

## President's Message

Dear LWML Sisters in Christ,

As I look back at LWML pictures, I have to laugh as I definitely have a "uniform." In September/October, I shared about LWML at the district's mission plant in Green County, attended the SWD Fall Retreat to be "Comforted to Comfort," traveled to Donation Day at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., met with future pastors from our district, experienced the NWD/SWD Lutheran Laymen's League Convention, brought greetings from LWML SWD, and learned about the Lutheran Hour resources. I attended three zone rallies and four Zoom-type meetings. October was filled with blessings and opportunities.

We are Lutheran Women in Mission, and we are "Chosen to Love and Serve." Therefore, *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience* (Colossians 3:12). In less than eight months we will meet in convention at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, to elect officers, select new mission grants, and encourage each other as we are "Chosen to Love and Serve" our Lord, the church, and each other.

When will I see YOU next? At the Winter Getaway? At the Board of Directors meeting? At the Heart to Heart event? At a zone rally?

Wherever it is, I am easy to spot ... just look for my yellow sweater!

Your sister in Christ,

Cinda Poppe  
LWML SWD President 2020–2024

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths* (Proverbs 3:5-6).



LWML District Presidents, SWD Cinda Poppe, NWD Joan Berquist, past LWML President Jan Wendorf at the NWD/SWD Lutheran Laymen's League Convention at Peace Lutheran, Neenah.



*From our Junior Pastoral Counselor*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort ... (2 Corinthians 1:3).*

My Dear Sisters,

Coming home after the Fall Retreat and thinking about this Mission Lamp article, I was trying to think of a Bible verse that would be suitable for describing it, but every single one I found with that specific word, "retreat," really only has to do with armies running away. So, in lieu of that, let's put our focus for a moment on the first words of the Fall Retreat's Biblical theme.

First, the Fall Retreat went spectacularly, especially due to the work of so many faithful servants. Thank you to all!

Of course, with this coming right at the start of fall, right when the temperature begins to change for the cooler, my heart keeps wanting that nice blanket on my lap in the crisp air, the fire roaring beside me, a cup of steaming coffee in my hands, a hooded sweatshirt right on my neck. These are comfort things for me. I don't know if it's something ingrained in me by my parents early on, or if I've caught too many commercials for Hallmark movies, but the fall just feels comfortable and comforting.

But, as lovely as the fall is, it is nowhere near so comforting as what we have in Christ. Think about this for a moment: who is your Father? To sinners, the Father is a scary being who needs to punish sin and cast people into hell for rejecting Him. Not everyone recognizes that, of course, but many do, and thus they reject God, thinking that if they say they don't belong to Him that makes it true. Nothing could be further from the truth, however; all of creation belongs to Him and He will fulfill His promises and threats.

But, for us who are saved by Christ, our Father isn't scary; He has no threats for you. He's "Our Father," one whom we should think of as welcoming us as we race excitedly to Him. It works like this: Our God is the God of comfort, but He is the Father of Jesus Christ, too. Thus, if we are in Jesus and He in us, then the Father is "Our Father," which has to be the most comforting thing ever. We lack no comfort when we belong to Christ because He makes the Father our own. And if the Father is yours, then He is a good one, taking care of your needs and comforting you with the sweet words of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The Father has welcomed you, His children, to His family through His Son that you may be His and that He may give you all mercy and grace, all comfort, through Jesus' death and resurrection. As wonderful as it is to cozy up to a warm fire in cool air, the comfort we have in Christ is something eternal and something that doesn't go away with the changing of the seasons. The Father is yours forever, never changing, and always bringing His Son, Jesus, to you so that you may have life in His name by His cross.

Always, in Christ,

Pastor Polzin



### EC and Chairman Changes



After many prayers, Claudia Fairfield, elected Vice President of Organizational Resources, resigned her position to care for her parents. We continue to keep Claudia in our prayers as she serves our Lord where He has need of her.

The Executive Committee met via Google Meets to follow the bylaws and fill the vacancy. I am pleased to share that Marilyn Belter has agreed to serve as interim Vice President of Organizational Resources until this position comes up for election at the LWML SWD Convention in 2026. Marilyn was installed at the Fall Retreat surrounded by the Executive Committee present at the retreat. The contact email for the VP of Organizational Resources remains the same.

We are also happy to announce the following Chairman appointments: Paula Keefe - *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Manager, Barb Shallock - Gladness Rags Coordinator, and Jen Schneider - Public Relations. Thank you for your willingness to serve our LWML SWD in these positions!

Lord, help me recognize Your hand leading me each day as I live my life as a witness to Your love and faithfulness. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

### Fall Retreat Gifts from the Heart

Picture a table brimming with supplies for Our Savior Kid's Day Care in Baraboo. Participants at the SWD Fall Retreat showed their generosity once again with 275 items of socks/mittens/hats, 452 kids' books, and 49 packages of construction paper, among other supplies. Imagine another full table going to the Blessing Box at Trinity Lutheran in Wisconsin Dells, consisting of 160 nonperishable food items, 108 hygiene items, 43 baby supply items, etc. The Litany of Blessing reminded everyone that as we remember the peace and comfort that God gives to us in our baptism, Holy Communion, His Word and daily walk with Him, our hearts are stirred to offer comfort to others. Whether in physical supplies or words, God continues to use us to comfort those with whom we come in contact.

LuAnn Roman

Fall Retreat Gifts from the Heart Chair



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!





## 2024 LWML SWD Convention News

The 2024 LWML SWD Convention planning is well underway!

**Save the date** for LWML SWD Convention: Friday, June 14–Saturday, June 15, 2024.

**Location:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 300 Broadway Dr., Sun Prairie, Wis. The theme for the upcoming convention is “Chosen to Love & Serve” based on the verse, *Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience* (Col. 3:12).

**The purpose statement is:** Women of the LWML SWD are gathering to carry out the business/mission of the LWML and be strengthened through His Spirit to continue to love and serve. **The convention goal is:** Attendees, loved and served by Christ, will be empowered by the Spirit to grow in their faith so that they can love and serve.

Now is the time for each group in our SWD to decide who will be the delegates to come together to conduct the business of the LWML SWD! Each group in our district is allowed two delegates and two Young Woman Representatives. Each group president receives a purple folder with registration information, certification of group delegates, a flier to advertise convention, and a letter from Carol Smith, LWML SWD Convention Registrar. Delegate registration is due to your zone president by January 31, 2024!

Scholarships are available for those who want to attend the 2024 LWML SWD Convention and need financial assistance in order to attend. Scholarships are kept confidential. You may find the scholarship application at [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). Click on the Events tab and then Convention.

You are an important part of “Chosen to Love & Serve” as our Lord calls you to attend this convention!

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

### MISSIONS! MISSIONS! MISSIONS!

This has been a very full year, and we are just a couple of months away from a new year to come. I can truly say that the LWML Milwaukee Convention was the highlight of my summer.

I would like to direct you to [lwml.org](http://lwml.org), where you will find the list of mission grants selected for the 2023–25 biennium. The first mission grant is for a new Orphan Grain Train Servant Center in Norfolk, Neb., for \$100,000. If you click on this grant, it will take you to a video about this mission grant, the Mission Grant Story, Bulletin Byte and Bulletin insert, Devotion and Prayer Guide.

I find this to be a wonderful way to keep mission grants in the front of our minds and I plan to use this information for my group’s upcoming gathering. Each month LWML will highlight the next grant.

Take time to look at both websites: [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) and [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). It is definitely worth the time and effort to see what is new and what is news!

Sandy Krainz  
Christian Life Chair  
[mkrainz@aol.com](mailto:mkrainz@aol.com)

*Pray without ceasing!*

## Grant Recipients Express Thanks!

Now that we are nearing the end of the 2022–24 grant cycle, it is good to be reminded that our mites turn into acts of mercy by the agencies that receive them. We ask that grant recipients let us know what happens with those dollars. Here are snippets of those reports.

**Bethany Lutheran Church** in Milwaukee found the timing for their grant to be “at the right time.” Their aged building experienced some structural damage needing repair to the main entrance into the building. “This grant money allows Bethany to continue reaching out to Milwaukee’s inner city, the Burmese congregation who uses our building for worship, and the people from the House of Correction, as Pastor Afam (Ikanih) invites them to join our Bible studies and worship.” They have successfully hosted two block parties over the summer, bearing witness to the scope of God’s all-encompassing love for their neighbors.

The Wisconsin branch of **Orphan Grain Train** received \$15,000 early in the cycle. “This year most of the money was used to ship food and aid over to the Ukraine! As you know, this war has been daunting and relentless.” OGT ships to pastors and missionaries who receive them and who distribute, giving them opportunities to reach into the lives of people around them to share the good news of Jesus Christ! Their report further states, “Please relay our deepest gratitude to the LWML for their love and service to those in need. This organization, the LWML, is amazing!”

**Doxology - Care for Clergy Wives** was recently fully funded in the amount of \$8,000! More information on how these funds will impact their ministry will be shared soon.

And finally, the **SOS Center** in Milwaukee is about to receive the full amount (instead of partial) of their request. Lydia Beasley commented...”please pass a thank you to all

the others for their hard work and generosity and love. To be able to partner with people who have the same mission (serve Christ) is more than wonderful.” She also invites you to view their purple room at the center, 4620 W. North Ave. in Milwaukee, which is dedicated to the LWML!

Grant applications for the next biennium (2024–2026) had to be postmarked by October 31, 2023. If you submitted a grant proposal, stay tuned for updates as the process moves along.

A new position has formed, replacing the Deaf Liaison Coordinator, previously on the books. Anne Herlihy is the **Special Ministry Advocate** who will be seeking ways for us to adequately reach out and ultimately bring into active membership those with hearing/vision/cognitive challenges as well as those physically disabled. Welcome, Anne.

LuAnn Roman

VP of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants



The Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2023 materials were authored by Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr. While many churches may have already celebrated LWML Sunday, the materials are still available to download from the LWML website at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) under News & Events/LWML Sunday. All worship and devotional materials have received approval from LCMS Doctrinal Review.

### Asked, Equipped, and Blessed to Serve

My dad was a man of many talents, but especially noteworthy was his ability to tackle any project with a can-do attitude. He was an extraordinary DIYer (Do-It-Yourselfer) long before it became popular. Sadly, I was not blessed with the wealth of knowledge and self-confidence he had, so I usually phone a professional for repairs and projects.

God often asks people to do things they think would be better left to “professionals.” The Bible is full of stories of men and women doing extraordinary things out of their ordinary, and sometimes fear-filled, beginnings. What examples of DIYers! As an organization, LWML has a rich history of servant leaders who answered God's calling. Ordinary women doing God's extraordinary work and using their gifts in ministry to the people of the world is central to Lutheran Women in Mission.

Don't wait until you feel qualified to do what God is asking you to do. If God wanted a “professional,” He would have contacted one! God asks, God equips, and with trust and a willingness to follow, God will lead you to do what He needs. Is God calling you in service to Lutheran Women in Mission? Does your district, zone, or local group need your help? Be open to God's whisper and find where He is leading you to serve.

*Now may the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen*  
(Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV).

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### Partnering in Missions!

Happy fall, everyone! It is November already, and how did September and October disappear? Hopefully, many of you had the opportunity to attend the SWD Fall Retreat in Wisconsin Dells in September. We had the pleasure of hearing about the LCC Comfort Dog program and met a new 4-legged friend on Friday evening. On Saturday, retreat speaker Michelle Dierck's comforting presentation was outstanding, centering on God's promised rest to us! The retreat offering totaled \$2300, with \$1725 going toward the LCC program and \$575 to the Female Church Worker Scholarship Fund. Mite offerings totaled \$542.30.

Local group treasurers should be receiving next year's *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order form soon. As a reminder, when sending your order to me, please remember to include a voucher along with your order form and payment. This is basically for bookkeeping purposes, but it is important. Thank you! Again, the receipt vouchers may be found on our website, [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). Please click on the Resource tab, Society helps, and then scroll down to 'Receipt Voucher'. If you do not have access to a computer, I will be happy to send you vouchers, or you could ask your church secretary to print them for you! Thank you for faithfully sending in your mite donations!

On a side note, my church, Divine Savior Lutheran, in Hartford, Wis., is again offering our Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you are in the area, please come and join us! No reservations are needed. Last year we served 350 guests. The food is wonderful and fellowship even better! The church address is 3200 County Road K South, Hartford. Please send me an email with any questions. I hope to see you!

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





## DONATION DAY 2023



President Cinda delivering items from SWD at the Clothing Co-op at Concordia



Seminarian Students from SWD

Rt. to Lt. Richard Sovitzky, Luther Memorial Chapel, Shorewood; Tanner Sawall, Trinity, West Allis; President Cinda; Michael Hendrickson, St. Peters, Arlington; David Christiansen, Luther Memorial, Shorewood. Missing from picture due to class schedule/work: Brian Frank, Saint Peter, Lebanon; Cory Gabor, Immanuel, Westfield; Luke Otten, Trinity, Sheboygan; and Harvey Peters, historic Trinity, Milwaukee



LWML Representation at Donation Day: (Lt. to Rt.) Student Association President Christopher Warneke, LWML District Presidents - SWD Cinda Poppe, Michigan MaryBeth Hiekkinen, Indiana Sarah Rippy, Ohio Vivian Nelson, CTSFW Food and Clothing Co-op Director Deaconess Katherine Rittner, and Rev. Dr. Gieschen, Provos

**Consider Adopting a Seminary Student...** encourage your congregation, group, or as an individual to connect with seminarian students. Recent rent costs for students in Fort Wayne have close to doubled since the beginning of the school year. Remember them in your prayers, also.

### [Adopt a Student - CTSFW](#)

After Donation Day, we received this note:

I just want to say thank you for supporting my family and I as we attend Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. I apologize for not being able to thank you personally on October 10th when you were visiting the campus, I had a family commitment that I had to tend to that day, and I wasn't able to stay for lunch. I was wondering if there is a mailing address that I can send a thank you letter to. I am planning on sending a newsletter out quarterly to thank everyone that is supporting us while we are here.  
Cory Gabor

### Zone 18 LWML SWD Fall Rally

On Saturday, October 7, Zone 18 met at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Watertown for their fall rally.

The morning began with delicious refreshments from the women of Good Shepherd and a warm greeting from Jill Jones, their President.

We had the pleasure of learning through a Bible study from Matthew 21:33-46, "The Parable of the Tenants," that Pastor Groth, from Good Shepherd, presented to us. We were honored to have our District President, Cinda Poppe, join us too.



We welcomed our guest speaker, Ellen Klaus, Team Coordinator for Mary's Room, Watertown, which was our Gifts from the Heart recipient. Mary's Room is an outreach program of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Watertown, Wis., serving infants and children of Watertown and surrounding communities through God's abundant grace. Our zone collected baby shampoo, unscented wipes, diaper cream, bottle brushes, new bottles, toddler toothbrushes, non-fluoride toothpaste, and diaper bags. Monetary donations were welcomed also to purchase bilingual toddler books for Hispanic children.



The morning was topped off with helping to make burp cloths for Mary's Room. This event was quite fun and relaxing.



Kimberly Terry  
SWD Zone 18 Vice President



### Special Focus Ministries

Now that fall rallies are over, Pastor Appreciation Month is over, and LWML Sunday has passed, I pray your events are a true blessing to their recipients. With Advent season coming quickly, what a good time to remember your church staff. The season means extra sermons and extra bulletins. The [lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission](http://lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission) site offers many suggestions for showing our appreciation. Cards, notes, and little surprise bags can be a great source of encouragement. And for your teachers to check [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) and search Winter Resources to see helps they might use for the Sunday School or day school classroom. For your home-bound and/or care givers a goodie bag is always a welcome addition to the holiday season. May all you do be to God's glory and to help SPREAD THE WORD!

Kathy Herbst  
Special Focus Ministries Chairman



## MISSION SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

What a joy to have been able to meet so many wonderful ladies at the SWD Fall Retreat in September! Thank you for your warm welcome and invitation to share about the Lutheran Home in Wauwatosa. As Deaconess Intern, I am learning and serving under Chaplain Derek Wolter's mentorship to help provide spiritual care for our long-term residents, rehabilitation clients, and their families. I am also a support for our staff members. I participate in the residents' daily life through Bible studies, individual visits, serving in the dining room, and other group activities. During the most difficult times of loss, loneliness, pain, suffering, doubt, or despair, I am also called upon to bring Christ's love and comfort to those in need.

One project I am helping to coordinate, thanks to a request from a lovely local LWML member, is making no-sew fleece blankets (in the colors of the church calendar!) for use by the residents who come to chapel Sunday mornings. We have found fleece to be the most durable material for blankets as they stand up to the hot wash/hot dry sanitary requirements. We would love for you to be a part of this project. If this is something you or your local LWML may be interested in, please contact me by phone (414-258-6170 ext. 443) or email (melissa.pflug@thelutheranhome.org).

Likewise, if you have any interest in being a volunteer at Lutheran Home, we provide training for anyone who would like to visit and provide companionship to residents. We would love to connect with our faithful LWML ladies and fellow churches!

We are also here for you and want you to know of the wealth of resources we have available for caregivers through our Caregiver Support Department. We have free classes for care-

-givers, an extensive library of pamphlets, books, and other resources listing important services, an Alzheimer's Support Group, and our Director of Caregiver Support, Stephanie Leanes, has over 25 years of experience supporting caregivers and care receivers.

Thank you for your prayers and consideration. May Christ's peace be with you all!

Melissa Pflug

Join us: [thelutheranhome.org](http://thelutheranhome.org) | Facebook  
The Lutheran Home, Wauwatosa (RSO)



## NOMINATIONS NEEDED!

Do you know someone who has leadership qualities and would be a great fit for one of the following offices in our district? The offices are President, Corresponding Secretary, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries and Mission Grants, Vice President of Communication, Treasurer, and Jr. Pastoral Counselor. Please fill out a 2024 SWD LWML Officer Candidate Nominations Form, which can be found on the district website, [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). Click on Resources, District Helps, and Forms to the 2024 SWD LWML Officer Candidate Nominations Form - due December 1. That is all you have to do! The nomination committee will contact the nominee to ask her if she is willing to serve and have her name placed on the 2024 convention ballot.

The information for emailing or sending by USPS is on the form. The job descriptions are in the guidelines, which are also located on the website. We ask for your prayers that many will be willing to serve the LWML SWD.

2024 Nomination Committee  
Marilyn Belter, Chairman

*Serve the LORD with gladness!*

## EXCITING CHANGES ARE COMING!

There are exciting changes in the air, and I am not talking about the change from summer to fall. The exciting changes are occurring in some LWML groups in our district. All glory goes to God, our Father, for setting apart a few LWML women willing to “step out of their comfort zone.” Recently someone shared with me what is happening with their small local group of five women. She asked not to be identified at this time, so I will call her ‘Lucy LWML.’ Like many of our LWML groups, this one was very discouraged as their group continued to diminish and they had little hope of having other women from their congregation join them, **but God had a plan for them!** He brought Lucy LWML to them! She and her husband had recently moved to Wisconsin to be closer to kids and grandkids. Lucy already loved LWML and WANTED to be part of their group! As it often happens, after a very short time, Lucy became the President of the group. No one else would take the position and she only agreed if everyone would help and they were open to doing a few things differently. They revamped the style of their meetings and made a commitment to personally invite other women in the congregation, even though they “tried that before.” It was hard to make these changes. The changes resulted in **seven new members in less than a year!** Since there will be “the rest of the story,” Lucy LWML wanted to share just a few bullet points about the changes they made. I have listed her bullet points and in the ( ) are notes I have added.

- **Build a relationship** before you say anything about LWML. Give it time to grow. Always be positive and smiling. Be happy!
- Start telling people what LWML is doing and the fun and sisterhood developing.
- Have six months of meetings planned. The details will come later. (Need planning help? Go to [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org). Click on the Resource tab and then the Society Helps tab. You will find “Equipping Saints to Serve 2023–2025.” This will take you to the planner. Then scroll down to enable downloading or printing of the planner if so desired. It is FREE)!
- Invite them face to face or put a handmade invitation in their mailbox and be sure to ask them if they got the invitation.
- Do not be discouraged if they do not come for a while. They are waiting to see if it is something they will like. (LWML activities need to be visible to the rest of the congregation; bulletin announcements, articles in the church’s newsletter, posters on bulletin boards, and in the women’s restroom).
- Make sure when they do come you greet them with a smile. Do not let them stand alone. Assign someone that is uplifting to help them in the meeting.
- Thank them for coming. (Not just AT the meeting, but have someone mail them a thank you note).
- Keep talking to them when you see them. (It doesn’t just need to be at church, but if you see them at the grocery store or restaurant).
- Have the Bible study first, and then new mothers can leave if they need to. They will receive an email with what happened at the meeting so that they do not miss something, and this will build their interest.
- Revamp your meeting. We email the Treasurer report, Secretary report, and anything else that comes up so we can avoid reading them at the meeting.

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- I then ask if there are any changes or corrections, and if not, we as a group approve it.
- We then discuss anything as a group that is coming up and we all plan it. It is not for one person to do alone.
- We try to keep the meeting joyful with laughter and doing things they can enjoy while still building relationships with one another, such as painting tea towels, making a banner, having a lunch. (LWML rallies are a great place to chat with other LWML groups to see what activities/servant projects worked well for them).
- Stay on time!! Do not linger on any subject. Know when to stop the meeting!

What a joy it was to talk with Lucy LWML. It was such an encouragement to me! I don't know about you, but I can't wait to hear ... **the rest of the story.**

Do you have an LWML "Renewal Story" to share? I would love to hear from you!

Diane Meyer  
Renewal Chairman

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**Caring for our Missionary Families**



**Two Mission Grant checks were presented in August...**



Mission Grant # 8 (\$14,000) to Bethany Ev. Lutheran Ministry Outreach. Pictured: from Bethany - Rita Whittow, Rev. Afam Ikanih, and Cinda Poppe, LWML SWD President



Mission Grant # 9 (\$15,000) Patty Silah, LWML SWD Treasurer (center) presented at the dedication of the Playground as an Oasis at the LUMIN campus at St. Martini Lutheran School to Principal Yazmin Perez (lt.) and President CEO of LUMIN, Shaun Luchring (rt).

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LWML SWD gives \$200 to SWD based missionaries when they are home from the mission field. This August, checks were presented to the Rev. Charles Ferry family (in picture) with Patty Silah, LWML SWD Treasurer. A check was also sent to the Rev. David Baker family.



## Who Will Be the Next LWML SWD Treasurer?

My role as your LWML SWD Treasurer is to pay all of the LWML SWD bills, so I am privileged to pay our mite grants, our female church worker scholarships, and our administrative expenses, including paying the costs of delegates to the LWML conventions, the expenses for our LWML SWD conventions, and the costs of fall retreats and winter getaways. It has been amazing to be presenting mite grant checks to our recipients, and see their joy and gratitude. Most of the checks are printed by using bank software so we don't use much postage, envelopes, or check stock any more.

It is also my duty to do financial statements. I am looking forward to being able to do the statements for the biennium of April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2024, for the LWML SWD Convention Manual.

One of the best parts of this position are the relationships that are built with the other 10 people on the Executive Committee. Eleven of us work together for two years to plan and approve many things. Then, at convention, five or six positions are replaced with newly elected officers, and that team of 11 works together for the next two years. Each group grows together as we share our different knowledge and different gifts and work together as a team through prayer and a common goal to serve our Lord. There is much support from this team on an individual and group basis. My computer skills have been expanded by the patient instruction of the VP of Communication and by the encouragement of our District President Cinda to use shared Google documents.

Another especially enjoyable part is to represent the Executive Committee at zone rallies and to bring greetings and information from District President Cinda Poppe and the Executive Committee. I have enjoyed other zone rally formats and speakers and meeting the ladies at those other rallies.

Why am I writing about this position of Treasurer on the Executive Committee? Because NOW is the time to nominate someone as a candidate for the position of Treasurer to be elected at the LWML SWD Convention in June of 2024. Please consider if you or someone in your church or zone or another lady that you know from other LWML events could be nominated for this position. You do NOT have to contact the person that you wish to nominate: the Nominating Committee will contact them.

I have written directions for entering information into the QuickBooks for Non-profits software, and I will remain available to answer questions and concerns of the new person. All of the needed software is loaded onto the laptop that will transfer with the position. This position of Treasurer of the LWML SWD has been more fulfilling and more joyous than I could even have imagined! I am thinking and praying that someone will be moved to nominate and someone to accept this fulfilling opportunity.

Patty Silah  
LWML SWD Treasurer 2020–2024

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!



*Serve the LORD with gladness!*



**Join us for the Winter Getaway on Friday, February 2 and  
Saturday, February 3 at the Milwaukee Marriott West**

Hear about “Growing Together” a mentoring workshop designed by the Women’s Leadership Institute (WLI) as resource material to help reframe mentoring for an abundance of settings. ***Darcy Paape, the director of WLI, will facilitate the three parts of this workshop.***

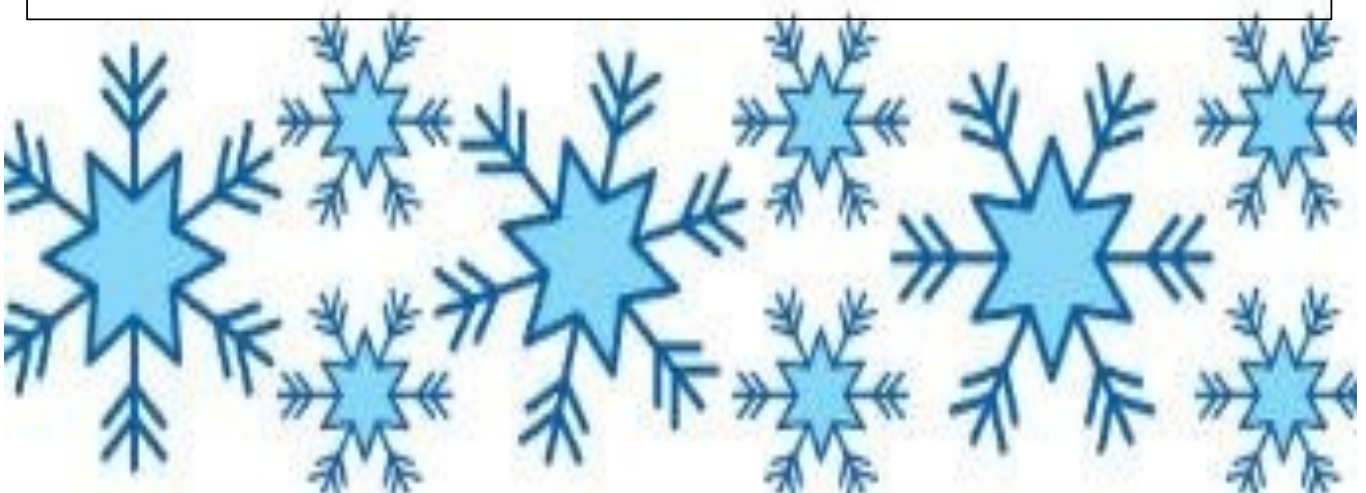
Participants will enjoy small and large group discussions, guided practice exercises, and opportunities to build confidence as they connect with others.

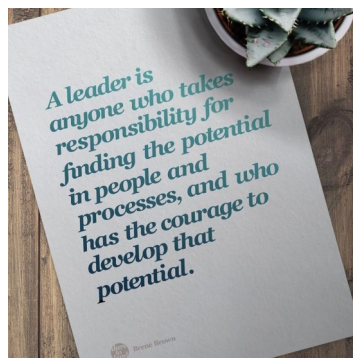
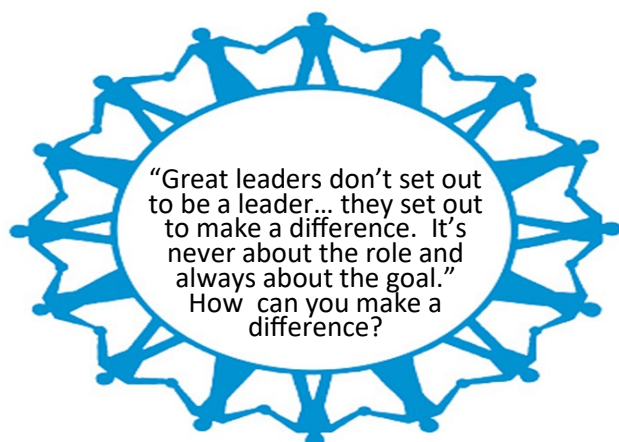
Content is great for anyone looking to improve their communication skills within home, church, or work relationships.



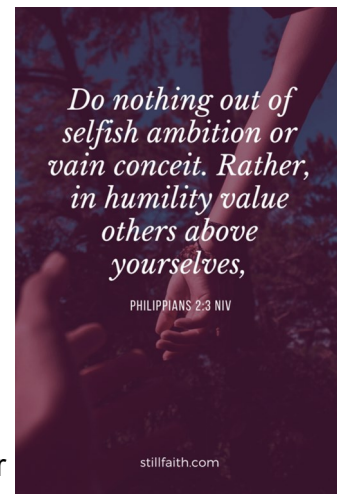
**Gifts from the Heart Recipient : Care packages  
for female students and church workers.**

Complete kits requested! Please include these items:  
socks, facial items, lip gloss, chocolate kisses or hugs,  
Mustard Seed Devotions. Please put items in a quart  
Sized zip locked bag.





Submitted by Jill Jones  
Leader Development Chair



### Leadership Tips to Remember:

#### 1. Leadership is visual.

To be an effective leader, you must lead by example. Therefore, to inspire others to follow you, you need to show who you are. Do so through meaningful action and behaviors, rather than demanding things from others.

#### 2. Build trust with others.

Another one of the greatest lessons from John Maxwell is to build trust amongst those you lead. Otherwise, they will not follow you. Therefore, to do so, you must be competent in your role, connect with others, and show your true character.

#### 3. Leadership is a process, not a position.

Furthermore, it's not uncommon for people to believe that leadership is associated with gaining a specific employment role. However, according to Mr. Maxwell, this is incorrect and damaging. Leadership begins from within. And it can start at any time, not only when you land that employment position you want. Therefore, to be an authentic leader, begin thinking and acting like today as it is a continuous, life-long process."

### HELP WANTED!!

LWML SWD needs volunteers for the following positions:

- ♦ Retreat Co-Chairman - serves under Retreat Chair - Chairs retreat the following year
- ♦ Assistant Music Coordinator - helps plan music for district events - reviews for copyright

Contact President Cinda Poppe if interested or with names to suggest!!

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

### Greetings from the Structure Committee

The SWD Structure Committee looks forward to helping the 21 zones of our district keep their bylaws current as they occasionally review them and consider needed revisions. It is recommended that this is done every four years. The committee has put together a document, "Tips for Reviewing Zone Bylaws," which is located on page 15 of this issue. We hope to have it posted on the LWML-SWD website soon. If there are any questions about this process or other structure/organization issues, don't hesitate to reach out to Diane Timm ([lwmltdimm@gmail.com](mailto:lwmltdimm@gmail.com)) or Barb Kaun ([b.kaun.316@gmail.com](mailto:b.kaun.316@gmail.com)) or Ruth Mueller ([structure@lwml-swd.org](mailto:structure@lwml-swd.org)).



## TIPS FOR REVIEWING ZONE BYLAWS

### Bylaws should:

- Be short and concise. Keep the bylaws simple.
  - \* Only include rules that the organization considers too important that they cannot be changed without notice and by a large majority. Ones that cannot be suspended.
  - \* Consider putting details in Bylaw Standing Rules or in guidelines.
- Include reference to individual members of the LWML.
- Be carefully worded to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.
- Be consistent in terminology. (Use of the LWML Style Guide is suggested.)
- Be consistent in punctuation and capitalization (especially if using lists).
- Have all pages numbered and dated.

### As you start, check your current bylaws for:

- Outdated procedures
- Contradictions
- Lack of consistency (especially in capitalization and punctuation)
- Similar objects not grouped together
- Too many details
- Incomplete information
- Lack of dates

### Process for Amendments and/or Revisions:

- Zone BOD arranges for a review of existing bylaws.
- Submit suggested amendments or revisions to the groups in the zone for their input.
- Submit suggested amendments or revisions to the SWD Structure Committee for review/approval.
  - \* For wording to be deleted, put in red Strikethrough ((~~like so~~))
  - \* For wording to be added, put in blue type (~~like so~~)

- Submit final bylaw document to the groups to review.
- Adopt the final bylaw document at a zone rally.
- Email the approved bylaws to the SWD Structure Committee Chairman for filing.

### Resources:

- Sample LWML Zone Bylaws (from LWML.org website)
- The LWML Style Guide (from LWML.org website)
- LWML SWD Structure Committee Chairman

Submitted by Ruth Mueller - Structure Committee Chairman

## WE LOVE MISSIONS!

Mission grants are on everyone's minds these days. LWML members selected a new slate of grants at the Milwaukee National Convention this past June, and SWD members are collecting mites to pay our remaining grants by the biennial convention next June. Many recipients have already been blessed by SWD mites and we pray that the remaining grants will receive full funding as well, that their mission efforts may continue to be a blessing to God's kingdom.

Meeting our mite goal this biennium is certainly a priority, but meeting that goal also means a new slate of grants will be needed to present to the 2024 convention. All grant proposals need to have been received by October 31, 2023. The Mission Grants Committee will begin review of those proposals by mid-November. The needs of our communities, our country, and the world are many. Pray that those mission needs will be proposed so that our mites may again be used to further the spread of the Gospel.

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



### Funding Our Final Mission Grants!

**Grant #11 SOS Center** – Designed for Success \$20,000 - This social service agency, located at 4620 W North Ave in Milwaukee, has served youth and their families since 1982 when it first opened. That makes 40 years of sharing the love of Christ with those who come through their doors. The after school program helps with homework and provides a safe and loving environment and the Born to Lead because Christ Leads Us group works with high school and young adults in leadership training. The grant reassures the staff and volunteers that what they do is important. They wish to expand and add a focused group for young ladies, Irreplaceable Gems, through which they will learn to love and respect themselves because they are children of God. A grief support group for children and youth is also a need they wish to address.

**Grant #12 Hispanic Outreach Sheboygan County** - Communication and Ministry Partnership \$11,060 - Over seven years ago, visionaries in Sheboygan County conceived a plan to reach out to the growing Hispanic community in their midst. Many churches and individuals got on board to support this ministry since it involves the specialized preaching/teaching in the language of the people. The outreach has resulted in a flourishing congregation meeting weekly for Bible Study and service in Spanish. Newcomers have been catechized and children baptized. The vision now is to continue and expand on this beginning but it will take new sources of revenue to provide financial support and prayers. This grant is instrumental in developing the visual message that will be shared, and for the training of local persons to carry on the work of spreading the message of the Hispanic Outreach with the goal of securing support for many years to come.

## 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 \$ 20,000
12. Hispanic Ministry \$ 11,060

**Total: \$178,060.00**

Please see the website [lwml-swd.org](http://lwml-swd.org) for Mission Grant information. Look under Resources, District then Grants.



## 2023/2024 Events to Remember

Nov 15	Statistical reports due to Corr Sec
Nov 15	Group Officer forms due Corr Sec
Dec 1	TLC Scholarship deadline for Winter Getaway
Dec 1	Nomination forms due - see form
Dec 15	Spring Rally PR due to PR Chair
February 2-3 2024	Winter Getaway - Milwaukee Marriott West - Waukesha
Feb 10	Executive Committee meeting St Paul Lutheran Church Oconomowoc
Feb 12	BOD reports due to Corr Sec
Feb 24	BOD meeting - Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Sun Prairie
March 2	BOD snow date
March 16	Heart to Heart Sisters of all Nations Event - Granville Lutheran School - Milwaukee
April 30	Female Church Worker Scholarship applications due
May 1	TLC Scholarship deadline for District Convention
June 14-15	2024 SWD Convention Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie



## Executive Committee

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