



LWML NEWS RELEASE

Binghamton, New York - President Kathy Pavelock opened the 36th Biennial Convention of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) on Friday, June 10th 2016. Over 170 delegates and guests gathered at the Holiday Inn June 10th – 12th 2016 under the theme "Take My Hand and Lead Me" based on "Teach me your ways, O Lord...you are my God...I always trust in you." Psalms 25:4-5

Delegates voted to fund 7 grants for a total of \$29,671.70.

Projects to be funded included:

- Funding for Jeanne Moise of Lutheran Church in Les Cayes, Haiti to educate Haiti women in Bible Study, personal health and leadership.
- Funding to ship supplies and food by the Orphan Grain Train to Latvia.
- Funding for crafts, supplies and food for encouragement of elderly and dementia clients at Trinity Lockport, NY
- Funding for personal hygiene bags for people in low-income community in Rochester, NY
- Funding for Spanish language Bibles, hymnals, etc. for Spanish mission congregation in Rochester, NY.
- Funding for promotional items, books and mailing items to support mission work in Center City, Philadelphia, PA
- Funding for classroom tables, chairs and supplies for Camp JOY Day Care Camp at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Buffalo, NY

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

- Vice President of Communication: Beth Quinn, Philadelphia Zone
- Recording Secretary: Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone
- Financial Secretary: Ruth Schian, Central New York South Zone
- Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Sean Walters, Pittsburgh Zone

They will serve with previously elected and/or appointed officers of the Executive Committee: President Kathy Pavelock, Vice President Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Dee Grzyb, Vice President Christian Life/Special Focus Karen Devan, Treasurer Beth Scholl, Editor Bev Wicher, Parliamentarian Gretchen Putzman, Planner Barbara Williams, Public Relations Director Claire Carlson, Archivist-Historian Chris Gasslein and Pastoral Counselor Reverend Kristian Bjornstad.

Kay Kreklau, LWML past President addressed the body as Keynote Speaker. Cheryl Mattil, Strategic Plan Facilitator extended LWML greetings from the National level. Another convention highlight included our “Gifts from the Heart” Ingathering Project for Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network in Binghamton. Many items were collected for this worthy cause. In addition, \$990.94 was also collected to support this mission. Saturday afternoon enrichment sessions were conducted along with a Pastors’ Event. Entertainment for the Saturday evening banquet was provided by Crossfire from Endwell, NY. A Mite Walk was held along the Riverwalk near the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers. (\$2,869.04) A new Society Charter was presented to Hope Community Lutheran Church in Syracuse, New York.

Offerings received at convention benefited the LWML District Treasury (\$1,267.00), an Interpreter’s fund for hearing-impaired church workers for conferences, retreats, etc. (\$1,013.67) and St. John’s Soulful Stitchers, from Macedon, New York. (\$1,112.55)

Reverend Kristian Bjornstad conducted the Bible Study on Saturday morning and Sunday morning Bible Study was conducted by Reverend Cory Eckstrom.

The next Eastern District LWML Convention will be held in June 2018 in Niagara Falls, New York and will be hosted by the Niagara Zone.

The next National Convention will be held June 22-25, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme is "Jesus Christ Above All" based on “Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.” Philippians 2:9 We will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of LWML.

Servant events participants made 31 walker bags, 6 lap robes and 1 quilt for Willow Point Nursing Home in Vestal, New York and assembled 70 Witness Key Packs.

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