



## President's Message

### CHOSEN TO LOVE AND SERVE

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Dear LWML Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever spent time thinking about the LWML Pledge and what it means to you as a Lutheran Woman in Mission? There are more to these words than just a "marching order;" these are words for living; a response to all the Savior has done for you and me.

I need to be honest; rarely can I recite the LWML Pledge without choking up a bit. When I read "we dedicate ourselves," "we pledge (to) Him." and "we consecrate to our Savior our hands ... feet ... voice ... lips ... silver and gold ... our will to do His will" and am reminded of the Great Commission of "bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him," it seems like an insurmountable task. And then I remember the word "we." We are not called to do this alone. We are not a Lutheran *Woman* in Mission, We are Lutheran *Women* in Mission, CHOSEN by God to LOVE and SERVE Him. We are "living mites" gathered not in a mite box, but around God's Word to be equipped to share God's love "wherever and whenever He has need of us."

As we serve our Lord as Women in Mission, watch for the opportunities He sets before you and remember, within the church, we do not serve alone. We support each other by our attendance, prayers, and answering "Yes," when we can. Working together, insurmountable tasks become manageable.

My "Yes" to serve as LWML SWD President is coming to an end. Another's "Yes" is about to begin. We have the privilege of serving our Lord through the LWML. I look forward to my next "Yes" and future LWML opportunities of service! What "Yes" waits for you?

Serving our Lord with you,  
Cinda Poppe  
LWML SWD President 2020–2024

*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*

*You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here (Mark 16:6b).*

My Dear Sisters,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With those words, most of us began our Easter worship, found them in the sermon (likely multiple times), and concluded our time together before going back to our homes. Easter is just this magnificent season of celebration of joy and hope and peace and wonder and excitement.

But, if you were one of the women who went to the tomb in Mark's Gospel, it was anything but those things. It was a day of fear and doubt and uncertainty and astonishment and trembling. They didn't completely understand everything that was going on. All they knew was that there was a strange young man sitting in the tomb of Jesus that had been strangely open, the guard strangely disappeared, and a body strangely missing.

The original ending of Mark seems to end there with the women being afraid, and for Mark's Gospel, that makes sense. Mark is based on the preaching notes of the Apostle Peter. After this story, Peter would be delivering to those who would hear and believe the message of Jesus Christ the crucified and risen body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper. He would remind them of the promises Jesus gave them, even as Jesus gave them all through the Gospel of Mark. (The longer ending of Mark, I believe, may have been added by Mark or someone close to him a bit later, maybe even after Peter died, so that it didn't end on fear, but hope, but that's another story for another time.)

For those women, they didn't have that hope yet. They didn't see the full ending of the story just yet. They wanted to know it, and it was just out of reach, but it was coming. Until then, until they saw Jesus with their eyes, until they saw the fulfillment of all His promises, they would be fearful.

But, thank God, they were witnesses to the resurrection. They saw Jesus. They sat with Him, ate with Him, learned more from Him. They gave their accounts to the Apostles and all of it was written down for us to believe nearly 2000 years after the fact. We have their witness, and we can believe it is true. They thought they would find Him in the tomb, but He wasn't there, for, just as said, He is risen (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!).

For us, we come seeking Jesus, too. Only, we don't seek Him in the tomb. We seek the risen Lord where He's promised to be. We seek Him in Word and Sacrament, and because He is risen (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!), He has promised that we will find Him there. He's not on the cross. He's not in the tomb. He's not anywhere but where He's always promised to be—with us always, even unto the end of the age, in your ears, in your mouth, and upon your forehead. He is with you, for He is risen! (He is risen indeed! Alleluia!)

Always, in Christ,  
Pastor Polzin





## 2024 LWML SWD Convention News

### CALL TO CONVENTION

Sisters in the LWML SWD, this is your official Call to Convention. The 40th LWML SWD Convention will convene on June 15, 2024, at 9 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie. The theme, “Chosen to Love and Serve,” was inspired by Colossians 3:12, *Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.* Delegates from each congregational group and voting members of the LWML SWD Board of Directors will select mission grants for the 2024–2026 biennium, elect officers, review bylaws, and conduct the business of the district. All convention participants will be inspired by uplifting Bible study and special speakers. You are invited to come and be strengthened as Lutheran Women in Mission.

Pre-Convention Events on Friday, June 14, 2024, include the Board of Directors meeting (by invitation only), Servant Events, a Mission Walk, Candidate Meet and Greet, and a Vesper Service. Convention information is available on [lwml-swd.org/events/convention](https://lwml-swd.org/events/convention) and in this issue of the *Mission Lamp*.

In His Service,  
Cinda Poppe  
LWML SWD President 2020-2024



### Meet the Candidates!

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present those willing to be on the ballot for this biennium cycle. See page 8 to begin!

General Registration for the 2024 LWML SWD Convention is open! Please register as soon as possible! The Registration deadline is May 15, 2024! We will gather at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 300 Broadway Dr., Sun Prairie, WI 53590 from Friday, June 14, 2024 through Saturday, June 15, 2024. The Registration form (page 4) as well as the Schedule/Information Sheet (pages 5 & 6) are in this issue of the *Mission Lamp*. More information on the latest details of our Convention is also available at <https://lwml-swd.org/events/convention>. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Your sister in Christ,  
Ann Nehring  
2024 SWD Convention Publicity Chairman

### YOUNG WOMEN CONVENTION NEWS

Are you a female between the ages of 22–35 and would like to learn more about LWML, or do you know someone like that? Young women are invited to join us for the LWML South Wisconsin District Convention on June 14–15, 2024, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wis., as representatives of their SWD group. A special Saturday breakfast is planned for the young women as well as a Gifts from the Heart service opportunity. A pinning ceremony for the YWRs will also take place during the convention. Please visit [lwml-swd.org/events/convention](https://lwml-swd.org/events/convention) for more information including the registration form. Questions? Please email me!

Carmen Schallock  
Young Women Committee Chair  
[ywchairman@lwml-swd.org](mailto:ywchairman@lwml-swd.org)



**2024 LWML SWD CONVENTION**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Sun Prairie  
June 14-15, 2024

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

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOU:**

- Delegate
- BOD – Voting
- BOD – Non-Voting
- General Registrant
- Special Guest
- Young Women Rep.
- Past Dist. President

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like confirmation, please check box, and provide email address above.

Registration for girls ages 13 to 17; check the box and provide a parent/guardian name and email address above.

**SPECIAL NEEDS** (Complete/check all that apply)

- Deaf Interpreter
- Wheelchair accessible seating
- Other - please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION AND FEES**

Registration (includes Saturday lunch.) \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration for LCMS confirmed girls 13 to 17 no charge (Does not include meals.) None \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Prices Friday Night Buffet \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Box Lunch (Included in registration fee.) \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LWML SWD** and "2024 Convention" in memo line and mail to:

**Carol Smith, Registrar** 1915 County Z, Friendship, WI 53934 Informational phone number: 608-472-3878

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2024**

**MEAL SELECTION**

*Catering by Cranberry Creek, Madison, WI*

**Friday Night Buffet** Hamburger, Grilled Chicken Breast, pasta, chips, beverage & dessert

**Saturday Box Lunch** (includes chips, cookie, and beverage): **(check one for your meal)**

- Ham & Swiss sandwich
- Chicken Salad Croissant
- Cranberry Creek Salad (pecans)
- Vegetarian Hummus Wrap



I have read and agree to the LWML SWD Participant Information, Acknowledgment, Assumption of Risk (General and Covid 19) and Photo Release Form as found on the LWML SWD website:

[lwml-swd.org/Events/Conventions](http://lwml-swd.org/Events/Conventions)

**Please check the box to acknowledge your understanding of the Release.**

**HOUSING:** Each Registrant is responsible for securing Friday night lodging, if needed. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Madison at the American Center. Reservations can be made by calling 608-249-4220 referencing LWML South Wisconsin District. See the information sheet for details. Room Reservation deadline is May 23, 2024.

<b>Friday Schedule</b>	
<b>BOD Meeting, by invitation only. Anyone may register and participate in activities beginning at 3:00pm</b>	
<b>General Registration for convention opens on March 1, 2024</b>	
11:30 pm	BOD Meeting at Bethlehem, Sun Prairie Processional Practice
3:00 pm 3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Registration Servant Events Mission Walk
5:30 pm	“Cook-out” Dinner Fellowship Candidates Meet and Greet
7:00 pm	Vesper Service

<b>Saturday Schedule</b>	
<b>Delegates are asked to be seated by 8:45am.</b>	
7:15 am 7:30am	Registration and Exhibits open
8:40 am 8:45 am	Procession line-up Pre Convention Music
9:00 am	Procession/ Convention Called to Order
12:00 noon	Lunch Break** Exhibits Open
1:15 pm	Regathering Singing
1:30 pm	Convention Reconvenes
4:00 pm	Convention Adjourned <i>Go and Serve the Lord with Gladness!</i>



**Servant Events:** We will be making cards for the UW Campus Ministries student bags. We will have the appropriate number of cards dedicated for UW Platteville, UW Lacrosse and UW Madison. The fronts of the cards will be completed but the insides will need either a written verse or a stamped verse added. These cards will then be added to the student bags for distribution.

**Offering:** One-quarter of the Convention offering is designated for The Love of Christ (“TLC”) Fund and three-quarters for Hispanic Outreach.

\*\*Bringing lawn chairs or a blanket and enjoy lunch in the park or under the trees.

**YWR’s** are welcomed to participate in all convention activities to become familiar with the business workings of LWML SWD.

**Special Activities for YWR’s on Saturday**

7:30-8am	Welcome Gathering w/ continental Breakfast
8-8:45 and During morning balloting	Gifts from the Heart Service opportunity
TBA	Pinning Ceremony
Lunch	With Group/Zone or new friends

## MORE CONVENTION INFORMATION!

**About our Speaker, Carolyn Blum** - I truly feel God chose me to serve Him through the LWML. However, my first responses when asked to participate were always, "I could never do that!" Which was true — I definitely could not do it — but if I just got out of God's way, He would work through me to make it happen. Thus Ephesians 3:20-21 became my guiding verse: *Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory.* Through God's guidance and mentoring by many kind and patient friends, He enabled me to serve as a short-term missionary, president of our district, an LWML vice president, an editor of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, and author of an LWML history book. And along the way, He provided many humbling, humorous, and sometimes bizarre experiences to keep life interesting!

**Gifts From The Heart:** Gifts from the Heart recipients are UW Campus Ministries in LaCrosse, Platteville, and Madison. Please share this list of requested items with members of your group and congregation:

- \*Colorful writing utensils
- \*Highlighters
- \*Sticky notes
- \*Individually packaged snacks (trail mix, granola bars, health bars)
- \*Packets of Emergen-c or equivalent
- \*Single serve coffee, tea or hot chocolate

**Mission Walk:** We hope you will join us for the mission walk on Friday, June 14th at 4:30 pm. This is a great opportunity to ask congregation members, friends and family to help support LWML by pledging some \$ to support mites while you get a little exercise. Such a great opportunity to share your love for LWML and missions. We will walk together as a group in the neighborhood around Bethlehem Lutheran Church for a 1 mile loop. Anyone who prefers a shorter route that is available as well. Please sign and turn in the 2024-2026 Biennium LWML SWD Participant Release form [linked here](#) in order to participate in the Walk. The pledge form is [linked here](#) for you to print. The form and money will be collected at the convention. Looking forward to meeting all of you!

**Lodging:** Each Registrant is responsible for securing Friday night lodging, if needed. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Madison at the American Center, 5109 W Terrace Drive, Madison, WI 53718. Reservations can be made by calling 608-249-4220 referencing LWML South Wisconsin District. Room Rates are \$139.00 for Kings (1-2 per room) or Dbl/Dbles (1-4 per room). Room Reservation deadline is May 23, 2024.

**Exhibits:** Visit the LWML Store and Convention Exhibitors during the convention hours, Saturday 7:30am – 8:45am and noon – 1:30pm. (Exhibits are not open when convention is in session.)

For anyone unable to attend convention, you can still play an important part by keeping everyone involved with convention in your prayers - from attendees to exhibitors - from mission grant potential recipients to those who have agreed to be on the ballot. We can ALL join in prayer for this 2024 Convention!

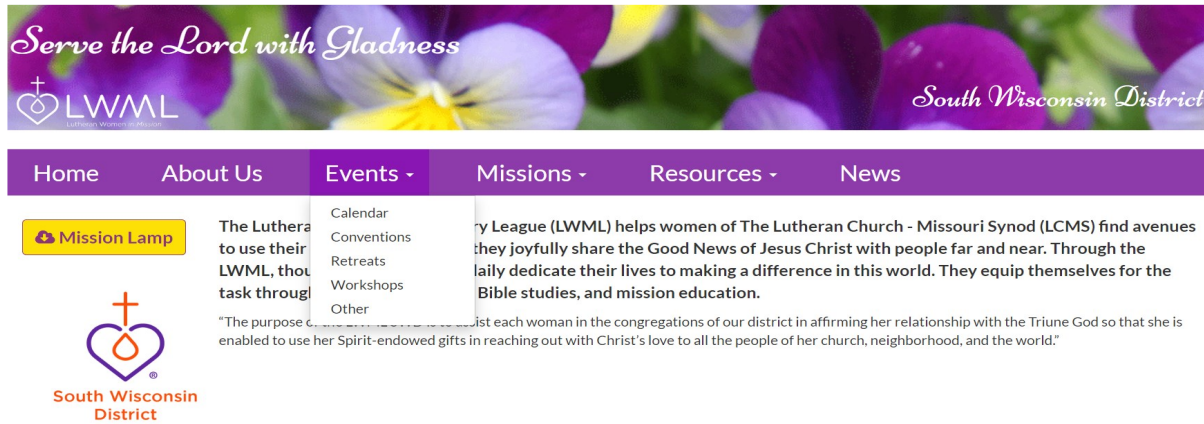


**NOMINATIONS are still OPEN!**

Are you ready to serve the Lord in a new and exciting way? Consider submitting your name to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee continues to accept nominations to fill the slate of officers for the 2024 district convention. You may submit nominations to [nominations.lwml.swd@gmail.com](mailto:nominations.lwml.swd@gmail.com). Please submit the person's name and email address and office you are nominating them for. The offices on the ballot are President, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants, Vice President of Communication, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer. We do have two candidates for Jr. Pastoral Counselor and will not be accepting any further nominations for this office. At the convention per our bylaws: "Additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided the person has given written consent and meets the qualifications for the office." Please notify a committee member if a nomination from the floor is going to be made. Committee members are Chair Marilyn Belter, Hannah Schultz, Kristen Kolell, Patty Silah and Elaine Hull. Praise the Lord for those who have consented to be on the ballot!



Convention Resources Available on the LWML SWD website include: Video of Proposed Mission Grants, Convention Skit, Proposed Bylaw Amendments, and many other convention resources!



**2024 LWML South Wisconsin District Convention Resources**

- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Poster for Advertising](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [LWML SWD Officer Candidate Nomination Form](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [The Love of Christ \(TLC\) Scholarship Application for Convention due by May 1, 2024](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention ["Chosen to Love and Serve" Skit for Advertising](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Mission Walk Sponsor Form to print and gather sponsors](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [2024-2026 Biennium LWML SWD Participant Release Form](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Bulletin and Newsletter Announcements](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [General Registration Form](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Information Sheet/Schedule](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Summary of Mission Grant Applications](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Proposed South Wisconsin District Bylaws Amendments](#)
- 2024 LWML SWD Convention [Mission Grant Proposal Video](#)

**New! The Mission Grant Proposal Video includes audio.**  
There are 52 seconds for each Mission Grant Proposal.  
(Total viewing time: 20 min. 3 sec.)





**Candidate for Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants**

Judy Gitzlaff, Wales



**LWML Experience:**

Society: President and Secretary (many years)  
Zone 17: President every 4 years  
District: Female Church Worker Scholarship Chairman (July 2022 to present)  
Vice-President Gospel Outreach and Christian Life (2018–2022) Public Relations (2012–2016)  
LWML: None

**Church Related Activities:**

Member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Wales  
Input church attendance (current)  
Altar Guild Chairperson (2018 to present)  
Mission and Outreach committee (2023 to present)  
Clear out and neaten pews (2021–2023)  
Sunday School Superintendent (2004–2006)  
Sunday School teacher (early 1990's–2006)

**Community Service:**

Help with Bible Study at memory care center since 2008  
Volunteer at schools in Kettle Moraine School District (1984–1990's)

**Education:**

Registered Nurse Diploma from Shadyside School of Nursing (October 1977)

**Occupation/Employment:** Retired Registered Nurse.

RN with Aurora Pulmonary (08/2006–09/2018)  
Library Aide at Richmond School (1999–2006)  
Instructional Aid KMSD (1990–1999)  
RN Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital (1981–1983)

**Vision Statement:**

My vision for the LWML in our South Wisconsin District is for all our women to find a part of LWML that is truly theirs and that will become their passion.

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*



**Candidate for Vice President of  
Communication**

Kay A. Nett, New Holstein



**LWML Experience:**

Society: President (2020–2024 & 2014–2018),  
Secretary (2018–2020)  
Zone: President (2016–2020, Secretary (2012–  
2016)  
Leader Development/Christian Life (2008–2010)  
District: Mission Grant Chair (2020–2024,  
Convention Chair (2020)  
Fall Retreat Co-Chairman (2008), Fall Retreat  
Chairman (2010)  
Leader Development (2008)  
District Convention Delegate at LWML Conven-  
tions in Albuquerque, Portland and Sioux Falls

**Church Related Activities:**

Church Council Secretary (2015 to present),  
Board of Evangelism (2010–2015)  
Bible Class Teacher (2008–2013), VBS Staff  
(1995–2000), Sunday School Teacher (1985–  
1995)

**Community Service:**

New Holstein Historical Society Board Member  
(1995 to present), New Holstein Historical  
Society Secretary (2012 to present), New Hol-  
stein Historical Society President (2007–2012)

New Holstein Historical Society Pioneer Award  
(2012)  
Wisconsin Public Power, Inc. (Volunteer of the  
Year–2008)  
Coordinated New Holstein Historical Society  
Annual Spring Luncheon and Christmas Open  
House (2007 to Present), Coordinated Zion  
Lutheran Annual Women’s Day (2003 to Present)

**Education:**

UW Whitewater (BS Secondary English  
Education, 1972)  
Kiel High School Diploma (1969)

**Present Occupation/Employment:** Retired.

PR/Accounting Clerk, New Holstein Utilities  
(1989–2011)  
Librarian, New Holstein Library (1982–1989)  
Teller/Loan Officer, Citizens State Bank, Kiel  
(1973–1982)

**Vision Statement:**

The question from the Ethiopian eunuch to Paul,  
“How can I understand unless someone explains  
it to me?”, should tug at the heartstrings of every  
LWML member. One of the goals of the LWML  
SWD is to proclaim Christ to all nations, that the  
lost may be brought into eternal fellowship with  
our Savior. It is my vision that the members of  
the LWML SWD would begin this mission in our  
own hearts, with a renewed and strengthened  
relationship with Jesus as our personal Lord &  
Savior. As His light fills our heart and lives, I pray  
it will spill over into our homes, communities, our  
nation and to the ends of the earth. Our contin-  
ued support of those in the missionary field will  
ensure this goal is reached. By living out the  
words of our pledge, may we be the hands, feet  
and voices that will bring the world to know and  
understand that Jesus is God’s free gift of  
salvation for all. We do this as we serve Him  
with gladness!

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

## Candidate for Corresponding Secretary

Barbara Kaun, Neenah



### **LWML Experience:**

Society: Secretary Peace Lutheran Mission Guild (2022–2023), President Peace Lutheran Mission Guild (2012–2016)

Zone: President Zone 11 (2020–Present, term ending 2024)

District: Member of SWD Structure Committee (2023–present)

*Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Manager (2020–2022)

LWML SWD President (2016–2020)

Vice-President Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants (2012–2014)

Leader Development Committee Chairman (2010–2012)

Human Care Committee Chairman (2006–2010)

LWML: None

### **Church Related Activities:**

Chairman of Stewardship Board (2020–present),  
Altar Guild (2000–present)

Board of Social Ministry (2014–2018)

VBS Kitchen and Decorating Committees (2012, 2013, 2022, 2023)

Weekly Offering Counter (2023–present)

### **Community Service:**

Volunteer at Able Light Thrift (formerly Bethesda) (2018–present)

Secretary of Board of Directors of Challenge the Outdoors Inc. (2018–present)

### **Education:**

FVTC CNA Certificate (1989)

Neenah High School Diploma (1968)

**Present Occupation/Employment:** Servant of the Lord (Full Time)

Mrs. K's Daycare, owner (2001–2016), Self-employed in-home health CNA (1989–2001)

Self-employed restaurant owner (1982–1989)

### **Vision Statement:**

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, now known as Lutheran Women in Mission, has remained faithful to supporting the work of the Church by supporting missionaries, called church workers, and ministries that, in love, share the Gospel around the world. My vision for the LWML of the South Wisconsin District is to continue through word and deed to announce the grace of God through the gift of His Son to all people. As we see the numbers of unchurched and dechurched growing among us, may we sense the urgency to proclaim Him to all. I pray that we in the LWML SWD will know the urgency to "go into all nations" as directed in Matthew 28: 16–20, beginning at home.

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

### **Candidate for Treasurer**

Janis Mattson, Greenfield



#### **LWML Experience:**

Society: Secretary (Current), Vice President (unsure of years)  
Zone 1: Vice-President/secretary (current), President (2016–2020)  
Treasurer (2012–2015, Treasurer (unsure of years)  
District: Financial Secretary (2006–2010), Fall Retreat Secretary (unsure of years), Fall Retreat-Treasurer (2006, 2005, 2004)  
LWML: None

#### **Church Related Activities:**

Member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.  
Happy Crafters (2022–current), Choir (current)  
Altar Guild (current), Treasurer (1992–2005)  
Planning Council & Stewardship Board (1992–2005)  
Sunday School Teacher (unsure of years), Fellowship Board (unsure of years)

#### **Community Service:**

VMP Senior Community Club (2019–current)  
Secretary of Peaches N Cream Bowling League (?–2015)  
Lay Delegate to Milwaukee Lutheran High School Association (?–2014)  
Lay Delegate to the SWD District Convention (2004, 2006, 2012)

#### **Education:**

Milwaukee Lutheran High School (1966)

**Occupation/Employment:** Retired  
Payroll Administrator at M.L. Tharps & Associates LLC (2005–2020)  
Bookkeeper at Steinhafels, Inc. (2001–2005)  
Human Resources Assistant at American General (1992–2001)  
Customer Service Representative & Payroll Administrator at Old Line Life Insurance Company (1966–1992)

#### **Vision Statement:**

My vision for the LWML is to encourage women of all ages and cultures to share Christ's love and salvation with all people. Also encourage women to grow in their personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with each other. We also need to help our societies and zone strengthen and grow. Invite, Encourage and Pray.

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

## **Candidate for Junior Pastoral Counselor**

Reverend Jonah P. Burakowski, Delavan



**Ministry:** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church with School, Delavan

### **Church Related Activities:**

Fourth Vice President SWD, Appointment (April 2023–Present)  
CUWAA Board of Regents, Appointment (June 2023–Present)  
SWD School Counseling Task Force (September 2017–February 2021)

### **Community Service:**

Rotary International (May 1999–January 2019)  
American Red Cross Disaster Counselor (September 2000–August 2004)

### **Education:**

Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Master of Divinity (February 2009)  
Emporia State University, MS Counseling and Higher Ed Admin (May 1999)  
Central Michigan University, BS Family Science (May 1997)

### **Present Occupation/Employment:**

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church with School (June 2023–Present)  
Associate Regional Director Latin America & the Caribbean Office of International Mission, LCMS, St. Louis (February 2021–June 2024)  
SWD Mission and Mercy Executive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (August 2017–February 2021)  
Living Hope Lutheran Church and CDC, Stafford, Virginia (August 2014–August 2017)  
St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Beloit, Wisconsin (August 2011–2014)  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marshall, Minnesota (February 2008–August 2011)

### **Vision Statement:**

The SWD LWML has a long history of supporting local, national, and international mission and mercy. If provided the opportunity to serve as counselor, I would collaboratively work to encourage and enable members to engage directly in domestic and international mission through short-term mission trips, fostering learning, growth and awareness. Additionally, I believe raising up the next generation of servant leaders is a significantly important part of the LWML. Aligning with national and district leadership development opportunities will influence my work in advising and fostering long-term thinking so that LWML can increase its development of mission minded servant leaders. The message of the Church is Christ crucified for the sins of mankind and I will work, with that central theme, in advising, encouraging, fostering, and developing the leaders, membership and programming of the SWD LWML.

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

## Candidate for Junior Pastoral Counselor

Reverend Jesse Lee Davis, Oxford



**Ministry:** Immanuel Lutheran Church in Westfield, WI

### **Church Related Activities:**

Elders, Council, Evangelism and Constitution review.

### **Community Service:**

Orphan Grain Train packing station in Westfield  
Youth Clean up projects with snow, leaf, or trash in community (2015–2024)

### **Education:**

Concordia Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity (May 2015)  
Concordia University Wisconsin, Pre-Seminary & Theological languages (May 2011)  
Martin Luther High School (2007)

### **Present Occupation/Employment:**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Westfield (2021–Present)  
Faith Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2019–2021)  
First English Lutheran Church in Centerville, and Zion Lutheran Church in Hurley, South Dakota (2015–2019)

### **Vision Statement:**

As we have been baptized and promised a new life, we proclaim that same free gift to those who are around us. The LWML has the admirable mission goal of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and giving compassion to all they can, even if it is only a small mite's worth of help. This is an attitude that we should foster with the membership of the church. I believe that equipping women to serve their community, cherish outreach, and rejoice in service to their neighbor should be the goal of those who have been brought into the church. This is something that we must regularly teach, even while the coming generations of new members may tend to be adults, more than children. As a pastor it is a joy to proclaim the mercy of Christ within our families for many years to come.



*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

One of the big preparations for this summer's convention is the finalizing of the mission grants ballot. Delegates will be choosing the slate of those that will be funded over the next biennium. With a proposed mission grant goal of \$220,000, we will be looking to fund 75% of that amount, \$165,000. The remaining 25% is directed to national for their mission grant budget. To prepare for the vote, you may see a summary of the 23 grants which are posted on the website, [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). Look under the 'Convention News' heading and be in prayer, because each of these is worthy of our support, but only a few will be chosen.

Because I live in the Sheboygan area, it was easy for me to present the final mission grant check to Pastor David Blas and congregation chairman, Javier Zavarce, on Easter Sunday. The amount of \$11,060 is designed to assist this growing Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County with the purchase of video and audio equipment to be able to tell the many stories of how God has blessed this work among us. Worshiping membership continues to grow through visitors, baptisms, and adult confirmations, but because of the nature of the membership, additional monetary assistance is needed.

The annual Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations event was well attended. Please read the special article in this issue of the *Mission Lamp* for a full recap.

The position of VP of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants will be filled by another of our great LWML ladies following the convention. The past four years, for me, has been a challenge and a learning experience. I have grown to appreciate the tremendous amount of work it takes from a cadre of capable individuals to keep this organization running smoothly. Each has a unique talent that weaves itself into the beautiful picture we have of the LWML here in the South Wisconsin District. Take pride in that! Praise God for it! And offer your talents for its continuation!

LuAnn Roman  
VP of Special Focus Ministries & Mission Grants

### Final Grant of 2022-2024 Biennium is Paid

The focus on Easter Sunday was the Resurrection of our Savior, as people gathered for the Spanish service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. This was also the setting for the presentation of the \$11,060 check, which is the final grant to be paid for this 2022-2024 biennium. Pictured below are LuAnn Roman, VP of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants, Pastor David Blas, who serves Sheboygan County in Hispanic Outreach, and Javier Zavarce, Board President.

It was explained that these funds are to be used to expand the message of Hispanic Outreach in Sheboygan County through the use of recorded media. This, in turn, is designed to create a base of support that goes beyond the worshiping community so that the ministry may continue to flourish. Adult confirmations, baptisms, and weekly worship serving people of another language is an energetic, vital outreach to those being served, thanks to God's abundant blessings and the dedicated work of those in Sheboygan County and the South Wisconsin District. Join LWML in prayer that these funds will lead to the desired outcome of increased knowledge of this ministry and the financial and prayer support to allow this to be an example for others.

LuAnn Roman  
VP of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants



## HEARTS FOR THE HARVEST - FOCUS OF THE 2024 HEART TO HEART GATHERING

The only natural light came from the skylight above the area of worship, where about 150–180 people gathered for the 14th Annual Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations celebration on March 16, 2024, at LUMIN School, located on Granville Road in Milwaukee, but you wouldn't know it as the celebrants all had their own "light" about them. Conversation flowed freely as the program moved along and people were focused on the purpose of the gathering, which was to bring to mind that we in the LWML take seriously the need to include sisters of all nationalities as we join in the LWML mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The day began with registration by receiving materials that cover the plans of the event from the registrar. Exhibits were open (Hispanic, Karenni, German, SOS Center, LCFS, Hmong, Chinese, Heart to Heart, as well as our SWD LWML) and passports were stamped. Later in the day a few lucky folks received door prizes.

Gathering in the church sanctuary, people were asked to praise and glorify God as we worshiped and came away renewed. It isn't often that we get to hear Scripture readings and songs in other languages, but that was the order of the day here. Pastor Donald Hougard (Benediction) had prepared an inspirational service and included five of our Milwaukee area ethnic pastors. He also preached a sermon of encouragement to keep up with the historical precedence of meeting people in their need, including those of other ethnic backgrounds. The final moments of benediction by those five pastors, each in their own language, reinforced the purpose of the day, opening our eyes to what is in front of us in our own neighborhoods.

Who could argue with the variety of food? No one! Choices were from Chinese, Hmong, Lebanese, African, German, and United States backgrounds. Benediction Lutheran hosted the event and did a fine job coordinating this. To be sure, there was enough dessert to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

Kristen Kolell led a demonstration on how to prepare a German beer dip in one of the breakout sessions. In the other session, Esther Ndon and Naomi Akpan demonstrated the art of headwraps that are so popular among African women. We were in awe at the beauty and talent it takes to do this, and the senses of sight and taste cued us up for an appreciation of other cultures.

LWML SWD was honored to have in attendance the Chairman of the LWML Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations Committee, Mrs. Ann Campbell from Holland, Michigan. She was there to gather information that might be useful for other districts as they undertake to inspire others around the United States. Also curious about our event was Coral Rose from Minnesota, who thoroughly enjoyed it. Note: two of our LWML sisters serve on this national committee, Joanna Ellis and Joan Anderson.

Food and entertainment on the same day!! Our eyes and ears were elated to witness the beauty of dance by a group of young dancers from the Hmong community and another group from the Karenni community. Now, our ears perked up and our eyes lit up at the beauty and grace of ethnic dancing. The day came to a close and people were left to ponder in their own hearts what God is calling them to do after receiving God's natural light from above and the light of God's Son in their hearts.

Thanks goes to the hard working committee: Chairman Joanna Ellis, Cheryl Lambrecht, Eugenia Ellis, Mai Nhia Thao Kruse, Patricia Silah, LuAnn Roman, and Pastors Gehrke and Polzin. To be sure that this event continues, new members are encouraged to contact Joanna Ellis about joining the committee.

LuAnn Roman  
VP of Special Focus Ministries & Mission Grants

(Photos from the event follow on page 16)



Photos from Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations event on March 16th  
HEARTS for the HARVEST



### How we can have Hearts for the Harvest

*After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb ... (Revelation 7:9). Pastor Hougard's sermon provided a great encouragement of how we all can have Hearts for the Harvest! Experience the encouragement by reading the sermon at this link <https://lwml-swd.org/upld/resource/8c9adb48-645d-4efc-b34b-15fc51976064.pdf>*



## LWML Gifts of Love Ministry

A good gift plan can present solutions to challenging family dynamics.

Years ago, a husband and wife were meeting with their LWML Gift Planning Counselor. Both had been married before, as their spouses had been called home to Jesus. Each of them brought children into the relationship. The assets they brought were not equal. Urged by the advice of various people, they began considering a way in which they could isolate their assets from each other, creating multiple trusts. Complicating matters, because they truly loved each other, they wanted to provide for each other when the first of them was called home. They felt uncomfortable about such absolute separation of their assets if they truly were going to share their lives as “one flesh,” in keeping with the model of marriage from Genesis 2. They laid out a complicated stream of thoughts before the LWML Gift Planning Counselor. After a lengthy conversation, the counselor noticed an interesting phenomenon about their assets relative to family. Coming into this marriage, one spouse had twice as many financial assets as the other. That same spouse with the greater assets also had twice as many children as the other spouse. The ratio made sense. If they combined their assets and equally divided them among all their children, each child would receive the same amount as if they had put in place a complicated legal set of trusts to separate their assets. The Gift Planning Counselor conveyed a message to their attorney, and they emerged from that attorney with a simple plan that made them feel content. The plan they created together also allowed them to make some gifts to support ministry in the future. In addition, this plan did not foster an imposed separation between their children.

Taking the time for extended conversation and prayer allowed this couple to discern the right thing to do, rather than pursuing plans that would be expensive, complicated, and less than satisfying. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor is available to meet with you in the same way. Contact Carol von Soosten at [carol.vonsoosten@lwnd.org](mailto:carol.vonsoosten@lwnd.org).

17 Pat Menden - Special Funds Coordinator

## “Don’t Discard Me, God”

One of my articles for a *Mission Lamp* awhile back talked about the season of my life that I have been in for a while now. With each day that passes, it feels like my current season has taken on a new meaning. This is my decade of the 70’s and all of a sudden it seemed to pile on me with new changes that make each day a little more difficult.

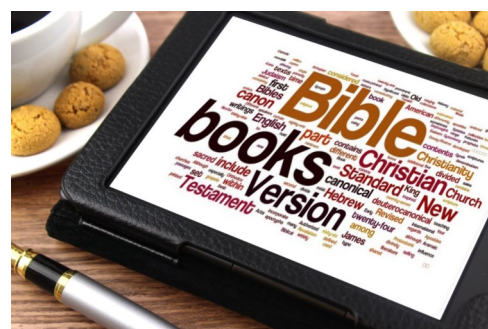
The “Equipping Saints to Serve” program planner for the current biennium has a devotion for May, entitled “Don’t Discard Me, God!” I wholeheartedly suggest its use, especially if gray heads are part of your group!

Psalm 71:17–18 says, *O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.* How many people question God when life is difficult, when we feel alone, when hardships pound down on us throughout our days? God does not forsake us, ever!

Please use this devotion and keep it for yourself to review whenever it feels that life is not handing you a bunch of roses!

I am so thankful that God has not forsaken me, even when it feels like life seems to have. What more can we ask for than God to be with us — always!

Sandy Krainz  
Christian Life Chairman  
[skrainzlwml@gmail.com](mailto:skrainzlwml@gmail.com)



### **Doxology Grant #10 Thank you's from SWD Pastor's Wives**

Grant #10 Doxology, Care for Clergy Wives, check was presented in November 2023. This \$8,000 grant made it possible for DOXOLOGY to plan a 2 day/one-night event for 50 clergy wives from the SWD in their first ever pilot program. The event was held at the Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, on March 1–2, 2024. The following are notes or excerpts from thankful participants!

*Dear Sisters in Christ of the SWD LWML*

*I want to thank you so much for providing the funds for the DOXOLOGY event for Pastor's Wives in Green Lake. One of the best ways of supporting our pastors is by supporting their wives and giving them encouragement and time to share with each other. Many there made the comment that they wish all pastor's wives would have this opportunity. We are hoping that somehow in the future there will be another opportunity for more events like this. Thank you again. We were blessed to be a blessing. In Christ's service!*

*Thank you so much South Wisconsin LWML for funding the DOXOLOGY event for Pastor's Wives recently held in Green Lake, Wisconsin!!!! This event was a much-needed respite for me and everyone who attended! The spiritual care and nurture was wonderful!! In HIS great love!*

*...I must admit that I don't normally attend the usual pastor's' wives gatherings; however, DOXOLOGY would be leading it, and its very title, "Take Heart!" ... drew me in. And then there were the words, "The retreat comes to you as a GIFT from LWML"!!! ... I'm sure the rest of the pastor's wives in attendance would agree that this grant was money well spent. Gratefully!*

### **LWML SWD Service Opportunities!!**

Committee members needed: Fall Retreat, Winter Getaway, Leader Development, Renewal, Young Women, Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations, Christian Life, Music, Mission Grants, Missionary Outreach and Mission Education, Special Focus Ministries, Special Ministries. The chairman of these committees are looking to welcome new members! Are you interested in being a committee member? Fill out the Personnel Profile form found on [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org) (website) and email! The form will also be in your convention folders!

Blessings of service: fellowship with LWML sisters, staying in the Word, using your time and talents for the Lord. (Note: Most committee meetings are "zoom" type meetings, saving travel time and expense!)

### **Bookstore News**

The LWML store is still "under construction" so they don't have a huge selection, but there are a few new items listed. If you would like to see what is available, go to [lwml-cph.org](http://lwml-cph.org) and you can see the items currently available for sale. If you find anything that you would want ordered for pickup at the convention in June, please let me know by June 1, 2024. Please remember that we charge \$1.00 per item for shipping. That is a lot cheaper than if you order it by yourself. You can contact me at [dkamrath22@gmail.com](mailto:dkamrath22@gmail.com). See you at the convention.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

Diane Kamrath  
Bookstore Manager



### **LWML Mission Grant Proposal form now available**

Mission Grant Proposals for the 2025 Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Convention in Omaha can now be submitted.

Only LWML members, groups, zones, or districts can officially submit grant proposals. The only exception is the LCMS Office of International or National Mission.

Mission Grant Proposal Guidelines and the electronic submission form can be found on the LWML website under the 'Missions' tab.

The primary criteria for every proposal submitted is that the grant recipient will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through evangelism, teaching, and service to others. The submission deadline is September 1, 2024. (Note: LWML and LCMS District Presidents are responsible for reviewing your proposal and approving with their electronic signature.)

Prayerfully consider the ministry and needs worldwide as well as in your district and submit a grant proposal. For over 80 years the message of salvation has gone around the world with the support of mite contributions from Lutheran Women in Mission.

*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:14, 15a).*

Please see both [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) and [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org) for Mission Grant information including photos, videos, details of every grant, funding order etc!! You will be amazed!

### **WE LOVE MISSIONS!**

Recently, LuAnn Roman was honored to present the mission grant check to Pastor Blas of the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. This is the final grant to be paid in full for the 2022–2024 biennium. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! LuAnn remarked that another 'banner biennium' is in the books. As we follow these fully funded mission grant projects which will meet the needs of many ministries, it is time to look ahead to the next biennium. A slate of grant proposals has been presented and approved by the SWD Board of Directors and will soon be made available to the delegates who will attend the district convention in June. Delegates are asked to review the grants, request input from their groups and prayerfully consider which grants to fund in the coming two years. This is an important process as there is no such thing as a 'bad grant!' All are worthy and important in the task of bringing the Gospel to many people by many different means. We look forward to the opportunities that will come before our district as we choose new grants, fund them with our mites, and support them with our prayers.

To God be the glory!

Kay Nett - Mission Grants Committee Chairman  
[kaynett19818@gmail.com](mailto:kaynett19818@gmail.com)



### Partnering in Missions!

Happy Easter and spring! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Our church's Easter celebration was again joyous this year, with the special music and God's Word being preached! Don't you just love the renewed feeling from the traditional Easter hymns we have sung together for decades? I can only imagine the ongoing celebration in heaven!

Coincidentally, on March 31, our 2-year biennium was completed, and we ended with a mite overage of \$16,548.28. Thank you for your monetary support to our mission grants! It warms my heart to see the generosity of our local groups!

As a reminder for our treasurers, if you are still using the older tear-off vouchers to send with your mite contributions, please do not use them but instead find the newer vouchers on our website, [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org), by clicking on 'resources,' 'society helps,' and then print the voucher receipt. You also may email me and I will send you the link to download, or you may ask your church secretary to print copies. Thank you for your help! I am looking forward to seeing you at the convention in June!

Wendie Staus  
LWML SWD Financial Secretary  
[financialsecretary@lwml-swd.org](mailto:financialsecretary@lwml-swd.org)

2022 – 2024 LWML SWD Theme, Bible verse, and goals!

### Abiding in Christ's LOVE

*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he is in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him (1 John 4:15-16).*

Serve one another

Study Scripture to know, and

Share CHRIST'S LOVE!

## 2022-2024 Mission Grants

### These are the 2022-2024 Mission Grants:


- |   |                |           |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| 1. Orphan Grain Train - Wisconsin Branch                          |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$15,000  |
| 2. In School Counseling for Mental Health of Students             | Paid in FULL!  | \$10,000  |
| 3. SWD Church Worker Grant  |                | \$30,000  |
|   | Paid in FULL!  |           |
| 4. Financial Assistance for CTS, Fort Wayne Food & Clothing Co-op |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$10,000  |
| 5. Outreach to Female Inmates                                     |                |           |
|   | FUNDS RETURNED | \$15,000  |
| 6. A Place of Refuge Ministries/House remodel                     |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$25,000  |
| 7. Camp LuWiSoMo Camper Scholarships                              |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$20,000  |
| 8. Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church Ministry Outreach                  |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$14,000  |
| 9. A Playground as an Oasis - St Martini/LUMIN                    |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$15,000  |
| 10. Care for Clergy Wives - Doxology                              |                | \$ 8,000  |
|   | Paid in FULL!  |           |
| 11. SOS Center Designed for Success                               |                |           |
|   | Paid in FULL!  | \$ 20,000 |
| 12. Hispanic Ministry   |                | \$ 11,060 |
|   | Paid in FULL!  |           |

**Total: \$178,060**





### 2024 Events to Remember

- May 18 EC Mtg Our Savior LC Baraboo
- June 14-15 2024 SWD Convention  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Sun Prairie  

  - Friday - 1:30 BOD mtg
  - 3:00 Registration opens & Servant events
  - 4:30 Mission Walk
  - 7:00 Vesper Service
- June 15 Deadline for Fall Rally PR due to PR director
- July 15 *Mission Lamp* articles due
- August 10 Biennium Planning/EC Meeting location TBD
- August 24 BOD Reports due to Corr Sec
- Sept 14 BOD Meeting Location TBD
- Sept 27-28 Fall Retreat - Theme TREASURED  
Radisson Hotel & Conf Center  
Fond du Lac - More information and registration form are on the website

Exhibits open 9 am Convention called to order  
More details regarding the schedule, things to bring, YWRs, etc. are on pages 5 & 6!

### Executive Committee

President Cinda Poppe  
[president@lwml-swd.org](mailto:president@lwml-swd.org)

VP, Organizational Resources Marilyn Belter  
[vporganizationalresources@lwml-swd.org](mailto:vporganizationalresources@lwml-swd.org)

VP, Gospel Outreach and Christian Growth  
Joan Anderson  
[vpgospeloutreach@lwml-swd.org](mailto:vpgospeloutreach@lwml-swd.org)

VP, Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants  
LuAnn Roman  
[vp-special-focus-ministries@lwml-swd.org](mailto:vp-special-focus-ministries@lwml-swd.org)

VP, Communication Jennifer Olen  
[vpcommunication@lwml-swd.org](mailto:vpcommunication@lwml-swd.org)

Recording Secretary Melody Rodgers  
[recordingsecretary@lwml-swd.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@lwml-swd.org)

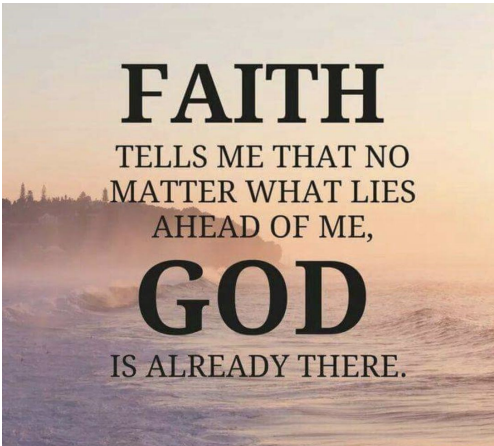
Corresponding Secretary Jan Koopman  
[correspondingsecretary@lwml-swd.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@lwml-swd.org)

Financial Secretary Wendie Staus  
[financialsecretary@lwml-swd.org](mailto:financialsecretary@lwml-swd.org)

Treasurer Patricia Silah  
[treasurer@lwml-swd.org](mailto:treasurer@lwml-swd.org)

Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Matthew Gehrke  
[srpastoralcounselor@lwml-swd.org](mailto:srpastoralcounselor@lwml-swd.org)

Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Lewis R. Polzin  
[jrpastoralcounselor@lwml-swd.org](mailto:jrpastoralcounselor@lwml-swd.org)



*Vaunie Weaver, Mission Lamp editor*

*Wendie Staus, assistant editor*