

President's Message

Growing your Group - One Person at a Time

Dear LWML Sisters in Christ,

In the past 42 years that I have been an active Lutheran Woman in Mission I have heard, "How do we get more younger women involved in LWML?" more times than I can count. But maybe we need to ask, "How can we get more **women** involved?"

In the Spring 2025 "Mammoth Tales Ice Age Alliance" publication, I read an article about a volunteer for their organization. When asked why she volunteers, she said, "It has given me purpose and a community of friends." As Lutheran Women in Mission, we can say the same thing: "Serving has given me purpose and a community of friends," but more importantly, we grow closer to our Savior!

Two years ago, we were asked to contemplate, "What's Your Why?" Can you put into words why being a Lutheran Woman in Mission is important to you? Can you share your passion for God's Word, mission support, and Christian fellowship with others?

Renewal Chairman, Diane Meyer, shares "We need to build relationships!" We need to talk to other women in our churches and build a relationship with them prior to inviting them to join in our group or zone activities. This relationship building thing takes time, commitment and works best one on one. Once you've gotten to know a person, then consider asking them to attend a group Bible study or service project event.

Humm! Did you catch what to invite them to? Do not invite them to a 'meeting' if you want them to return. Invite them to a planned event:

a Bible Study, Quilt Tying, School Backpack packing, Health Kit assembling; something with a purpose and value, and a positive use of time. Meetings can be handled by a few to plan the 'doings' of a group. Fellowship during an event builds relationships! (Beware: New group members come with new ideas. Give new ideas an opportunity to develop.)

"The purpose of the LWML SWD is to assist each woman in the congregations of our district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her Spirit-endowed gifts in reaching out with Christ's love to all the people of her church, neighborhood, and the world."

When you build personal relationships as sisters in Christ and a community of friends, recognize and affirm the service of each woman in your congregation, plan group activities with a purpose and value, and continue sharing the love of Christ, your group will grow spiritually and in membership. We are Lutheran Women in Mission!

Serving our Lord with you,

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).



From our Junior Pastoral Counselor

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

You may have realized that Lent makes us ponder repentance, and Easter gives us a joyous feast of the gifts promised by Jesus. Yet, why do we have extra Divine Services? Why do we spend more time at church? Why do we have longer services?

If your pastor has done his job, then you weren't allowed to dwell in the apathy and stupor of sinful negligence. The preaching of the Law should have struck you to the heart, and the Gospel showed you the death that we have been saved from! You and I need the yearly reminder that we have been shaken out of our winter holes like a groundhog traumatized by his shadow.

Maybe you don't think you are as cowardly as a groundhog surrounded by men dressed as pilgrims on a cloudy day, but you are still prone to those long sleeps. Now, I am not accusing you of sleeping in physically. Yet we do become atrociously lethargic during the winter months, simply desiring to make it through the snow and ice of winter. Then summer hits and you are enlivened! Like a bear seeing the spring sun and thrilled to leave its cave!

Now is the time for trips, beaches, family grill outs, fireworks, boat rides on the lake, fishing, and the list could go on. There is so much to do! And now we have celebrated Easter, we proclaimed that Christ is risen! We convince ourselves that church takes the backseat. It fits in where our weekends have no other obligations, trips, or adventures.

Beloved in the Lord, we don't know the day or the hour of Jesus' return. Nor do we know the day that will be our death. Or the loss of those around us. There isn't always the promise of "tomorrow" or "next spring." Shake off the stupor of hibernation and lethargic stints in your faith. The Lord reminds us that we are the "people of his pasture" and "the sheep of his hand" because "He is our God," but the culmination of this Psalm tells us, *Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts* (Psalm 95:7). You aren't meant to hibernate. You are meant to depend on your God, your shepherd, and the one whose voice we respond to.

Stand firm in the resurrection of Jesus. Proclaim his goodness, serve your neighbor, give of the fruits of the earth to the work of the church in the Gospel and mercy, and receive the gifts that Christ has promised to you. I know it's a lot, but the dazzling light of the vanities of the world shouldn't distract us while it dapples on the forest floor.

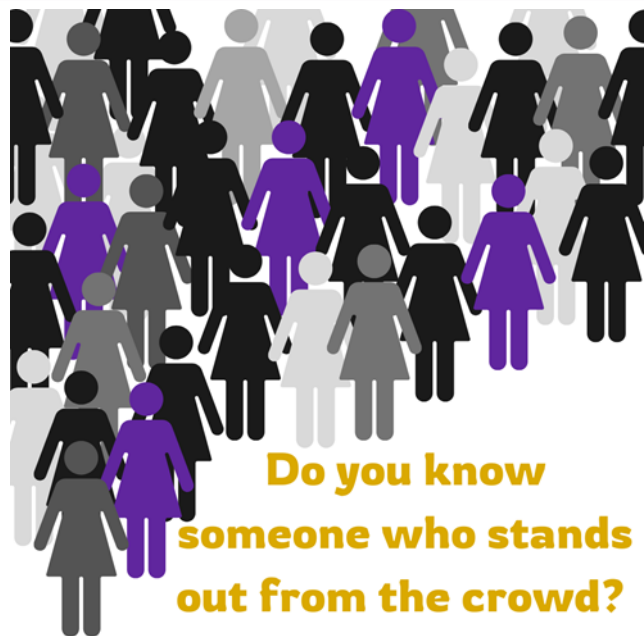
Thieves, robbers, moth, and rust can take all these things, but nothing can separate you from the love of Christ.

So, praise the Lord!

In Christ,

Pastor Jesse Davis
LWML SWD Jr. Pastoral Counselor





**Do you know
someone who stands
out from the crowd?**

What is it that makes her stand out?
Does she have vision? Is she looking ahead to see the possibilities of where the LWML SWD could go?

Does she have a servant's heart? Servant leadership is being dedicated, showing love and concern for people, and following the ultimate servant leader, Jesus.

Does she have courage? Is she willing to try new ideas, whether they are successful or not?

Do you see her stepping forward to be in a district leadership position?

These are just a few looks of a leader that we as a district need. You may recognize these traits in another woman in the district or maybe in your own mirror.

The nominating committee asks you to PRAYERFULLY consider nominating that friend or yourself to be on the 2026 convention ballot. Nominations are due by December 1, 2025.

(continued in the next column)

Nominations are now being accepted for the following:

District President
Vice President of Gospel Outreach & Christian Life
Vice President of Organizational Resources
Recording Secretary
Financial Secretary
Jr. Pastoral Counselor

The nomination form is available at www.lwml-swd.org/helps#district

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the SWD Nominations Committee at nominations@lwml-swd.org



LWML SWD VACANCIES

Fall Retreat Co-Chairman, Special Focus Ministries, Renewal, Special Funds, and Gladness Rags

Committee members always needed: H2H, Leader Development, Retreats (Personnel Profile on the website a good way to indicate interest)

Hosting District Meetings: EC (11 people), BOD (45-50 people), Biennial Planning (45 people), Zone President's Training (30 people), no full meals just coffee and breakfast items.

Contact President Cinda with any questions president@lwml-swd.org

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Check Presentation for Mission Grant #4

I had the privilege and honor April 17, to present the check to our #4 Mission Grant recipient, Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs of WI. The check was personally presented at Brookfield Lutheran Church to the CEO of this organization, Rev. Chris Singer. The Comfort Dogs staff and handlers were very excited and appreciative of the size of the check and kept thanking me. I always responded that this check was made possible from many pennies, nickels and dimes contributed from LWML SWD ladies.

All seven Wisconsin Comfort Dogs were present as well as most of their handler teams and it was quite a large group of people. There were also several of our LWML SWD ladies in attendance. The dogs were very well-behaved, although the picture taking was not their thing!

The \$21,000 check will be used to supplement travel expenses when the dogs are deployed to disasters and tragedies. Their presence is a bridge for compassionate ministry and opening doors for conversations about faith and the healing power of Jesus Christ for those who are hurting. Lutheran Church Charities never charges those who are served so the dogs' host church/school/ministry are always working to raise money. The dogs are only deployed when and where they are invited, mostly on short notice, anywhere in the United States. This demand has increased throughout our country. These dogs also serve their respective communities at nursing homes, schools and hospitals as well as being major players in multiple education programs at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Judy Gitzlaff
VP of Special Focus Ministries & Mission Grants



LCC CEO Rev. Chris Singer & Judy Gitzlaff



Above are some of our SWD ladies with the dogs, LCC staff and handler teams - Below are the staff and handler teams filled with special people that manage the care, training of, and deploy with the amazing pups that are part of the LCC Comfort Dogs ministry!



LCC currently has over 130 LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs serving in more than 27 states. Click the below link to read the full story of this ministry!

[K-9 Ministries](#)

Loving Leadership Development Workshop Empowers Nearly 60 Women

We were thrilled to welcome nearly 60 women to our Loving Leadership Development Workshops held this spring! Two separate sessions were offered — one in March and another in April — giving women the flexibility to attend the workshop that best fit their schedule.

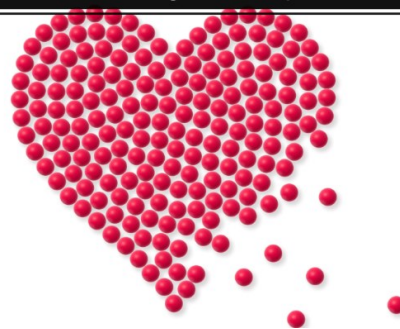
Designed to equip and encourage women in leadership roles both inside and outside the church, this workshop focused on leading with love, humility, and purpose. Participants explored biblical principles of leadership, engaged in thoughtful discussion, and reflected on how they might use their God-given gifts to bless others in their communities and congregations.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the ladies of St. Paul's, Sheboygan Falls, and the ladies of St. Paul's, Janesville, for their warm hospitality. These wonderful women provided a delicious breakfast for participants and went above and beyond to make all registrants feel welcome. Their efforts in preparing the facilities and creating a comfortable, inviting environment were deeply appreciated and contributed to the success of both events.

It was inspiring to see the energy and engagement from attendees who were eager to learn, grow, and support one another. We are grateful for each woman who took time to attend, and we pray that what was shared and experienced during the workshops will continue to bear fruit in their leadership journeys.

Whether you're already in a leadership role or simply exploring how God might use you, these workshops serve as a reminder that leadership begins with love — and that's a calling we all can embrace.

What does Loving Leadership Mean?



Loving Leadership is about embracing leadership with **care, purpose, and a heart for others**, while also leading with strength, clarity, and confidence. It's a leadership style that **builds trust, empowers people, and fosters meaningful relationships** — all while staying focused on the mission at hand.

For those stepping into leadership for the first time, it's natural to feel uncertain or even overwhelmed. **Loving Leadership helps transform that uncertainty into confidence** by shifting the focus from simply "having a leadership title" to **truly embracing and loving the leadership journey**.

Loving Leadership **isn't just about how you treat others** — it's also about how you see **yourself in leadership**. It's about **learning to love the responsibility, the impact, and the privilege of leading others**.



Leadership Resource Table
(More pictures on the next page)

Loving Leadership Events Photo Gallery



Marilyn and Jennifer running the
Registration Table



Pastor Polzin sharing a devotion based on
the workshop Bible verse Romans 8:28



Chontelle Layne leading
Session One
Flowering Members of
the LWML



↕ Ladies showing the flowers and bouquets they made that represent leadership attributes that they are strong in or would like to grow in ↕



Workshop participants at St Paul's in Janesville

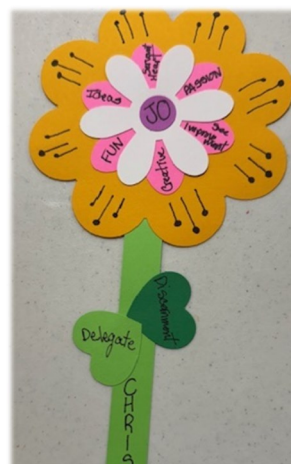


Jen Schneider leading a
portion of the program

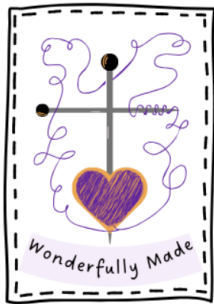


Faithful SWD leaders sharing advice and
answering questions from attendees

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FULL BLOOM!



2025 LWML SWD Winter Getaway

Oh how the whole weekend was wonderfully made! One hundred forty attendees experienced being together for the first time at Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah, Wis, Jan 31 & Feb 1! The room was full of smiling faces, exhibitors, talented musicians, and excitement to hear Lutherans for Life Executive Director Rev. Michael Salemink. Although it was hard to match Pastor Salemink's excitement — we even had to turn his microphone down!

A few statistics from the event:

Offering: \$1,954.58 for Lutherans for Life
\$651.52 for Female Church Work

Scholarship

Mite Box: \$584.26

Soap Sacks made: 700+

Eyeglass cases: 359 (61 made at the event)

We heard how the Orphan Grain Train is moving so much material (of all kinds) to people in need all over the world and even in our own country. There was a special moment when grant check #3, SWD LCMS Church Worker Student Grants, \$30,000 was presented to Pastor Meador. All praise to God for His many blessings!

FYI — The recordings of Pastor Salemink's three sessions are available to view at the Lutherans for Life YouTube page.

Thank you again to the whole committee for all their hard work!

Jennifer Olen
2025 Winter Getaway Chairman



Celebrating New Life in our SWD!

On Sunday, April 6, following the second service at Good Shepherd in Watertown, our congregation gathered in love and celebration to welcome the newest member of our church family — Seth Aaron Reseburg, the son of our Pastor Aaron Reseburg and his wife, Martha. About 40 members joined in this special baby shower, held in honor of Seth and his family.

It was a beautiful afternoon, filled with joy, laughter, and gratitude for the gift of new life. From the thoughtful decorations to the delicious treats and warm fellowship, the event was a true reflection of the care and community spirit that make our church family so special.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the wonderful ladies of Good Shepherd for planning and hosting this meaningful celebration. Your time, effort, and loving attention to detail created a welcoming space where we could all come together to share in the joy of this precious little one.

We give thanks to God for Seth Aaron and continue to pray for His blessings on the Reseburg family as they raise their son and daughters in faith and love.

Submitted by Jill Jones



The guest of honor and his special family!

Sharing Local Events from Around SWD

Several different groups have shared news about events held at their respective churches. This is something ALL groups and zones are encouraged to do so sisters and brothers in Christ who receive our *Mission Lamp* can be inspired by all the wonderful things we are doing to Serve the Lord with Gladness in our district!



Every
Super
week-

year on
Bowl
end,

which is usually right before Valentine's Day, the LWML of St. Paul's, Grafton, hosts "Munchies for Mites" bakery, snacks and special treats after all five services. Heightened awareness of Mission Grant projects has blessed efforts to raise funds for missions, and now members eagerly look forward to this event. This year donations of nearly \$900 were contributed for the SWD Comfort Dogs Grant. Year after year more individuals and families are using the Mite Boxes provided by the group.

Submitted by Jan Koopman



Twelve women attended the LWML-hosted fellowship event on Saturday, March 1, at Pella Lutheran Church in Waupun. A devotion from the LWML website entitled "Love: Not an Option" was shared and beautiful new table centerpieces were created. Several women attended who are not active in LWML and we hope to encourage others with future fellowship events.

Submitted by Tomi Knuth



LWML SWD Zone 21 in the Spring 2025 Issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*



If you looked closely at the Spring issue of the *LWQ* you may have caught that Bonnie, a member of Zone 21 was featured on page 26. The zone has been making pillowcase dresses for some time. She puts together Pillowcase Dress Kits, including directions, that can be taken home by anyone who likes to sew. If you were at our Winter Getaway, she was there sharing kits with those who attended. The directions she used were from Little Dresses for Africa. Orphan Grain Train also has instructions in the event your group would like to make pillowcase dresses, too.

OUR PRIVILEGE TO PRAY!

I know you are out there – our sisters need YOU! There haven't been any volunteers to join our E-Mail Prayer Group of late. Please consider if the Lord is calling you to pray and send your name to me at the below email [jl4011.second@gmail.com](mailto:jlk4011.second@gmail.com).

Our Father desires His children to come to Him with our needs and with praise and thanksgiving for His care and comfort. He asks us to lift up others as well.

Won't you join this group of prayer warriors and share in the privilege of taking our sisters and brothers in Christ into the presence of our Father and Great Physician?

Joyce L. Kaestner
E-Mail Prayer
Request Manager



United in Christ: Celebrating Our Unique Stories



*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,
there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus
(Galatians 3:28).*

Saturday, May 17, 2025 8:30 am to 2 pm
St John's Lutheran Church
7877 N Port Washington Rd
Glendale, WI 53217

For more information or RSVP contact:
jamellis2003@yahoo.com

Mission Goal Reached!

Praise God! Through His grace and your faithful support,
we have reached our Mission Goal!

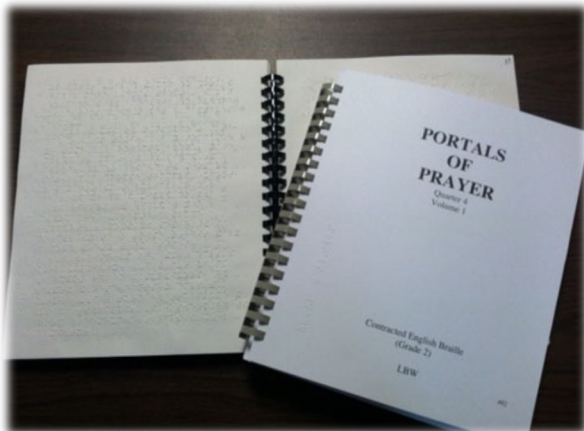
LWML is thrilled to announce that the Mission Goal for this biennium has been met! Your generous support has made a tremendous impact, funding mission grants with a total of \$2.35 million to spread God's love and hope to those in need.

Update on Mission Grants

2023–2025 Mission Grant 4 - FORTIFYING FAITH IN THOSE WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT | Lutheran Braille Workers - \$100,000 **PAID IN FULL!**

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. There are millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. They seek to strengthen their Christian faith while coping with isolation and dealing with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials.

This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired. Because LBW works with every Christian denomination, these materials would be available for outreach and evangelism at no cost to those who are blind or visually impaired regardless of faith or belief.



Lutheran Women in Mission 2023–2025 MISSION GRANTS

1. Orphan Grain Train Servant Center
Orphan Grain Train, U.S.\$100,000
2. A Healing Space for At-Risk Children
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND\$100,000
3. Serving God's Children with Special Needs
Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI.....\$100,000
4. Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment
Lutheran Braille Workers.....\$100,000
5. Disaster Response Team
Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX.....\$50,000
6. Mobile Kitchen
Forged by Fire Services, Gulf Coast Region, U.S.\$85,000
7. Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach
LCMS Life Ministry\$96,500
8. Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO\$100,000
9. Equipping Young Leaders — LCMS Youth Ministry\$50,000
10. Set Apart To Serve — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education.....\$100,000
11. Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job
Ministry in Mission, Haiti\$85,000
12. Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth
Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA\$35,000
13. Water and the Word
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya\$80,000
14. Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach
Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S.\$47,000
15. Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals
Trinity HOPE.....\$58,082
16. Care for Street Children of Western Kenya
Capstone Ministries\$50,000
17. Nurturing Faith for the Aging
Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew)\$100,000
18. Zoe's Home Support
Zoe's Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO.....\$75,000
19. Tanzania Children's Homes
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa\$74,500
20. Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan
Lutheran Hour Ministries\$100,000
21. Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church
Lutheran Family Services, U.S.\$106,000
22. Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in the U.S.
Lutheran Hour Ministries\$100,000
23. A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children
Lutheran Special Education Ministries, U.S.\$100,000
24. God's Word for Central and South American Missions
Lutheran Heritage Foundation.....\$100,000
25. Bringing God's Word to India
India Bible Translation Project\$100,000
26. Life Connection Events and Kits — Lutherans for Life.....\$70,000
27. Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry
Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE.....\$50,000
28. Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students
Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE\$20,000
29. Repairs for St. Paul's Lutheran School
St. Paul's Lutheran School, Cullman, AL\$50,000
30. Showering Love on the Least of These
Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA\$100,000
31. Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit
Camp Restore Detroit, MI\$58,988

INTRODUCING OUR SWD YOUNG WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES TO OMAHA:



LAUREN HUMPHREY

Lauren is a junior in the Director of Church Ministries program at CUW. She is a member of Bethlehem Lutheran in Sun Prairie, Wisc.

Favorite hymn: It's a tie between "God's Own Child I'll Gladly Say It" or "We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God."

Favorite bible verse: Psalm 118:24

Something you are looking forward to at the LWML convention: Getting to know more wonderful women of Christ who are involved with the LWML!

Hobbies: Reading, hiking, exploring museums, and traveling!

Favorite place you've visited: Hawaii (although, I am studying abroad this fall in England, so I anticipate that answer may change soon!)

What are you passionate about? Sharing the love of Jesus with those around me! I can't help but talk about Jesus & what he has done for me every day.



Young Woman
Representative Pin



AMBER WIGHTMAN

Amber plans to complete a degree in Elementary Education with a Theology minor at CUW. She is a member at Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Waukesha, Wisc.

Favorite hymn: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." I have loved this hymn since childhood.

Favorite Bible Verse: Proverbs 6:5-6, this was my Confirmation verse.

Something you are looking forward to at the LWML Convention: Getting to worship with fellow servant-hearted believers.

Favorite holiday: Christmas because we get to prepare for and celebrate Christ's birth.

Hobbies: Singing, playing Bass Clarinet, reading, crocheting, art, and hiking.

Favorite place you've visited: Alaska, I went on a cruise with a friend last summer for a week and enjoyed the beauty of the area.

What are you passionate about? Helping others and making sure that they have what they need. I am also passionate about music, singing in my church's choir and a community choir. I am also passionate about education, and am pursuing an Elementary Education degree at CUW.



LWML Convention Travel Update

Registration for the Omaha bound Sonshine Travelers Motorcoach began at the BOD meeting on February 8, 2025, and by the end of February every seat on the motorcoach was filled. Delegates who wanted seats, Young Women's Reps, and those on the BOD were given priority. The remainder of the seats were filled by general registrants.

There is a waiting list of people for seats on the motorcoach should there be a cancellation due to illness or other uncontrollable situations. If you wish to be on that list, contact me immediately at the email address shown below.

At one point, I had 20 people on that waiting list, and so I was looking for seats on other district motorcoaches. One of the deterrents for people riding on other district motorcoaches was that the price was more than 50% higher than for our South Wisconsin District motorcoach. We are very blessed that Pastor Meier with the Sonshine Travelers Motorcoach is so willing to give us such a bargain for this travel. This is not only a savings for those on the motorcoach, but it is a savings to the LWML SWD administrative fund as this low travel cost is what is paid from the administrative fund for all LWML SWD delegates to the convention. Thank God for Pastor Meier and the Sonshine Travelers.

After researching having a second motorcoach from our district, the price of that, too, would have been nearly \$400 per person, and we did not appear to be able to fill another motorcoach, so in addition to the waiting list, I have been connecting people with other people driving in their personal vehicles. If you are driving to Omaha and you have additional space in your vehicle or if you are in need of a ride, please

email me at the address below. If you are contacting me for assistance with ride sharing, please provide the city in which you live and a cellphone number, so I can start matching you.

The Sonshine Travelers Motorcoach will be leaving early in the morning on Wednesday, June 25, from Peace Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Janesville. More details will be provided to those riding on the Sonshine Travelers Motorcoach, and those riders are welcome to contact me with any questions. I am excited about the convention in two months! Please keep the Convention Committee and volunteers in your prayers (as we remember what it was like in Milwaukee in 2023), and pray for safe travels for all.

Please contact me by phone or email if I can provide assistance with traveling to the 2025 LWML Convention.

Patty Silah
2025 Convention Travel Manager
414-350-5446

conventiontravelmanager@lwml-swd.org



There are currently 105 people from SWD registered to attend the convention and a total of 3,200 so far!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

LWML Convention News & Reminders

Have you checked out the LWML News & Events/Convention Central on lwml.org recently? If you haven't, you've missed seeing the Mission Grant Proposals with summaries, Considered Amendments to the Bylaws, Bios for Candidates for elected offices, Convention Offering Recipients, pre and post convention tours, Tee Up 4 Mites, the Bi-State Mission Walk, and a convention schedule. Registration increased to \$235 on May 1 but is available until June 1. Special discounted LWML group rates for assorted hotels will be held until May 15, 2025.

Unable to attend the Omaha convention? You can still participate in: Gifts from the Heart [Omaha Gifts from the Heart Flyer](#) (as a group or individual select a mission to support) and Convention Offerings [Convention Offerings](#), review 47 Mission Grants Summaries [Mission Grant Proposal Summaries](#) (as a group share with your zone president the grants you want her to vote for), and PRAY for all those planning and participating in the convention.

Stay Connected: Be the first to see convention updates and announcements [Click here to sign up for eNews](#). Convention general sessions will be live-streamed and available on the LWML website. Some of these resources have been linked on lwml-swd.org/events/convention for your convenience.

Reminder to all convention attendees:

1. The convention center is cashless. Vending machines and concessions will not take cash. This includes the LWML Store; only cards and checks will be accepted at the LWML Store.
2. No 'carry ins' to the convention center. Only disposable water bottles purchased at the convention center are permitted, although personal refillable bottles are acceptable. Coffees purchased outside of the convention center should be finished and disposed of prior to entering the building.

They are here! What, You Might Ask?

LWML-SWD convention identifiers badges are now available. The cost is \$5.00 per badge. Delegates, Young Women and Heart to Heart representatives for the LWML Convention in Omaha receive theirs free. I will be travelling on the convention bus and you can receive and purchase them at that time or at the district caucus. If you desire to have yours before the convention please send a check made out to LWML-SWD with convention identifier in the memo line and include a self-addressed envelope with postage (two identifiers will mail for one postage stamp). Mail to Marilyn Belter, W2011 Cottonville Ct, Berlin, WI 54923

Email questions to:
vporganizationalresources@lwml-swd.org

Marilyn Belter
Vice President of Organizational Resources



2025 LWML Convention News



Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: Growing in God's Grace

Scripture Verse: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).*

President: Eden Keefe

Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

Objectives: Each convention attendee will be:

- Inspired to dig deeper in God's Word.
- Nurtured to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm.
- Encouraged to support missions and our mission goal with joy.

CANDIDATES FOR LWML OFFICES

Below are the candidates on the ballot for offices as they will appear at the LWML Convention in June. Their complete biographies plus the list of those candidates for the Nominating Committee are available in the Spring 2025 issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or at www.lwml.org under News & Events then chose Convention Central.

Candidates for Pastoral Counselor:

The Rev. Timothy Jenks - Canoga Park, Calif.
The Rev. Michael Schmidt - Manhattan, Kansas

Candidates for Vice President of Christian Life:

Shari Miller - East Helena, Montana
Mary Smith - Goldendale, Washington

Candidates for Vice President of Communication:

Kelly Bernhardt - Amarillo, Texas
Linda Guterres - Medford, New York

Candidates for Vice President of Gospel Outreach:

Anne Hartman - Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Sharon von Qualen - Carroll, Iowa

Candidates for Recording Secretary:

Dianna Just - Vinita, Oklahoma
Lois Teinert - Round Rock, Texas

Please keep all of these candidates in your thoughts and prayers in the upcoming weeks. They have each made this big commitment to be willing to Serve the Lord with Gladness through the respective office he or she has agreed to be considered for. LWML is truly blessed to have so many servant hearts across the United States!





Gifts from the Heart IS GOING GREEN!

Gifts from the Heart is getting a Makeover for Omaha!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Change. Yes, change. Positive and necessary change.



The days of packing and hauling boxes across the country are over!

WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

Utilize Amazon Wish Lists.

- * Shop online and ship directly to our recipients in the months before the convention.
- * Select items from an Amazon Wish List of each recipient's top needs.
- * Use the online link provided.
- * Shop individually, or make it a group event.



WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS?

Three ministries have been selected as Gifts from the Heart recipients for the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha.



Camp Luther of Nebraska



Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska



The Chapel: University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry

WHAT'S NEXT? Watch for more information in the winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* in the convention section. **Wish List shopping will open in February 2025 and continue through convention weekend.**

The time is now to embrace new options for collecting Gifts from the Heart ingathering items! **Ready? Set. Here we GO!**



Learn more about the Lutheran Women in Mission's 42nd Biennial Convention at lwml.org/convention





LWML SWD Fall Retreat
September 26-27, 2025
Embassy Suites By Hilton MKE/Brookfield
1200 S. Moorland Road
Brookfield, WI 53005

Put on the Whole Armor of God... Ephesians 6:10-18

***Armor of God-
Your Strong Suit***

Presenter: Donna Snow

Even though we do not like discussing spiritual warfare, it is necessary because it is real. Spiritual warfare has the potential to rob us of peace and security only to leave behind doubt and unrest. But God offers protection to us-HIS protection. You will leave this retreat knowing the rock-solid truth that God has provided everything needed for you to proclaim ultimate victory!

Gifts from the Heart Recipients:

FREE AT LAST

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Shavers
- Lotion
- Soap
- Hand Towel
- Wash Cloth



Main Servant Events:

Stuffing Backpacks with the Hygiene Items
Marking Bibles to be used in Prison Ministry

Offering Recipient:

75% **Grief Share at Hope Lutheran MKE**
25% **Female Church Work Scholarship**

To Register:





LWML SWD Fall Retreat
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Registration Form

Put on the Whole Armor of God... Ephesians 6:10-18

Gifts from the Heart Recipient:

FREE AT LAST

Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, Shavers, Lotion, Soap, Hand Towel, Wash Cloth

Offering Recipient: 75% **Grief Share at Hope Lutheran MKE/** 25% **Female Church Work Scholarship**

Retreat Registration:

- **\$80/attendee**-includes Saturday lunch
- Deadline for registration is **September 13, 2025**
- Make checks payable to **LWML SWD** with memo line **FR2025**
- After September 20, 2025, registration refunds will be given only under extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the Fall Retreat Committee. **No refunds will be given at the retreat**

Mail check and bottom of registration form to:

Wendie Staus

6988 Lark Ave.

Hartford, WI 53027

P- 262-673-6154 Email: financialsecretary@lwml-swd.org

Hotel Room Registration:

- Limited rooms available at Embassy Suites by calling 262-782-2900
- Ask for the LWML SWD rate before Friday, September 5, 2025
 - Ensures the LWML SWD discount rate of \$119.00 +tax per night (Includes Breakfast)
 - single/double occupancy

Retreat schedule will be posted to the LWML-SWD website once available



Please Print

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Arrival Day:** Friday _____ Saturday _____

Home Congregation and City: _____ **Zone:** _____

Emergency Contact (name and phone number): _____

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

Interpreter for hearing impaired 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: lwml-swd.org/events/retreat. Please check the line to acknowledge your understanding of the release

LWML SWD Z10 Spring Rally

Thirty-three Women in Mission and two pastors gathered at Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhart Lake for the Z10 Spring Rally. The evening began with a brief devotion by Pastor Peter Peitsch of Grace, followed by a delicious meal prepared by the ladies of Grace. Pastor Azor Cigelske from Zion Lutheran in New Holstein then shared an inspiring Bible study based on 1 Corinthians 15, which asked the question, "What happens to our earthly bodies upon death but before Jesus comes again?" A blessing was done for the Gifts from the Heart, which included items for Pathways to a Better Life, a residential treatment center. A brief business meeting concluded the evening of wonderful food and fellowship.

Submitted by Vaunie Weaver - Z10 Secretary



Large Print *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Editions Available

Thank you to all groups who got their *Quarterly* order placed on time! I have had a few inquiries about the large print edition of the magazine. I have received the following from Lutheran Braille Workers about how to complete an order.

"We do offer in large print the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* publication by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. We can add recipients to our mailing list free of charge; we just need the following information to place the order:

First and Last Name

Mailing Address

Email Address

Phone Number

To place an order, they can fill out our online form with the link below, reach us via email or call and place an order over the phone."

<https://www.lbwloveworks.org/>

Blessed are They ...

The 2025 Prayer Service is based on the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:1–12.



The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved words of Jesus. In them, Jesus highlights people in various situations of life, situations that are not always easy to endure — or even envision — as a child of God. Yet, our Lord calls the people in each condition “blessed” and assures each of them of their place in the kingdom of heaven. As you hear the precious Beatitudes from our Lord and pray for people in the various stages of life, may you indeed be blessed and encouraged in your life of faith. May your mind be drawn to the work of Christ, His life, and His death and resurrection which bless you each day until He brings you home to the kingdom of heaven forever. (Downloads for the Prayer Service are available at lwml.org under News & Events - Prayer Service)



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. More details will be forthcoming.

Hope you will plan to attend!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

We LOVE Missions!

Spring is a cheerful time for me as I watch the ground come alive with flowers, grass, and budding trees. I also enjoy the sound of the many birds returning to the area. I especially love the little faces on the daffodils as they open and smile to the sun!

Spring really is a time when God loves to give us these reminders of life, hope, and happiness — it makes Him happy!

This reminds me of 2 Corinthians 9:7, *God loves a cheerful giver*. God gives so lavishly to us, and we cheerfully and willingly give of our bounty to Him. That makes Him happy, too!

Our Mite Box is a great way to give regularly as we support our mission grants. Our coins add up as we put them in our box each day. You may want to keep the list of our district mission grants near your Mite Box and say a prayer for them as you put in your coins. You can find ready to print and use materials at www.lwml-swd.org under Resources then District Helps. Each grant has its purpose with pictures and a prayer in the forms of posters or bulletin inserts.

God loves for us to cheerfully share our talents and treasures — your Mite Box is a great way to do it!

Blessings on your springtime,

Ellen Peck

LWML SWD Mission Grants Committee Chair
ellenap3065@gmail.com



LWML Gifts of Love Ministry

We can face competing priorities when we think about planning our estate someday. Part of the tension flows from immediate needs versus long-term needs. Maybe you need new tires and that wins the contest over working with an attorney. Many seniors are concerned about the high cost of nursing home care and believe their only estate priority is protecting assets. We do not know what the future holds. The Lord may grant you many years and your goals and needs may change requiring an adjustment in your plan. But there are many other legal and financial issues that should be considered, including how to bless family with inheritance and support ministries that the Lord has laid on the heart. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can meet with you, without cost, to help you navigate the process of setting up a plan to cover your needs. Contact Carol von Soosten at Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org.

Pat Menden - Special Funds Coordinator



IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE LIFEWALK 2025

Saturday, June 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Elm Grove Lutheran Church

945 Terrace Drive

Elm Grove, Brookfield WI 53122

To register please

email apor.ministries.swd@gmail.com.

Name, Phone, Email, Church, Address, and Number Attending with LifeWalk in the subject line.

Partnering in Missions!

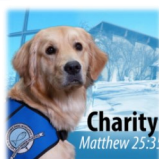
Happy spring, ladies! It's time to go on a leisurely walk, enjoy the sunshine, or start prepping the flower garden for the lovely blooms to arrive! My computer certainly is smiling with the generosity of my fellow LWML sisters! As of March 31, our mite total for the current biennium is \$121,634.74 (\$96,068.66 for the South Wisconsin District and \$25,566.08 for the National LWML). For clarification purposes, our SWD mite total includes, not only for mites collected, but contributions from endowment fund interest, bank interest, and the past biennium mite overage of \$16,548.28. We will need to collect approximately \$8,197 monthly for the balance of the biennium to obtain our goal of \$220,000.

Please remember to make your checks payable to LWML SWD and include a receipt voucher. The vouchers are found on our website, lwml-swd.org. Click on the 'Resource' tab and scroll down to 'Society Helps' to 'LWML SWD Receipt Voucher,' which you may print.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission grants!

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

Grant #4 LCC Comfort Dogs of WI was paid in full on April 17. Read the article on page 4. These are the specific dogs supported by this grant!



2024-2026 Mission Grants

These are the 2024-2026 Mission Grants:

- Orphan Grain Train - Wisconsin Branch
Paid in FULL! \$15,000
- Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI
Child Therapy Expansion - Mental Health
Coverage **Paid in FULL!** \$25,000
- SWD Church Worker Grants **Paid in FULL!** \$30,000
- LCC Comfort Dogs of WI **Paid in FULL!** \$21,000
- Teaching God's Children with Special Needs -
Journey School \$50,000
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church MKE -
Restoration \$25,000
- Financial Assistance for CTS, Fort Wayne
Food & Clothing Co-op \$15,000
- 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 Events to Remember

- May 17 Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations event St John LC Glendale
- June 15 Fall Rally PR due to PR Chair
- June 26-29 LWML Convention Omaha NE
see pages 12 - 15 of this *ML* for
some information and full details
are at www.lwml.org
- July 15 August *Mission Lamp* articles due
- Aug 23 EC Meeting - St John's LC Portage
- Aug 24 BOD reports due to Corr Sec
- Sept 5 TLC scholarships due for Fall Retreat
- Sept 6 9-3 BOD Meeting - Messiah LC Ripon
- Sept 26 -27 Fall Retreat - Embassy Suites Brookfield

Executive Committee

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- VP, Gospel Outreach and Christian Growth
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- Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Jesse Lee Davis
jrpastoralcounselor@lwml-swd.org



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).*



Vaunie Weaver, *Mission Lamp* editor

Wendie Staus, assistant editor