



NEWS RELEASE



Niagara Falls, New York - President Kathy Pavelock opened the 37th Biennial Convention of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) on Friday, June 1, 2018. There were 169 delegates and guests gathered June 1 – 3, 2018 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Niagara Falls, New York under the theme "The Voice of the Lord".....Enlightening, Electrifying and Empowering; *"The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty."*
Psalms 29:3-4

Delegates voted to fund 7 projects for a total of \$27,900.

Projects to be funded included:

1. Grant F – \$5,000 Funding for a Summer Day Camp – Pioneer Camp & Retreat Center, Angola, NY
2. Grant B – \$5,000 Funding for Care-A-Van Ministries, Batavia, NY to further the Senior Citizen community ministry
3. Grant C – \$3,000 Funding for Medical Supplies for Mercy House, Vestal, NY for medical supplies
4. Grant G – \$5,000 Funding for the purchase and installation of video equipment to enable Live-Streaming of sermons in sign language from an LCMS pastor to two deaf congregations located in different locations, Pittsburgh, PA
5. Grant K – \$5,000 Funding to provide perishable food items to seminary students and their families, Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne, IN
6. Grant A – \$2,450 Funding for the Lunchbox Summer Program in Hop Bottom, PA
7. Grant D – \$2,450 Funding to purchase Bibles for distribution in Nepal & China through Sowers Ministry, Tonawanda, NY

Grants 6 and 7 received a tie vote. The \$4,900 amount will be split evenly between the two grants and they will be paid at the same time when funds are available.

Delegates also elected the following officers to four-year terms:

President: Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone

Vice President Christian Life/ Special Focus: Linda Breight, Pittsburgh Zone

Vice President Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources: Sharon McGuan, Buffalo Zone

Treasurer: Beth Scholl, Central New York North Zone

Pastoral Counselor: Rev. John Zimmerman, Anthracite Zone

They will serve with previously elected and/or appointed officers of the Executive Committee: Vice President of Communication Beth Quinn, Financial Secretary Judy Morrison and Pastoral Counselor Rev. Sean Walters.

Rev. Dr. John Sound, past LWML Eastern District Pastoral Counselor addressed the body as Keynote Speaker. Patti Ross, LWML President shared greetings. Jan Struck served as Humorous Interrupter.

Another convention highlight included our “Gifts from the Heart” Ingathering Project for Heart, Love & Soul, a non-profit organization dedicated to feeding those in need: body, mind & soul in Niagara Falls. There were 2,696 items and \$680 were collected for this worthy cause. Saturday afternoon enrichment sessions were conducted along with a Pastors’ Event.

Servant events participants made encouragement cards for seminarians, cut coupons for deployed military families and had an on-site event at Heart, Love & Soul.

Entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet was provided by Comedian Dan Viola from Rochester, New York.

A Mite Walk was held along the walk by the Niagara River. 36 walkers participated and they collected over \$2000 for Mites.

Three offerings were collected at convention. The first offering was \$1,272.09 which was collected for the LWML Eastern District 2018-2020 Mission Goal. The second offering was \$944.25 which was collected for Rev. Arthur Zogar’s Liberian Mission. The third offering will be for Grace Lutheran Church, Vestal, NY to help with expenses to furnish their building following the 2016 fire. The amount will be listed in the next issue of the LINK.

Rev. Sean Walters conducted the Bible Study on Saturday morning and Rev. Kristian Bjornstad conducted the Bible Study Sunday morning.

The next LWML Eastern District Convention will be held in June 2020 in Central New York and will be hosted by the Genesee and Central New York North Zones.

The next national LWML Convention will be held June 20-23, 2019 in Mobile, Alabama. The theme is "In Praise to the LORD!" based on “*Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.*”
1 Chronicles 16:23–24a

To God be the Glory, Claire Carlson, Public Relations Director, LWML Eastern District