

President's Message

Dear LWML Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever read a familiar Bible verse that had a new profound effect on you? One such verse for me is *She shall bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins* (Matthew 1:21). I must have been in my 30's when it struck me! The angel was telling Joseph that the preborn infant Mary was carrying would save His people from their sins. God's plan from Genesis would be fulfilled, and generations later, as one of HIS people, I am saved from MY sins (and so are you)! Thanks be to God!

Lent is an opportunity to prepare our hearts for Easter; an opportunity to take time to reflect and digest God's Word. Have you taken time to plan how you will use this opportunity? If not, consider utilizing resources found on the LWML website. Begin with [What an Opportunity - Lenten Devotion](#), consider [Lenten Bible Journaling](#) or [Read Through the Bible in One Year](#). Take time to learn how [Your Mite Offerings Have Made an Impact](#) and be encouraged to continue those mite offerings by using the [Mite Challenge Calendar \(monthly\)](#). In your LWML Group (society) consider using [LWML Resources for Lent](#) and explore [Mission Service Activities](#) to identify program resources and new mission service projects.

Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Take time during the month of February to prepare how you will use the Lenten opportunity to prepare your heart for Easter. Select resources for your personal devotional time, and consider sharing resources with your LWML sisters, and focus on what our Savior did for you. *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result*

of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).

As Lutheran Women in Mission we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others. As Lutheran Women in Mission we study God's Word faithfully, support LCMS missions through prayers and mite offerings, and provide opportunities for the women in our congregations to serve others through mission service activities at group, zone, and district events. Together we *Serve the Lord with Gladness!* (Psalm 100:2).

So this Lent, whether you are reading familiar Bible passages, a new devotion, trying Lenten Bible Journaling or [Scripture Doodles](#), it is my prayer that you find time to abide in God's Word and are stirred up in the faith that leads to eternal life.

Serving our Lord with you,

Cinda Poppe
LWML SWD President 2020–2026

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24-25).

(Note: If you are viewing the *Mission Lamp* online the underlined words are live links to resources found on the LWML website. If you are offline you can access these links by typing in the key words in the 'search this site' box on the LWML website.)

From our Senior Pastoral Counselor

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).

My dear sisters in Christ,

Can you believe that winter is almost halfway through? Okay, that made me laugh a little, too. You never know what April and May might bring. Still, we've gotten through the darker nights and will soon move into the lighter days. It's a wonderful time to be alive.

Our Heart to Heart Sisters (H2H) will be meeting soon to celebrate the different ethnic backgrounds in our wonderful district. Will you be coming? This year's theme, "United in Christ: Celebrating Our Unique Stories," is based on Galatians 3:28.

It might seem strange to have the idea of "uniqueness" right next to the idea of "united." In fact, Paul seems to say we're not unique, right? We are all one in Christ Jesus, after all.

But that's not what Paul is saying at all. We are one in Christ Jesus, but one body, His body. Each body, as you know, is composed of many members. In the body of Christ, we are composed of different ethnicities, backgrounds, upbringings, and languages, and those make us unique! No one is quite like you. No one knows you like you do. You have a story and perspective only you bring to the table.

That's why H2H meets every year: to discover those stories, raise up Lutheran women leaders in ethnic ministries, bring women of different backgrounds into the LWML, and most of all, to be together. As the one body of Christ, we should celebrate every time we get to be together, and we do.

We hear the stories of women who came to

the faith by the call of the Spirit. We enjoy the tastes and sounds of different families. But, more than this, we celebrate our oneness in Jesus Christ.

Even thinking about our daily lives, we see our oneness. We are all of the same confession. We are all in the same state. We are all enjoying a brighter day as the winter ends.

And more, all of us have been saved by Him from our sins. All of us have the same resurrection promised in our Baptisms. All of us hear the Word of God preached to us. All of us receive the same inheritance from Him.

We are united, and we are unique. It's a special blessing to be in Christ for just that reason. The world is anything but united, but the Church is. The Church always is. We demonstrate it in coming to the Communion rail together, singing together, praying together, hearing and reading the Word together, and events like H2H.

So, enjoy your uniqueness, all the things that make you, well, you! And enjoy our oneness, all the things that make us Christ's own body. As we look to our Lord's Resurrection entering into Lent, remember that we are His own body, His resurrected body, and we will always be together in Him. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastor Lewis Polzin

LWML SWD Sr. Pastoral Counselor

SAVE the DATE - Saturday May 17, 2025
St John's Lutheran Church - Glendale



Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Nominations are NOW OPEN!

The Nomination Committee is seeking your help in finding the following candidates for 2026 LWML SWD Officers: President, Vice President of Organizational Resources, Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Christian Life, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Jr. Counselor (Pastoral position).

First of all, **please pray** for the members of the nominating committee and **pray** that God sends His Holy Spirit to guide and direct us to those LWML ladies He is calling to serve LWML SWD as an officer.

Secondly, **pray** for the LWML ladies you know. Do any of them or do YOU have the following qualities?

- + A passion for the purpose and mission of LWML?
- + Are they grounded in God's Word by attending Divine Service regularly, involved in Bible study, read scriptures regularly, and pray for others?
- + Have they served as an LWML SWD Zone Officer, Zone Standing Committee Chairman, or Board of Director?
- + Have leadership abilities: is an encourager, values other's opinions, organized, constructively helpful, willingness to learn new things?
- + Has access to email?

If after praying for the LWML women you know, prayerfully evaluating their leadership qualities, and asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance, please submit a completed 2026 Officer Candidate Nomination Form by

emailing it to: nominations@lwml-swd.org.
The deadline is December 1, 2025.

Please feel free to contact any of the Nominating Committee Members if you have questions.

Diane Meyer, SWD Nominating Committee Chairman; Heidi Willison, Zone 1; Pam Muther, Zone 5; Jeanne Metcalf, Zone 13; Judy Gitzlaff, Zone 17; and Eunice Matter, Zone 21



LWML SWD VACANCIES

1. Fall Retreat 2025 CoChairman needed (work with Chairman Paula Keefer and Committee)
2. Archivist/Historian (mentoring available from Mary Zuehlsdorf and Marilyn Belter)
3. Renewal Committee Chairman (mentoring available from Diane Meyer and Marilyn Belter)
4. Special Focus Ministry (vacant)
5. Special Funds (mentoring available from Pat Menden and Wendie Staus)
6. Gladness Rags Coordinator

Contact President Cinda
president@lwml-swd.org (Guidelines are on the LWML SWD website and in the handbook)

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Mission Grant #3 Check Presentation

The favorite part of my new position as VP of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants is presenting the mission grant checks to the grant recipients. Grant #3 is my third check presentation since I took office in June 2024! It was my pleasure to present the check for grant #3 — SWD Church Work Student Grant — to Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, Mission Executive of our SWD LCMS. The check for \$30,000 was presented to him at the LWML SWD Winter Getaway that took place January 31–February 1 at Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah.

These funds are managed by the SWD LCMS and are distributed in the fall and spring to students at our two LCMS seminaries in St. Louis and Ft. Wayne. The grant money will be given to assist students with the cost of their education while studying and preparing for full-time church work. This includes not only pastors but also teachers, deaconesses, DCE, DCO, director of church ministry, parish music, or family life.

The cost of preparing our future church workers is high with the average unmet need per student being approximately \$23,000. Many of the seminary students also have families that must be supported, which would cause stress for the students, so this mission grant is greatly appreciated. From previous recipients: “Your support has been instrumental in making the cost of my studies more manageable.” “I appreciate the financial assistance and spiritual support alike. It wouldn’t be possible for me to pursue church work without it.”

I would also like to thank all those hands that dropped the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and the paper money into their Mite Boxes. All those individual Mite Boxes add up to thousands of dollars that will be given to organizations to further the Word of our Lord

Jesus Christ and His love for us.

Judy Gitzlaff
LWML SWD VP of Special Focus Ministries & Mission Grants

vpspecialfocusministries@lwml-swd.org



Up next for funding is Grant #4 - Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs of WI - \$21,000. Each dog’s entity will receive \$3,000 to help supplement travel expenses related to deployments.



LWML SWD Banner for LWML Convention 2025 - Omaha

Praise the Lord for the talented designer and maker of our LWML SWD banner. A big thank you to Joan Kritchman-Knuteson for this beautiful work of art. Here is her story and a picture of the banner.

The August issue of the *Mission Lamp* included a notice looking for creators for the 2025 convention banner. I was approached by some of our LWML ladies to submit a design for the banner, and of course I said, "Yes!" I had the theme, "Growing in God's Grace," and to me that suggested plants and leaves. I had these wonderful vines from other banners and those seemed to be a natural to show growth. From there I added the cross and twined the vines around to make a connection. A script font also looked like vines and I had my idea! This was submitted to the LWML board in September and voted on with other design ideas sent in. I'm so blessed that God lets me grow in my art!

Your 2025 LWML Convention banner creator,
Joan Kritchman-Knuteson
Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church



LWML Gifts of Love Ministry

As we are now well into another new year, have you thought about how you can share your faith with your family? Estate plans are not just about money and laws. It is about relationships and sharing Jesus. Have you created a statement of faith? When you sit down and talk with your loved ones about details of your estate plan, it's a good opportunity to have a deep conversation about your confidence in Jesus. To get started on your journey and kindle those conversations with the people you love most, contact Carol von Soosten at Carol.vonSoosten@lwnd.org.

Pat Menden - Special Funds Coordinator

WE LOVE MISSIONS!

Happy New Year to my sisters in Christ,

As we welcome in the new year, many times we think about starting new habits or restarting good practices we've failed to keep up with. Are you regularly praying for our mission grants recipients, keeping up with adding coins to your Mite Box, and sharing with others all the good work the LWML does? At times, we all need reminders to "get back to the basics" of the LWML, myself included!

That being said, let's praise God for the nearly \$70,000 already received as of November 30, 2024. We are so close to paying our next grant recipient, the SWD Church Work Student Grant. Remember to send in your mites regularly so we can get our gifts to those in need.

Blessings to all of you,

Ellen Peck
LWML SWD Mission Grants Committee Chair
ellenap3065@gmail.com





Lutheran Women in Mission

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT

"Loving Leadership"

- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Leadership Development Workshop

Look of a
Leader

Leadership
101

Motivation is Contagious

Leadership in Pairs

This workshop will focus on fostering leadership skills that emphasize compassion, understanding, and effective communication. It's a great opportunity to grow personally and professionally!

Register online at lwml-swd.org/event/workshop

Link to Registration form: Click on [LINK](#) See below

Date: Saturday, March 8th
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Location: St. Paul's Lutheran
Sheboygan Falls, WI

and

Saturday, April 5th
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran
Janesville, WI

A light breakfast will be provided by the ladies of the hosting congregations but please bring your own lunch!



There is NO cost for either of these 2 events!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScwJ2zrbclvigiR9NJf3IFOcF0KHfY2mbWJOM7vYMeRdy1tLkA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>



Save the Date!



Fall Retreat 2025

September 26-27, 2025

Theme: Armor of God-Your Strong Suit
Ephesians 6:10-18

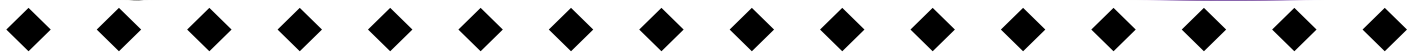
In-Person Special Guest:

Donna Snow

Embassy Suites by Hilton
1200 S. Moorland Road
Brookfield, WI



More Information Coming Soon



LWML PRAYER SERVICE 2025

Blessed are They ...

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



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



Update on Mission Grants

2023–2025 Mission Grant 30 - SHOWERING LOVE ON THE LEAST OF THESE | Mercy Holistic Ministry CA - \$100,000 **PAID IN FULL!**

Mercy Holistic Ministry (MHM) is a Sacramento, California, based organization, established in 2010, that provides dignified holistic services to restore and transform the lives of the homeless community in and around the city. Its ministry partners include various area LCMS congregations.

In 2021, MHM purchased a two-stall shower trailer, literally bringing showers and the Gospel to the location of the homeless. Beyond showers, MHM provides personal hygiene kits, haircuts, clean clothing, and food to the people who come. They offer the opportunity to speak with someone who can pray for them, provide active listening, and give referrals to other services, such as shelters. Bibles and prayer books are shared.

This grant will enable MHM to offer an additional day per week of service and to purchase and retrofit a mobile closet trailer for clean clothing and hygiene kit storage.



Lutheran Women in Mission 2023–2025 MISSION GRANTS

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

LWML Convention Travel for SWD

Are you planning to go to the LWML convention in Omaha on June 26–29 this year? If so, how are you planning to get there? How are you planning to get from the hotel to the convention center?

The Sonshine Express Motorcoach will be leaving early in the morning on Wednesday, June 25, from Peace Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam. We are planning to make a stop to pick up additional passengers at one of the LCMS churches in Janesville. We are not deterring off of our planned path on Hwy. 26 for additional pick-ups as we want to be able to make the trip with one driver getting us to Omaha on Wednesday late afternoon or early evening.

No tours are planned in conjunction with this travel, but you may sign up on the convention website for the convention sponsored tours that fit within your schedule to Lauritzen Gardens, Durham Museum, or a College World Series game at Charles Schwab Field, or any other tour.

Of the people who had signed up in 2024 as interested in riding the motorcoach, the majority stated that they wanted to return Sunday, June 29, after the closing service, so that is what we will do. People can pick up their box lunch and head to the motorcoach. Box lunches will be eaten on the motorcoach as we head home.

If you will be a voting delegate (i.e., you are the zone president or substituting for the zone president), the cost of this transportation will be paid by LWML SWD. If you are not the voting delegate, the cost will be approximately \$165 for this round-trip travel, including



being taken from the door of the hotel to/from the door of the convention center daily.

I make the hotel reservations for those riding on the motorcoach, so be prepared to tell me who you want to share a room with, or I can help pair you with someone else who is riding on the motorcoach. We will want to get our hotel reservations in as soon as possible so that we get our first choice of hotel. That is why I am asking you to let me know your intention to ride with us by March 15.

Space on the motorcoach is limited, so if you wish to ride on the Sonshine Express, please email me at the address below as soon as possible. At the BOD meeting in February, I will be confirming with EC members and other committee members who are still planning to ride the motorcoach. General registrations of non-committee members for traveling by motorcoach will be accepted as space permits. If there are more than the 48 that we can fit on the motorcoach, I will assist with trying to combine with the North Wisconsin District LWML.

Please contact me by email if I can provide clarification on traveling to the 2025 LWML Convention.

Patty Silah
2025 Convention Travel Manager
conventiontravelmanager@lwml-swd.org

Serve the LORD with gladness!

2025 LWML Convention News



Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: Growing in God's Grace

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

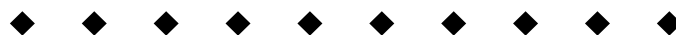
President: Eden Keefe

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

Objectives: Each convention attendee will be:

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

Complete information regarding Convention is now available in the Winter issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and online at lwml.org under News & Events - Convention Central. If you don't have an issue of *LWQ*, there is a PDF document online that contains ALL of the information in the *LWQ*. What you will find is information about registration which will be done completely online and opens to the general public on March 1. You will meet the Convention Personalities, the Comic Relief Duo, Mites in Action Speakers, the Song Leader, the Saturday Night Entertainment, and Additional Presenters. There is also a page with suggestions for Travel to Omaha and ideas for sight seeing. There will be a Mission Pledge Walk and a Tee Up 4 Mites. You will also find information about the Servant Activities and the Blood Drive! It's almost Information Overload so start reading through everything as soon as possible so you are ready to make your plans!



IN THIS CORNER - THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Kris Whitby rejoices that he is a forgiven and redeemed child of Christ! He served for 24 years as a parish pastor at Guardian Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida, and Saint Paul Lutheran Church and School in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Rev. Whitby served the LWML as district pastoral counselor in Florida-Georgia and Northern Illinois as well as LWML Pastoral Counselor 2009–2013. He hosted the radio talk show "Faith Talks" and served as volunteer chaplain for the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers of Northeast Florida. He has written many resources for LWML including Mustard Seed Devotions, prayer services, and the "At Table with Jesus" Bible study. He currently serves as Assistant to the President — Mission and Ministry for the LCMS Northern Illinois District.





Gifts from the Heart

IS GOING GREEN!

Gifts from the Heart is getting a Makeover for Omaha!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Change. Yes, change. Positive and necessary change.



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

WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

Utilize Amazon Wish Lists.

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



WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS?

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



Camp Luther of Nebraska



Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska



The Chapel: University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry

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

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



Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

Have you sent in your *Quarterly* Order Yet?

Are you or your LWML sisters at your congregation looking for a new Bible Study? Would you like to read about other strong Lutheran women who have servant hearts? Do you like updates about our mission grant money hard at work in the mission field? How about getting ideas for your group's activities by reading about what groups in other districts are doing? You can find ALL of this in the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*! In today's world, where so much print media is going away and we are dependent on the computer for our information, it is refreshing to get an actual magazine with so much valuable information included. Renew your subscription TODAY!

Haven't ordered before? No problem! March 15 is the deadline for your 2025 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order form!

What a bargain! If you order 10 or more, they are only \$6.00 each. To order, fill out a 2025 *Quarterly* order form and LWML SWD Receipt Voucher along with your check made out to LWML SWD. Mail them all to LWML SWD Financial Secretary Wendie Staus (address on Receipt Voucher). You can find both forms on the LWML SWD webpage under Resources/Society. The sooner you get them in, the better. **We don't want to miss your subscription!**

Questions? Please contact Paula Keefer, LWML SWD *LWQ* Manager by email at paulajkeefe@gmail.com.

The 2025 *Quarterly* subscription orders begin with the 2025 Summer issue through 2026 Spring issue.

Paula Keefer
LWQ Manager
paulajkeefe@gmail.com

***Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Price Change!**

We recently received notice that the price of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (LWQ)* subscription will be increasing by 50 cents starting with the Fall 2025 issue. (New Pricing: \$6.50 per yearly subscription when ordering 10 or more and \$8.00 per yearly subscription when ordering 1-9.) In our district, with a March 15 reorder deadline, most subscriptions have already been renewed. If your group has already submitted your renewal, the Executive Committee requests all ordering groups and individuals send in an additional .38 cents per subscription ordered to cover the cost of this increase. (example: if 10 subscriptions were ordered, \$3.80, is needed to cover the increased cost.) The extra money should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Wendie Staus. This does not need to be sent on a separate voucher, but may be included on a voucher with group mites remittance. Just note on the voucher what amount is for the *LWQ*. Thanks in advance for your help!

Also, a note of interest ... *The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly (LWQ)* is published by Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc., in Yucaipa, Calif. The *LWQ* is available in Braille or large print copies for free from Lutheran Braille Workers at www.LBWloveworks.org or call 800-925-6092. The large print copy contains the printed text for articles and Bible studies, but no pictures.

Young Woman's Representative (YWR) to LWML Convention-Omaha

The deadline to submit an application to serve as a YWR to the LWML Convention in Omaha, June 26-29, 2025, has been extended to February 15, 2025. Please submit your application to Carmen Schallock at: ywchairman@lwml-swd.org.

Partnering in Missions!

Greetings! I would like to thank everyone for a wonderful nine months of giving! At the end of December, our current biennium mite contributions total \$95,539.64 (\$76,339.19 for the SWD and \$19,200.45 for LWML). We need to bring in \$124,461 to complete the biennial goal we have set (\$220,000). We have 15 months to complete this task, at an average of \$8,297 per month.

Also, at December's month end, we have enough funds to pay our SWD Church Work Student Grant #3, with \$6,339.19 left to be applied toward grant #4, Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs, \$21,000!

Reminder: The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order deadline is March 15. When sending in your order to me, **please** remember there are three items to send me.

1. The *LWQ* order form, which is found on our website, lwml-swd.org, 'Resources' and 'Society helps' tabs.

2. Receipt voucher, also found in the same area.

3. Payment for your order.

If you do not have a printer or need help finding the above items, please enlist the help of a friend or your church secretary.

Our 2025 LWML SWD Winter Getaway January 31-February 1 was a resounding success! The attendance totaled 140 with many new attendees present. Pastor Michael Salemink gave a very informative and enjoyable presentation as our guest speaker from Lutherans for Life. The getaway offering totaled \$2,606.10, with \$1954.58 being given to Lutherans for Life and the remaining \$651.52 to the SWD Female Church Work Scholarship Fund. The mite offering totaled \$584.46. What a wonderful outpouring of generosity!

Thank you for your continued support of our mission grants!

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

2024-2026 Mission Grants

These are the 2024-2026 Mission Grants:

- Orphan Grain Train - Wisconsin Branch
Paid in FULL! \$15,000
- Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI
Child Therapy Expansion - Mental Health
Coverage **Paid in FULL!** \$25,000
- SWD Church Worker Grants \$30,000
Paid in FULL!
- LCC Comfort Dogs of WI \$21,000
- Teaching God's Children with Special Needs -
Journey School \$50,000
- Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church MKE -
Restoration \$25,000
- Financial Assistance for CTS, Fort Wayne
Food & Clothing Co-op \$15,000
- Camp LuWiSoMo Camper Scholarships
Partially funded \$548.28

Total: \$181,548.28

The mission grant amount voted on at convention was \$220,000 with \$165,000 for SWD grants and \$55,000 for LWML grants. The excess from the 2022-2024 biennium of \$16,548.28 was added to the SWD amount per the majority vote of the delegates for a final total for SWD mission grants of \$181,548.28. After delegate voting, the first 7 grants above will be fully funded and the 8th one will be partially funded, as noted.

Recognizing a *Portals of Prayer* Author

Have you been reading your current issue of *Portals of Prayer*? If you began at the very first page, you will have noticed that the devotions for March were written by our LWML SWD sister, Roberta Hilgendorf. We thank Roberta for sharing her inspiring comments on God's Word.



2025 Events to Remember

- Feb 8 9 - 3 SWD BOD mtg - Peace LC
Beaver Dam
- Feb 22 Snow Date for BOD mtg if needed
- March 8 8:30 - 3 Leadership Training Workshop
St Paul LC Sheb Falls
- April 5 8:30 - 3 Leadership Training Workshop
St Paul LC Janesville
- April 15 *Mission Lamp* articles due
- May 17 Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations
event St John's LC Glendale
- June 15 Fall Rally PR due to PR Chair
- June 26-29 LWML Convention Omaha NE
see pages 10-12 of this *ML* for
some information and full details
are at www.lwml.org



South Wisconsin
District

2024-2026 Theme, Goal, & Bible Verse

TOGETHER IN CHRIST

we are motivated to love, serve, gather,
and encourage

Bible Verse: *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

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