

NEWS RELEASE

LWML Eastern District – June 14, 2020

On Friday, June 12, 2020, President Susan Bell opened the 38th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Eastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). Over 90 delegates and an untold number of guests participated in the convention June 12th-14th, 2020 virtually by Facebook and the LWML Eastern District Website. The theme for this convention was "We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight" based on the Bible verse *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight* (2 Corinthians 5:6-7).

Using a web-based survey tool, delegates voted to approve a 2020-2022 Mission Goal of \$134,400, a Mite Goal of \$61,000, and a Grant Goal of \$30,500. Seven (7) projects for a total of \$ 30,500 will be funded over the next two years. The projects to be funded include:

1. GRANT # O. Request to purchase material to sew & other supplies to complete 500 feminine hygiene "kits" by the women at Valencia Days for Girls, Valencia, PA for girls living in poverty around the world. \$5,000
2. GRANT # L. Request to purchase 2,600 meals for those in extreme poverty who are homeless or housing insecure in Philadelphia through Broad Street Ministry's Hospitality Collaborative program. \$5,000
3. GRANT # C. Request to provide food and hygiene products for over 400 widows in southern Malawi, Africa through Climbing for Christ. \$5,000
4. GRANT # M. Request to purchase mattresses, box springs, bed frames, pillow(s), bedding, and blankets for children in need of a bed through Calvary Lutheran's Barnabas Project in Waterloo. \$5,000
5. GRANT # I. Request to complete funding to purchase and install a vinyl play set specifically designed to be handicapped accessible at Christ Memorial Lutheran School in Malvern, PA. \$4,000
6. GRANT # K. Request to purchase Bibles, devotions, & other materials to further the ministry for those with substance abuse, gambling, anger issues, etc. through Celebrate Recovery at Hope Lutheran, Levittown, PA. \$5,000
7. GRANT # E. Request to complete a 2nd apartment in a 5-apartment guest house for use by missionaries in Monrovia, Liberia through Reverend Peter Saie, Trinity Lutheran Church, Utica. \$1,500

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

Vice President of Communication: Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone

Recording Secretary: Dee Grzyb, Buffalo Zone

Financial Secretary: Judy Morrison, Genesee Zone

Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Jeffrey Nickel, Buffalo Zone

These officers will serve with previously elected and/or appointed officers of the Executive Committee: President Susan Bell, Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Sharon McGuan, Vice President of Christian Life/Special Focus Linda Breight, Treasurer Beth Scholl, Pastoral Counselor Reverend John Zimmerman, Parliamentarian Gretchen Putzman, Planner Barbara Williams, Editor Bev Wicher, Public Relations Director Kathy Pavelock, Legacy of Love Coordinator Rebecca Bessell, and Archivist-Historian Chris Gasslein.

On Friday, June 12th, President Susan Bell opened the convention with a video from her Church in Malvern, PA. Linda Arnold provided a Keynote address. LCMS Eastern District President Dr. Rev. Chris Wicher delivered a sermon for what would have been for an opening worship service.

For Saturday, June 13th, Junior Pastoral Counselor Reverend John Zimmerman provided a Bible study based on 2 Corinthians 5:6-7. National LWML President Debbie Larson provided greetings and a report to the districts. Care-A-Van Ministries Director Paul Ohlson provided a Mission Presentation. The LWML Eastern District was encouraged to go on a mite walk in their own community to support the 2020-2022 Mission Grants. The LWML Eastern District was also encouraged to support the selected Gifts from the Heart recipient, Vera House in Syracuse, New York.

On Sunday, June 14th, National LWML representative Reverend Brian Noack provided a Bible Study "Walking in Joy." Senior Pastoral Counselor Reverend Sean Walters delivered a sermon for what would have been for a closing worship service. President Susan Bell closed the 38th Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention with a video from her Church in Malvern, PA.

The 39th Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention will be held in June 2022 in Syracuse, New York, hosted by the Central New York North and Genesee Zones.

The next national LWML Convention will be held June 24-27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. The theme is "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus" based on *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

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