



# Bountiful

# Blessings

Des Moines LWML Convention ~ June 25-28, 2015 ~ Iowa East & Iowa West Districts ~ Volume 1 Issue 5 ~ July 2015

## A Minute with Marilyn

It is difficult for me to even know how I should begin this communication because I have so many good things to share. Most of all a heart full of sincere thanks for each and every one of you for the fantastic job you did in carrying out your role as Coordinator, Chairman, Director or volunteer for the 2015 Convention Host Committee.



Convention show-time has come and gone. I was confident we were ready for convention simply because I knew everyone did a super job of paying attention to details within committees and for the sake of the entire planning process for God's convention. And you did it! My sincere thanks.

Thank you for staying focused, wearing your LWML smiles and pleasant personalities with pride. Convention attendees noticed! I would also like to offer a genuine thank you to all those who donated mites in my name. God bless you!

Praises also ascend as our very own Host Committee Pastoral Counselor Steven Turner was elected just days before as the new Iowa District West President. Of course, he and his wife Darlene were with us in Des Moines. We pray for God's richest blessings as Pastor Turner now leads the Iowa District West congregations and affiliated LCMS entities. Our LWML Convention was one of his very first responsibilities as LCMS District President. (Surely LWML is his most-loved arm of the Church!) Congratulations Pastor!

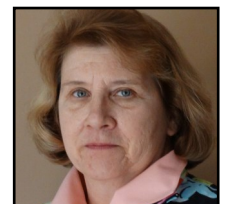
I loaded my car and headed off to convention feeling so privileged to have had the opportunity to know you and work with you. Almost a week later I returned to my earthly home in Boone (car was full again), and my prayer today remains that God granted each of us the fruit of the spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control as we eagerly served the Lord, our LWML sisters and our guests during convention. May God always grant you and all those you serve with His abundant love.

I'm so bountifully blessed!



## Grace Place offered quiet prayer space during Convention

I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve as the Prayer Committee Chairman and specifically to have participated in the planning and implementing of the Grace Place Prayer Chapel. Having a place for attendees to get away from the busyness of the convention for quiet time with God was our goal, and 234 people came to the chapel to pray. In addition, more than 300 prayer requests were placed in the baskets or left in the chapel and our team of 14 volunteers prayed for every one of those requests.



**Karen Menz,  
Prayer Chairman**

Perhaps the most powerful moment for the volunteers was having someone leave a request on the first day and then returning on the third day to share how God had answered that prayer!

Our banner verse, *Be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10a NIV) continues to serve as a reminder that being still and taking time to pray may just be part of the equation. Being still and looking (or listening) for the answers to those prayers might be part of it, too!



**Grace Place Chapel dedication.**

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# Volunteers were plentiful in Des Moines

## 2015 Convention Order Facts:

- Pages' t-shirts – 15
- Fedoras (60 men/12 pages) – 72
- Ribbons –
  - ~ 80 Host Committee
  - ~ 12 Pages
  - ~ 97 Ushers
  - ~ 500 Volunteers
- Convention badges – 775
- Yellow scarves cut – 685
- Brown t-shirts - 1241
- Total Volunteers – 750

The final count of all workers scheduled (including host committee, directors, and other volunteers) from the master schedule was 734. The counts of workers by day were: Wednesday - 217; Thursday - 492; Friday and Saturday - 332 each day; Sunday - 84. There were also 278 different shifts among the five days.



Host Committee members and Iowa East and West volunteers gathered together on Sunday morning. More than 700 workers helped make the convention run smoothly.



The registration area was busy as more than 4,000 guests arrived.



The Personnel Resources Department is ready for volunteers to pick up their worker shirts and badges.



The Creative Enhancements Committee recruits volunteers to put final touches on the table decorations.



Volunteer workers make sure they are ready to help in many areas of Convention.



Women from the Council Bluffs Zone are ready to work as volunteers.

*Bountiful Blessings*

## Receiving Nourishment at Home

“May I feed the baby?”

I needed to alter that mental picture of snuggling and rocking with a bottle and a sweet chubby infant. *Feeding the baby* takes on a different mental picture when feeding the baby means filling four syringes with a green pureed concoction and then plunging it into a port in the baby’s stomach while sitting on the floor trying to not tangle the syringe extension or pull out the port as you try to distract the baby from doing the same.

Sow • Nourish • Reap, our theme for the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial LWML Convention, came to mind (again!) as I was feeding Hank, my grandson. No longer a baby, Hank is now two-years-old and still uses a gastro intestinal port for his feedings. I have watched for two years as his mother has masterfully managed his nourishment: different drugs to control the reflux, different formulas to fight off allergic reactions, different gastroenterologists to identify what about Hank’s stomach and digestive system doesn’t work, and now, the formulation of this interesting green substance, carefully monitored and measured for protein, fiber, oil, vitamin content ... and finally Hank is reaping the benefits. For almost a year Hank’s height had stalled at 29”... but since April he has grown almost two inches! His physical nourishment is so different from most babies, but *growing* is the end game

for all babies, and we are finally seeing Hank do that!

Growing is the end game for us Christians, too ... at least as long as we call earth our home. We grow in our faith when we are nourished by other Christians, by the Word, and by the unseen work of the Holy Spirit. Wasn’t it a great convention? The Bible studies, the music, the mission recipients’ stories, the guest speakers: so many people masterfully managed our nourishment there as well. So much preparation was put into this convention that all the participants might be nourished and that *faith* would grow. Many earthly hands and minds made countless efforts and sacrifices to make this convention happen, but the convention verse *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) gives all glory to God. He, through this convention and His many other means, prepares for us *all* that we need to nourish us and help contribute to the nourishment of others in His harvest field.

“May I feed you?”

God provides the nourishment in answer to this question, and the 2015 LWML Biennial Convention was certainly one of His means of feeding all who attended.

**Karen Menz**

*Prayer Committee Chairman*

## YWRs, Pages Important to Convention

Iowa East and Iowa West Districts each brought two women to serve as Young Woman Representatives to the Des Moines Convention. Sarah Sunderman, Clarinda, and Brenna Wetzler, Ames, represented IWD. Gretchen Licht, Clinton, and Samantha Nelson, Cedar Rapids, represented IED. One responsibility at convention was to walk in the processional on Friday morning with their District President.

Eleven other young women were seen working hard during Convention — our Pages. They delivered messages, helped run errands, and assisted our Host Committee workers in many other ways. The Pages were:

Meghan Dietrich, Rockwell City, IA  
Katie Dryer, Jewell, IA  
Josie Gerke, St. Anthony, IA  
Lauren Heaton, Rochester, MN  
Heidi Lehne, Des Moines, IA  
Grace Manor, New Hartford, CT  
Ashleigh Metzger, State Center, IA  
Elizabeth Ricke, Fonda, IA  
Fantayshia Sanders, Davenport, IA  
Alexis Schindler, Clarinda, IA  
Kathleen Weiss, Des Moines, IA

Please keep these young women in your prayers, that they may be encouraged to continue to participate in the LWML at home.

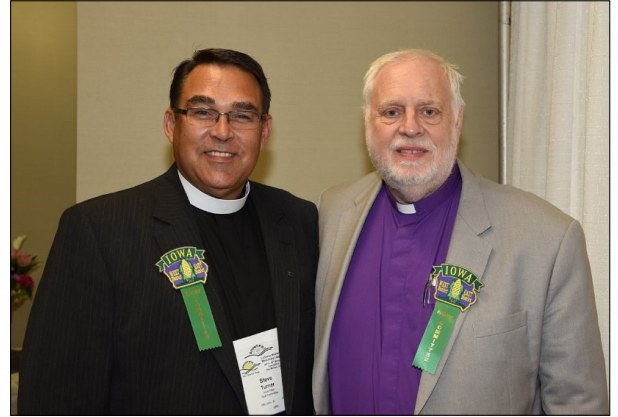


## \$2 million mission goal, grants approved

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry, \$50,000   | 6. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People, \$75,000 | 12. "In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts," \$50,000           |
| 2. Disaster Response Trailers, \$80,000            | 7. Outreach in Refugee Camps – Lebanon, \$72,000   | 13. "We Are God's Workmanship," \$32,500                       |
| 3. Cancer Care Packages – Phil's Friends, \$50,000 | 8. Healthy Families, \$60,000                      | 14. Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel, \$100,000 |
| 4. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings, \$120,000 | 9. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative, \$100,000      | 15. Helping Hands Initiative, \$100,000                        |
| 5. Redeeming Life Maternity Home, \$100,000        | 10. Training Teachers and Leaders, \$100,000       | 16. Deaconess Training, \$90,000                               |
|  | 11. Opportunities in Uganda, \$100,000             | 17. Lutheran Youth Corps, \$25,000                             |
|  |  | 18. Providing Hope for Detroit, \$100,000                      |
|  |  | 19. Rosa Young Academies, \$14,063.94                          |

*Bountiful Blessings*





Clockwise from top left, Iowa East YWRs and DP; Iowa West YWRs and DP; Host Committee Pastoral Counselors; Davenport friends with Gracie Comfort Dog; Maizey; Iowa West friends; Mission in Motion Walk; Stage Front.

*Bountiful Blessings*



## Sponsors Support Golf Challenge for LWML Mite Goal

Several sponsors and many donations were made for the Golf Challenge after our last newsletter was released. This list is a continuation of those who donated. A record \$12,981.57 was raised for mites. To God be the Glory!

### Tee Up 4 Mites Sponsors:

- Steve & Mia McLelland
- Immanuel LWML Dorcas Society, Waterloo, IA
- Duane & Laura Woebbecking
- Doug Woebbecking
- Jan & Fred Rueter
- Marie J. Miller
- Donna Lahn & Wayne Newton
- RS Welding Studio
- Women of Faith, Waterloo, IA
- Trinity LWML, Knoxville, IA
- Marvin Family, Ankeny, IA
- Thompson Financial, Troy Thompson
- Doug Koele, DDS, Reinbeck Family Dentistry
- Host Committee Chairman
- LWML Ladies of Hope, Hope Lutheran, Sigourney, IA
- Site Selection Solutions
- LWML 2013-2015 Executive Committee
- LWML Eastern District
- Paul Kuesel Farms
- Concordia University Nebraska
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Hampton, IA
- Ruth Guild of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midwest City, OK
- MLC Enterprises, Marguerite Christman
- Shepherd of the Hills LWML, Crossville, TN
- Betty Duda, LWML 11th President
- Ida Mall, LWML 12th President
- Gloria Edwards, LWML 13th President
- Virginia Von Seggern, LWML 14th President
- Linda Reiser, LWML 15th President
- Janice Wendorf, LWML 16th President
- Rev. John & Debra Heckmann family
- St. Paul's LWML, Marion, IA
- Trinity Lutheran Ladies Society, Hampton, IA



## LWML President and Executive Committee elected in Des Moines

The voting body elected Patti Ross, Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the new LWML President.

Also elected to four-year terms were Debbie Larson, Bismarck, North Dakota, as Vice President of Organizational Resources; Kaye Wolff, Southfield, Michigan, as Vice President of Special Focus Ministries; Marilyn Schroeder, Boone, Iowa, as Treasurer; and Rev. Robert Mundahl, Faribault, Minnesota, as Pastoral Counselor. Newly elected members of the Nominating Committee are Katy Gifford, Falls City, Nebraska who will serve as chairman; Margo Dupre, Lubbock, Texas; Deaconess Betty Knapp, Marquette, Michigan; Deb Poesse, Rockville, Maryland; and Melissa Salomon, Chula Vista, California.



## Convention by the Numbers

### CONVENTION OFFERINGS

Pledge Walk - \$83,019.03  
 Golf Outing - \$12,981.57  
 Offering #1 - LWML Mission Goal 2015-2017 - \$61,926.90  
 Offering #2 - Discovering Disabilities - ALL of God's Children - \$37,360.55  
 Offering #3 - Cabins for Christ's Children - \$41,465.67  
 Offering #4 - Family of God Mission - Detroit, Michigan - \$41,420.82

### ATTENDANCE

Voting: 576  
 Non-Voting: 4,060  
 Total: 4,636

### CAMP INSTA FRIENDS

Nursery: 9  
 Primary: 7  
 Intermediate: 21  
 Teens: 20

### MISSION IN MOTION

Walkers: 1,337 (registered)

YWRs: 72

FIRST TIMERS: 1,042

### HEART TO HEART

District Leaders: 10  
 Heart to Heart Sisters: 16

### GIFTS FROM THE HEART

For Luther Care:  
 11,280 items in 40 boxes  
 For Lutherans for Life:  
 557 items and 29 boxes  
 Quilts: 1,393  
 School Kits: 513  
 Hygiene Kits: 1,253  
 Pillowcase Dresses: 775  
 Pillows: 321  
 Neck wraps: 1,254  
 Misc. items: 113 boxes  
 Monetary donations: \$1,107

## Video Archive Remains Online

Want to listen and see the opening worship service again? Looking for a way to share the Des Moines Convention experience in your own society or Zone? Missed a part of convention, or weren't able to attend in person? The Live-Stream video from every session is still available online at <https://livestream.com/LWML2015> until December 31, 2015. There are also thousands of photos on the LWML website from the five days of Convention.