



Cooler by the Lake!

Host
Committee
Newsletter

Host Districts: North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, South Wisconsin

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Well Done, Faithful Hosts

Blessed are you, the women and men of the North Wisconsin, South Wisconsin, and Northern Illinois districts – because God is your Lord! I shared this with you as we began this

journey. You are the people He has chosen, and you are fast completing this journey of service.

I know those coming to Milwaukee will be in good hands – yours and the Lord's. *Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand* (Isaiah 41:10).

Hosting a convention such as this is hard work, so take a deep breath and recite our convention theme verse out loud: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12-13).

Go to Him with your frustrations; share with Him the joys you've experienced. Thank Him for choosing you as His heritage. And then, begin again with a renewed sense of purpose!

May God find us always looking to Him as we complete the preparations for this exciting event!

Serving beside you, Debbie Larson, LWML President

Raising the Roof in MKE

Hosting a full-blown national LWML convention in your backyard is a spectacular experience!

The dedication and zeal in your work is impressive and will shine brightly when thousands arrive on our doorstep in Milwaukee. Most important is the impression it will make on the attendees as we raise the roof through singing, praising, and sharing God's grace through worship!

You're a big part of how this convention will impact our guests. You will help make memories for thousands who will go home with a refreshed spirit, ready to serve the Lord in their communities and in the world. It's not too late to invite your family and friends; many workers are needed!

I pray you are blessed in your work, that you rest when needed, and have patience as we sometimes wait for answers. Know that your sisters in Christ across the country are praying for you.

I'm very excited for us to gather at the 40th Biennial LWML Convention. Let's make a positive impact on the City of Milwaukee, on our sisters and brothers in Christ, and on the world as we "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations!"

**Shelley Moeller,
Convention Manager**



2023 LWML Milwaukee Convention

Objectives: Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will:

- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

Date: June 22–25, 2023 **Location:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin **Theme:** Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Goal Statement: As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.

Scripture Verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12–13).

Go to <https://www.lwml-swd.org/events/other> for links to access Host Committee and Worker forms (fill-in forms and downloadable versions to print), HC guidelines, the shirt order form, convention flyer, promotional sketch, convention invitation, and other documents as they are made available.



In the Home Stretch

It's hard to believe that we are in the home stretch of hosting the 2023 Convention!

In March, our Host Committee coordinators and chairmen met in-person with the CPC. It was awesome to be able to see people face to face as we toured the Wisconsin Center to see the location of our events!

We are busy finalizing plans. Workers are being scheduled. If you've not heard from the department you volunteered to work for, stay tuned; it's coming soon. You will get a letter sharing all you need to know about serving as a worker.

It's not too late to sign up to serve as a volunteer worker! You'll receive the discounted registration rate of \$80 if you volunteer for eight hours over the span of the convention. There are so many different opportunities. Sign up now if you haven't yet! The form can be found at <https://www.lwml-swd.org/upld/resource/d99fcbaa-e4cd-4412-9f3a-2ed6c558c4f8.pdf>.

We can't wait to "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" with you in June. Please keep our committee in prayer as we continue to ensure this will be an incredible experience for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Serving Him, Anne Hartman
2023 Milwaukee Convention
Host Committee Chairman



A Foretaste of What is to Come

*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*
(Psalm 122:1).



The 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee at the Wisconsin Center is getting close. It's a busy and exciting time! Looking forward to gathering together; the LWML convention is a foretaste of what is to come.

A convention is an exciting gathering around God's Word and Sacrament, singing His praises with thousands of other believers, seeing old friends and making new ones, and knowing that we are united as the body of Christ. It is a precursor to that final day, when Jesus returns. On that day we will gather around Jesus, sing praises with all believers, see old friends and make new ones, and be perfectly united as the body of Christ. It will be the most exciting day! Our convention will be a precursor, a reminder that something greater is coming for all believers from the Lord of the Nations.

As we make a final push toward our convention, remember this truth: our work is meant to show others what is still to come in Jesus. That makes us glad to go to the house of the Lord!

Pastor Matthew Gehrke
2023 Host Committee Pastoral Counselor

Prayers for Convention

The Convention is only a month away! Thank you all for your prayers this last year. At convention, if you have a prayer request, please fill out a prayer request form, available in the Grace Place Chapel and at the Information Kiosk. Place it in the prayer box. Pastors and workers will be in the chapel offering these prayers up to the Lord. Take time to stop and pray in the Grace Place Chapel. We will also host a prayer service Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m.

Prayer: Dear Lord, please be with us as we near our 2023 Milwaukee Convention. We pray for ourselves, the Host Committee, as we make final preparations, for the workers, attendees, speakers, and all the convention and hotel workers as they serve us. We pray for safe travel, good health, and safety. We pray this all in the name of the Lord of the Nations. Amen.

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



WORKERS!!!

Wanted! Needed! More Workers!

If you've not yet signed up to be a worker at convention, please send your form in ASAP. Also encourage friends to sign up! It's not too late to lend a hand to support the thousands of guests who will be pouring into Milwaukee. (Specific job requests will be honored if possible; but remember our LWML pledge: "... we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us ..."). Workers at prior conventions have many good things to say about their experiences as a worker. The form can be found on the Host Committee website at <https://www.lwml-swd.org/events/other>.

If you've already filled out the form, but have not been contacted about a specific job, contact Allison Hein (see your HC Roster listings).

Wisconsin Center Workers' Room

After you, as a convention worker, register in person at the Wisconsin Center, please go to the Workers' Room where you'll be given your lanyard and your "How Can I Help?" worker badge, as well as any special dress items for your particular area of service. The location of the Workers' Room will be available in the first edition of the convention newspaper in your registration packet.

Worker's "To Bring" Checklist

- Credit card: The Wisconsin Center is cashless, except for CPH and the LWML Store.
- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Yellow "Daisy" Gildan T-shirt(s).
- Black pants (long or capri-length); no jeans.
- LWQ Convention insert for reference (on your phone or printed).
- Your personal Gifts from the Heart (see list of items in the Winter LWQ).
- Your Convention Offerings (see Winter LWQ for details).
- Cell phone and a portable charger and cords.
- Purse, backpack, or fanny pack.
- Your beautiful smile! A rested body! A prayer in your heart and on your lips!
- Once more, the important reminder: Credit card! The Wisconsin Center is CASHLESS, except for CPH and the LWML Store! (Yes, if you want to purchase even a small soft drink or a tiny bag of pretzels in the Wisconsin Center – you need to use a credit card!).

Encourage Friends to Attend!

Do you have friends who are reluctant to attend convention? Are they uneasy about coming to a big city, not knowing where they are going and what they'll be doing? It might encourage them to attend if you'd share some of the details that are in the "Welcome" letter you received via email. The more information your friends have, the more they may be willing to attend! Registrations are welcome at any time, but fees are only refundable until June 10.

LINKS? We have Many!

Rather than reprint all the convention information that can be found on the LWML HC website (<https://www.lwml-swd.org/events/other>), or the LWML website (<https://lwml.360unite.com/2023-convention>), please check out these sites, which are updated frequently. You'll find convention schedule highlights, district caucus schedules, pre- and post-convention devotions, exhibit hours, mission pledge walk forms, and so much more! Click on the LWML website link to learn how to download and use the WHOVA app on your phone!

Helpful Links for Trip Planning

- Milwaukee weather in June: <https://wanderlog.com/weather/58195/6/milwaukee-weather-in-june>. June temperatures for Milwaukee range from 57 to 72 degrees. (Remember, MKE is on Lake Michigan, where it's "Cooler by the Lake" from the cool lake breeze!)
- Wisconsin Center floor plans: <https://wisconsincenter.com/floor-plan-specs/>. Check out the "360 virtual tour" selection on this website! (Note: floor plans are adjusted for each event.)
- General information for Milwaukee: <https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/>.
- Downtown Milwaukee map: <https://www.ontheworldmap.com/usa/city/milwaukee/milwaukee-downtown-map.html>. The map is useful when navigating the downtown area.
- Milwaukee County bus routes: <https://www.ridemcts.com/routes-schedules>.
- The Hop: <https://www.visitmilwaukee.org/plan-a-visit/getting-here-and-around/transportation-in-milwaukee/milwaukee-streetcar-the-hop/>. A free streetcar that looks like a tour bus with no tires! Travels on the east side of downtown Milwaukee; multiple stops. Explore this Visit Milwaukee site for other MKE information, including a "Visitor's Guide Map."
- Downtown Dining Guide: <https://onmilwaukee.com/articles/downtown-dining-guide>.
- Downtown Parking: https://spothero.com/search?kind=destination&id=564&ad_grp_id=1775654652&msclkid=8677c36873bb180d36f8a77a6d019d80. Shows parking locations (lots and garages), including prices. (Some downtown hotels have their own parking lots; check with your hotel.)
- LWML Convention website link: <https://www.lwml.org/2023-convention>. All convention information may be found here; please browse thoroughly before arriving in MKE!
- Host Committee link: <https://www.lwml-swd.org/events/other>.

Flying into MKE?

If you have friends flying into the Milwaukee airport, share with them that Mitchell International Airport was recently recognized by an international airport association as being among the best airports in the world, and one of only 10 airports in the USA! The awards are given from feedback travelers give to surveys while at the location. Another aspect to love about Milwaukee!

Milwaukee Brewers Baseball!

LWML has been offered group tickets (at 50% off) to the Brewers vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game on Wednesday, June 21, at 1:10 p.m. Details are available on the Convention Central website at <https://lwml.360unite.com/2023-convention>. Round trip shuttle tickets may also be purchased through the Tours Registration link at that same web address (sold separately from game tickets). While you're on the site, be sure to sign up for other tours, too!

Photo Op with Violet, the Purple Cow!

Wisconsin is known for its many, many cows! Violet, the Purple Cow, is hoofing her way to the convention center so you can snap a photo with her! She's not saying that she produces purple milk, but she sure is cute. Bring your phone or camera; people will be available to take your picture with her. Rumor has it that she may be joined by a friend who would also like a photo with you! Stay tuned for updates!



Convention Attire for Workers

All convention workers are asked to wear the same clothing so we are easily identified as “workers!” Bright “daisy-colored” (not the pale yellow color) Gildan T-shirts from Hobby Lobby can be purchased for \$3 or \$4.49, depending on size. Consider buying several, especially if you will be attending the entire convention, as laundry facilities may not be available. Black pants (regular length or capri-length) are also to be worn. No jeans, please!



Convention Logo Polo Shirts News

There are a few blue convention polo shirts available yet, in very limited quantities, in Women's Small, XL, and 4XL; and Unisex/Men's XL, 3XL, and 4XL. Orders need to be submitted (postmarked no later than Monday, May 22) via the shirt order form (on the Host Committee page of the SWD website), with payment made by check only (Square is not an option). The shirts will be mailed by May 31. If the size /style you ordered is out of stock, you'll be given the opportunity to change sizes or receive a refund. Contact Diane Simon at disimon33@yahoo.com with questions.

Request to All Host Committee Members!

The HC Newsletter staff is planning one final issue, to be distributed to our HC this summer. We'll include “thank yous” to the workers, as well as photos of our “daisy-yellow-shirted” workers in action, contributed by YOU! Snap a candid shot of one, two, or three people working; no need to send names. Please, no group pictures, as newsletter photos will be small. Send photos, attached to an email, to cjblum@bicyclerider.us with “worker photo” in the subject line no later than June 30. We'll choose a dozen or so of the best ones. Thanks!

Reminders: submit your expenses by July 15, and save Saturday, August 5, 9 a.m., for our final HC ZOOM meeting.

Servant Events Requests

Provide a backpack and contents for a \$20 donation. Servant Event participants will assemble these at the convention and donate them to Orphan Grain Train for distribution. It's an ideal project for those who may be unable to attend the convention, but would like to support it. Make checks payable to "LWML NWD Host Committee" and mail it to HC Treasurer, Pam Pfankuch, 16263 20th Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729. Write "backpacks" in the memo line. Also needed are adult and children's blankets as described on the "Request for Servant Event Supplies" list at <https://www.lwml-swd.org/events/other>.

Free Wi-Fi at Wisconsin Center

The Wisconsin Center is providing free Wi-Fi for us. The password will be in the first issue of the convention newspaper, which will be in your registration packet.

LCMS Invites LWML to LifeFest!

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison invites all LWML convention attendees to "LifeFest," celebrating the one-year anniversary of the US Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade. It will be held Sunday, June 25, noon until 2 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency, 333 W. Kilbourne Avenue, Milwaukee. The event will also celebrate the efforts of LCMS congregations and LCMS Life Ministry work, as well as solemnly remembering the tragic loss of life during the nearly 50 years when Roe v. Wade was the law. Live music, refreshments, and light snacks will be served. Admission is free, but registration is required due to limited space. RSVP at lcms.org/lifest.

Blood Drive Update

We are well on the way to having a successful blood drive with many donors! Reminder: when signing up on the registration form, ALSO click on the link so that you can schedule a specific time to donate. Please spread the word so that all who intend to donate blood are registered properly. Questions? Email Kristen Kolell, Blood Drive Director, at kristenjoy.lwml@gmail.com.

Tee Up 4 Mites Reminder!

It's not too late! You and your friends have until June 10 to sign up to reserve your golf registration for the mite-raising golf outing on June 21; that's also the last date you can sign up to be a sponsor. A lot of fun for a great cause!

Miles for Mites to Milwaukee

Carla Hance Elenz (LWML Michigan District) rode her bicycle to the 2021 LWML Lexington Convention, collecting mite pledges for each mile she pedaled. She's repeating the feat this year, riding to the Milwaukee convention with two friends! They each will ride from their Michigan homes, meet in Ludington, Michigan, and board the ferry to Manitowoc. From there they will ride down to the Milwaukee convention. Carla estimates her ride will be 350 miles. Support for their ride, with all donations going to mites, can be made through the Michigan LWML District website, lwmlmichigan.org/donate (scroll down to Miles for Mites) or via Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/milesformites>.



January District Presidents' Dinner

The LWML District Presidents, in Milwaukee for the January Board of Directors meeting, were welcomed by 2023 Milwaukee Convention Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman and presidents of the three host districts: Cinda Poppe (SWD), Joan Berquist (NWD), and Gayle Thanepohn (NID). They were treated to a special dinner on Friday evening, January 27. The group fellowshiped at their tables, learned more about the 2023 convention plans, and answered trivia questions about Milwaukee. Music was provided by Wendysue Fluegge.



Host Committee Tours the Wisconsin Center

In early March, 2023 Host Committee members met in person for the first time. A tour of the Wisconsin Center was led by Andrew (Visit Milwaukee rep), Krista (Wisconsin Center tour guide), and Shelley Moeller (LWML Convention Manager). They pointed out where our convention events will be held and answered questions. To keep our sense of direction straight, they shared that when looking out the east-facing windows, the direction of Lake Michigan, you'll see the color blue. Think "east is blue; cooler by the lake" and you'll know your directions!



We thank the hostesses at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Whitefish Bay, for their delicious meals, flexibility, and good humor during the snowstorm.



Looking Back: 1981 MKE LWML Convention

“June 22-25” is etched in our minds as the dates for our 2023 LWML convention in MKE. Those exact dates are also when the 1981 LWML Milwaukee convention was held!

In 1981, South Wisconsin was the sole district serving as the Host Committee, under the theme of “Come to the Living Waters.” They called themselves the “Pilot Committee.” Co-chairmen were the late Anita Gaede and Barbara Strenger. MECCA (Milwaukee Exposition Convention Center and Arena) was the venue, which occupied the same space as the Wisconsin Center does in 2023. Registrations totaled 6,597, the largest attendance at that time of any prior national LWML convention.

In a recent interview, Barb Strenger recalled – from her notes that she saved all these years – “women in the district’s 217 local groups sewed tote bags for all the guests, using 3,400 yards of heavy royal blue material. Others made 10,000 plaster of Paris cross plaques as a memento for each guest, and 400 women served the Lord by singing in the convention choir.”

“A huge anxiety for that host committee was to arrange housing for the thousands of guests who drove, arrived by plane, or rode one of the 80-plus busses. Hotels didn’t believe that if LWML women say they are coming, they WILL show up! There were long lines at check-in, but everyone found a place to stay.”

“For three years, our individual committees met three or four times a year, in-person of course, as there was no internet or ZOOM meetings! We communicated among ourselves and with national LWML via the US Postal Service; calling long-distance was too expensive, so we only used the phone for extremely urgent matters.”

Barb fondly recalls working with Virginia Von Seggern (from the LWML Nebraska North District and subsequently elected as LWML president), who served as the “Convention Coordinator,” the link between the Host Committee and national LWML. “Virginia came to all of our host committee meetings, relaying information to us from the Executive Committee; she then took notes at our meetings to bring back to the EC.”

As reported by Marlys Taege Moberg in her book “WINGS” (pages 213/216), 1981 convention speaker Dr. Edward Wescott, LCMS Mission Executive, said LWML “is one of the only organizations I know that has not changed ... you cling to your purposes and your goals” ... you “walk by faith and not by sight ... Forty years from now, I hope ... LWML will be able to make the same statement at its convention ... ‘Praise God, we haven’t changed!’”

We are now celebrating 80 years of LWML, and although we continually update the way we work toward our goals, the goals themselves have not changed; we still cling to our original purpose. We share the Lord’s blessings through mites and offerings, reach out to the lost, pray, and study the Bible; we continue to walk by faith, trust in the Lord, and serve Him with gladness. All praise to God!



19th Biennial Convention Pilot Committee

Portraying Baby Jesus/Serving as an LCMS Teacher and Missionary

In 1981, Rachel Meyer, five-week old daughter of Pilot Committee member Ann Meyer, portrayed Baby Jesus in a living nativity ceremony to dedicate 20,000 baby layettes collected for Lutheran World Relief. Rachel's older sister, Becky, worked as a page at that convention.

Rachel graduated from Concordia River Forest and served as a missionary/teacher in Uganda, at the Concordia English Language Academy in Taiwan, and in California and Illinois. She currently serves in Davenport, Iowa, and attends the same church where her mom was baptized!

She indicates that hearing missionary speakers at many LWML conventions had a big influence on her decision to serve as a missionary.



Ann, Becky, and Rachel are registered to attend the 2023 LWML convention, celebrating over 40 years of serving the Lord with gladness!

Connections: 1981 and 2023



Marilyn Seefeld, our organist for the 2023 MKE convention, also served as the organist at our 1981 MKE convention. She worked with Karol Selle, the 1981 Music Committee Chairman. In 2023, Karol is once again serving as the convention's Music Chairman.

Kristen Kolell, 2023 MKE Convention Blood Drive Chairman, holds her sailor dress that all 1981 Host Committee workers wore; Kristen served as Virginia Von Seggern's page at that convention.



1981 Milwaukee Host Committee Publicity Committee: Can You Identify These Women?

Back row, from left: Marilyn Mueller, Lauren Beale; 3 "unknowns;" and Marlys Taege Moberg, Chairman. Seated, the woman in the middle in the sailor dress, is Rita Burfeind. Let us know if you recognize anyone else!

