

President's Message

Dear LWML Sisters in Christ,

If you are reading this there is a good chance you are a Lutheran Woman in Mission. What does this mean? Our mission statement reads: "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others."

During the 80th Anniversary for LWML we were asked to use the [What's Your "Why?" Reflection Tool](#) to be better prepared to share our LWML story with others. The tool leads you through reflective questions identifying why you are involved, what you find exciting, and how you can encourage others to participate with you.

At the Fall Retreat 2025, Donna Snow encouraged us to "put on the armor of God" so we can be Strong and Courageous in sharing our faith.

At the convention in June we will be celebrating LWML SWD's 80th Anniversary by "Radiating God's Love." Take time and reflect. How do you radiate God's love as a Lutheran Woman in Mission? *Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven* (Matthew 5:16).

As Lutheran Women in Mission we choose to serve our Lord through the mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League; we stay connected to the Word, pray for and support the mission work of the church, and encourage and mentor women as we honor God by serving others.

As our journey continues, may we encourage each other with God's Word and serve our Lord in response to His gift of grace.

Your Sister in Christ,
Cinda Poppe
LWML SWD President

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience (Colossians 3:12).

Note:

I had the privilege to represent LWML SWD at Donation Day at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on October 14, 2025. Donation Day is held on the second Tuesday in October and all women of the LWML are welcome to attend. At the conclusion of the chapel service, each district president or her representative is recognized and given a chance to address the seminarians. I reminded the students from SWD they are remembered and prayed for by the Women in Mission of their district. Our students at the seminary in Fort Wayne include: Shane Anderson, David Christensen, Brian Frank, Joshua Fuchs, Cory Gabor, Michael Hendrickson, Bradley Larson, Joshua Leyh, Nathan Nevius, Harvey Peters, and Tanner Sawall. Please keep these men in your prayers. Consider participating in the Adopt-a-Seminarian Program. These are our future pastors. May the Lord bless them as they study and prepare to serve us in our churches.

From our Junior Pastoral Counselor

Beloved ladies,

Are you wise? Don't give an immediate answer. Think about it. Are you wise? Would anyone around you call you wise?

Sisters in Christ; may all wisdom come from Christ alone and may we boast in Him alone. To believe this, we must put aside our worldly wisdom. We are warned of imposters and deceivers. Yet from that warning, St. Paul gives words of encouragement about the treasures we have had since childhood. We hear in 2 Timothy 3:14, *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

The verses following are well known, but these often get neglected. Continue in what you have been taught. What are some of those things?

To rejoice in the forgiveness promised to you from baptism.

To learn all the things commanded as a disciple.

To eat and drink his body and blood for forgiveness.

To be comforted in despair by our suffering savior who has risen from death.

To rejoice in Jesus who has made us a holy people.

To be defended from imposters and deceivers.

You may have more, but these are core. Be acquainted with the sacred writings. Learn them!

The sacred writings, the Bible, is your tool bag. It should be your everyday carry. It should be on your phone or in your bag. You should be ready with the word of God for everything the world may throw your way. There are many fiery darts to be thrown!

The world will persecute you as St. Paul says in 2 Timothy 3:12. *Not only will you be persecuted in this life, but evil people will flourish and have pews packed as they itch the ears of people who have wandered.* We as sinners are prone to ask the age old question, "Did God really say?" We then craft in our own hearts an idol to listen to.

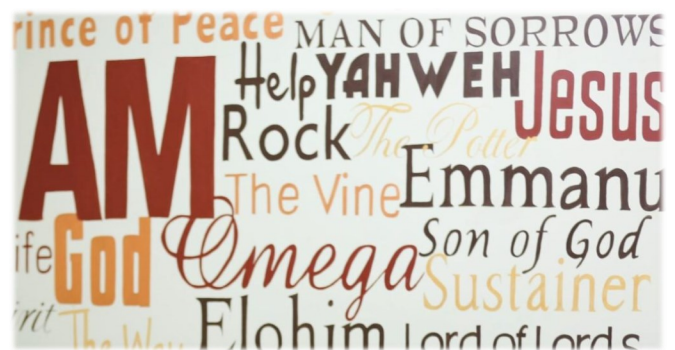
So would you be called wise by those who have no faith? Is that true wisdom? I pray you are wise in Christ. May we commend ourselves to the foolishness of a cross. A cross where our Savior died. The world laughs when they hear a man was resurrected from the dead, but that is our boldness. My neighbor can think me a fool in Christ and I would consider that a win. A victory.

Lift high the cross, beloved. Foolishness and a stumbling block is all the world may see. Yet we see the love of Christ proclaimed in that cross.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Davis

LWML SWD Jr. Pastoral Counselor



Up Next - Grant #5

Our next SWD Mission Grant recipient, (#5), Journeys Lutheran School, has been slow to be funded, mostly due to a decreased number of meetings or gatherings during the summer months. As of September 30, we still need \$16,921.89 for this grant to be funded.

To remind you all: Journeys Lutheran School teaches children with special needs in a Christian environment. In addition to the academic classes, their lives are touched by the Holy Spirit through devotions, prayer, religion classes, Christian counseling, and personal witness. The grant money will be used to help purchase two passenger vans to transport students to take part in life skill learning opportunities outside of the building that other students take for granted.

After the Journeys Lutheran School grant is funded, next is #6, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church MKE-Restoration (\$25,000); #7, Financial Assistance for CTS, Fort Wayne Food and Clothing Co-op (\$15,000); and #8, Camp LuWiSoMo Camper Scholarships (partially funded \$548.28).

As you can see, we have a ways to go before the 2026 district convention when new mission grants will be voted on. PLEASE collect those mites and send them to the district financial secretary! Every penny counts!

Judy Gitzlaff
VP of Special Focus Ministries &
Mission Grants
vpspecialfocusministries@lwml-swd.org

God's Children with Special Needs

Journeys Lutheran School (formerly Lutheran Special School) continues to embrace students in grades 3-12 with special needs and unique learning challenges. Their programs facilitate the educational goals of individualized instruction and growth along with the sharing of the Gospel.



Mission Grant Prayer:

Dear God,
You are our Lord and Teacher.
Hearing Your Word is life, but understanding it is joy beyond measure.
Lutheran schools serve a vital

need in teaching about Your love and Journeys Lutheran School helps those children with special needs learn and understand Your Word through all their work. This grant will help finance passenger vans that will be used to take these students into the world You created for them to see Your love, which You reveal in Your Word. We pray that You will bless this grant and use it to further Your Word among these children with special needs. We ask this in Your Son Jesus' name. **Amen.**



Learning Knows No Bounds

Thoughts from Christian Life

We have human celebrations throughout our lives — the birth of a child, First Communion, Confirmations, graduations, and weddings. All of these are gifts from God. We celebrate them because we see them as part of our walk with God.

I attended a couple of weddings this year, my great-nephew's in June and my great-niece's in September. This brother and sister found mates who loved the Lord as they did. These were wonderful and were celebrated by cousins, aunts, uncles, friends, grandparents, great-grandparents, and three great-aunts. It was a marvelous celebration, and we loved seeing each other as much as we enjoyed the wedding itself. We all have lives going on and live at a distance from one another, so we treasure these gatherings.

Family is important. Our parents give us the foundation, the path that we are to follow. As it says in Proverbs 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.* Our siblings give us friends and teach us the value of companionship. We share tough times and good times, devotions that speak to us, and sometimes share humor and stories we love. It is the embodiment of Psalm 133:1: *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!*

If you didn't have a biological family like this, you have your church family. For some of us, we may be physically closer to our church family than our own. We miss people when they are not there on Sunday morning, and we look forward to sharing things about our lives with them. Why? Because these fellow Christians are our brothers and sisters. We add them to our family with joy ... *members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus*

himself being the cornerstone (Ephesians 2: 19-20).

The celebrations we share with our church family can be marked by weddings and parties, but most importantly, week in and week out, the celebration is that we are bound together by God's Word and Sacrament. This is a gift from God, not just in what we receive, but also in the opportunity to do it together. Life together in this way is a joy!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Sumrall
LWML SWD Christian Life Chairman

LWML SWD Bookstore News

Greetings Sisters!

I hope you were able to attend the SWD Fall Retreat "Armor of God - Your Strong Suit" in September. Donna Snow presented an awesome Bible study. I found it interesting how she referenced the guard's uniform, its construction, and how it protected the wearer. Yet, the only offensive item is the sword of the Spirit. Concordia Publishing House has the Bible study workbook if you are interested. ([Your Strong Suit DVD Bible Study - Additional Workbook - Concordia Publishing House](#)).

The bookstore was busy with individuals picking up the mission grant bookmarks and other items for LWML Sunday. You can get bookstore items a few different ways, direct from Concordia ([Shop - LWML Lutheran Women in Mission - LWML Store](#)) or pre-order by January 10, 2026, for pick-up at the Winter Getaway. My email is below. Please type 'LWML Bookstore Order' in the subject line.

May your day be blessed!

Dawn Ziolecki
LWML SWD Bookstore Manager
dzwolf2012@gmail.com



Fall Retreat Recap

If you were unable to attend the 2025 SWD Fall Retreat, you missed a GREAT weekend of Bible study, fellowship, and Christian sisterhood. We exceeded our attendance goal, heard updates on our Mites in Action, learned from more exhibitors than we had space for, collected mites and an offering of nearly \$3,000 and completed servant events that took two trips to deliver to Free at Last Ministry. The highlight of the retreat for many was our guest speaker from Texas, Donna Snow! You will find photos from the event included in this issue, and I encourage you to consider making this an event you attend each and every year. Put on your 'Full Armor of God' and serve with gladness. We are Lutheran Women in Mission, and I know you have a servant's heart.

The committee that will plan the 2026 SWD Fall Retreat will be forming soon under the leadership of chairman, Colleen Schultz. She would love to hear from you if you would like to be included on the committee or if you have an idea for a speaker, theme, or any suggestions to help make the next retreat one you would consider attending. You may email her at fallretreatchairman@lwml-swd.org.

Paula Keefer
2025 Fall Retreat Chairman



Donna Snow



The Banner Story

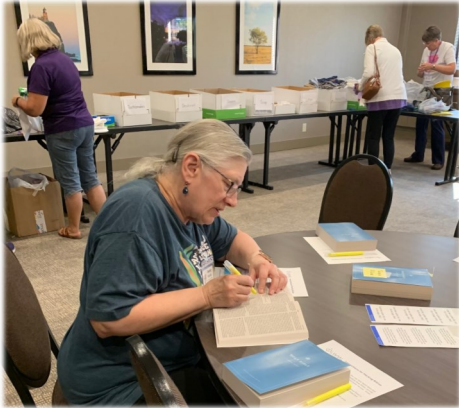
I asked Paula the story behind the banner and it turns out it was made by the same creative designer who crafted the SWD Banner for the convention in Omaha - Joan Kritchman-Knuteson! She had made it for a previous school year and it still hung in a special place in a stairway at Elm Grove Lutheran. Paula would admire the banner every time she ventured on that stairway and with the theme of Fall Retreat being "The Armor of God - Your Strong Suit" she knew she had found the perfect banner that didn't need any additional work! Thanks to Joan for another beautiful addition to an LWML event!

- story shared with your ML editor



Paula Keefer

PHOTO GALLERY FROM OUR SWD FALL RETREAT



Marking Bibles



Filling backpacks with personal care items



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David Fiala - LCMS Mission Advocate



Carolyn Blum



Pastor Polzin



President Cinda



Singing their "hearts" out!



No one dares go over their allotted time!



Rev Dr Nathan Meador
SWD District President



Jill Jones



Yvette Reeves



Armita Harmon - GriefShare
Director



Pastor Afam and the Litany leaders



Jenny Stollenwerk - Head of
School - Journeys School



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dear President Poppe,

GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!

On behalf of the Free at Last Prison Ministry in Milwaukee, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude to you and all the wonderful women of the LWML for your generous donations, continued support, and steadfast prayers.

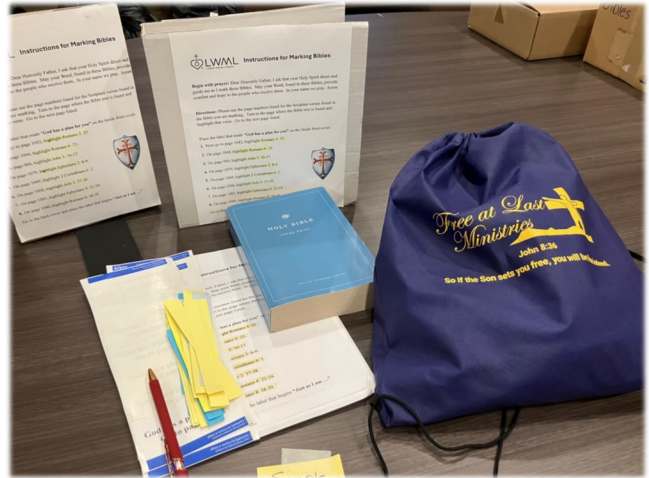
Your thoughtful collection of items has brought comfort and hope to our returning citizens as they reintegrate into the community. These gifts are not only meeting practical needs—they are powerful reminders that our brothers and sisters are loved, valued, and not forgotten.

We are deeply encouraged by your partnership in this ministry and the way you reflect Christ's love in action. Your compassion is making a lasting difference in the lives of many who are seeking a fresh start through faith and restoration.

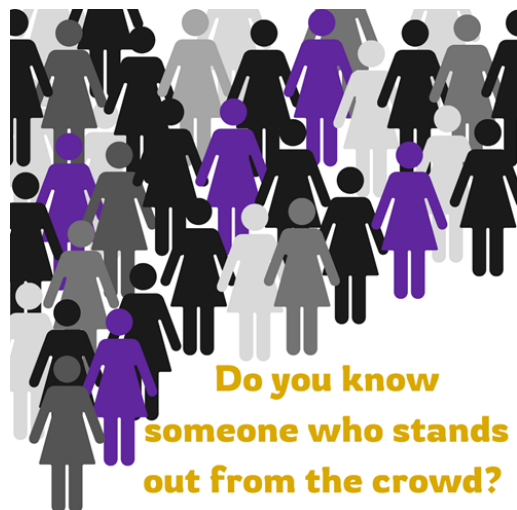
Please extend our sincere appreciation to every member of your group. We thank God for your prayers, your hands of service, and your hearts of mercy.

With gratitude and blessings,

Rev Afam - Chaplain CRC
Pastor Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church
Overseer Free At Last



Serve the LORD with gladness!



READY — Pray: Heavenly Father, open my eyes that I may see the LWML ladies that stand out in the crowd because you have already prepared and have called them to fill the leadership positions for LWML SWD. We praise and thank you for the many leaders we have had in the past 80 years and we trust that you will again bless us with the leaders we need to carry on your work of proclaiming Jesus Christ. We ask for your help in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

SET — Now that you have prayed, write down the names of those who have come to mind during your prayer so you don't forget them.

GO — Nominate the ladies that came to mind! The nomination form is available at www.lwml-swd.org/helps#district and send it to the Nominations Committee at nominations@lwml-swd.org.

HINT— If no ladies come to mind as you prayed, perhaps God is calling **YOU** to **STEP FORWARD** and nominate yourself for one of the following positions:

District President, VP of Organizational Resources, VP of Gospel Outreach and Christian Life, Recording Secretary, or Financial Secretary. A great resource to encourage ladies in your LWML group is the nominations skit found at this link [Stepping Forward](#).

- From your Nominations Committee

Mission Service Opportunities:

1. Recycle Ink Cartridges information on the lwml-swd.org under Missions/Opportunities
2. Most Ministries Eyeglasses and witness tools information can be found at either of these two links:
<https://www.mostministries.org/forms>
and
[Most Ministries Brochure](#)
3. See page 16 for a Sneak Peak at another opportunity and a link to it!

LWML Gifts of Love Ministry

Fred was perturbed. His friend Mike asked what was wrong. Fred, a retired accountant, began emotionally sharing how frustrated he was that his home budget predictions for groceries weren't covering the cost. "Every week my wife keeps begging me for more money to do grocery shopping. I just snap back at her that I didn't budget for that 5 years ago. A budget is a budget." We all probably can see the silliness of this story. Yet it points to how we can allow our plans to be fashioned in cement to such an extent that they aren't keeping up with the reality of today, or even the changes that might happen in the future.

In estate planning, it never works to create a plan and then believe that it will stay in place without any changes needed for 30 years. Families change. Economics changes. Health changes. Ministries I wish to support can change too. Because of all this change our estate plans must keep up. Is it time for you to begin a review of what your plans were in the past, seeing if they are aligned with the present realities? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Carol von Soosten at Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org.

Article written by Carol von Soosten
Submitted by
Pat Menden - Special Funds Coordinator

Mission Trip Opportunity! Petal Pushers, Rose Parade, and Float Decorating

We originally were planning this mission trip opportunity in 2025 but realized we were getting this going too late this year. We have decided to work on organizing a South Wisconsin District group to go next year, 2026. We need at least 25 to 55 interested women, men, and teenagers for Luther Tours to put a package together for our group. If you are interested, contact Marilyn Belter at missiontripcoordinator@lwml-swd.org. Once I have 25 persons or more signed up who are interested in going, I can work with Luther Tours to develop a tour package just for us.

If you are still interested in being a Petal Pusher in 2025, the following information was shared by Luther Tours:

1. Rose Parade, Float Decorating, & Southern California Sightseeing Tour was full, but as of October 7 they have added an additional tour. If you desire to go this year, please contact Luther Tours right away.
2. The Rose Parade & Float Decorating Package still had some openings. To view the package visit: petalpushers.org then More Fun...Kids & Tours for what is included and the price of the package. If you are interested, register now. A non-refundable down payment is required at time of booking. Trip insurance is available. You will need to book your own flights and transportation from airport to hotel. For further information and to book, visit Luther Tours webs site: luthertours.com and then Join a Tour.

The Mission of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float is: "To provide a Christian witness and hope in Jesus Christ to the unchurched, who view the float in person and through the media."

(article continues in the next column)

Looking forward to having many of my fellow LWML SWD sisters & brothers signing up for a fun trip to look forward to in the coming year!

If you have any questions please let me know.

Marilyn Belter
LWML SWD Mission Trip Coordinator



LWML SWD Service Opportunities

Have you filled out a Personnel Profile in the past two years? Consider filling out a copy of the form and emailing it to president@lwml-swd.org. The forms are kept on file for two years and are used to find musicians, crisis team members, committee members and chairmen, and financial reviewers. You can also share an interest in serving in an area now or in the future. Click the link below or it can be found on the lwml-swd.org website under Resources then District and it's near the top of the list.

[LWML SWD Personnel Profile Form to Identify your Interests and Special Skills Updated June 2024](#)



Serve the LORD with gladness!



LWQ News

DID YOU KNOW? March 15 is the deadline for your 2026 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order! It is not too early to start thinking about your subscription! For your group's planning purposes, the price of the Quarterly when ordering a single copy will be \$8.00.

If you order 10 or more, they are only \$6.50 each. To order, fill out a 2026 *Quarterly* order form, LWML SWD Receipt voucher along with your check made payable to LWML SWD. Mail ALL THREE items to LWML SWD Financial Secretary Wendie Staus (address on Receipt voucher). The 2026 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order form and 2022-2024 LWML SWD Receipt voucher are available on the LWML SWD webpage under Resources/Society.

Questions? Please contact me at the below email.

The 2026 *Quarterly* subscriptions orders begin with the 2026 Summer issue through 2027 Spring issue. I look forward to getting your order in the new year!

Paula Keefer
Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Manager
paulajkeefe@gmail.com

The First TLC Deaconess Scholarship Awarded!

The TLC committee is happy to announce that we received our first application for the revised deaconess scholarship. You may remember her as Rachel Wegener, and she will update us in her own words below!

"Hi, I'm Rachel Burnham. I'm a member of St. Paul's in Oconomowoc. I've loved being part of LWML and have served on the district board and been a Young Woman Rep to convention. I started in the deaconess program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 2023. It was hard to leave Wisconsin. Even though I only lived there for five years, it had become my home, but my experiences at the seminary have been a huge blessing! While at the seminary, I met my husband, Grant, and we were just married last May. This coming year I will be doing my internship at St. Luke's in Oviedo, Florida, where Grant will also be doing his vicarage. I will spend half of my time at their senior facility and half at the church. We are very excited for this new chapter! St. Luke's is a much bigger congregation than either of us have been a part of, so we are sure to learn a lot! Thanks for the prayers and support; they are a great encouragement as we set off on vicarage/internship!"

Please join me in praying for Rachel and her husband Grant, as they serve God in Florida for the next year!

Kristen Kolell - LWML SWD TLC Chairman



COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

Do you want to be “in the know” about what’s happening in the LWML SWD? There are numerous ways to stay informed about our South Wisconsin District LWML! The primary source of information for all things SWD is the website at *lwml-swd.org*. The website includes the following information: About Us (the ‘Go To’ people in our district); Events; Missions; the Resources tab that includes Scholarships, District, Zone and Group helps; and News. Here you can find the latest mite report and mission grant status, plus so much more. We have a Facebook page which has up-to-date info on a regular basis.

The communication department also supplies public relations updates on events in South Wisconsin; submits articles to the *Mission Lamp* and facilitates subscriptions to our national publication, the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. All of these resources will help you to find exciting information and ideas as you serve the Lord with gladness! If you have any questions, please direct them to Kay Nett at the below email. At our recent SWD Fall Retreat, a first-time attendee and newcomer to the LCMS shared with me how much she learned from the retreat. Her comment was, “You Lutherans really know how to do events!”

Kay Nett
VP of Communications
vpcommunication@lwml-swd.org

Bylaws Bits & Tips

What has to be the same from LWML to District to Zone are: Articles and sections on name, object, membership, representation at LWML conventions, and parliamentary authority must conform to LWML bylaws. Example: Lutheran Women’s Missionary League South Wisconsin District Zone 12 (LWML SWD Zone 12).

- Bylaws contain an organization’s own basic rules relating to itself, rather than to the parliamentary procedure that it follows.
- Defines the primary characteristic of the organization.
- Prescribe how the organization functions.
- Includes all rules that the organization considers so important that they cannot be changed without notice and a large majority
- Cannot be suspended
- Put only what is really important
- Not procedures

On the *lwml.org* website, you will find many helpful articles and examples to help with your bylaws for either your zone or group. Enter the word Structure in the search box and hit enter and you will have the information.

If you have questions or need assistance you may contact the LWML SWD Structure Committee at structure@lwml-swd.org or Marilyn Belter VP Organizational Resources at vporganizationalresources@lwml-swd.org.



Serve the LORD with gladness!

I am the Heart of LWML

Our Vision

... is to promote a strong LWML identity among the women of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Our Treasure

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21).

... is Christ; our heart is with Him and is shown in service to others through the LWML.

We are the Heart of the LWML because we are HIS:

- Held by His Word;
- Inspired to share His Gospel; and
- Surrounded by His grace.

Our Goals

That each woman recognizes she is the Heart of LWML, created to praise His name, reflect His glory, and share His love.

That our church understands that the Heart of LWML lies within each woman as she engages in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support.

That each woman of the LCMS embraces her role as a Lutheran Woman in Mission.

Our Hearts

I am the Heart of LWML!

"I will encourage all women to share their ideas, their traditions, their stories, and help them understand that they are a vital part of the Heart of the LWML."

I am the Heart of LWML!

"I will embrace my role as a Lutheran Woman in Mission and personally invite members of my church to LWML activities."

I am the Heart of LWML!

"As I am forgiven — as I forgive others, HIS grace surrounds me."

I am the Heart of LWML!

"As I serve, I share HIS mercy and love."

Each woman may confidently say, **"I am the Heart of LWML!"**

lwml.org/heart-of-lwml



Sisters & Brothers in Christ!



Gifts from the Heart for TreeHouse Central
Wautoma



Donna Weiss
Trinity Wautoma



"I am the HEART of LWML" photo board

I am the Heart of LWML!
Zone 13 held their 2025 Fall Rally on October 18 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wautoma. There were 50 people in attendance, including Pastor Larry Sheppard (Zone 13 Pastoral Counselor), Pastor Brian Rohde (Host Church Pastor) and youth from TreeHouse Central (recipients of the Gifts from the Heart).

The theme for the rally was "I am the Heart of LWML," a Bible study supplied on *lwml.org*. Donna Weiss, group leader for Trinity, led the Bible study. It came with a video and Power-Point presentation, which was customized for the group. The emphasis is that as we are members of the LCMS, we are also members of the LWML! Through our vision, our treasure, our goals, and our hearts, we can confidently say, **"I am the Heart of LWML!"**

A large board was displayed with over 100 pictures from several years, which were obtained from the groups throughout Zone 13. The pictures were from rallies, retreats, get-togethers, prayer services, conventions, different group's service projects, etc. I would encourage each zone or group to at least play the video for your ladies, as a reminder of how important they are, we are, to the work of Christ through the LWML.

LWML SWD Winter Getaway

Jan. 30 & Jan. 31, 2026

Radisson Hotel

625 West Rolling Meadows Dr, Fond du Lac, WI, 54937

God is with you

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9).

REGISTRATION FORM



**South Wisconsin
District**

Retreat Registration:

- **\$75/attende**e (includes Saturday lunch).
- Check made payable to **LWML SWD** with memo line WG 2026.
- Deadline for registration is January 16, 2026.
- After January 16, registration refunds will be given only under extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the Winter Getaway Committee. No refunds will be given at the event.
- Mail check and registration form to:
Wendie Staus
6988 Lark Ave, Hartford, WI 53027
Phone: 262-673-6154 – Email: staushaus@gmail.com

Hotel Room Registration:

- Special LWML room rates:
- Room rate for all rooms is \$149.00 + tax.
- Hot breakfast is included and begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday.
- Call **(920) 923-1440 #9** for reservations, mention LWML SWD for room rate
- Reservations must be made by January 16, 2026 to guarantee the special room rate.

Please print and cut. Return this lower portion with your registration fee.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Arrival Day: _____ Zone: _____

Home Congregation and City: _____

Emergency Contact: (name and phone number) _____

Family Member Serving in the US Military Name: _____ Branch: _____

Age: 12-17 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-79 80+

Interpreter for deaf/hard of hearing needed _____ Large print materials needed _____

Food allergies (circle): milk eggs shellfish tree nuts peanuts wheat soybeans other

I have read and agree to the LWML SWD participant information, Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk (General and Covid 19), and Photo Release form as found on the LWML SWD website:

Please check the line to acknowledge your understanding of the release Click the below link or go to

lwml-swd.org/Resources/District

[2024-2026 Biennium LWML SWD Participant Release Form](#)



SAVE THE DATES!

The 2026 LWML Wisconsin District Convention

June 19 - 20, 2026

Sheraton

Brookfield, WI

Theme – Radiating Christ’s Light

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

This will be our 80th Year Celebration

which will include a mission walk, exhibits, Gifts from the Heart, servant event opportunities, and convention speakers. Hope you will plan to attend!

Information for Convention T Shirt Order Forms & Gifts from the Heart can be found on the website now - lwml-swd.org/events - keep watching for more information!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

**A Special Event sponsored by
CTSFW at Christmas for their
students and their families!**

Christmas Marketplace



CTSFW
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

You can link to the full brochure here [Christmas Marketplace 2025 Brochure](#) and it is also on our website under Missions then Opportunities. It gives complete information on how you or your congregations can take part in this meaningful annual tradition! This is a sneak peak!



Gift Baskets

The Christmas Marketplace includes “big ticket” new items that are set aside so students can put their name in for special drawings.

LWML 2025-2027 Biennium Mission Grants (\$2,622,270 Mission Grant Goal)

1. Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers, LCMS Office of National Mission, Disaster Response Ministry, U.S. \$81,500
2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons, Orphan Grain Train, Europe \$100,000
3. Portable Laundry Trailer, Forged by Fire Services, U.S. \$100,700
4. The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers, LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. \$100,000
5. Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print, Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. \$100,000
6. Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients, Phil's Friends, U.S. \$100,000
7. Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers, A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin \$75,000
8. Building a Place of Care, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota \$60,000
9. Introducing Muslims to the Savior, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Global \$100,000
10. Healing Your Heart — Faith-based Child Counseling, Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, U.S. \$100,000
11. NOT ALONE: Gospel Help for Families in Crisis, Lutheran Family Service, Iowa \$92,500
12. Gospel Outreach through the Digital Mission Field, Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S. \$100,000
13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti, Trinity HOPE, Haiti \$61,782
14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel, The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia \$100,000
15. Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA, Concordia Publishing House — Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S. \$125,000
16. The Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa — Sierra Leone and Liberia, Project: Pastoral Education West Africa \$86,000
17. Mobilizing After School Care for Teens, Our Place After School Care Inc., Hastings, Nebraska \$69,500
18. Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses — Tanzania, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Africa \$100,000
19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber, LCMS Missionaries to the Dominican Republic, North America \$10,000
20. Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry, LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S. \$84,500
21. Shining a Bright Gospel Light, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Mobile, Alabama \$78,675
22. Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Illinois \$100,000
23. Sharing Faith and Food with Single Mothers, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Wichita, Kansas \$38,800
24. Ministry Scholarships for Shepherd's Canyon Retreat, Arizona, U.S. \$100,000
25. Pastoral Wellness: Pastor Family Week, Camp Linn Haven, North Carolina \$15,000
26. Developing Capable Christian High School Leaders, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, South Dakota \$100,000
27. Teaching Christ to the Physically Handicapped, Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, Louisiana \$12,000
28. Mission Opportunities for a New Generation, MOST Ministries, Global \$50,000
29. Sharing God's Love and Changing Lives of Families, Camp Restore Detroit, Michigan \$81,313
30. Increasing Access to Lutheran Counseling Services, Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., Indiana \$100,000
31. Speaking Truth Around the Table, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, U.S. \$75,000
32. Proclaiming Christ in Honduras, Mision Evangelica Luterana Confesional en Honduras, Central America \$25,000
33. Reaching Out with God's Love in a Safe Place, Forward, a Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska \$100,000



**GRANT #1 | Regional Disaster Response
LERT Shower Trailers | \$81,500**

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) serve thousands of individuals and families who are suffering from loss in the wake of disasters like hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, fires, and tornadoes. When deployed, LERT teams traditionally use congregations in the disaster areas as their base camps. The host congregations provide a place for the LERT teams to sleep, eat, rest, recover, and receive spiritual care during their time of service. Host congregations are incredible to work with as the teams help them rebuild their communities and share the life-changing message of the Gospel. One challenge for team members has been the lack of showers and laundry facilities at a host church. LERT members have showered at national gym chains, in members' homes, in personal campers, or even under cold garden hoses. This grant will fund half the cost of two combination bathroom/shower/laundry trailers to be used during disaster response work.



**GRANT #3 | Portable Laundry Trailer |
\$100,000**



When disasters strike, Forged by Fire Services, a disaster response organization of the LCMS Southern District, is deployed to the Gulf Coast Region and beyond. Sharing the hope in Christ, they provide human care to the victims, volunteers, and first responders affected by natural and man-made disasters. After a disaster, one of the needs of the people and volunteers are clean clothes, but there may be no facility for laundry service available.

Forged by Fire Services would like to provide laundry service by obtaining a professionally built eight-station laundry trailer with all the supporting equipment. The laundry trailer would be set up in the parking lot of an LCMS church. When offering the service, the LERT trained volunteers have an opportunity to talk to the people about the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ. This grant will provide funds for the purchase of the portable laundry trailer.



Renewal – The What, Why, and How

Sometimes AI (Artificial Intelligence) gets it right. AI gave me six key points to consider regarding renewal. I will only use the three points that relate closest to the renewal of an LWML group.

Definition: Renewal refers to the process of making something new again or restoring it to a fresh state.

Synonyms: Related terms include revival, restoration, and rejuvenation.

Importance: Renewal signifies growth, change, and the opportunity for improvement.

This past June, I met with the planning team of Bethlehem LWML, Sheboygan. This group was already doing many of the things ladies are interested in doing: Bible studies, servant projects, crafting, singing hymns, encouragement, and friendships. They were already keeping the business meeting very short. I didn't think I had much to offer them, but they felt they could do better. I was amazed when I received this action list of things they were going to work on. It is a good example of making small changes that will impact how the women in their congregation will see them.

1. Suggest 6:30 meeting time instead of 7:00.
2. Begin a transition to identifying ourselves as "Lutheran Women in Mission."
3. Order new Mite Boxes that say "Lutheran Women in Mission" and also updated pamphlets for our display area in the Century Room.
4. We will become more intentional about distributing Mite Boxes to non-members (both male and female) and have set times to collect contents.
5. We will become more intentional about speaking to women we don't know during coffee hours; and especially during the semiannual new-member coffees.
6. Using the list of attendees at our 2024 Advent by Candlelight Reimagined event, we will identify names of ladies our members already know and make a point of chatting with them as opportunities present themselves.
7. We are looking at ways to make our mission-based goals better known.
8. We will step up our advertising by regularly utilizing bulletin items, newsletter articles, and Facebook postings.

Thank you, Bethlehem LWML, Sheboygan, for giving permission to share your action list.

Diane Meyer
SWD Renewal Committee Chairman

Click the link for a form to fill out that helps access the "health" of your group. Follow the instructions on the form for how to submit if after it's been completed!

[Form to look at how your Group is carrying out your LWML Mission](#)

Serve the LORD with gladness!

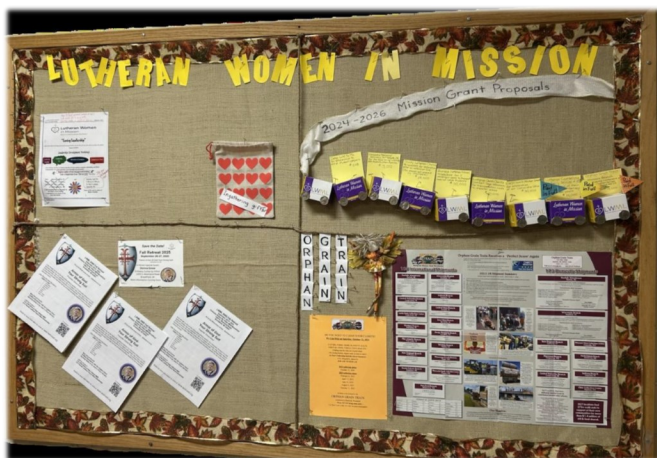
Partnering in Missions!

What a wonderful event the attendees at the LWML SWD Fall Retreat were privileged to participate in! The Embassy Suites was such a wonderful venue, and the staff was exceptionally helpful. Donna Snow was so dynamic, and it was a real treat to see her speak. The biggest take-away for me was when she reiterated that Jesus is always right by our side at all times; of course, I know that, but she really drove that point home, and now I am constantly reminded of it! The retreat offering total was \$2,941, with 75% given to the GriefShare Ministry and 25% to the Female Church Work Scholarship Fund. The Mite offering totaled \$657.35.

Getting to our mites, as of September 30, our SWD total is \$128,308.58 (this includes the endowment fund contributions, bank interest, and mite coverage from the past biennium) and the National LWML \$35,737.87. We still have six months to meet our goal of \$220,000!

Thank you for your support of our SWD Mission Grants!

Wendie Staus
LWML SWD Financial Secretary
financialsecretary@lwml-swd.org



This fun bulletin board was spotted by our President Cinda at St Paul's in Janesville when she attended the Leadership Workshop held there earlier this year. She especially liked the little Mite Box train!

2024-2026 Mission Grants

These are the 2024-2026 Mission Grants:

1. Orphan Grain Train - Wisconsin Branch
Paid in FULL! \$15,000
2. Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI Child Therapy Expansion - Mental Health Coverage **Paid in FULL!** \$25,000
3. SWD Church Worker Grants **Paid in FULL!** \$30,000
4. LCC Comfort Dogs of WI **Paid in FULL!** \$21,000
5. Teaching God's Children with Special Needs - Journeys Lutheran School \$50,000
6. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church MKE - Restoration \$25,000
7. Financial Assistance for CTS, Fort Wayne Food & Clothing Co-op \$15,000
8. Camp LuWiSoMo Camper Scholarships Partially funded \$548.28

Total: \$181,548.28

The mission grant amount voted on at convention was \$220,000 with \$165,000 for SWD grants and \$55,000 for LWML grants. The excess from the 2022-2024 biennium of \$16,548.28 was added to the SWD amount per the majority vote of the delegates for a final total for SWD mission grants of \$181,548.28. After delegate voting, the first 7 grants above will be fully funded and the 8th one will be partially funded, as noted.

Please see the website lwml-swd.org for Mission Grant information. Look under Resources then District Helps and each grant is listed. Posters and bulletin inserts with pictures and full project descriptions are available for you to use in your groups and congregations!



2025/2026 Events to Remember

- Nov 15 Group Officers forms and Zone Statistical Reports due to Corresponding Secretary
- Dec 15 Spring Rally PR due to PR Chair
- Jan 5 TLC Scholarships for Winter Getaway due to President Cinda
- Jan 15 Mission Lamp articles due
- Jan 30-31 Winter Getaway - Radisson Hotel Fond du Lac See page 14 of this issue for the registration form & watch the website for more information soon!
- June 19-20 SWD Convention - 80th celebration Sheraton - Brookfield See the poster on page 15 of this issue & watch our website for more news & information!



South Wisconsin District

2024-2026 Theme, Goal, & Bible Verse

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

we are motivated to love, serve, gather, and encourage

Bible Verse: *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

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