

**37TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE
MONTANA DISTRICT
Peace Lutheran Church – Great Falls, Montana
April 29-May 1, 2016**

“Nurturing Faith in Christ”

The 37th Biennial Convention of the Montana District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was held on April 29-May 1, 2016, at Peace Lutheran Church and the Hampton Inn in Great Falls, Montana. The convention theme was “Nurturing Faith in Christ” based on 1 Peter 2:2 (NKJV): ... *that you may grow*

**Friday, April 29, 2016
Opening of Convention and First Meeting
6:30 p.m.**

Convention Opening and Call to Order – President Christine Wallace called the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District to order with the Invocation. Recording Secretary Bridget Michel, Parliamentarian Nnette Loftsgaarden, and President's Page Emmi Going were introduced and were seated at the front table during the entire convention. Vice President of Servant Resources Pam Kercher was introduced as the meeting's vice president. The Pledge to the Flag and the Pledge to the Cross were spoken by the convention body.

Welcome – On behalf of the LWML societies of the Central Zone, Central Zone President Gloria Creek and Convention Co-Chairmen Valerie Martin and Elsie Huss welcomed everyone to Great Falls and the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District. Zone President Creek expressed appreciation to three of the societies in the zone that worked especially hard preparing for the convention.

Response – Eastern Zone President Judy Blakesley responded with gratitude for all the work done in preparation and implementation of the convention.

Introduction of District Officials and Special Guests – President Christine Wallace introduced special guests and speakers. In attendance were past national LWML President and keynote speaker Kay Kreklau LWML Montana District Senior Pastoral Counselor and Bible study leader Rev. Kyle Whaley; Bible study leader and technical consultant Rev. Larry Miller; host congregation pastor and Bible study leader Rev. Steven Schlund and his wife Becky; past LWML Montana District Presidents Barbara Going, Nennette Loftsgaarden, Pam Kercher, and Shari Miller; Orphan Grain Train representative Mike Widhalm and his wife Karen; Bradley Williams, Hamilton, Montana, with Montanans Against Assisted Suicide; Rev. Al Luehmann, of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation; and Montana District Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod President Rev. Terry Forke and his wife Cheryl.

Greetings – Host congregation pastor, Rev. Steven Schlund, extended greetings on behalf of Peace Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Rev. Schlund spoke and signed his greetings.

Registration Report – Convention Registration Chairman Sylvia Adams reported the evening session attendance.

| | <u>4/29/2016</u> |
|--|------------------|
| Voting District Officers and Zone Presidents | 20 |
| Delegates and Past District Presidents | <u>32</u> |
| Total entitled to vote | 52 |
| Guests | 21 |
| Pastors | <u>4</u> |

(m/s/c – I) that the roll of delegates and voting members on April 29, 2016 at 6:45 p.m. be the official roll of voting members of the convention.

Reading of the Minutes

(m/c – II) that, by direction of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors, we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 36th Biennial Convention held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Miles City, Montana, on May 2-4, 2014.

Approval of Convention Rules – Structure Chairman Shari Miller read the convention rules.

(m/s/c – III) that the proposed convention rules be adopted as read and printed on page 7 in the convention manual.

Approval of Convention Agenda

(m/c – IV) that, by direction of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors, the convention agenda be adopted as printed on pages 3-6 of the convention manual with necessary changes at the discretion of the chairman.

Introduction of Committees

Minutes Review – Archivist-Historian Marjorie O'Rourke and Financial Secretary Donnaleen Ganskop

Teller Committee – Chairman Corresponding Secretary Cindy Super, Central Zone President Gloria Creek, Divide Zone President Cheryl Stensrud, Eastern Zone President Judy Blakesley, Flathead Zone President Kathy Scott, Southern Zone President Shirley Zeller, and Western Zone President Dorothy Rummel

Crisis Management Team – Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley; Convention Chairman Valerie Martin; Vice President of Servant Resources Pam Kercher; Divide Zone President Cheryl Stensrud, R.N.; Corresponding Secretary Cindy Super, EMT; and LWML Montana District President Christine Wallace

Introduction of Officer Candidates – Nominating Committee Chairman Janice Witt thanked her committee for helping find the candidates and those who agreed to run for office. All those elected will serve a term of four (4) years, with the exception of the Nominating Committee Chairman who will serve for two (2) years. The slate of candidates was introduced:

President – Sharon (Shari) Miller

Vice President of Christian Life – Sonja Reeves

Vice President of Gospel Outreach – Kathleen (Kathy) Scott

Chairman of the Nominating Committee – Christine Wallace

Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Kyle Whaley

President Wallace called for any additional nominations from the floor. No nominations were given. Nominations were closed.

(m/c – V) that the slate of officer candidates be unanimously elected as presented and installed during the Sunday worship service.

Prayer – Bridget Michel offered a prayer for the guidance of the newly elected board members and for the continued support of all the district officers.

Humorous Interrupters – Young Woman Representatives (YWR) Samantha Toombs and Nichole Burns led the convention body in the song, *If You're Happy and You Know it*.

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) Representative – Mike Widhalm brought greetings and thanks from OGT and Mercy Meals, an organization associated with OGT which provides meals for children in need throughout the world. He accepted boxes and donations throughout the convention.

Announcements – Co-Chairman Valerie Martin invited everyone to a reception following the worship service. She announced details concerning the Saturday banner processional, opening of exhibits, and delegate seating. Processional participants are to meet at 7:45 a.m. to line up. Vice President of Servant Resources Pam Kercher explained the LWML store guidelines. Sample products on display during the convention would be available for purchase after the banquet. Other items could be ordered for delivery to home addresses.

President Wallace adjourned the First Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Convention Worship Service – 8:00 p.m.

The processional began with the 2015 LWML convention banner and the 2016 LWML Montana District convention banner. They were followed by the LWML Montana District Board of Directors, light bearer Christine Wallace, crucifer Cindy Super, and participating clergy. LWML Montana District Senior Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley was the worship designer and proclaimer, past LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Larry A. Miller was the liturgist, and pastor of Peace Lutheran Church Rev. Steven Schlund was the lector for the opening worship service. The service offering of \$831.16 was designated for the LWML Montana District 2016-2018 mission goal.

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Young Woman Chairman Billye Roseleip hosted a breakfast for young women. Convention registration began at 7:00 a.m., and at that time, displays were open for viewing. Singing with Valerie Martin was enjoyed before the opening of the convention's second meeting.

**Second Meeting
8:00 a.m.**

Call to Order – President Wallace called the second meeting of the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District to order. She thanked Rev. Whaley for his message at the worship service. She also thanked the choir director and song leaders. Vice President of Human Care Deborah Knudsen was introduced as the meeting's vice president.

Bible Study – LWML Montana District Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley led a Bible study based on 1 Peter 2:2, the theme verse of the convention. In our congregations, we prosper through the sacraments and the preaching of the Word. Blessings flow through the spiritual and physical feeding that happens at church. God does the work through the Word. He wants us to be together. Churches are blessed whether they are big or small, and God blesses us because we are His people.

Registration Report – Convention Registration Chairman Sylvia Adams gave the registration count Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

| | <u>Reported 4/30/2016</u> | <u>Corrected 4/30/2016</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Voting District Officers and Zone Presidents | 21 | 21 |
| Delegates and Past District Presidents | <u>35</u> | <u>38</u> |
| Total entitled to vote | 56 | 59 |
| Guests | 26 | 21 |
| Pastors | <u>7</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Total | 89 | 84 |

(m/s/c – VI) that the roll of delegates and voting members on April 30, 2016 at 8:45 a.m. be the official roll of voting members of the convention.

Introduction of LWML Montana District BOD – Structure Chairman Miller introduced the Board of Directors using a power point presentation containing photos of the board while she told about each person’s favorite Sunday school teacher.

Bylaws Presentation – Structure Chairman Shari Miller presented proposed changes to the LWML Montana District Bylaws as recommended by the Board of Directors. These proposed changes to Table of Contents; Article IV. 1, 2, 2c.; Article VI. 5.; Article IX. 3; Article IX, Section 3; and Article IX, Section 1 were read as printed on page 17 of the convention manual. The LWML Structure Committee reviewed these changes and approved them.

1. As adopted, the following changes will be made:
“Chairman of the Nominating Committee will be replaced with “Nominating Committee Chairman” in the Table of Contents: Article IV. 1, 2, 2c.: Article VI. 5; and Article IX. 3.
2. As adopted, Article IX, Section 3, will read: The OFFICER and MISSION GRANTS TELLER COMMITTEE, consisting of one teller from each zone and a chairman, appointed by the District President prior to the convention, shall:
 - tally the ballots for officer elections and mission grant selections;
 - report the results of the tallies to the President.The chairman of the Officer and Mission Grants Teller Committee shall not be a Teller Committee member, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, or the Vice President of Gospel Outreach.
3. As adopted, Article IX, Section 1, will read: Appointed officers shall be the Archivist-Historian, Corresponding Secretary, Editor, Financial Secretary, Parliamentarian, Scholarship Chairman, Structure Chairman, Web Coordinator, and Young Woman Chairman. These officers shall be appointed prior to the first regular Board of Directors meeting following each District convention ~~except the Financial Secretary, whose term shall coincide with the term of the District Treasurer.~~ Any vacancies shall be filled by appointment. (See Article VI, Section 1h.)

(m/c – VII) By direction of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors, a motion was made to adopt the proposed amendments to the LWML Montana District Bylaws as presented.

Prayer – Archivist-Historian Marjorie O’Rourke led the convention body in prayer prior to voting on the bylaws changes.

Voting on Proposed Bylaws Changes – President Christine Wallace announced that by a standing vote of two-thirds majority, the delegates adopted the proposed amendments to the LWML Montana District Bylaws.

Proposed 2016-2018 Biennium Mission Goal/Budget – Treasurer Ruth Denning reported that, by the grace of God, the LWML Montana District exceeded the mission mite goal for the 2014-2016 biennium by \$1,813.93. The proposed 2016-2018 Biennium Budget reflects an increase of five percent over the previous biennium to \$55,156.50. The Budget, as recommended by the LWML Montana District Board of Directors, was presented:

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Administrative Expenses | 35% | \$19,304.77 |
| Grants | 40% | \$22,062.60 |
| LWML Mites | <u>25%</u> | <u>\$13,789.13</u> |
| Total | 100% | \$55,156.50 |

(m/c – VIII) as recommended by the Board of Directors, to adopt the proposed 2016-2018 Biennium Mission Goal/Budget of \$55,156.50 as presented.

Prayer – Financial Secretary Donnaleen Ganskop led the convention in prayer prior to voting on the proposed 2016-2018 Biennium Mission Goal/Budget.

Voting on Proposed Mission Goal/Budget – By a required two-thirds vote of the voting delegates in attendance, the

2016-2018 Biennium Mission Goal/Budget of \$55,156.50 was approved. President Wallace led us in a joyful singing of the *Doxology*.

Report from LWML – Nancy Bogenhagen, LWML Vice-President of Communication, extended greetings and encouragement from national LWML and Lutheran Women in Mission across the nation. Our convention theme reminds her of the LWML mission statement. She presented a power point in which LWML President Patti Ross pictured today’s LWML and shared focal points: engage, experience, equip, and enjoy. Vice President Bogenhagen highlighted Bible studies, resources, and volunteer opportunities on the LWML Facebook page and website. She presented President Wallace a butterfly pin and a plaque of appreciation.

Humorous Interrupter – YWRs Nichole Burns and Samantha Toombs led us in Samantha’s rendition of *Herman the Worm*. They got us out of our seats to exercise, sing, and laugh.

Mites in Action Speaker #1 – Rev. Dennis Bauer, biennium 2014-2016 grant recipient for Circle of Life Youth Lodge in Muddy Cluster, Montana, shared an update on the project. He thanked the convention body with a reading of 1 Corinthians 1:4-9. Rev. Bauer and his wife Cheryl have been on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation for 34 years and live in the Muddy Cluster housing district, an area of about 400 people. Since 2000, the congregation has been part of the Montana District LCMS. Attendance on Easter was about 70, with an average of about 35 per Sunday. Rev. Park Timber, associate pastor, started in the church as a child in Sunday school. The plan for the camp is for people to host camp for about a week, with cabins for the local kids with adults staying in the Youth Lodge. In addition to sharing God’s Word of Gospel, a focus would be building a work ethic in the campers. This has already begun with the milling of wood and the building living units, which could be sold. He presented a power point to show the projects built with national LWML and LWML Montana District grant money through the years.

2016-2018 Biennium Mission Grant Proposals – President Wallace explained that the 2016-2018 Biennium Mission Goal/Budget approved earlier in the convention identifies \$22,062.60 for grants. Included in these grants are student scholarships and selected Mission Grant Proposals. Each will be voted on separately.

(m/c – IX) By direction of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors, a motion was made that a sum of \$5,000 be allocated for Scholarship Grants and deducted from the total Grant Money available leaving \$17,062.60 to mission grants.

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Judy Blakesley presented the slate of Mission Grant Proposals:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Montana Pastors in Foreign Mission Fields | \$7,500 |
| 2. Worship Space-Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Spain | \$4,800 |
| 3. Radio Outreach in North Central Montana | \$2,400 |
| 4. Sharing the Savior in Cross Lake, Manitoba | \$2,000 |
| 5. Sharing Jesus in the Dominican Republic | \$3,000 |
| 6. Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations | <u>\$2,000</u> |
| Total | \$21,700 |

Prayer – Treasurer Ruth Denning led a prayer prior to voting for the Mission Grant Proposals.

Voting on Mission Grant Proposals – The Tellers Committee distributed prepared ballots. The delegates were instructed to vote for four (4), and only four (4), of the six (6) Mission Grant Proposals. Voting for more than four (4) proposals would result in an illegal ballot that will not be counted. The delegates were reminded that a total of \$22,062.60 is budgeted for grants. A vote designated \$5,000 for scholarships. The remaining \$17,062.60 is for mission grants. Ballots were collected by the Tellers Committee and were tallied later.

Mites in Action Speaker #2 – Scholarship Chairman Edee Anderson outlined the parameters for scholarship applications

and explained that the funding comes from the Scholarship Grants portion of the budgeted grants with additional funding coming from the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Deaconess Sonja Reeves of First Lutheran Church, Missoula, Montana, was unable to attend the convention. Scholarship Chairman Edee Anderson presented her report. Deaconess Reeves attended Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Much of her education was distance learning, but she also traveled to the seminary. At First Lutheran Church in Missoula, Deaconess Reeves serves as needed but especially with women's ministries.

Singing Break – Following a brief singing break led by Valerie Martin, the business meeting resumed.

Greetings – Jeff Snyder, representative of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), brought greetings. He described some of the functions of LCEF, including a demographic study for the planting of Emmaus Lutheran Church in Big Timber, Montana. LCEF also loaned them money to purchase their church building. He highlighted the Young Investors Club and shared how one woman is using the program to minister to her grandchildren. He requested prayers for Judge Ruth Neely from Wyoming who is being persecuted for her Christian witness regarding her stance against homosexuality.

Montana District LCMS President Rev. Terry Forke was recently at the two LCMS seminaries and brought greetings from the seminarians who received their calls this past week. He continued with encouragement for us to stand strong in God's strength. In John 15:4, Jesus calls Himself the vine and us the branches. The real growth comes from being connected to Jesus and having the power of His Word working in our lives. Hebrews 10:23 says that we must hold firmly to faith without wavering.

2017 LWML Convention Invitation Skit – Young Woman Chairman Billye Roseleip and Divide Zone President Cheryl Stensrud, also known as Martin and Katie Luther, entered the assembly on their way to Salt Lake City, Utah. God called on the cell phone and instructed them to head to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the 2017 LWML convention.

Vice President of Servant Resources Pam Kercher and Nominating Committee Chairman Janice Witt, members of the Host Committee, explained what the women of the LWML Montana District can do to help with the convention.

2017 LWML Convention – Host Committee Representative Nancy Bogenhagen presented a power point using photos from the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls to illustrate the varieties of volunteers needed for the upcoming convention. Volunteer forms are available in the exhibit room at our convention, or a person may also contact loisanderson@gmail.com.

Announcements – Convention Co-Chairman Valerie Martin announced the details of picking up sack lunches.

Prayer Requests – Rev. Larry A. Miller prayed for special requests and led a prayer of thanksgiving for lunch.

Lunch Recess
12:00 noon

Valerie Martin led a hymn-sing prior to the convention's third meeting.

Third Meeting
1:45 p.m.

Call to Order – President Wallace called the third meeting of the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana

District to order. Vice President of Gospel Outreach Judy Blakesley was introduced as the meeting's vice president in charge of the floor.

Bible Study – Past LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Larry A. Miller led Bible study on John 15:1-8. The text contains a command and a promise, Law and Gospel. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. He grafted us into the vine through His perfect life, death, and resurrection. We can bear fruit through our faithful Christian witness.

Humorous Interrupters – YWRs Nichole Burns and Samantha Toombs led the assembly in *Father Abraham*.

Balloting for Mission Grants – Teller Committee Chairman Cindy Super called the names of the voting members of the convention assembly because there was a one-vote discrepancy when the Teller Committee counted votes for the mission grants. Other irregularities came to light, and the Teller Committee nullified the vote and issued ballots for a new vote.

(m/s/c – X) that the corrected roll of delegates and voting members on April 30, 2016, be the official roll of voting members of the convention.

Keynote Speaker – Keynote Speaker and past LWML President Kay Kreklau spoke on her LWML and LCMS journey. Although she has had a troubled life at times, she knows that God is in control, and that God has led her to a closer relationship with Him. As LWML president, she visited the Dominican Republic mission grant site. The group home has since been built, and the residents are thriving physically and growing in their faith.

Singing – LWML Montana District President Wallace declared a singing break, and the convention body rose to sing. Rev. Whaley led a prayer, then we sang *Jesus Loves Me*.

Results of Voting for 2016-2018 Biennium Mission Grants – Teller Committee Chairman Cindy Super gave the results from the voting for the 2016-2018 Biennium Mission Grants. An earlier vote approved \$5,000 to fund scholarships for the 2016-2018 Biennium; \$17,062.60 will fund selected mission grants. The following mission grants for the 2016-2018 Biennium were approved for funding as a result of the balloting:

| | | |
|---|------------------|------------|
| 1. Montana Pastors in Foreign Mission Fields | \$ 7,500 | (57 votes) |
| 3. Radio Outreach in North Central Montana | \$ 2,400 | (48) |
| 2. Worship Space-Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Spain | \$ 4,800 | (37) |
| 5. Sharing Jesus in the Dominican Republic | \$ 1,417.56 | (33) |
| 6. Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations | <u>\$ 945.04</u> | (33) |
| Total | \$17,062.60 | |

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Judy Blakesley and her committee were thanked for their hard work.

(m/s/c – XI) that the ballots used in voting during the convention be destroyed.

Recognition of Past District Presidents – LWML Montana District President Wallace introduced Past LWML Montana District Presidents who were in attendance Barbara Going (1982-1988), Nnette Loftsgaarden (1992-1996), Pam Kercher (2004-2008), and Shari Miller (2008-2012). Twenty women have served as President of the LWML Montana District. Edith Ketterling, who was district president from 1974-1978, received her crown of glory earlier this year.

Invitation to the 2017 LWML Convention Albuquerque, New Mexico – YWRs Nichole Burns and Samantha Toombs read a skit which highlighted aspects of the area around Albuquerque and promoted the LWML convention. There will also be celebrations of Luther's 500th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the LWML.

Recognition of Humorous Interrupters – Young Woman Chairman Billye Roseleip introduced YWRs Nichole Burns

and Samantha Toombs and thanked them for their entertaining moments at the convention.

Announcements – District President Wallace announced that the banquet hall opens at 6 p.m. and the banquet would begin at 6:30 p.m. She encouraged everyone to fill out an evaluation form and turn in the name badge holders when leaving the convention. The special offering envelope for Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, found in the registration packet, is to be used at the Sunday service.

Prayer Requests – Montana District Pastoral Counselor Rev. Whaley led the convention body in prayer.

Fourth Meeting
6:30 p.m.

Evening Banquet – The evening banquet was held at the Hampton Inn in Great Falls with Shari Miller as Master of Ceremonies. Rev. Whaley led the opening prayer, and Rev. Miller led the closing prayer. The Trinity Lutheran Handbell Choir provided entertainment.

The banquet speaker was Rev. Chad Schopp, recipient of a 2014-2016 LWML Montana District Grant for Emmaus Lutheran Mission in Big Timber and Livingston, Montana. He thanked the members of the LWML Montana District and the members of the Montana District LCMS for their support, spiritually, financially, and in material donations. The Big Timber congregation moved from the rented Seventh Day Adventist church to a vacated church which they are now purchasing. The Livingston congregation still meets at the local Seventh Day Adventist Church. He showed photos of the two churches and told his story of being called to be a missionary to the two communities.

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Fifth Meeting
8:00 a.m.

Call to Order – President Wallace called the fifth meeting of the 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District to order. Nominating Committee Chairman Janice Witt joined President Wallace, Parliamentarian Nenetta Loftsgaarden, Page Emmi Going, and Recording Secretary Bridget Michel at the front table. Nominating Committee Chairman Janice Witt led the opening prayer.

Final Registration Report – Convention Registration Chairman Sylvia Adams made her final report.

| | Reported <u>5/1/2016</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Voting District Officers and Zone Presidents | 21 |
| Delegates and Past District Presidents | <u>38</u> |
| Total entitled to vote | 59 |
| Guests | 22 |
| Pastors | <u>4</u> |
| Total | 85 |

(m/s/c – XII) that the roll of delegates and voting members on May 1, 2016 at 8:15 a.m. be the official roll of voting members of the convention.

Montana Manual – Structure Chairman Shari Miller reported that the *Montana Manual* is available on the LWML Montana District website, www.mtdistrictlwml.org. She showed the attendees how to navigate the tabs on the website to find the manual. The new structure chairman is Myrt White, who will update the manual as needed. Her email address is rowdymyrt@hotmail.com.

LWML Montana District Website – Structure Chairman Shari Miller thanked Webmaster Bill Gamradt from Missoula, Montana, for setting up and managing the website, www.mtdistrictlwml.org. She also thanked Parliamentarian Nenetta Loftsgaarden for updating the site. Stephanie Edgar of Billings, Montana, will be the new web coordinator. Her email address is kumbawatta@gmail.com.

Young Woman Representatives 2015 Des Moines Convention Report – “Sow, Nourish, Reap”

Young Woman Chairman Billye Roseleip introduced Nichole Burns and Samantha Toombs, Montana District’s Young Woman Representatives at the 2015 national LWML Convention held in Des Moines, Iowa. They appreciated the connection they developed with other young women with values similar to theirs. Nichole summed up her experience by saying that we sow God’s love and He reaps the harvest, and that a person does not necessarily see the result of what was sown, and that each person has something to offer LWML. Samantha pointed out that God uses us in any situation, even if it is just inviting someone to do something. President Wallace added how wonderful it was to be a part of the banner processional and walk in with the YWRs.

Gifts from the Heart Report – Vice President of Human Care Deborah Knudsen gave a final tally for Orphan Grain Train donations. OGT driver Mike Widhalm calculated that the amount of boxed items would fill 25 percent of an ocean-going shipping container. The destinations for these items are hospitals and orphanages in the Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan; and to women’s prisons in the former Communist nations of Belarus, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Items for the Sletten Cancer Institute’s chemo care kits included teas, notebooks, puzzle books, devotional books, Arch books, pocket tissues, sanitizing wipes, socks, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, ear buds, ginger hard candy, gum, rice bags, soft blankets, tote bags, and knitted or crocheted hats. Quantities of many of the suggested gifts and over \$380 were donated during the convention. During the Friday afternoon servant event, 109 cards of encouragement were made.

Announcements – Return the name tags for reuse at the next convention. Hand in the evaluation forms. President Wallace described the gifts given to various speakers at the convention.

Recognition of Host Committee – President Christine Wallace thanked Convention Co-Chairmen Valerie Martin and Elsie Huss; the women of Peace Lutheran LWML, Great Falls, Montana; and the Central Zone for hosting a wonderful convention. Convention leaders are listed below:

Co-Chairmen: Valerie Martin and Elsie Huss
Banner: Laura Brandt, Pat Bliss, and
Gloria Creek
Publicity: Brook Gerard
Choral Director: Judy Boyce
Registration: Sylvia Adams
Decorations: Myrna Phillip and
Trinity Lutheran Church LWML, Great Falls

Coordinator: Ruth Denning
Music: Valerie Martin and Gloria Creek
Nurse: Cheryl Stensrud
The Daily Supplement: Brook Gerard
Refreshments: Carla Pfeifle and
Zion Lutheran Church LWML, Power
Servant Events: Helen Lewis
Gifts from the Heart: Helen Lewis

The convention recessed at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
9:30 a.m.

The closing worship service was held in conjunction with the service at Peace Lutheran Church, and host pastor Rev. Steven Schlund officiated and installed the newly elected officers. An offering in the amount of \$1,093 was designated for Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Great Falls, Montana.

Fifth Meeting Continues

11:15 a.m.

Invitation to 38th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District – Western Zone President Dorothy Rummel and the women from the Western Zone extended an invitation to the 38th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District to be held at First Lutheran Church in Missoula, Montana in 2018. They also thanked President Wallace and presented her with two planters filled with purple primroses and butterfly plant pokes.

Closing Remarks – Treasurer Ruth Denning congratulated the societies and congregations of the district for meeting the mission goal for the 2014-2016 biennium and urged them to keep filling the mite boxes as we support missions over the next two years. She reported an overage in the last biennium of \$1,813.93. The special mite box offering during the third meeting was \$431.45, which will go into the 2016-2018 biennium mites.

President Wallace thanked her page, Emmi Going. President Wallace pinned the president's pin on newly-elected President Miller. District President Shari Miller pinned the past-president's pin on Christine Wallace.


Closing Devotion – The closing devotion was led by Montana District Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley. It was a selection from *God Grant It* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Adjournment – The 37th Biennial Convention of the LWML Montana District was closed by 2016-2020 President Shari Miller at 11:35 a.m.

A post-convention board of directors meeting for all continuing, incoming, and outgoing board members was held in the fellowship hall immediately following the close of the convention.



Bridget Michel, Recording Secretary



Christine Wallace, President