. One big obstacle exists – there simply aren't enough Lutheran books in those languages. Even if there were, books would be an unaffordable luxury for many families. But we can help. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation can translate books like *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* and *Luther's Small Catechism* for just \$5 each!!

A grant of \$4,500 will provide greater opportunity for good Lutheran books about Jesus to be put into the hands of hundreds of Southeast Asian People.

13. Lutheran Braille Workers Center (Sight Ministries), Baldwin, IL **\$3,000**

The societies of the Lower Kaskaskia Zone have established and continue to maintain Sight Ministries at Baldwin, IL. The Lutheran Braille Workers provide printed materials such as the Holy Bible, *Portals of Prayer*, hymns, Psalms and Mustard Seeds in large print. Sight Ministries purchases these large print materials which are then collated, bound into books and forwarded to help the visually impaired throughout the world. Sight Ministries also purchases binder spirals, covers, cartons and tape. Various gifts, donations and work projects help support the basic equipment needed at Sight Ministries. Since January 2011, they have produced 22,330 books in English, Spanish, Malayalam and Kiswahili which has allowed them to help spread the word of our Savior.

This grant of \$3,000 will aid Sight Ministries to continue purchasing, producing and providing these large print materials worldwide while bringing the Word of God to His people to learn, read and take to heart.

14. The Apple of His Eye Mission Society **\$4,000**

As a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, The Apple of His Eye Mission Society has total responsibility to raise the support needed to begin "BOLDLY declaring Y'shua as Messiah IN ISRAEL!" For 24 years, AOHE has been able to move forward with the sacrificial support of LCMS churches, groups and individuals, all joining this mission endeavor. Half of the grant money will be used to help identify and train Israeli Jewish believers (of which 2 are ready to train), using Hebrew Catechism and New Testament texts. They will develop systems and strategies for outreach and planting house fellowships just as in the days of the early church. The other half of the money will be used for rented facilities for congregational worship services from non-Lutheran Messianic churches or other locations in Israel to host tabernacle-type Word and Sacrament ministry worship services.

This grant of \$4,000 will help to reach the Jewish people with the Gospel and by God's grace, leading to the formation of Lutheran-framed Messianic congregations for Word and Sacrament ministries.

15. Holy Cross Comfort Dog Ministry-Continuing the Mission (Collinsville) **\$4,500**

The Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry is a mission-focused ministry. The purpose is to bring the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need. Esther Comfort Dog has and continues to fulfill this mission with her handlers in whatever situations or environments they encounter locally and around the Midwest. It is the team's wish to continue this mission with a second K-9 puppy as Esther is nearing retirement. The process of training a puppy to become a K-9 Comfort Dog takes 18 months to 2 years. Esther will work with the puppy for a period of time. The total cost is \$18,000.

This grant of \$4,500 will be used by LCC in the acquisition of a puppy, its training, feeding, and vet care. It would also cover the cost of training the Ministry Team.

16. Lutheran Braille Workers Center #125 (Bethalto) \$3,000
Making Braille books for the blind is an effort to show the love of God to people with visual disabilities and help bring them into a growing relationship with God. This center, active for 12 years, has fifty to seventy-five volunteers from 5 area churches create the Braille pages, bind them into books, and mail them to recipients all over the world. Mailing locations have included Nigeria, Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya, India, Brazil, and the United States. Currently, they are producing Psalms, 1st and 2nd Corinthians, Galatians through Colossians, and a devotional called "Begin with God".
This grant of \$3,000 will be used for the purchase of supplies to produce the Braille books. This includes paper, binding spirals, front and back covers, cartons for shipping, and packaging tape. In addition, there are freight costs to have these materials shipped to the work center.

17. Lutheran Braille Workers Center #315 (New Minden) \$3,000
In St. John's Lutheran Church's schoolhouse in New Minden, IL, over 40 regular volunteers, including students from Trinity- St. John Lutheran School and Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School, gather together to bring light into the darkness. They have produced the daily Bible study, *Today's Light*, and now are publishing a Braille edition of the book of Deuteronomy so those who are blind can read for themselves. In the past 22 years, the LBW Work Center #315 has produced Bible studies and hymnal volumes of the *Lutheran Service Book*. Volunteers place paper between zinc plates which are embossed with Braille Bible text. Next, the plates are put into protective sleeves and sent through the press. The pages are assembled with a plastic comb binding to complete the book, and then are placed in plastic bags to protect them from moisture. Finally, they are placed into cartons to be shipped directly to homes of blind Christians in the United States, India, throughout Africa, and other parts of the world. Publications are provided free of charge to those who request it, however, paper, book covers, spines and cartons are very expensive.
A grant of \$3,000 will provide the paper and binding supplies for hundreds of volumes of the book of **Deuteronomy**, and will allow them to continue to work on new projects assigned by the National Office in Yucaipa, CA.

18. LAMP Ministry-VBS Resource Materials; New Haven, MI \$4,000
Nearly one million Indigenous people live in isolated areas in northern Canada reachable only by aircraft or seasonal roads. There is currently an entire generation of children and youth who need to be reached with the gospel before this generation is lost. With your support, LAMP's volunteer missionaries are acting in response to this need of God's grace through faith by going into these communities to serve year round teaching and ministering to this generation of God's children.
This grant of \$4,000, along with the grace of God, will assist LAMP's volunteers to conduct VBS, teach Bible studies, and provide one-on-one witness of Christ's love in the various communities that will impact a generation of young people who will be transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

19. Enhancing Technology for Student Use-Metro East Lutheran High School \$4,000
Metro East Lutheran High School (MELHS) in Edwardsville, IL is seeking to create enhanced opportunities for students to use technology in STEM situations and classrooms. MELHS would like to create a STEM specific place for students on campus where they work with **Science-Technology-Engineering-Math** in their various subjects, incorporating a Christian perspective to meet the schools mission of developing Christian Leaders. The mission focus seeks to assist high school students in their pursuit and love of the sciences in order to relate it back to the various subjects they are learning throughout their academic curriculum.
This grant of \$4,000 would be used to upgrade technology areas on campus which include hardware, software, STEM specific items, and facilities that would allow for a secure use of dedicated space.

20. Graduate School International Students – Concordia Seminary, St. Louis \$2,500
The purpose of the Seminary's Graduate School's ongoing acceptance and formation of highly qualified international students is to further the carrying out of the Great Commission. Upon completion of their advanced-level theological degrees, these international students return to their home countries where they become seminary professors and church leaders. This helps to address their countries' need for well-informed pastors to spread the Gospel message from the basis of a strong biblical foundation.
Neither the Graduate School's international students nor the church bodies in their home countries have enough resources to fund the cost of these students' advanced education. Therefore, a large number of these students would be unable to attend the Seminary for their advanced degrees without much-needed financial support from Lutheran bodies within the United States.
This grant of \$2,500 would help in the funding of International Students in the Graduate School Program so they can help spread the Gospel message globally.

21. Belong to Jesus Scholarship – Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School \$4,000

Unity provides a quality Christian education to families in East St. Louis. The children attending the school learn about the love of God through His Son, Jesus Christ. They focus on the students' academic, physical and spiritual needs. It is truly a blessing when students have the opportunity to read, study and sing God's praises. Unity is often the only access many of the students have to learning God's Word which makes the Belong to Jesus Scholarship program so important. The Belong to Jesus Scholarship program is in place and has been providing scholarships to low income students. All parents pay tuition which is based on a sliding scale based on parent income.

This grant of \$4,000 would provide additional funding for the Belong to Jesus Scholarship program.

22. Hospitality House of Chester \$2,500

The Hospitality House was started 34 years ago in 1986. They have had over 30,800 guests stay at the Hospitality House while visiting incarcerated family members at the Menard Correction Center, Chester Mental Health, and Pinckneyville Correctional Center. Their motto "Your Heart...Our Hands" has been instrumental in breathing God's life into this prison ministry! Philippians 4:19 states: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." It takes lots of volunteers and money to keep this home comfortable for these families. The same things are needed to keep this home up and running just like your own- insurance, repairs, utilities, etc. Plus all the paper towels, laundry detergent, garbage bags, light bulbs, food, bottled water and the list goes on and on.

This grant of \$2,500 will help the Hospitality House of Chester continue to minister to families of the incarcerated.

23. LBW– Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness \$4,000

The mission of the Lutheran Braille Workers is to share the Good News found in Christ Jesus to people throughout the world who are blind or visually impaired, free of charge. In its 76 year history, Lutheran Braille Workers has produced and distributed over 14 million volumes of Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Audio-Digital throughout the United States and 164 countries. Every single piece of material has been sent to the recipients free of charge.

LBW currently has five Ministry Production Centers located in the LWML Southern Illinois District operated solely by dedicated volunteers. There is an immediate need for additional funds to meet the increasing demand for materials for these production centers over the next two years.

This grant of \$4,000 will help with the production related expenses for approximately 750 volumes over the next two years, giving hundreds, if not thousands, of people who are blind or visually impaired better access to God's saving Word.

24. Deaconess Students Serving with Mercy Team (St Louis) \$4,000

Deaconess Mercy Trips serve as an opportunity for students to use their vocational skills and passion for service to demonstrate Christ's love and mercy in a positive way. Students gain practical experience in providing spiritual care and engaging in acts of mercy in a cross-cultural setting. Teams work closely with LCMS church partners throughout the world, creating a broad world view for students which will serve them throughout their vocational life. Unfortunately, the finances required for participation in the program prevent many students' participation. The cost of a Mercy trip can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000, which puts Mercy trip services beyond the reach of most students.

This grant of \$4,000 would provide some needed funding for this important program for Deaconess students.

Many changes will be taking place at the 2020 convention

July 16, 2020 was a day that none of the LWML SID Board of Directors should forget. We decided to have a VIRTUAL convention. That might not sound earth-shocking considering that lots of other districts have gone that route already. But going virtual brings with it a new set of logistical challenges.

The manuals have to be printed NOW and be back from the printer BEFORE the ballots can be sent. Our proposed bylaws changes have been reviewed by National LWML's Structure Committee, revised with their suggestions, spell-checked, and are ready for your approval. Our proposed bylaws changes are in the manual and will be in this newsletter as well. Discuss them within your groups/societies. Most of the changes reflect what we actually do. There are explanations why we are proposing the changes after each article.

From my point of view, balloting is the biggest challenge! Instead of passing out ballots at the convention and going back and counting them, all four ballots plus the convention manual have to be MAILED to every delegate. We are extending delegate registration until August 1st. Those groups/societies who have not send delegate registrations in yet will be contacted and encouraged to register their delegates. Yes, the delegates will have to pay the \$30 registration fee. Virtual conventions are still have expenses... just different expenses. FYI: sending out the ballots and manuals will cost approximately \$3 per envelope x roughly 150 envelopes. That postage doesn't include the invitation letters sent to every society earlier. Speakers, organist, and videographer still have to be paid, etc.

But back to balloting, once the manual is back from the printer, it and the ballots will be mailed to each delegate. **Delegates:** LOOK in your mail. TIME is crucial. READ the instructions and the manual CAREFULLY! Once you cast your 4 ballots and put them in the pre-addressed, self-sealing envelope, YOU MUST SIGN THE AFFIDAVIT LABEL ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE BEFORE IT IS MAILED. When the envelope is received by our registrar, it will be checked against our delegate list to confirm that you are indeed a delegate eligible to vote. It is also a way of checking which delegates have not yet returned their ballots. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!!! ONLY BALLOTS RECEIVED BACK BY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10th WILL BE COUNTED...NO EXCEPTIONS!

At a specified place, date and time, the ballots will be removed from their sealed envelopes, sorted into their respective ballot type and hand delivered to their respective tellers to be counted. The tellers will NOT KNOW who voted for what/whom because they will not see the affidavit signed envelopes. Your vote will still be anonymous. On the day our live convention was to be, we will be having the opening church service and giving our various reports and announcing the results of voting ... to a video camera. These videos will be posted to our LWML SID website as soon as possible. Our Keynote speaker, Dr Meyer and National LWML President Debbie Larson will have their videos on the website as well. Once they come out, consider having a watch party with your fellow members.

It's not like being all together, visiting, hugging, and catching up since our last convention. But as a health care professional, I prefer that you stay healthy and that we try to beat COVID-19 by not spreading it further. We pray that we can safely get together next summer in Lexington at the National LWML convention.

Carol Benning

VP of Organizational Recourses

SEE PROPOSED BYLAWS REVISIONS IN A SEPARATE EMAIL