



Bountiful

Blessings

Des Moines LWML Convention ~ June 25-28, 2015 ~ Iowa East & Iowa West Districts ~ Volume 1 Issue 2 ~ September 2014

A Minute with Marilyn

Here we are planning for the return of a national LWML Convention to Iowa – only 30 years later. Some of us, I know for a fact, helped plan the LWML Convention that was held in Ames. There was excitement then and today new excitement builds as each and every day brings us one day closer to June 25-28, 2015! Can you believe it? That’s only nine months away!



Are we ready or will we be ready? That’s probably the common question at this time. The answer is ‘of course, we’ll be ready.’ God is right here with each one of us – guiding and directing. After all it truly is His convention. Committees are diligently at work in preparation for the several thousand individuals who will join us at the 36th biennial LWML Convention in Des Moines. What joy that will be!

One way all of us can help ensure that we are truly ready for this convention – a once in a lifetime opportunity — is to focus on recruitment of our friends, family and our church family and ask them to participate with us in some way during the convention. There’s a task for absolutely everyone who wishes to help, even a request for a sitting assignment, if necessary. All that’s needed is a completed *Call for Workers* form. This form is available at each of the host districts’ website (www.idwlcms.org/lwmlnews.php and www.lwml-ied.org) or from a Host Committee member. For agreeing to work two 4-hour shifts during the convention, workers will receive a discount on their full registration. Simply complete the form and return it. Assignments will be made starting in April 2015.

Don’t let this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord with gladness pass you by. The Host Committee needs you, come join us!

Imagine a Sea of Purple



The Iowa Events Center and downtown Des Moines can be quiet and peaceful. Imagine this same location in less than a year when thousands of LWML women gather for convention to “Sow • Nourish • Reap”

Convention Theme

The convention theme is based on the following Scripture passage:
And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV).



Convention Goal Statement

Through Christ’s bountiful love and blessings of Word and Sacraments, I am equipped by the Holy Spirit to work in my Father’s harvest field.

Convention Objectives

Convention attendees will be:

- Fed by God’s Word and Sacrament
- Nurtured through worship and fellowship
- Equipped to sow, nourish, and reap in the Father’s field

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Here Am I, Send Me

Can you recall what you've done for the past 28 years during the last week of July? Alice Hoffmeier, 78, of Cedar Rapids can. She has been riding RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa). This July marked her 28th consecutive ride.

Alice is a member of Trinity Lutheran in Cedar Rapids and has served the LWML in several capacities, including Society President (1978-1979 and 2004-2005), Zone President (2004-2006) and District Vice President of Mission Education (2000-2004).

She and her husband, Norvin, partnered on RAGBRAI together for several of their 39 years of marriage, Alice riding her bike and Norvin driving the support vehicle. When Norvin passed away in 2003, Paul Golke, former director of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, had the idea to do a memory ride for Norvin and collect pledges for that Camp. Norvin had been the volunteer treasurer of Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca from 1972-2002. Alice has been collecting pledges, riding RAGBRAI, and donating those pledges to



Alice, right, met Kristie Spotts of Buena Vista University on RAGBRAI 2014.

Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca ever since. She raised \$972 this year alone.

"I have IO-DIS-E-CA on my bike and people bike by and ask, 'Where is that in California?' And then I can tell them the whole story. Two different gentlemen at different times during the week each gave me \$20," she said. Alice is humbled and grateful for those individuals, families, and organizations who offer a donation or pledge during RAGBRAI for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca.

But training for and riding on RAGBRAI aren't the only things keeping Alice busy. Since 2003, she also has gone on 17 mission trips to New York City, Alaska, Honduras, South Africa, Chile, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Philadelphia.

"My first was with Apple of His Eye in New York reaching out to the Jews. I was in Alaska five different summers teaching Vacation Bible School. I was in Honduras five times working



Alice's sign on her bike gets a lot of attention.

with World Gospel Mission. In South Africa, I volunteered in the library at the Lutheran Seminary in Pretoria. In Chile, I served with MOST Ministries teaching English to students there and sharing the love of Jesus. In Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Paraguay I was with MOST Ministries again. When we were in Philadelphia, I was with Jews for Jesus," Alice said.

And her enthusiasm for sharing the love of Jesus has been nurtured by her involvement in the LWML at Trinity since 1970. Alice attended the LWML Convention in Ames in 1985, and remembers how thrilled and blessed she felt to be among so many LWML women, pastors, husbands, and friends. Since then she has attended conventions in Cleveland, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Tampa, Sioux Falls, Portland, and Pittsburgh. She has also presented stories about her mission trips and her RAGBRAI fundraising for Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca to numerous societies and zones, both in Iowa East and Iowa West districts, including Zion Lutheran in Manning, where Alice was baptized, confirmed, and married.

Alice is serving on the Child Care Committee for the 2015 Convention in Des Moines. She has been praying for and working on the plans for the 13-17 year olds. "Lord willing, we will have all things ready for those young people by convention time," Alice said.

Alice is not planning any international mission trips, but is instead focusing on the mission field right in her own community at the Crossroads Mission in Cedar Rapids. It is an ecumenical mission that reaches out to the homeless and those people without jobs who can come and receive a bag of groceries and clothes – and the Word of the Lord.

Alice's family includes her daughter, Jean, who lives in Cedar Rapids with her family; and her son, Erich, who lives in Colorado with his two children.

Iowa Trivia: Did You Know?

- The name Iowa is derived from the Ioway Indians who lived in the area. Iowa became the 29th state on December 28, 1846.
- The state flower is the Wild Rose. The state bird is the Eastern Goldfinch. The state tree is the Oak.
- Iowa is #1 in egg production. Iowa ranks first in soybean, hog, and corn production.
- Iowa hosts the first-in-the-nation presidential caucuses.
- RAGBRAI, Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, is the oldest, longest, and largest touring bicycle event in the world.
- Iowa is the only state name that starts with two vowels.
- Five Nobel Prize winners hail from Iowa.
- The Amana Colonies are comprised of seven villages listed as National Historic Landmarks.
- Effigy Mounds National Monument preserves more than 200 prehistoric mounds built by Native Americans. It is located near Marquette.
- "American Gothic" house, painted by Grant Wood, is in Eldon, Iowa.

Warehouse Needed

Do you have, or know of, a **facility/warehouse** in the Des Moines area that could be used for storing items for the convention? The space should be accessible for receiving shipments during normal business hours (8-5, Monday-Friday). If the space does not have a receiving dock, the door openings should be wide enough to receive pallets (48"x40"). A forklift would also be quite helpful. If you can help, please contact convention chair, Marilyn Schroeder at marilyn0344@q.com.

Clergy Corner

As we drive through the Midwest, especially Iowa, we are surrounded by the abundance God has given us, as we see the seemingly endless fields of lush green crops. At different times of the year we also see the large machinery planting, tending and harvesting crops allowing farmers to cover acres in a single day. While farming is still hard work, and one of the most dangerous professions, modern machinery has multiplied the work a single farmer can get done by many times, though there is still a lot of labor involved in farming. This is a far different situation than Adam and Eve found themselves in the Garden of Eden. While they were tasked with tending the Garden, they only had to reach out and pick their food; they were surrounded by good things to eat. Their only rule was to not eat of one certain tree, a rule they were to break.

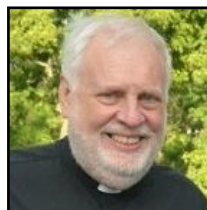
With Adam and Eve's disobedience of God's command, sin and death entered the world. "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread" Genesis 3:17-19a (ESV). Gone was Paradise, where the food was in easy reach. People now must work for their food, planting, weeding, harvesting, grinding grain, baking bread. Life has become more strenuous, bread has become the food of sin. But God in His mercy promises Adam and Eve a Savior.

There are two types of bread: the bread that we work for and

there is the bread that God has given us. The bread God gives us is by His grace and for which we do not do any work. Jesus said "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst" John 6:35 (ESV). This is the bread that is freely given, which no one can earn by the "sweat of your brow," this is the bread that gives eternal life and when one partakes of this bread they will never hunger again.

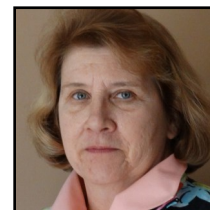
Jesus said "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh" John 6:51 (ESV). The bread of life, eternal life is Jesus' flesh, which is Jesus' life. When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, He died for all sin, and then rose from the grave as proof of His defeat of death. With the fall of Adam and Eve, sin and death came into the world and bread became the symbol of the fall. Jesus as the new Adam is the bread of life, a bread not of eventual death but of eternal life. "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" John 6:40 (ESV). All who repent and believe in Jesus as their Savior have eaten of the bread of life and have received the "Bountiful" blessing of eternal life. Amen.

Rev. Roy Berquist
*St. John Lutheran Church, Fairbank
and Grace Lutheran Church, Jesup
2015 Host Committee Pastoral
Counselor*



In Prayer for One Another

Bountiful Blessings! I love the title of our LWML National Convention Newsletter for 2015! Since the first issue, lots of work has been done and many blessings recognized through that work. One of my assignments has been to pair up members of the Host Committee and their Directors with a "Prayer Partner." I am still missing some information from some of the Directors to do that. Even though some of your positions won't ramp up in earnest for several months, having a Prayer Partner is such a blessing! Knowing that someone out there thinks about you daily, prays for you often, and walks with God on the same road to Des Moines as we are walking is an encouragement in itself! Thank you all for the encouragement you are providing each other.



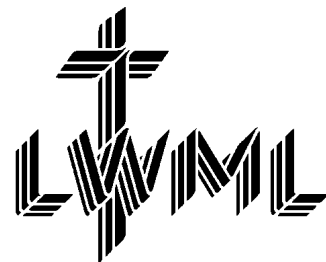
**Karen Menz,
Prayer Chairman**



"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other" (1 Thessalonians 3:12). I love this verse! It is indeed the Lord who works in us and through us to let us LOVE others and show that love. And what a blessing that gift of loving is ... God loving us and empowering us to love others.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, loving Lord, thank You for the blessing of Your amazing love. Help us to encourage each other with honest, sincere acts of love and earnest prayers for each other. In the name of Your greatest gift of love, Your Son Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Introducing Your Host Committee



Host Committee Chairman: Marilyn Schroeder
LWML Convention Programming Committee Chairman:
Pat Reichert
LWML Convention Manager: Marguerite Christman
LWML President: Kay Kreklau
LWML Audio Visual Director: Rev. Bill Engfehr
Host Committee Treasurer: Carole White

Properties Co-Chairman: Kim Meyer, IWD
Ushers Chairman: LouAnn Knaak, IED
Worship Support Chairman: Janice Johnston, IED

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Communications Coordinator: Kathryn Sprecher, IWD
Prayer Chairman: Karen Menz, IWD
Publicity Chairman: Deb Matasovsky, IWD
Secretary: Joanne Hartman, IED
Staff Services Chairman: Nancy Goddard, IWD
Newsletter Editor: Becky Wehrspann, IED

CREATIVE ENHANCEMENTS DEPARTMENT

Creative Enhancements Coordinator: Laura Woebeking, IED
Activities Chairman: Diane Rabe, IED
Decorations Chairman: Denita Krause, IED
Music Chairman: Julia Dlouhy, IED

FACILITY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Facility Management Coordinator: Sharon Andresen, IED
Properties Co-Chairman: Martha Hartwig, IED

GUEST SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Guest Services Coordinator: Judy Westergren, IED
Child/Youth Care Chairman: Nancy Medick, IWD
Food Services Chairman: Vicki Ozburn, IED
Packet Materials/Registration Chairman: Helen Huedepohl, IED
Tours Chairman: Linda Berghoefer, IED
Transportation Chairman: Betty Borchardt, IED

PERSONNEL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Personnel Resources Coordinator: Tracy Stetzel, IWD
Personnel Data Management Chairman: Janice Steffen, IWD
Hospitality Chairman: Jane Shever, IWD
Special Dress Chairman: Barbara Huseman, IWD
Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Roy Berquist, Iowa East
Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, Iowa West
Iowa East District President: Joan Berquist
Iowa West District President: Ann Carrick

Guest Services Department Embraces Many Workers

What a joy to have the opportunity to serve the LWML and our Lord by hosting the 2015 LWML Convention! LWML Iowa East and Iowa West districts are excited about the opportunity to be a part of hosting a convention, and now we are striving to do our best to make this convention run smoothly and be enjoyable for all who attend.



Judy Westergren,
Guest Services Coordinator

The Child/Youth Care Chairman Nancy Medick and her Directors are planning field trips for ages 5 and up, servant activities for the teens and all other aspects required in providing child care. Local and state requirements will be followed, and those participating will experience much of what Des Moines has to offer.

Food Services Committee Chairman Vickie Ozburn will be working with the Convention Manager and her Directors to see that hostesses are available at all food functions and that those who have special meal requests will be handled appropriately.

Packet Materials/Registration Committee Chairman Helen Huedepohl and her Directors are already recruiting volunteers to help with the packet assembling. She will be working closely with the Convention Manager and LWML Convention Registrar regarding the registration process. She is responsible for scheduling adequate personnel to assist with the registration process.

Transportation Committee Chairman Betty Borchardt is working with her Directors and the Convention Manager to work with all aspects of transportation to and from the convention. The most recent task is to inform districts regarding district

charter buses. She will be scheduling hostesses where needed. Her VIP chairman will handle drivers for special guests and presenters as directed by the Convention Manager.

Tours Committee Chairman Linda Berghoefer has been very busy contacting tour companies and working to provide pre- and post-convention tours that will interest those who come to convention. Linda is working with the Convention Manager to assure those who wish to see more of what Iowa has to offer will find interesting and worthwhile trips.

I praise the Lord for all those in Iowa East and Iowa West districts who are so willing to serve in responsible host positions. Please pray with me that the Lord will bless all who are working to host this convention and they will be strengthened in their faith as they serve the Lord in this way. We look forward to hosting the 2015 LWML Convention and serving you, our Sisters in Christ.

Bountiful Blessings

Rachel Remembers ...

Rachel Taylor was the Iowa West District President in 1985 when that district hosted the 21st biennial convention in Ames. These are some of her thoughts and memories she shared of that special time.

- The color GREEN. I still have my Ames “uniform” in my closet. I have not been able to give it away or throw it away. If I am able to attend the convention in 2015, I would wear it for a day.
- The Host Committee meetings closing with the Post Communion Canticle, “Thank the Lord and sing his praise.” Every time I sing it I am reminded of Iowa West.
- I still have my crocheted corn-shaped pot holder hanging in a prominent place in my kitchen. These were given to all registrants to the convention.
- Many attendees used the ISU dormitories for housing – and it worked great!
- Every time I see a basketball game televised from Ames (Hilton Coliseum), I visualize what that floor looked like when the LWML convention was held there.
- So far, that convention had the largest attendance in the history of the organization, and it was successful because of the many wonderful women of the district being the best hosts for the event.
- There were many highlights of the convention itself but the one memory I love is the Roger Williams concert and how he would be playing a wonderful song, and he would work in the tune to “Jesus Loves Me This I Know.”
- It was a blessing to the Iowa District West as the workers made new friendships and old friendships were reinforced as we worked together. We were always reminded that the reason for this gathering was to GIVE PRAISE AND GLORY TO OUR LORD and what a joy it was.

Personally, I am humbled to have been the District President at that time and God blessed me in more ways than I could imagine. I like to look in my “rear view mirror of life” and see how God used me, led me, and blessed me. My years in Iowa West were the best. Thank you Lord. Thank you Iowa West LWML.

Rachel Taylor



Call for Workers

Please volunteer to help at the upcoming LWML Convention in Des Moines! We will need the assistance of more than **600** willing workers (women, men and youth) during the convention. You will be contacted by **April 15, 2015**, with details as to your role. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Special Notes for Workers:

1. All workers must complete the *Call for Workers* form, which is available for download at the Iowa East and Iowa West web-sites.
2. Workers must serve at least two 4-hour sessions at convention to receive a registration discount.
3. If you serve as a delegate, you cannot serve as a worker at convention.
4. **DO NOT REGISTER** for the convention until you receive your worker coupon. A separate registration form will be used by Host Committee members and convention workers.

Order Your Shirt Today!



Convention polo shirts are now available for purchase. Complete a shirt order form (found on each District website) and you'll have a comfortable, stylish shirt to wear now to promote our Des Moines Convention.

Share the Bountiful News!



- With your Zone — at Rallies and Board Meetings ...
 - With your Society — encourage your Sisters in Christ to attend convention in our own state ...
- ... as we prepare to be *Bountiful!* in Des Moines!
www.idwlcms.org/lwmlnews.php
www.lwml-ied.org

Watch for your LWML Winter *Quarterly*, which will include all the details for our 2015 Des Moines Convention!

Bountiful Blessings