



Cooler by the Lake!

Host
Committee
Newsletter

Host Districts: North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, South Wisconsin

Newsletter Produced By: Wendie Staus, Newsletter Editor; Kati Meyerhofer, Graphic Designer; Carolyn Blum, HC Publicity Committee Chair

Be sure to look at the last few pages of this final issue of “Cooler by the Lake!” You might see yourself in your vivid yellow “worker” shirt as you “served the Lord with gladness” AT the Milwaukee convention!

THANK YOU!

With God’s guidance and love (and a lot of hard work), our 2023 MKE Convention Host Committee enabled thousands of men and women to experience the joys of being Lutheran Women in Mission.

Here are a few of the “thank yous” from our LWML leaders:

Thanking the Lord of the Nations! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! (From Psalm 136).

Host Committee, you did it! Through your warm, welcoming hospitality, through your flexibility to meet convention attendees where they were and find solutions to their every need, through your planning, attentiveness, and willingness to go the extra mile – mostly, however, through the praises you lifted up to Christ and your hearts of love that you freely gave to us all – you gave each of us countless causes to give thanks to the Lord! His goodness came through you! It all reflected the great Gospel truth from Psalm 136: “for His steadfast love endures forever!” The love that was accomplished by Christ’s cross and empty tomb – we celebrated that for all nations in Milwaukee. It’s what our Lord worked among us, to His glory!

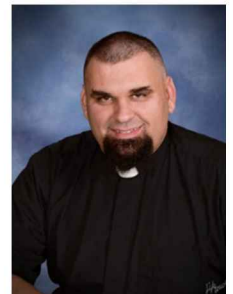
Thank you!

Rev. Kris Whitby,
2023 Host Committee
Pastoral Counselor



What a joy to serve the Lord of the Nations with EACH OF YOU at the 40th biennial LWML convention! Some of you got to see more of the convention proceedings than others, due to your duties and service, but your efforts were not in vain! My own mother shared with me the tears in her eyes, the joy she had singing in the choir, and the exhaustion she had while attending her first LWML convention. The Gospel message of Jesus dying and rising for all nations continues to go out to many nations through your efforts at this convention. To paraphrase Hebrews 13:20-21: The God of peace who brought again from the dead the shepherd of the sheep ... did equip you with everything good for doing His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever!

Pastor Matthew Gehrke,
2023 Host Committee
Pastoral Counselor



For two years you, the volunteers from North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and South Wisconsin planned, prayed, and worked to host the 2023 Convention in Milwaukee. Thousands came to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.” You welcomed them, answered countless questions, showed mercy and grace to those who were tired and frustrated, and put smiles on your faces when you may have wanted to frown. Why? Why do we go through all this planning and work? Because we are His children, redeemed by Jesus’ blood! Our Lord has given us everything and, as His children, we have the privilege of sharing this Good News with all those around us.

Take a moment to read 1 Corinthians, chapter 13. As children of the risen Lord, we follow His example of service, sacrifice, and love. Verse 13 says, *So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* I know why you volunteered, and I pray you can look back and see how God has worked in you and through you to spread His love and grace around the earth. Thank you for allowing this servant to serve alongside you! Rest today in His promises, and may God continue to bless you as you share His love!

Debbie Larson,
Past LWML President
2019-2023



“Thanks” just seems like too simple of a word to express my gratitude for your work as the Milwaukee 2023 Host Committee. With that little word comes a whole lot of appreciation for your willingness to provide a safe, enjoyable convention experience for the 3,500+ Lutheran Women in Mission who gathered to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.” As the Host Committee, you were involved in all the “behind the scenes” work that was necessary to bring this convention together. Every job was essential. Every volunteer contributed to the success of this convention where we celebrated the mission and ministry of the LWML – all done to the glory of God. Thank you for your willingness to Serve the Lord with Gladness as a member of the Convention Host Committee!

Deaconess Betty Knapp,
2023 Convention Programming
Committee (CPC) Chairman



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).

We pray: Dear Lord, what an amazing experience to be surrounded by such an awesome group of people at convention, to be gathered to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.” We pray that we can be renewed and refreshed to keep that positive experience with us as we tackle the next area of service that You have designed for us. Please be with us, Lord, through the days ahead to share the Good News we have heard and experienced. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Sue Neider, Prayer Committee
Chairman (Dawn Via – Assistant)



The 40th Biennial LWML Convention is in the books. I love serving our Lord through the LWML with my inspiring sisters in Christ! From the greeters at the airport and hotels, to the Properties Committee crew packing up the final boxes, this was a convention to remember, and YOU made it happen! As you wrap up your reports, don’t forget to praise God for all the blessings He showered on this Host Committee, including women and men who gave sacrificially of their time, friends and family members who donated money and gifts, and the prayers of support from all around the world. Now as we settle back into our communities, we can become influencers who share God’s love. We’ve seen how God opens doors when we seek to glorify Him. Let’s continue to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” into 2024 and beyond! God’s continued blessings to you all!

Shelley Moeller
LWML Convention
Manager



To God be the glory! I am so thankful to each of you, members of our Host Committee, for the dedicated work you put in to create a truly memorable convention experience for all who attended. I have worked with you and the 60+ men and women who served for two years to ensure that God's love and joy would shine through this event. Many volunteers, some in their bright yellow shirts, shared what an incredible experience this was for them. While hanging out after the sending worship service, many attendees thanked me for the wonderful assistance the Host Committee volunteers provided. Again I say, "to God be the glory!" It was a true blessing to serve in this role, and God certainly blessed me with incredible committee members and volunteers. Not only that, but along the way, new friendships were created, all in service to our great God. Amen!

**Anne Hartman,
2023 Milwaukee Convention
Host Committee Chairman**



Remember two years ago when we were all urged to purchase the beautiful blue convention logo polo shirts? And we wore them with joy as we invited others in our three districts to join our Host Committee? Two years later, shirt chairman Diane Simon reports these results:

- * 939 shirts ordered; 932 shirts sold (7 leftovers were donated to Orphan Grain Train).
- * 630 shirts were shipped; 302 shirts picked up at host district events.
- * Profits totaling \$12,633.17 were used to fund convention expenses.

She shares: "Many, many thanks to all who purchased your convention logo polo shirt! I hope you had as much fun as I did with the many activities it took to make this convention a success. I pray that God uses it for His glory and that many are saved as a result of the continued work of Lutheran Women in Mission. See you in Omaha!"

**Diane Simon,
2023 Milwaukee Convention
Polo Shirt Sales Director**



Picture Time!!!



In the last issue of "Cooler by the Lake," we showed a photo of the 1981 MKE LWML Convention organist, Marilyn Seefeld, with the 1981 LWML Music Committee Chairman, Karol Selle. They repeated their roles at the 2023 MKE Convention!



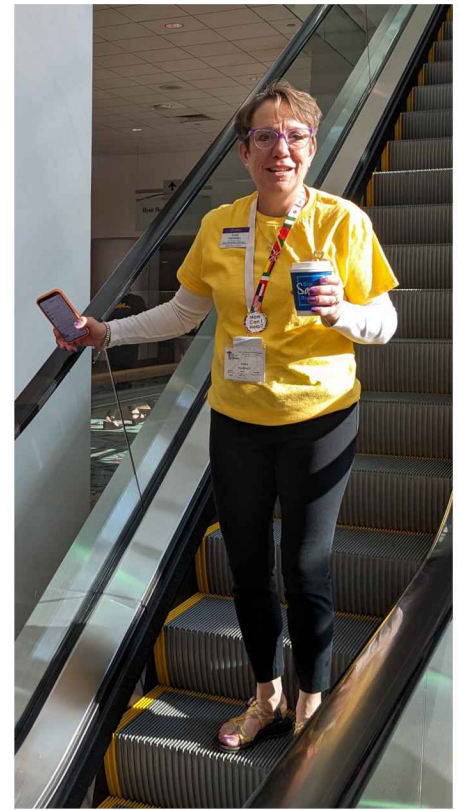
Remembering the 1981 MKE LWML convention were Lauren Beale, who worked on that year's publicity committee, and Barb Strenger, who served as co-chair of that convention!



The Worker's Room was called "The Hive!" where our busy-bee workers buzzed around answering countless questions.



We thank God for providing our dedicated Host Committee Pastoral Counselors, Pr. Whitby and Pr. Gehrke! They fulfilled their roles as our spiritual advisors, but also joyfully assisted with other requests, always with a smile.



Our great leader, Anne!!



Cinda, Gayle, and Joan -- many thanks to our three district presidents, for for their guidance and leadership as we hosted the 2023 MKE LWML Convention!

Just as our 2023 Host Committee set aside a special reserved seating section for the Lexington committee who served as hosts in 2021, our three districts will enjoy reserved seating at the Omaha convention!
Omaha, 2025: See YOU there!











Online 2023 National Convention

Were you unable to attend the convention? Did you attend the convention but missed some of it as you were working? No worries! The sessions in the main assembly hall were live-streamed and are now able to be viewed online through the lwml.org website.

Livestream: On the website, under the scrolling news heading, click on “go to livestream” in the purple box. There you will find the YouTube recorded events at the convention, starting with the opening worship service on Thursday evening, the four business sessions, Saturday evening entertainment, and the Sunday closing session/worship service.

News and Events: The lwml.org website has a wealth of information regarding the convention. For instance, to find the newly elected officers for the new biennium, select the “News and Events” tab, “Convention Central,” and scroll down to the “Convention Documents” section; look for the “Post-Convention News Release.” You also are able to get a close-up view of the beautiful district banners by scrolling down to “Convention Photos.”

Missions: The new mission grant listing can be found under the “Missions” tab, “Mission Grants,” where a video of the newly adopted grants is available. Beneath that is a listing of the mission grants for the 2023-2025 biennium.

Wendie Staus
Host Committee Newsletter Editor