



## † LWML Eastern District † NEWS RELEASE June 16, 2024

On Friday, June 14, 2024, President Dee Grzyb opened the 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Eastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). One hundred twenty-four (124) delegates and guests participated in the convention June 14-16, 2024 held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Mars, Pennsylvania. The theme for this convention was "Rooted in Christ" based on the Bible verse, *Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving* (Colossians 2:6-7).

Delegates voted to approve a 2024-2026 Mission Goal of \$140,394, Mite Goal of \$65,000, and Grant Goal of \$32,500. Mission project grants for a total of \$33,989.53 (including the 2022-2024 overage of \$1,489.53) will be funded over the next two years. Projects to be funded in the following order include:

- GRANT # H. Request to construct a new well for clean water for The Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberia. \$5,000 requested by LWML Member Beth Quinn, Philadelphia Zone.
- GRANT # C. Request to produce Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials. \$5,000 requested by Shellie Knupp, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, N. Tonawanda, NY, Niagara Zone.
- GRANT # A. Funds are requested to purchase supplies for 50 Blessing Bags Ministry. \$2,000 requested by LWML Member Rebecca Bessell, St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Hilton, NY, Genesee Zone.
- GRANT # B. Request to cover printing costs for 400 copies of "How Can I Understand?" for Southeast Asian Families (Lutheran Heritage Foundation). \$2,000 requested by Cathie Geske, Grace Lutheran Church, Hop Bottom, PA, Anthracite Zone
- GRANT # E. Request to replace the gym floor at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Minot, ND campus. \$3,000 requested by LWML Member Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone.
- GRANT # D. Request for the repair/replacement of the air conditioner unit in the Tiemann Chapel at Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY. \$4,900 requested by LWML Katherine Ippolito, Genesee Zone.
- GRANT # F. Request to support monthly "Lunch and Learn" program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence, NY. \$3,550 requested by LWML Member Susan Tichy, Buffalo Zone.
- GRANT # G. Request to purchase sets, costumes and props for Glorify Performing Arts, West Chester, PA. \$2,500 requested by LWML Member Rebecca Futtly, Philadelphia Zone.

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

**Vice President (VP) of Communication:** Susan Morris, Philadelphia Zone

**Recording Secretary:** Terry Hoffman, Niagara Zone

**Financial Secretary:** Beth Scholl, Central NY-North Zone

**Pastoral Counselor:** Rev. Michael Dobler, Niagara Zone

The newly elected officers will serve with previously elected officers of the Executive Committee: President Dee Grzyb, VP of Christian Life/Special Focus Linda Bahr, VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Susan Bell, Treasurer Cindy Cwynar, and Pastoral Counselor Rev. Carl Emberger.

On Friday, June 14, President Dee Grzyb opened the convention followed by a Worship Service with Holy Communion led by LWML Eastern District Pastoral Counselors Rev. Jeffrey Nickel and Rev. Carl Emberger with the Proclaimer, LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel. Deaconess Heidi Goehmann delivered the keynote address explaining that we all seek “groundedness” and growth which is found in the Root (another name for Jesus).

Saturday morning, June 15, Rev. Jeff Nickel led a Bible study based on Ezekiel 17 and specifically on verses 22 through 17. To commemorate the LWML Eastern District 80 years, Rebecca Bessell provided several Historical Interludes throughout the convention. Delegates and guests were guided in song by the Java Jam Song Leaders. Convention attendees learned the results of the online voting for the Mission Goal, Mite Goal, Mission Grant Goal, and the mission grants that will be supported for the 2024-2026 biennium. The delegates elected new officers and approved two updates to the bylaws. LWML Recording Secretary Brenda Piester brought greetings from the Lutheran Women in Mission Board of Directors and presented the LWML report to the districts. Prior to breaking for lunch, President Dee Grzyb presented her report.

Saturday afternoon included “Mission Moment” speaker Rev. Carl Emberger on his Medical Mission Trip to Point of Grace Academy, Kenya Africa. Gifts from the Heart recipient, Concordia Lutheran Ministries (Stacy Mathers and Tammy Young) described this unique ministry that started in the late 1800s. The plethora of donations for Concordia Lutheran Ministries were dedicated. Rebecca Bessell provided an overview of the LWML Eastern District Legacy of Love endowment fund. There were interest sessions led by Heidi Goehmann, Brenda Piester, Bev Wicher, and a Pastors Event led by Rev. Carl Emberger. The afternoon ended with a Mite Walk to raise funds to support the 2024-2026 Mite Goal. Saturday evening activities included a banquet and entertainment by Jazz Warriors.

On Sunday, June 16, Pastoral Counselor Rev. Carl Emberger led a Bible study, followed by leading the Sending Service. Following the Sending Service, Rev. Emberger installed the new officers. President Dee Grzyb closed the 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention.

Convention offerings supported the LWML Eastern District Treasury (\$1,559.00), The LWML Eastern District Deaf Interpreter Fund (\$949), and the Humble Bumble Project (an organization located in Middlebury Center, PA dedicated to assisting the families of pediatric and young adult cancer patients).

The 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention will be held in June 2026 and hosted by the Philadelphia and Anthracite Zones.

The next national Lutheran Women in Mission Convention will be held June 26–29, 2023 in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme is “Growing in God’s Grace” based on the Bible verse, *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen* (2 Peter 3:18).

To God be all the Glory,  
Kathy Pavelock  
LWML Eastern District Public Relations Director

Tell us about your experiences with the LWML Eastern District 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention. An online survey will be active from June 16, 2024 through July 14, 2024 at <http://www.east-dist-lwml.org/Convention2024.html>.