

## **Candidate for District President**

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### **Claudia Fairfield, Westfield**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) Evening Circle President 2013-2016, Ladies Aid President 2011-2013

(Zone 13) President 2013-2016, Leader Development 2011-2013

(District) Corresponding Secretary 2016 to present, Winter Getaway Committee Secretary 2015-2016

**Church Related Activities:** Member of St John's Lutheran Church in Portage; Lector and Usher 2000 to present, Altar Guild 2012 to present, Sunday School teacher, VBS teacher

**Community Service:** Volunteer Coordinator Federal Bureau of Prisons, Oxford, WI, 1997 to 2005

**Education:** Attended College of Great Falls 1976-1977; Kinman Business University – Business Diploma 1979

**Occupation/Employment:** Retired, Dept. of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons, Oxford, WI, (Employee Development Manager) 1995-2000, Dept. of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Lompoc CA (Employee Development Specialist) 1991-1995, Dept. of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Lompoc CA (Associate Warden Secretary) 1990-1991, Dept. of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons Lompoc CA (Unit Secretary) 1989-1990

**Vision Statement:** “My vision for the LWML-SWD is to encourage women of all ages to continue to grow in faithfulness, fellowship, and service to Christ through His Word and our many resources: Bible studies, meetings, rallies, conventions, missions, and you. Each of us has been blessed with a God given gift or talent, whether it be a gift of leadership, presenting a Bible Study, quietly crocheting a baby's hat for a service project, and so many others, which used, will spread His Word and goodness throughout our local communities, district, nation and the world. *‘Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.’ 1 Peter 4:10*”

## **Candidate for District President**

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### **Cinda Poppe, Highland**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) President St. Luke's Ladies Circle, 2019-current; Co-President Grace Guild, 1998 to 2017

(Zone 21) President 1998-2002 and 2006-2010; Served as Secretary, Vice President, and Christian Growth at different times between 1983 and 2017

(District) *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Manager 2016 to present, VP Communications 2012-2016, District Convention Chairman 2004, Young Women's Committee Chairman 1997-2001 (approx.)

**Church Related Activities:** Member of Grace Lutheran, Racine, WI, 1983-2018; Member of St Luke Lutheran Church, Richland Center 2019-present; Racine Lutheran HS Thrift Shop Volunteer 1983-2015, Grace: Sunday School teacher, High School Bible study leader, Choir

**Community Service:** WI Right to Life Congregation Rose sale rep 1984-2017, Cub Scout/Boy Scout leader 1997-2009

**Education:** UW-Platteville BS Elementary Education 1980, Concordia Univ. WI Masters Curriculum and Instruction 2013

**Occupation/Employment:** Retired 2018 – taught in Racine public schools 2000-2018

**Vision Statement:** “My vision for the LWML-SWD is to encourage women in our congregations to grow in their faith, develop a heart for missions, and recognize their service, and service opportunities; to serve God together in the LWML as “Living Mites” and embodying the ideals of the LWML Pledge; to encourage each other in our walk as Christian women. All we do and accomplish must be done in thanksgiving for the redeeming love of our Savior and on Him we must maintain our focus.”

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



**LuAnn Roman, Sheboygan**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) Secretary/  
Treasurer/President all before 2016

(Zone 8) President 2018 to present, Secretary

(District) Missionary Outreach/Mission Educa-  
tion 2016 to present

**Church Related Activities:** Member of Good  
Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sheboygan;  
Evangelism Committee 2016 to present, Sun-  
day School/Mission Education 2016 to present,  
Organist/substitute 2016 to present, Quilting  
group 2016 to present, Rummage Sale 2016 to  
present, Handbells 2016-2019

**Community Service:** Volunteer Bethesda Thrift Store 2016 to present, 40 Days for  
Life 2018-2019, A Place of Refuge ongoing

**Education:** Concordia St. Paul – BA 1973, Mount Mary Univ. BA Social Work 2007

**Occupation/Employment:** Sheboygan County Interfaith Org (Program Assistant)  
2016 to present, Interfaith Milwaukee (Office Assistant) 2013-2016, SET Ministry Mil-  
waukee (Social Worker) 2008-2013

**Vision Statement:** “*Go, and make disciples of all nations...*” Matthew 28:19 No need  
to rethink the goal and to visualize that, we, here in the SWD, have a fine, established  
organization in the LWML. It is my desire that the LWML-SWD be led by the Holy Spir-  
it to open even more doors for mission service, inspiration and education and that all  
women of the LC-MS work in harmony toward the God established goal of making dis-  
ciples of all nations.”

## **Candidate for Vice President of Communications**



### **Jennifer Olen, Oak Creek**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) President 2013 to present, Secretary 2003-2006

(Zone 1) Secretary 2013-2018

(District) Facebook Administrator 2018 to present, Public Relations Chairman 2017 to present, 2018 District Convention Committee - Public Relations 2017-2018

**Church Related Activities:** Member of Grace Lutheran Church in Oak Creek; Altar Guild member/Chairman 2010 to present, Rise and Sonshine Bible Study Facilitator 2008 to present, Grace School Accreditation Steering Committee 2019, Evangelism Board 2010-2013

**Education:** UW-Milwaukee Degree Art History 1995

**Occupation/Employment:** Baird Financial Co. (Private Wealth Management – Equity Trading Support Specialist) 1996 to present

**Vision Statement:** “My prayer and vision for the LWML-SWD is that we continue to succeed by holding true to assist each woman in the pew to affirm her relationship with God and to use her God given gifts to show the love of Christ to others. The tools we use to accomplish this may change, but the message of God’s salvation that we share with the world should always remain the same.”



## **Candidate for Corresponding Secretary**

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**Janice Koopman, Grafton**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) Treasurer current, Christian Growth MN 1985-1987, President MN 1975-1978

(Zone MN South) Christian Growth Committee

**Church Related Activities:** Member of St Paul Lutheran Church in Grafton; Guild member 2013 to present, Quilter 2013 to present, Bible Study committee 2013 to present, Tour Director for Music Program at Living Word Lutheran High School 2014 to present

**Education:** St. Paul's College Concordia, MO Assoc BA 1967, Concordia Teachers College NE BS Education 1969, Concordia Teachers College NE MS Education & Reading 1975

**Occupation/Employment:** Concordia Univ.–NE (Director of Alumni & Church Relations) 2004-retirement 2013, Green Park Lutheran School St Louis, MO (1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher) 1998-2004, Immanuel Lutheran School St Charles, MO (5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) 1997-1998, St Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School Milwaukee, WI (1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher) 1992-1997, Pilgrim Lutheran School Wauwatosa, WI (Language Arts teacher) 1987-1990

**Vision Statement:** “The LWML has served Christ and His church around the world with compassion, strength and commitment for generations and my prayer is that we meet the challenges of our current generation with the same purpose. Each generation has faced social, political and ethical issues with Christ’s love and the truth of the Gospel in all aspects of LWML service and I hope to be an active leader and servant as God provides opportunity.”

## **Candidate for Corresponding Secretary**

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**Wendie Staus, Hartford**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) Attend meeting and events

(Zone 18) Attend rallies

(District) Winter Getaway and Fall Retreat Committees Registrar 2020, Winter Getaway and Fall Retreat Committees Treasurer 2019

**Church Related Activities:** Member of Divine Savior Lutheran Church in Hartford; Current: Treasurer, Executive Committee member, Adult Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Team, Small Group Bible Study member, Coordinator of annual Community-wide Thanksgiving Dinner, Family Promise volunteer, VBS helper

Previous: Sunday School teacher, Evangelism board member, Financial secretary, Recording secretary, Altar Guild, Counting team, VBS teacher

**Community Service:** Aurora Medical Center (Medical Staff Services Volunteer)

**Education:** Moraine Park Technical College (Medical Transcription) 2004

**Occupation/Employment:** Retired November 2017; Aurora Health Care (Health Information) 2015-2017; Divine Savior Lutheran (Business Manager) 2014; Wheaton Franciscan/Aurora Health Care (Medical Transcription) 2005-2013; American Family Insurance (Licensed CSR) 1999-2003

**Vision Statement:** "Continue to support and encourage Women in Mission in their walk in service to the Lord. May their hearts be moved to increase mite donations in order to bring more people to hear God's Word through our pastors and missionaries. Keep promoting the LWML to our churches to gain more members of all ages through innovative projects. Romans 12:11 states, *'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.'*"

## **Candidate for Treasurer**

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### **Patricia Silah, Milwaukee**



**LWML Experience:** (Society) Rep to Zone 4 BOD meetings 2012 to present

(Zone 4) Vice President 2019 to present, Treasurer 2015-2019, President 2004-2008

(District) SWD Convention Registrar 2010, SWD Zone Consultant 2008-2012

**Church Related Activities:** Member of Benediction Lutheran Church in Milwaukee; Chairman/member of Board of Stewardship 1999 to present, Church Treasurer 2000-2009

**Community Service:** Controller for Eyewitness for Life 2011-2013

**Education:** UW-Whitewater BBA-Accounting 1973

**Occupation/Employment:** Extendicare Inc. (Part-time Financial and Administrative Manager) 2018 to present; Fortis Management Group LLC (Financial and Administrative Manager) 2015-2018; Extendicare Health Services Inc. (Financial and Administrative Manager) 2000-2015

**Vision Statement:** “My vision is that the LWML-SWD will continue its strong support of mite grants. The SWD is one of the few districts that uses 100% of mite donations toward the national and SWD mite grants and separately funds administrative costs. I pray that we continue to meet our district mission goals and to support the national LWML mite projects without needing to use some of those funds for the LWML-SWD rising administrative costs. May we continue to look for ways to reduce those administrative costs, as was done with the changes to the 2020 LWML-SWD convention.

I further envision that the LWML-SWD will continue to equip women to witness and proclaim their faith in every place that they are. We are called to serve by being compassionate and giving to not only our friends, family, and neighbors, but to those we work with, people in the stores we shop at, and wherever we are. While we need fellowship with other Christian women, we also need encouragement to find time to serve not only in our churches but in other aspects of our lives. I pray that the LWML continues to adapt to the changing roles of women in the family and workplace, and enables them to serve our Lord and proclaim our faith and His saving grace to the many lost and erring all around us, our neighbors near and far.”

## **Candidate for Treasurer**

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### **Carol Smith, Friendship**

**LWML Experience:** (Society) President 2018 to present

(Zone 14) Special Focus Ministry 2019 to present

**Church Related Activities:** Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Adams; Church Treasurer 2018 to present; Devotional Leader 2014 to present; Bi-annual rummage sale helper 2018 to present; Fellowship helper 2018-2019

**Community Service:** Managed Federal commodities/Food Bank New Mexico 2014-2017; Managed utilities for low income families 2014-2017; Managed halfway house shelter 2014-2017; Organized Angel Tree 2014-2017; United Way board member 2014-2017

**Education:** Attended North Dakota State University 1972-1974; University of Michigan BS Accounting and Marketing 1987

**Occupation/Employment:** Retired January 2017; Salvation Army (Business Administrator) 2014-2017, ALCO (District Manager) 2010-2014; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (Marketing Director) 2005-2010; Dollar Store (Store Layout Designer) 2003-2005; Kmart Corp (Regional Manager) 1980-2003

**Vision Statement:** "The LWML is a wonderful platform to remind all women that our heavenly Father has given everyone a special gift or talent. As an organization, we need to serve and live in a Godly manner so that we can, by our own actions, show the love and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. I feel the best way to show the LWML passion is through Thessalonians 5:11 *'Encourage one another and build each other up.'*"



## **Candidate for Jr. Pastoral Counselor**

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**Rev. Matthew Gehrke,**

Wisconsin Dells

**Ministry:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Dells WI

**Education:** Concordia Univ WI – BA 2002,  
Concordia Theological Seminary - Masters of  
Divinity 2006

**LWML Experience:** Serve as Zone 15 Pastoral  
Counselor 2019-present

**Employment including Ministry:** Trinity Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Dells (Pastor) 2014 to present; Concordia Lutheran Church, Cottage Hills, IL (Pastor) 2006-2014; Metro East Lutheran High School, Edwardsville, IL (Tennis Coach) 2008-2014

**Outside Hobbies:** Wisconsin Dells Kiwanis Club, Huge board gamer – member of Atomic Squash - a board game group, Foster Care Advocate

**Personal:** I have been a pastor for almost 14 years. I grew up in a Lutheran church in northern Wisconsin where my mother was an organist and my father was a Sunday School teacher. While attending CUW as a pre-sem student, I met my wife Emily during my freshman year. We will be celebrating our 16<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! God has blessed us with two sons – 13 and 7 years old. We have been serving at Trinity for over 5 years after serving for 8 ½ years in Southern Illinois.

**Value of the LWML:** “The value of the LWML can be found in many different ways with an impact that can’t fully be measured. In my life, the value was found in a congregation group that supported me with prayers, quilts, and love while I was studying at the seminary. The value is found in my own congregations I have served with their own unique contributions to the local ministries. For example, this past year our local group helped purchase Christmas presents for Foster Care kids. The value is appreciated when a congregational group served a meal for many different family funerals. The prayers of the LWML have often uplifted me and carried me at many different times in my life, especially as a pastor.

I have heard of the value of the LWML when their mites go to support world-wide mission work. The impact of the LWML in prison ministry, supporting seminary education, encouraging future church workers, supporting missionaries, and empowering Lutherans at a local, district, state, national, and international level is invaluable and blessed by God in many different ways.”

## **Candidate for Jr. Pastoral Counselor**

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**Rev. Christopher L. Raffa,**

West Bend

**Ministry:** Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Bend, WI

**Education:** Concordia Univ Portland OR Pre-Seminary/Theological Studies 2004, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, IN, Masters of Divinity 2007

**LWML Experience:** Serve as Zone 7 Pastoral Counselor 2008 to present. As such I have written and produced pastoral materials for these ladies since I was ordained.

**Employment including Ministry:** Career Pastor

**Outside Hobbies:** Reading, riding my bike, doing puzzles

**Personal:** I am happily married to my wife Julie. We have three children: Rachel 10, Matthias 8, and Emma 3. I love playing with my kids both indoors and mostly outdoors.

**Value of the LWML:** “The value of the LWML is extensive. It’s not an exhaustive list, but I see first, how through the mites that are collected how much the Gospel is able to be shared. It’s truly amazing! Second, are the societies within the zones that carry out acts of service to their neighbors: funeral luncheons, blankets made for newly born children, and the generous nature of their giving. And finally, their value comes precisely from the fact they are valued by the Pastors who tirelessly care for them, teach them, and feed them the Gospel. For without that, they would not do the many things that make them a valued organization within the LC-MS.”

## Election of SWD Officers Tally Sheet

Office and Candidates	# of Votes	Elected
<b>President:</b>		
Claudia Fairfield		
Cinda Poppe		
<b>Vice President of Special Focus Ministries &amp; Mission Grants:</b>		
LuAnn Roman		
<b>Vice President of Communications:</b>		
Jennifer Olen		
<b>Corresponding Secretary:</b>		
Janice Koopman		
Wendie Staus		
<b>Treasurer:</b>		
Patricia Silah		
Carol Smith		
<b>Jr. Pastoral Counselor:</b>		
Rev. Matthew Gehrke		
Rev. Christopher L. Raffa		