

**39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE
MONTANA DISTRICT
Trinity Lutheran Church – Billings, Montana
July 17-18, 2020**

“Victory Through Christ”

The 39th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Montana District was held on July 17-18, 2020, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, Montana. The convention theme was “Victory Through Christ” based on 1 Corinthians 15:57: *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Friday, July 17, 2020
Opening of Convention and First Meeting
2 p.m.**

Convention Opening and Call to Order – President Shari Miller called the 39th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District to order with the Invocation. She read the first stanza of “Crown Him with Many Crowns” from *Lutheran Service Book* (525): “Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne; Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns, All music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing, Of Him who died for thee, And hail Him as the matchless King, Through all eternity.”

As President's Page Brook Gerard lit the candle on stage, President Miller invited the attendees to rejoice as we celebrate 78 years of God's grace to the women of the LWML in the Montana District. She continued: “It is my prayer that you will have the opportunity at this convention for Bible study and worship and by the Holy Spirit be equipped to boldly declare that Jesus Christ is your victorious Savior; share the Good News of salvation and victory in Jesus; rejoice in mission opportunities God has provided through the LWML; have a renewed heart and focus for mission giving; and have a heart-felt desire to increase your participation in LWML as you celebrate your victory through Christ and serve the Lord with gladness.”

Recording Secretary Sharon Murray and President's Page Brook Gerard were introduced and will be seated in the front during the entire convention. President's Page Gerard disinfected the mike between speakers. Vice President of Christian Growth Sonja Reeves was introduced as the First Meeting's Vice President.

President Miller went over the building and meeting guidelines that were given to each attendee due to the coronavirus pandemic. She thanked Trinity Lutheran Church for the use of their building and asked all to show respect to the church by following the printed guidelines. A copy of the guidelines is filed with the meeting minutes. All were asked to social distance and to wear face masks as they were able per government mandate.

President Miller also announced that all offerings collected at the door in the large Mite Box before and after the First Meeting will be designated for the 2020-2022 Mission Goal. She encouraged convention participants to have their registration bags ready at all times as the contents will be referenced often.

President Miller then led the attendees in the Pledge to the Flag, the Pledge to the Cross, and the LWML Pledge.

Welcome – On behalf of the 14 active societies and 11 supporting societies of the SouthEastern Zone of the LWML Montana District, Convention Co-Chairman Pam Kercher welcomed everyone to the convention. She expressed appreciation to all the societies in the zone that worked toward this great event for the past two years. She also presented a bouquet of flowers to President Miller from her family.

Greetings – Convention Co-Chairman Pam Kercher extended greetings from the convention host, Trinity Lutheran Church and the Trinity Lutheran LWML.

Response – In the absence of Western Zone President Rosanne Larson, the response was given by 2018 LWML Montana District Convention Co-Chairman Sonja Reeves who expressed the appreciation of the attendees for all the efforts and hard work done in preparation and implementation of the convention.

Bible Study - Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Blake Marshall led the assembly in a Bible study titled “Victory in Christ, the Hope Now and Future.” It was based on the text of Apostle Paul’s letter to the Corinthian church taken from 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 and incorporated the theme of the convention.

Introduction of Committees

Minutes Review – Archivist-Historian Marjorie O’Rourke, Scholarship Chairman Edee Anderson, and Corresponding Secretary Janice Witt (editing only)

Crisis Management Team – Deb White, R.N.; Rev. Kyle Whaley, Pastoral Counselor; Pam Kercher, Convention Co-Chairman, and Shari Miller, LWML Montana District President

Introduction of District Officials and Special Guests – President Miller introduced special guests and speakers. In attendance were LWML Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz and her husband, Rev. Terry; The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) Montana District President Rev. Terry Forke; Convention Technician and former LWML Pastoral Counselor (2003-2007) Rev. Larry A. Miller; and Mites in Action Speaker Rev. John Vallie and his wife, Hennie.

Welcome by LCMS Montana District President Rev. Terry Forke – Following a “thank you” video from the LCMS to the LWML, Rev. Forke welcomed the attendees to the convention. He based his welcome on Matthew 13:24 and following.

Convention Agenda and Rules – President Miller stated that the Convention Agenda is printed on pages 4-7 in the *Convention Manual* and will be used as printed, with any needed changes or additions, as the meeting progresses. A copy of the *Convention Manual* is included with these minutes.

The Convention Rules can be found on page 8 in the *Convention Manual* and will be followed. Since many of the rules have to do with voting and that has already been done by mail, those rules do not apply to this assembly. She made note of rule 15 stating that registration for this event gives the LWML Montana District permission to use your image and comments in educational, informational, and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media. No photographs are to be taken during worship services and other devotional periods. She added that these proceedings are being videotaped and approval has been given by all speakers.

Registration Report – Convention Registration Chairman Emmi Going gave the credentials report. She stated that the voting quorum for elections and other convention voting issues as of June 20, 2020 was:

Voting District Officers and Zone Presidents	18
Delegates and Past District Presidents	<u>45</u>
Total Voting Quorum as of June 20	63

She reported the attendance at the convention on July 17, 2020, was:

Convention Registrants and Guests	57
Convention Pastors	<u>6</u>
Total Convention Attendance as of July 17	63

The Victory Troupe – Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) Whitney Marsh and Laura Nussbaum were the Convention Humorous Interrupters. They presented a sketch written by President Miller that focused on a “superhero’s” quest to defeat evil in the world, using her superhero training, skills, and weapons. Superhero “Like-amazing-dudette” Marsh is befriended by a young woman attending the district convention, who invites the superhero to join in with the convention activities. Young Christian Woman Nussbaum becomes a mentor to the inquisitive superhero.

Mites in Action Speaker – Vice President of Christian Life Sonja Reeves introduced Mites in Action Speaker, Rev. John Vallie. Rev. Vallie’s congregations in Northeast Montana were a recipient of an LWML Montana District grant in the amount of \$4,000 during the 2018-2020 biennium to upgrade some of their live-streaming equipment. He streams his Sunday worship service from one of his three congregations weekly to the other two congregations that he serves. He rotates the location so that each church is served in person, and has the opportunity for communion, once every three weeks. He is the first pastor in the LCMS to do this.

Singing and Stretch – At President Miller’s suggestion, everyone stood up for a short stretch and to join Nicholas Harding, Convention Song Leader and Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church and School, as he led the assembly in singing “Serve the Lord with Gladness.”

Keynote Speaker – President Miller introduced the Keynote Speaker Donna (Pyle) Snow. Due to pandemic restrictions placed on travel out of Texas, Donna prepared a video especially for the 2020 LWML Montana District Convention. Donna has a passion for studying and teaching God’s Word. She has authored over 35 Bible studies, including five books with Concordia Publishing House. She based her video talk on 1 Corinthians where Paul addresses the divisions in the church of Corinth. Paul reminds us that we need to keep our focus on God’s Word. As Paul highlighted these church divisions, he also delineated the Law and Gospel; Paul tells us we have victory over sin, divisions, death, and the devil through Christ.

The Victory Troupe – Humorous Interrupters Whitney Marsh and Laura Nussbaum learn that evil in the world cannot be defeated by earthly training, skills, or tools, but by the Word of God and through Jesus’ victory over evil.

Mites in Action – Vice President of Human Care Susan Sweatman shared information and two videos about Orphan Grain Train (OGT), a Christian volunteer network that shares material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Currently, 98.2% of the donations made to OGT are used for their projects. Since 1992, more than 3.8 million hours have been volunteered to the work of OGT.

Introduction of LWML Montana District Board of Directors – President Miller introduced the LWML Montana District Board of Directors (BOD) in a PowerPoint presentation. She shared a job description explaining what each member contributes to the BOD and a “fun fact” about each member.

Announcements – Convention Co-Chairman Pam Kercher explained that the Convention Store will be open only on Saturday during the lunch recess and that only four people would be allowed to shop at one time. Attendees can leave their personal items at their seat during breaks because they will be coming back to the same seat for every session. The evening meal will be downstairs in the basement and is catered by the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant. There is an elevator for those who need it. Envelopes have been provided for the Friday evening service and there will be an offering plate by the door for donations.

Closing Prayer – Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley led the assembly in prayer, noting requests that were placed in the Prayer Box.

Convention Worship Service – 7:30 p.m. – The Worship Service followed an order of worship that was included in the registration bags. Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley was the worship designer and proclaimer, Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Blake Marshall was the liturgist and lector, and Dr. Kenneth T. Kosche, Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, was organist. The service offering was designated to Montana Missionaries in foreign fields: Rev. David and Jennifer Preus, Dominican Republic; Rev. Andrew and Kelsey Schlund, Mexico; Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett, Ethiopia; and Rev. David and Shelee Warner, Spain.

July 18, 2020
Second Meeting
8 a.m.

Call to Order - President Shari Miller called the Second Meeting of the 39th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District to order. She led the convention body in reading the convention goal statement and convention objectives. She thanked Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley for his message at the Friday evening worship service and thanked Dr. Kenneth Kosche, Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, for his accompanying music on the organ. President Miller informed the assembly that \$1,177.24 was collected toward the 2020-2022 Mission Goal on Friday and \$1,550 was received during the Friday evening service to be divided evenly among four Montana Missionaries. Vice President of Servant Resources Linda Reilly was introduced as the Second Meeting's Vice President.

The following groups and individuals were originally scheduled to exhibit at the convention; information from each of these groups has been included in the registration bags:

Donna (Pyle) Snow
LWML *Gifts of Love*
Lutheran Church Extension Fund
Ambassadors of Reconciliation
Operation Barnabas
Rural and Small Town Ministry
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Lutherans for Life
Lutheran Bible Translators
Orphan Grain Train
Concordia Publishing House

Bible Study – Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley led the attendees in a Bible study titled “Victory Over Spiritual Forces” based on 1 Corinthians 15:57. He shared that in spiritual warfare, victory is assured, since Jesus Christ has already won it on the cross and in His resurrection. Christians will eventually share in Christ's complete victory and through Him overcome their spiritual enemies.

Explanation of the Convention Voting – President Miller explained to the attendees that the voting issues were addressed prior to the convention using the quorum of 63 from registered delegates as of June 20, 2020. Teller Committee Chairman Janice Witt developed an organized way to distribute and collect the ballots. The Teller Committee Chairman and Committee, consisting of a representative from each zone, met together on July 9, 2020, to count and tally the results of voting. The Teller Committee was: Valerie Martin, Central Zone; Barb Schneidenbach, Divide Zone; Michal Delgado, Flathead Zone; Gail Pletcher, SouthEastern Zone; and Christine

Wallace, Western Zone. Due to the absence at the convention of Chairman Witt and Parliamentarian Myrt White, President Miller gave the results of the voting throughout the convention.

2020-2022 Mission Goal/Budget/Voting Results – LWML Montana District Treasurer Carol Holste shared updated news with the convention body. The LWML Montana District exceeded the 2018-2020 Mission Goal/Budget of \$55,700 by \$3,563.35 for a total of \$59,263.35. The proposed 2020-2022 Mission Goal/Budget is \$56,000. President Miller announced that the proposed budget was passed with a vote of 59 for the motion and 0 against the motion. This exceeds the two-thirds votes required. The 2020-2022 Mission Goal/Budget is as follows:

Administrative Expenses	35%	\$19,600
Grants	40%	\$22,400
LWML Mites	<u>25%</u>	<u>\$14,000</u>
Totals	100%	\$56,000

In addition, President Miller reported that the 2018-2020 Mission Goal/Budget had funds to only partially fund the final two selected Mission Grant Proposals at the previous district convention in 2018. However, the 2018 Convention’s second offering had been designated for the Grants Account. At their April 2018 Post-Convention Meeting, the BOD considered the balance of the Grants Account at the end of the biennium, plus the designated second convention offering. The BOD voted to designate \$4,300 in the Grants Account toward funding the two partially funded grants voted on at the 2018 Convention. Thus, all voted grant requests were fully funded and distributed during the 2018-2020 Biennium.

Bylaws Presentation – The proposed bylaws changes were approved by the LWML Structure Committee and the LWML Montana District BOD. The changes required a two-thirds vote by the convention quorum. All bylaws changes were approved by a vote of 59 for the motion and 0 against the motion.

Proposed Amendment #1 removed Article VI,4,f and Article IX,1,d,8 which were written to describe the duties of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary concerning bonding. The rationale of the proposal was to conform to present practice.

Proposed Amendment #2, Article VIII, 4 – Executive Committee stated that if adopted, the following changes will be made: “The Executive Committee shall determine the amount of bond and/or other insurance for financial protection of the organization.” Following the two noted amendments, attendance at the national LWML Structure Seminar advised that “bonding” does not need to be addressed in the bylaws. The above amendment would be moved to the BOD Standing Policies and Procedures.

Proposed Amendment #3 deleted Article VIII, 4 – Executive Committee which stated that: “The Executive Committee shall determine the amount of bond and/or other insurance for financial protection of the organization.” President Miller announced that by a required vote of two-thirds majority, the delegates adopted the proposed amendments to the LWML Montana District Bylaws.

Introduction of Officer and Pastoral Counselor Candidates – Nominating Committee Chairman Pam Kercher introduced those who were to be considered for the 2020-2022 slate of officers to be elected:

District President	Pam Kercher
Vice President of Christian Life	Brook Gerard
Vice President of Gospel Outreach	Marjorie O’Rourke
Nominating Committee Chairman	Shari Miller

President Miller announced that the result of the voting was to unanimously accept the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. The voting was 59 for the motion and 0 against the motion.

Nominating Committee Chairman Kercher then introduced Rev. Andrew Eckert and Rev. Daniel Keinath, both of whom could not attend the convention. President Miller announced the result of the voting: Rev. Keinath was elected as the Junior Pastoral Counselor for the 2020-2024 biennium with a vote of 20 to 38. She thanked Rev. Eckert for his willingness to serve and for his work as the Western Zone Pastoral Counselor.

Report from LWML – Vice President of Servant Resources Linda Reilly introduced LWML Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz who brought a virtual hug from all of LWML and presented the report from the LWML Board of Directors. She gave an update on the LWML Mission Grants and also brought a welcome video from LWML President Debbie Larson. President Larson explained her chosen logo which highlights the letters “H I S” in the word Christ: **H**eld by God’s Word; **I**nspired to share His Gospel; and **S**urrounded by His Grace. Meeting Manager Naasz presented President Miller a plaque with a certificate of appreciation for her time served as LWML Montana District President and a necklace designed with the logo of President Larson. She also brought the invitation to the 39th Biennial LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021.

The Victory Troupe – Humorous Interrupters Whitney Marsh and Laura Nussbaum learn about the “Armor of God” as they read about it in Ephesians 6. They continue to be a part of all convention Bible studies and activities.

Presentation of 2020-2022 Mission Grants - Prior to the presentation of the 2020-2022 Mission Grant Proposals, President Miller explained that one of the items to be decided by ballot was to approve the use of \$3,000 of the budgeted allocated grant money for Scholarship Grants for the next biennium. That amount would then be deducted from the total Grant Money available in 2020-2022. The result of the voting was to approve the sum of \$3,000 to be allocated for Scholarship Grants and be deducted from the total budgeted Grant Money, leaving \$19,400 to fund the Mission Grants during the 2020-2022 Biennium.

Michal Delgado, Flathead Zone President and member of the Gospel Outreach Committee, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the nine Mission Grant Proposals. They were as follows:

1. CLET: Growing Shepherd Pastors, Togo, Africa	\$2,500
2. Evangelism Outreach Resources, LCMS Mission to Spain	\$1,800
3. Little Lambs Christian Preschool, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ronan, Montana	\$2,000
4. Over-The-Counter (OTC) Medication, Food and Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana	\$2,500
5. Making Jesus Known in U.S. Ethnic Communities	\$2,000
6. Manitoba Mission Sending the Gospel North	\$2,000
7. Muddy Cluster “Building for the Kingdom”	\$3,000
8. Nutrition Center Transformation at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch	\$2,100
9. Training Leaders to BOLDLY Declare Y’shua as Messiah in Israel	<u>\$2,500</u>
Total	\$20,400

President Miller explained that at the Executive Committee Meeting held on June 20, 2020, it was voted that the amount of \$1,000 from an overage in the Grants Account as of March 31, 2020, be designated to be used to fully fund all nine 2020-2022 proposed grants. The result of the voting to fully fund all the proposed 2020-2022 Mission Grant Proposals, including scholarships (a total of \$23,400), was 58 for the motion and one against the motion. The motion passed.

President Miller gave Recording Secretary Sharon Murray the signed report by the Teller Committee to be filed with the minutes and directed her to destroy the ballots.

LWML Gifts of Love Planning Counselor – Recording Secretary Sharon Murray introduced LWML *Gifts of Love* Planning Counselor Carol von Soosten. Carol joined the convention by video. As an LWML *Gifts of Love* Planning Counselor, Carol joyfully serves as a guide to help LWML women by putting a prayerfully considered Charitable Gift Plan in place to transfer their God-given blessings to the people they love and the ministries they cherish. In addition, Carol shared the following via email: “The LWML Montana District has a history of partnering with the LCMS Foundation through Past President Jo Young. After she was called home to heaven, her Charitable Gift Annuity provided for both LWML and the Montana District. What a blessing! That gift enabled you to fund obligations as a Hosting District for the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, paid for communion wine and wafers for the Convention worship service, increased your Endowment Fund to \$10,000 to fund training and grants, and provides funding for scholarships for mission trips. Jo’s husband Lowell also set up an annual distribution from a trust to help both LWML and the Montana District. These great examples show how putting a plan in place can help missions with ongoing financial support, even when you are home in heaven. Working with a trained LWML Gift Planning Counselor brings all the resources of the LCMS Foundation to you free of charge. You may not know what is possible in your planning until you review everything and hear what can be set up to carry out your wishes.”

Keynote Speaker Donna (Pyle) Snow – Keynote Speaker Donna (Pyle) Snow continued her presentation centered around the convention theme Bible verse 1 Corinthians 15:57: *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* “The key word is victory,” she said. She continued, “When we look around us, we may not feel very victorious and we may feel defeated, but we remember and know that we always have victory through Christ.” At the end of the presentation President Miller called Donna on the telephone and the assembly all called out a loud “Thank you!” and applauded.

Singing and Stretch – Attendees stood and stretched. Convention Song Leader Nicholas Harding led the group in singing “Lutheran Women, One and All.”

Heart to Heart Sister Leader – Bridget Michel, LWML Montana District Heart to Heart Sister Leader, could not attend the convention so *Montana Missive* Editor Brook Gerard narrated her prepared PowerPoint presentation. The Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) program motivates, equips, and provides opportunities for multi-cultural women to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow together in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Greetings – Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Representative Jeff Snyder joined the convention via video. LCEF provided the registration bags, hand sanitizers, and a credit card sized flash drive. Jeff congratulated and encouraged LWML and the LWML Montana District for all the mission work they do around the United States and the world.

LWML Montana District Treasurer Carol Holste gave a short report following the LCEF video presentation to let the attendees know that we now have two 2-year \$10,000 accounts and one 4-year \$10,000 account with LCEF. These accounts have paid a combined interest of \$548.29 since March 2019. This not only helps the LWML Montana District, but the District’s Partner Plus accounts are helping churches and missions to spread the Word of God through LCEF loans.

Mission Trip to North Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch – Vice President of Christian Life Sonja Reeves reported on a Short-Term Mission Service Event to North Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in June 2019. She shared slides of the trip in a PowerPoint presentation. The trip was made possible by monies from the Jo Young Annuity that helped to pay the expenses of the group. They were able to assist in the day-to-day operations of the thrift store that the Ranch runs, helping with the sorting and pricing of thousands of items that the Ranch receives for re-sale.

Young Woman Representatives (YWR) 2019 Mobile Convention Report – Whitney Marsh and Laura Nussbaum, the LWML Montana District YWRs, represented Montana at the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama. They presented a PowerPoint presentation showing highlights of their sightseeing in the area, servant events, young women activities, and meetings they attended. They especially liked that President Miller gave each of them the chance to choose one of the mission grants for the upcoming biennium that they particularly wanted to see voted to be funded. She then cast two of her votes for each grant they chose. They enjoyed being part of the banner processional with President Miller.

Invitation to the 2021 LWML Convention – A short video was shown highlighting Lexington, Kentucky, the site of the 2021 LWML Convention. Financial Secretary Barb Kohs, Vice President of Servant Resources Linda Reilly, and Scholarship Chairman Edee Anderson presented an entertaining sketch inviting everyone to come to the 39th Biennial Convention. The Convention theme is “Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus.”

Announcements – Convention Co-Chairman Pam Kercher announced that a sack lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall in the basement of the church. She reported there are extra LCEF bags in the narthex that can be picked up by anyone who would like an extra one. The *Victory Times* newsletter will be handed out at the rear door of the church. The Convention Store will be open only during the lunch hour. Four people will be allowed to shop at one time.

Prayer Requests – Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Blake Marshall prayed for special requests. The attendees joined together to say the common table prayer.

Lunch Recess
11:30 a.m.

July 18, 2020
Third Meeting
1 p.m.

Meeting Opening – President Shari Miller welcomed the convention body back for the Third Meeting of the LWML Montana District 39th Biennial Convention. She shared that the total offering from the Second Meeting designated for the 2020-2022 Mission Goal was \$504.86. Added to the previous donations of \$1,177.24, the amount of \$1,682.10 was added to the 2020-2022 Mission Goal. In addition, \$1,490 of the registration fees of some of those who decided not to attend the convention due to the pandemic were donated to the 2020-2022 Mission Goal. A total of \$3,172.10 was donated to the 2020-2022 Mission Goal. Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Blake Marshall led the group in a thanksgiving prayer.

Vice President of Human Care Susan Sweatman was introduced as the Third Meeting’s Vice President. President Miller thanked her husband and convention technician, Rev. Larry A. Miller, for his help and being a source of encouragement during the last weeks. She also thanked Jonathan Boll, Director of Operations and Outreach for Trinity Lutheran Church, for his help with all the set up for the convention and the use of the church. Kammy Perdew was thanked for recording the sessions and Charolette Nedens for being the sound technician. President Miller reminded everyone that the convention in its entirety will be posted on the LWML Montana District website. It will include the manual, videos, and the PowerPoint presentations.

Recognition of Past District Presidents – In the history of the LWML Montana District we have had twenty LWML women serve as District Presidents. Fourteen Past District Presidents are in heaven. Mrs. Marlys Koenig Toepke, who served from 1988 to 1992, received her crown of glory in 2019. Four Past District Presidents were unable to

attend the convention. Those unable to attend were Mrs. Louise Eayrs, District President 1978-1982; Mrs. Barbara Going, District President 1982-1988; Mrs. Nenette Loftsgaarden, District President 1992-1996; and Mrs. Christine Wallace, District President 2012-2016. All of them expressed a desire to be with us, but circumstances did not allow. Past District President Nenette Loftsgaarden and Past District President Christine Wallace sent greetings in a letter. Two Past District Presidents joined the convention body. They were Past District President Mrs. Pam Kercher 2004-2008 and current District President Mrs. Shari Miller 2008-2012.

Invitation to 2022 LWML Montana District Convention – Members from the Divide Zone presented a sketch inviting everyone to join them for the 2022 LWML Montana District 40th Biennial Convention; date and location yet to be determined.

Servant Activity Report – Recording Secretary Sharon Murray reported on the Servant Activity done for the convention. She said that because of the pandemic and not being able to join together as a large body to complete the chosen Servant Event, the members of the Convention Host Committee met a week prior to the convention and put together 40 backpacks that were given to the residents of Adullam House, a transitional care ministry for those who have been incarcerated. Donations were given for this activity from Societies in the SouthEastern Zone, Grace Lutheran LWML (Hamilton), Trinity Lutheran Church (Billings) Benevolent Fund, and several Thrivent Action Team Grants. The backpacks included such items as a bath towel and washcloth, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, a razor and shaving cream, six pairs of socks, a notepad and pen, a Mustard Seed Devotion, and a New Testament Bible donated by The Gideons International. In addition, 300 single use city bus passes, men's belts, and Thrivent T-shirts were given to be used as needed. The cost of each backpack was about \$38 for a total of \$1,515 with \$1,500 donated. The value of each backpack was close to \$100.

Gifts from the Heart Report – Vice President of Human Care Susan Sweatman reported that items collected for Orphan Grain Train (OGT) consisted of 87 plus layettes, 20 plus school kits, 90 plus quilts, 40 boxes of clothing and various other soft goods, four bicycles, and \$100 cash. The OGT truck was half full. Twenty-two handmade quilts, which were brought by the convention attendees from their home societies, plus men's toiletries, coffee, socks, and towels will be given to Independence Hall, a home for homeless veterans in Billings. Gift cards in denominations of \$10 to \$25 were donated to the Billings Public Schools Homeless Teens Program, with a total of \$825 in gift cards received. The remaining 14 quilts donated by the societies will be given to a homeless veteran's organization run by the Veteran's Association. Junior Pastoral Counselor Blake led the assembly in a litany for the Gifts from the Heart.

The Victory Troupe – Humorous Interrupters Whitney Marsh and Laura Nussbaum concluded their interruptions. Superhero Marsh showed off her new "armor," one of the convention aprons. She also changed her superhero title from "Like-amazing-dudette" to "God's-amazing-child." She learned that she shared that name with Young Christian Woman Nussbaum. Brandishing their Bibles, they go forth, proclaiming the words of 1 Corinthians 15:57 together: *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!*

Recognition of Humorous Interrupters – President Miller thanked YWRs Whitney Marsh and Laura Nussbaum for being the Humorous Interrupters for the convention.

Gift Bags – Convention Co-Chairman Pam Kercher gave away four books that were donated to the convention by Ken Ohlemeyer from Concordia Publishing House. President Miller gave special gift bags to guest program participants throughout the convention. Some of the bags contained *Dedicated!*, the newest LWML history book; LWML socks; LWML cups; LWML coasters; assorted Mustard Seeds; a CD of LWML songs played on piano; items related to the convention theme; and crosses that were made and donated by Ross Clark, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings. She also added some personal gifts to various bags.

Recognition of Convention Host Committee – President Miller recognized that many people made this weekend possible. Convention Co-Chairman Pam Kercher introduced all the members of the Convention Host Committee, who stood and received applause. She made note that Co-Chairman Myrt White could not attend the convention because she recently suffered a stroke; she asked that all keep Myrt in prayer for a quick recovery. The Convention Host Committee and other convention workers are listed below:

Advisor: President Shari Miller	Music: Mary Stabio
Aprons: Sheryl Scheafer	Nurse: Deb White, R.N.
Banner: Deb White, Deb Schmidt, Kammy Perdew	Organist: Dr. Ken Kosche
Co-Chairmen: Pam Kercher, Myrt White	Parliamentarian: Myrt White
Choir Director: Nicholas Harding	Publicity: Sheryl Scheafer
Decorations: Deb White	Refreshments: Sue Going, LaRae Telafuse
Entertainment: AKZENTS	Registration: Emmi Going
Exhibits: Donnaleen Ganskop, Lorli Mercer	Servant Events: Amy King, Emmi Going, Thrivent Action Team Grant, Trinity Lutheran
Facilities: Amy King	Technician: Rev. Larry A. Miller
Gifts from the Heart: Barb Nies	Treasurer: Sherrie Murray
Hospitality: Caroline Boll	Tote Bags: Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Jeff Snyder
<i>Convention Manual</i> : Shari Miller, Janice Witt, and an Action Team Grant from – Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	
	<i>Victory Times</i> : Brook Gerard

President Miller also gave recognition to David Goodson, a member of First Lutheran Church, Helena, and owner of Goodson Designs. He designed the logo for the convention and laid out the cover for the manual, at no cost to the District.

President Miller asked the BOD members finishing their terms to stand, the rest of the BOD members to stand, the Young Women of the LWML Montana District to stand, all the delegates and guests to stand, and all Montana Lutheran Women in Mission to stand. We praised God and applauded for all the wonderful men and women who made this convention a success.

Victory Times Newsletter – President Miller noted that the convention newsletter was printed prior to the convention and that the BOD has decided to not have face-to-face District Fall Retreats this year as printed in the newsletter. Retreat information will be available by download from the LWML Montana District website to use in societies or small groups.

Closing Remarks – President Miller printed a letter in the manual thanking the BOD for their service over the past four years and prayed that the remaining officers and those appointed or re-appointed would continue to serve the Lord with gladness.

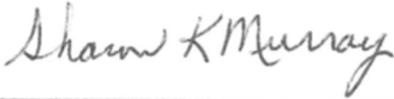
President Miller stated: “I would also like to thank my family for their unending loyalty and encouragement to me over the years, especially when I was, as my husband says, ‘in LWML land.’ Thanks most especially to our Lord who ‘equips us with His Spirit’ to do the jobs He gives to us and to share the love of Jesus into a darkened world.”

She closed her remarks by asking everyone to join her in reading again the first stanza of the hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns” from *Lutheran Service Book* (525): “Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne, Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns, All music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing, Of Him who died for thee, And hail Him as thy matchless King, Through all eternity.”

Installation of Officers and Closing – Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley installed the newly elected officers and Pastoral Counselor. He closed the convention with prayer.

Pinning of New President - Now Past President Shari Miller gave President Pam Kercher the President's pin and President Kercher gave Past President Miller the Past President's pin.

Adjournment – The 39th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District was closed by President Pam Kercher at 2 p.m.



**Sherrie (Sharon K.) Murray,
Recording Secretary**



Shari (Sharon J.) Miller, President