

President's Message

Dear LWML Sisters in Christ,

In the fall of the year many people wear their favorite team colors. Families and friends gather to watch the BIG game and root their teams on to victory! At the SWD Fall Retreat we learned about being precious to God, like a diamond, a diamond in the rough. Unlike wearing the team colors, a diamond has no color, but instead reflects the light that shines on it. As God's diamonds we reflect the light of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

As family and friends gather to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, let the light of Christ shine through you! As each diamond is unique, so are each of us. Each of us is specifically designed, given unique gifts, to meet the needs and serve those around us in response to the gift of salvation that is ours.

Unlike that favorite team whose standing in the playoffs may be uncertain, we know the victory is ours through Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God! When you have time, read Psalm 139; it is a great reminder of the love and care our Master has for us and a great segway to prepare for the Winter Getaway, "Wonderfully Made."

Serving our Lord with you,
Cinda Poppe
LWML SWD President 2020–2026

IMPORTANT NEWS!

Winter Getaway 2025 Update

Same Program - Different Location!

This will now be held at the Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah WI! See pages 6, 7, & 12 of this *Mission Lamp* for complete information!

PLEASE help to share this change!!

Vacancies/Positions to fill

Vacancies that need to be filled as soon as possible.

1. Fall Retreat 2025 Co-Chairman needed to work with Chairman Paula Keefer and share in the fun!
2. Special Focus Ministry — Do you like hearing about what other zones are doing? Compiling the information and then sharing it with others? If so, you may be the perfect person for the Special Focus Ministry!

Currently filled by individuals willing to serve for awhile but would like to work with a potential replacement.

3. Special Funds
4. Archivist/Historian
5. Renewal Committee Chairman

Please contact Cinda Poppe at president@lwml-swd.org if you are interested in any of these positions!

Service Opportunities

Service Opportunities can be found on the website lwml-swd.org.

1. Updated acceptable ink cartridge list found under Missions/Opportunities.
2. Hurricane Relief Opportunities found under Events/Other.

The ONE thing EVERYONE can do is to pray for those directly affected by the hurricanes and for those volunteering to help clean up!

From our Junior Pastoral Counselor

Beloved -

What's clear to you? Your nice crystal glasses? Your plastic cups? The frost on your morning window? Your cup of coffee? If we are asking the literal question, there are a lot of things that can be clear, or opaque, or muddled, or fragmented, or simply fogged over and unclear. When the things that are intended to be clear, aren't clear, we get upset. When the things that aren't meant to be clear, are clear, we get upset. Like coffee. Coffee shouldn't let light through it.

Personal preferences aside, the world attempts to convince and coerce you into thinking that the Scriptures aren't clear, that they have dubious origins, and that it's all just a matter of interpretation. Well, I have news for you: the Word of God is clear. It's meant to be understandable! Is there poetry and prophecy that becomes a bit free form? Sure! Yet, the joy for the clarity of the narratives shouldn't go away. This is why Jesus uses the Scriptures as He is the word of God himself. We should use the word of God too!

If a part of the word of God ruffles our feathers, we shouldn't chalk it up to, "Well, I don't really understand," and move on. Our foe wants to twist the word of God to lie and deceive you. So be equipped with Jesus! We hear in 2 Timothy 3:16, *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.* What wonderful news! St. Paul is telling this to Timothy to prepare him for those who will try to appease itching ears and *accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths* (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

This word of God still stands for you today! Its clarity is apparent, but that doesn't mean it is simple. An ice sculpture is clear, but it is intricately made. The word of God is complicated enough that you can study it your whole life, yet simple enough that you must have faith like a child to enter the kingdom of God, yet that doesn't conflict. A child trusts what their parent tells them. In the same way we trust our Heavenly Father.

Flee from the lie that we "can't hear Jesus" or "Well, it isn't clear enough." Our Lord in John 5:24 gives a clear as crystal assurance, *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.* This means we must take hearing and believing seriously. The faith we have is a gift of God, and the words of life that we are taught should take the highest of priorities. May the Lord keep us from falling into myths and cleverly devised schemes, but hold fast to the one who promised all who believe in Him will pass from death to life.

In Christ,

Pastor Jesse Davis
LWML SWD Jr. Pastoral Counselor
jrpastoralcounselor@lwml-swd.org

Jesus answered " ... For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

John 18:37

Seek
the
Truth...

Mission Grant #2 Check Presentation

I had the pleasure of presenting the second LWML SWD Mission Grant check for the 2024-2026 biennium at the recent SWD Fall Retreat in Fond du Lac. The check to Lutheran Counseling & Family Services to be used for child therapy expansion was presented to Carol Flanary, CEO, at the Friday night session. The check for \$25,000 will be used to expand their child therapy out-patient clinic. There is a great need for mental health counseling to children, especially those with trauma concerns or complex and complicated diagnoses. This counseling is done with a focus on understanding how God's love can help put their challenges into perspective.

It is exciting that the first two mission grants have been paid so quickly after the 2024 convention! There are six more grants to be funded, beginning with the South Wisconsin Church Work grant, so PLEASE continue filling those Mite Boxes!

Judy Gitzlaff
LWML SWD VP of Special Focus Ministries & Mission Grants
vpspecialfocusministries@lwml-swd.org



LWML SWD Special Moments



Left - Pastor Davis is installed as our new Junior Pastoral Counselor by Senior Pastoral Counselor Pastor Polzin. Right - Deaconess Grace Rao from A Place of Refuge presented a beautiful purple shawl to President Cinda as part of the Mites in Action presentation at the Fall BOD meeting.

Greetings from Your VP of Communication

We have all heard the phrase, "Communication is key." This applies to many organizations, including the LWML SWD. The SWD Communication Committee is charged with disseminating important information to our groups and members through our various platforms, such as the *Mission Lamp*, public relations releases, email prayer requests, the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, Facebook, and our website. Communication personnel also make workshops, conventions, and other gatherings run smoothly by having groups and individuals submit information only through the proper channels in a timely manner. If you are planning an event or have other information to share, please get in touch with the appropriate committee chairman or the VP of Communication before you send it out. We will be sure to share your information with all our members.

Kay Nett
LWML SWD VP of Communication
vpcommunication@lwml-swd.org

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Faith like Noah (Hebrews 11:7)

As the VP of Gospel Outreach and Christian Life, I can't help but think of all the ways that we are called to do things that make us a little scared or nervous, especially when we've never done them before, like Noah.

I learned about Noah when I was a three-year-old Sunday school student, and I admired his faith and courage when God told him He was sending a flood and wanted Noah to build an ark (Genesis 6). Having just returned from a trip to Kentucky, where I visited the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter, my admiration has risen to new heights. The sheer size of the ark astounded me. It took faith to build that huge "boat" without the help of modern machinery!

In faith, Noah did as God instructed. He trusted that God would guide him in completing the task, bring the animals to the ark, and give him the knowledge and ability to care for them and save them all through the water. That kind of faith amazes me.

Hebrews 11:7 praises Noah's faith: *By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*

Why are we afraid to step up in faith when God calls us to a task? When we get a phone call from someone asking us to serve, is your first response, "I could never do that?" Why? God may have put your name on someone's mind or heart; perhaps they see something in you that leads them to believe you would serve in that role well. They think you could do that and God does, too.

The next time someone approaches you to serve, rather than thinking you could never do it, pray about it. Be like Noah, do the work, trust God, have faith, and know that God will see you through the waters of your own doubt. I challenge you to have faith like Noah, to be brave and faithful to serve our loving God.

As our LWML pledge states, "we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us." God encourages us to serve. Do not be afraid; be bold and have faith like Noah; God will guide you.

Serving with gladness,

Joan Anderson
LWML SWD VP Gospel Outreach and
Christian Life
vpgospeloutreach@lwml-swd.org



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).*

LWML SWD Zone 7 Fall Rally Report

The South Wisconsin District Zone 7 held their annual Fall Rally on October 12 at St. John Lutheran, Fredonia, Wis., celebrating an ethnic festival.

Speakers included Pastor Chris Raffa, who presented a Bible study focused on witnessing, based on John 1 and Romans 10. Pastor Yia Vang, retired Missionary at Large to the Hmong people in Wisconsin spoke, describing how he had felt God's call to be a Lutheran pastor after coming as a young refugee from Thailand following the Vietnam War. God filled him with a passion to reach the Hmong in Wisconsin, making it his goal to start Lutheran congregations in every major Hmong community, including lifting up men to be their pastors.

Heart to Heart Sisters Joanna Ellis and Mai Thao also spoke about how LWML affected their faith life, bringing them into the church. Public Relations Chairman Jen Schneider encouraged all groups to call on her to find ways to enrich their local groups. After a brief zone meeting, everyone gathered in the fellowship hall for an ethnic potluck, enjoying Christian fellowship with other sisters and brothers in Christ. Food was in abundance with everything from delicious German potato salad to Hmong rice cupcakes to Irish soda bread. The Gifts from the Heart benefitted St. John's Early Childhood Center.



Article and photos submitted by
Roberta Hilgendorf - Zone 7 Secretary

SWD Bookstore News

Greetings sisters and brothers! I am Dawn Ziolecki, the new SWD Bookstore Manager. I was very grateful to Diane Kamrath and her daughter, Kim, for taking care of the bookstore at the SWD Fall Retreat and showing me the ropes. You may order directly from the LWML website, <https://lwml.cph.org>, or if you prefer, you can order from the bookstore for pickup at the SWD Winter Getaway on January 31 and February 1 in Wisconsin Dells. If you would like to place an order with me, please let me know by January 10 by emailing me at the below address. Remember, you will only pay \$1 shipping per item if you pre-order with me. The inventory in the bookstore is kept low, so pre-orders are recommended. Let me know if you have any questions or need assistance. I am looking forward to helping you with your bookstore needs. Thank you.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

Dawn Ziolecki
SWD Bookstore Manager
dzwolf2012@gmail.com





**LWML SWD 2025 Winter
Getaway Jan 31 - Feb 1, 2025
Cranberry Country Lodge
Tomah WI**

The best laid plans...this is why we trust in the Lord our God; our plans are really HIS plans! The Wintergreen Hotel and Conference Center recently notified us that they would be undergoing renovations starting January 5, 2025, and would not be available for our event. Thankfully the Cranberry Country Lodge is available for our dates, is just down the road (45 minute drive) from our original location, and allows our activities to all be centrally located within the hotel. And there is an indoor aquatic center!

The SWD 2025 Winter Getaway Committee invites you to plan for after the holidays! Join us in Tomah for a weekend in which we focus on how WONDERFULLY MADE our great Creator has made us.

Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, will be our speaker. Pastor Salemink will share with us how we are Wonderfully Made by God's Grace, Wonderfully Made as Male & Female, and Wonderfully Made for Needing One Another. On Friday evening we will offer a book discussion breakout session for those interested. *Ladylike: Living Biblically*, by Rebekah Curtis and Rose Adle, reimagines what it means to be a Christian woman in our feminized secular society. The book is available in paperback, digital, and audio formats from Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org). This should be a great discussion! Servant events (some pre-getaway work involved), Mites in Action speakers, Gifts from the Heart opportunities, and general fellowship will add to the weekend. Registration is now open with a January 17, 2025 deadline! A FULLY UPDATED poster and registration form are available on the website at

www.lwml-swd.org under Events-Retreats and in this issue of the *Mission Lamp*. We look forward to having you join us!

Jennifer Olen, Chairman
Anne Herlihy, Co-Chairman
and the rest of the terrific WG Committee!

**2025 LWML SWD Leadership
Development Workshop**

"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).

Join us for the next Leadership Workshop, where we will explore the unique leadership roles that God has prepared for each of us in Christ Jesus. Whether you've never considered yourself a leader or you're looking to deepen your understanding of your calling, this workshop is designed for you. Together, we will engage in inspiring discussions, practical activities, and personal reflection, all aimed at helping you discover and embrace your God-given leadership potential. Learn how to love the leadership path God has set for you, even if it feels new or challenging.

There are two dates at two different locations so pick the one most convenient for you!

The first one will be on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church - 730 County Hwy PPP - Sheboygan Falls.

The second one will be on Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church - 210 S Ringold St - Janesville.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow, connect, and find your place in His plan! More details to come - we look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like to be part of the Leadership Committee, please reach out to Jill Jones - Leadership Committee Chairman at jj.richwood.east@hotmail.com

LWML South Wisconsin District Winter Getaway Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2025

Cranberry Country Lodge
319 Wittig Road, Tomah, WI 54660

Wonderfully Made

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works (Psalm 139:13-14a).



REGISTRATION FORM

Retreat Registration:

- **\$65/attendee** (includes Saturday lunch).
- Check made payable to **LWML SWD** with memo line WG 2025.
- Deadline for registration is January 17, 2025.
- After January 17, registration refunds will be given only under extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the Winter Getaway Committee. No refunds will be given at the event.
- Mail check and registration form to:

Wendie Staus
6988 Lark Ave, Hartford, WI 53027
Phone: 262-673-6154 – Email: staushaus@gmail.com



Hotel Room Registration:

- Special LWML room rates:
 - Room rate for double queen, single king and handicap double queen rooms is \$115.60 + tax.
 - Double queen suites are available for \$158.10 + tax
- Hot breakfast is included and begins at 7am on Saturday.
- Call **(608) 374-2801** for reservations, mention LWML SWD for room rate
- Reservations must be made by December 31, 2024 to guarantee the special room rate.

Please print and cut. Return this lower portion with your registration fee.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Arrival Day: _____ Zone: _____

Home Congregation and City: _____

Emergency Contact: (name and phone number) _____

Age: 12-17 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65-79 80+

Interpreter for deaf/hard of hearing needed _____ Large print materials needed _____

Food allergies (circle): milk eggs shellfish tree nuts peanuts wheat soybeans other _____

Lutheran Laymen's League Convention Report

The North and South Wisconsin Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) District Convention was held on Saturday, October 12, in beautiful Wausau at Trinity Lutheran Church. Their theme for the convention was "Energizing Mission," based on Psalm 89: 1-2. *I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."* Thirty nine LLL members and guests were in attendance.

A communion service opened the convention. The worship service was led by Reverend Preston Paul, North Wisconsin LLL Chaplain; and Reverend Ryan Fehrmann from Aniwa. Neal Schalow, North Wisconsin District President, made introductions. I had the privilege and honor of representing LWML SWD at the convention and addressed the group about LWML and our district. Joan Berquist, LWML North Wisconsin District President, also addressed the group. We enjoyed three dynamic speakers.

Kari Vo, theological editor of Lutheran Hour Ministries and author of LHM Daily Devotions, spoke on "Learning to Live with God." Kari explained that we are all disciples and need to spend time in the Bible, pray, attend church, worship, and live our calling well. Ask God if you desire an extra challenge in your life and diligently pursue it.

After a wonderful box lunch and fellowship, Cathy Robinson, Branch Manager of the Wisconsin – Orphan Grain Train, was our next speaker. Cathy spoke about how Orphan Grain Train began and gave us an update with what they are doing to help people around the world, especially the people of Ukraine.

Our third speaker was Dick Gast, Southern California Lutheran Hour Ministries District President. His wife, Lynn, joined him in speaking about the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) Rose Parade float and the Petal Pushers Volunteers. They have been involved with the LHM float for 34 years and explained that volunteers decorate the LHM float and other floats as a way to defray the cost, as it is a self-funded project of the LHM Float Committee and the Southern District of the International LLL. The 2025 Lutheran Hour Rose Parade Float theme is "Behold! Jesus the Savior is Born".

In 2025 the LHM will have participated in the Rose Parade for 74 years. The Lutheran Hour Ministries Float Committee (LHMFC) invites children (ages Preschool–Grade 8) to participate in our 14th annual float coloring contest. All entries must be postmarked by November 1, 2024. Visit <https://shop.petalpushers.org> for more information.

During our last break before closing of the convention, we were treated to root beer floats. The convention was closed with singing of the Doxology and praying the Lord's Prayer. Thank you for allowing me to represent the district, as the convention was a blessing.

Marilyn Belter
LWML SWD Vice President of Organizational Resources

(See photos from this event on page 9)



The beautiful fall colors of Rib Mountain which is part of the Wausau landscape!



Joan Berquist LWML NWD President & Linda Perot past NWD president



Dr. Kari Vo - Lutheran Hour Ministries



Cathy Robinson
Wisconsin - Orphan Grain Train



Neal Schalow - NWD President



Marilyn Belter with Joan Berquist



Dick (R) and Lynn (L) Gast
representing Lutheran Hour Ministries
Dick is the Float Chairman

The Nominating Committee Needs YOU!

Do you have a passion for the Lord and enjoy sharing that passion with your sisters in Christ? You might consider serving as an LWML South Wisconsin District Officer!

Nominations for the LWML SWD 2026 Officers are now open. Positions open are President, Vice President of Organizational Resources, Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Christian Life, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Jr. Counselor (Pastoral position).

General qualifications include having a passion for the purpose and mission of LWML; being a member of South Wisconsin District LWML; having served as an LWML SWD Zone Officer, Zone Standing Committee Chairman, or Board of Director; access to email; and having leadership abilities.

Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these capacities or nominating someone who would be able to serve. If you are interested in nominating or being nominated, please contact Diane Meyer, SWD Nominating Committee Chairman, at nominations@lwml-swd.org. Nomination deadline is **December 1, 2025**.

Diane Meyer
Nominating Committee Chairman
nominations@lwml-swd.org

WE LOVE MISSIONS!

Greetings from your newly appointed SWD Mission Grants Chairman. I am a member of Monona Lutheran Church in Monona. I've been a part of LWML at our church since I was a young girl, attending meetings with my mom and other women of the congregation. I'm looking forward to learning more about how LWML chooses mission grants and being a part of the process.

I continue to be amazed at the generosity of the women of the LWML. It is such a step of faith we all take as we select the mission grant amount and trust that we will meet our goal over the next biennium! Since the convention in June, where we voted on a grant goal of \$220,000, we have already awarded the first two grants for a total of \$40,000! Praise God!

As you meet with your zones and local groups, remember to use the tools that we have through LWML to encourage members to regularly put money in their Mite Box. One resource we use at our group is the mite prayer calendar which can be found at <https://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/mite-challenge-calendar>. It provides a prayer suggestion for each day. When you finish praying, you can then place some mites in your Mite Box. It can be posted in a prominent place in your home and is a good reminder for all family members. They can be passed out to all congregation members with the calendar to encourage everyone's participation!

LWML has other great resources to help you, so check out their website!

Ellen Peck
Mission Grants Committee Chairman
ellenap3065@gmail.com



How to be a Good Leader

Some tips to consider:

Be grounded in the Word

- Make certain to regularly attend church
- Learn to love the Sacraments
- Study the Word from the sermons and in Bible studies
- Podcasts, CDs, or LWML videos can be of great help!
- Mustard Seed Devotions! <https://www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions>

Have a servant leader's courage

- Learn people's names as quickly as you can—take pictures of them and have them write their names and something to remember on the back
- Be considerate of others
- Value others' opinions
- Be constructively helpful not critically negative
- Take responsibility, especially when it is not your fault
- Try new things and learn from success and failure
- Problem-solve with the group, not for the group

Have a caring heart

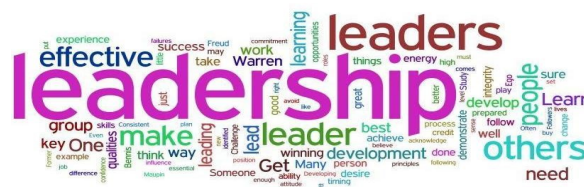
- Send encouragement notes
- Pray for them and tell them they are on your prayer list
- Make up a prayer calendar using birthdays, with each person getting prayed for every month on the day of their birthday
- Ask about them and their families
- Give silly treats at special times
- Give time and effort to people in need—self-sacrifice
- Thank people profusely—thank you notes go a long way.

Have a teachable attitude

- Learn from what friends and foes are saying
- Learn from your mistakes
- Keep learning new leadership strategies and techniques
- Be informed about what you are doing
- Do not get stuck in “But we have always done it that way!”

Adapted from “Characteristics of a Good Leader” (<https://www.lwml.org/posts/leadership/look-of-a-leader>)

Submitted by Jill Jones - Leadership Chairman



LWML Gifts of Love Ministry

Do you have an estate plan? Do you have an old or outdated Christian estate plan? Does creating it or updating it seem like a daunting task? God has entrusted His gifts to you to use. Could it be that He's asking you to consider the LWML as you bring that estate plan to fruition?

Choosing representatives to help update your estate plan and those conversations can be difficult, but your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started and line up what you'd like to share with your family, your children, and your representatives. Contact Carol von Soosten at Carol.vonSoosten@lwnd.org today for more information.

Pat Menden - Special Funds Coordinator

Serve the LORD with gladness!



LWML SWD Winter Getaway January 31 - February 1, 2025

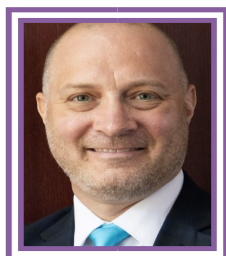
Cranberry Country Lodge
319 Wittig Rd Tomah, WI 54660

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works (Psalm 139:13-14a).

GUEST SPEAKER:

Rev. Michael Salemink,

Executive Director of Lutherans for Life



Sessions on being:

- Wonderfully Made by God's Grace
- Wonderfully Made as Male & Female
- Wonderfully Made for Needing One Another

Registration Fee- \$65

Information available at www.lwml-swd.org

SERVANT EVENTS:

- Eyeglass Cases for MOST Ministries
- Soap Sacks for Hope House of Central Wisconsin

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: SOS Center

Art Supplies, LEGOs, Calculators, Paper Plates, Cups & Cutlery, Ziploc baggies (all sizes), 8 & 13 gal garbage bags, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Dish Soap, Windex, 409, Mr. Clean, Pine Sol

FRIDAY BREAKOUT SESSION BOOK DISCUSSION *Lady*

Like: Living Biblically by Rebekah Curtis & Rose Adle

OFFERING RECIPIENTS: 3/4 for Lutherans for Life and 1/4 for the Female Church Work Scholarship Fund



Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Fall Retreat 2025

September 26-27, 2025

Donna Snow (In Person!!)

Embassy Suites by Hilton Milwaukee
Brookfield

Retreat Chairman: Paula Keefer

Needed: Co-chair and committee members



Update on Mission Grants

2023–2025 Mission Grant 18 - ZOE'S HOME SUPPORT
Trinity Lutheran Church - Clinton MO - \$75,000
Partial Payment - \$25,000

Zoe's Home, a ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton, Missouri, helps homeless and at-risk pregnant and parenting women in need. The home enables women at risk of abortion or losing parental custody to overcome their current life situations and obstacles.

Residents of Zoe's Home engage in spiritual care through church activities and required Bible studies. The women participate in activities and classes to grow life skills in parenting, finances, cooking, and hygiene.

After a one-year stay in Zoe's Home, the residents' goals are to complete their education, find steady employment, procure reliable transportation, attain financial independence, find independent housing, and actively engage in church and community support services.

This grant will provide funds to meet the costs to ensure housing, food, transportation, life skills education, case management, and staffing for Zoe's Home.



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

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.

Nominations for officers are closed...

but you might be interested to know what officer positions will be voted for in 2025! They are the following:

Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Communication, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Recording Secretary and the next Nominating Committee (5).

Please keep the Nominating Committee and all the nominees in your prayers as they continue the process of selecting the names to appear on the ballot for the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska



Every biennium, Lutheran Women in Mission receives mission grant proposals from organizations poised to spread the Gospel and serve others. This biennium, we received a record-breaking **112 submissions!** Our hearts overflow with joy and praise for God's glorious work through Lutheran Women in Mission.

Each proposal is an opportunity to extend Christ's love to communities across the globe. It is exciting to witness this unprecedented flood of passion for missions!

The LWML Mission Grant Selection Committee is comprised of nine members responsible for reviewing and evaluating each proposal based on established criteria. They will prayerfully select which grant proposals will be placed on the ballot for the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha, Neb. Please pray for these volunteers, dedicating their time and wisdom to this massive project. Pray for them to seek and know God's will for each ministry being considered.



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!**

Learn more about the Lutheran Women in Mission's 42nd Biennial Convention at lwml.org/convention



Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

DID YOU KNOW? March 15 is the deadline for your 2025 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order! It is not too early to start thinking about your subscription. For your group's planning purposes, I have been told that the price of the 2025 Quarterlies will remain the same as last year.

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 an LWML SWD Receipt Voucher along with your check made payable to LWML SWD. Mail them all to LWML SWD Financial Secretary Wendie Staus (address on Receipt Voucher). The 2025 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* order form and 2022-2024 LWML SWD Receipt Voucher are available on the LWML SWD webpage under Resources/Society.

Questions? Please contact me at the below email. The 2025 Quarterly subscription orders begin with the 2025 summer issue through 2026 spring issue. I look forward to getting your order in the new year!

Paula Keefer
LWQ Manager
paulajkeefer@gmail.com

SWD YWRs NEEDED for Omaha 2025!

We are already looking ahead to the LWML convention in Omaha in 2025! Applications are currently being accepted to represent our district as YWRs in Omaha. More information and the application can be found at www.lwml-swd.org under Events then Conventions. The deadline for applications is January 26, 2025. If you have any other questions, please email Carmen Schallock, Young Women's Committee Chairman, at ywchairman@lwml-swd.org.

The Love of Christ Scholarship Fund

This special fund has been expanded and now supports three scholarships!

Since 1998, the TLC has historically provided financial assistance to women in the South Wisconsin District to attend district LWML events, such as retreats and conventions. The TLC continues to award these grants.

The TLC will also now be providing financial assistance for an LWML BOD member, a non-delegate zone officer and/or a former Young Women's Representative (YWR) to attend a national LWML convention.

While we continue to offer a separate Female Church Work Scholarship, the third area of expanded TLC reach is the LWML SWD Deaconess Candidate Scholarship. This scholarship is intended for post deaconess graduate studies.

Further explanation, rules and deadlines for the scholarships as well as the applications can be found at lwml-swd.org. The TLC fund is supported by a percentage of the SWD Biennial Convention offerings and special gifts.

Please spread the word about these expanded scholarship opportunities so that more women in our district can benefit, grow in their faith, and be a blessing to others!

Cinda Poppe
LWML SWD President



Partnering in Missions!

SWD 2024 Fall Retreat: The weather was perfect, and the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center was a perfect setting for our retreat! We were humbled to realize how 'treasured' we are as God's children from our presenters, Pastor Polzin, Cinda Poppe, and Michelle Prince! Our offering totaled \$2,405.28, with \$1,803.96 going to Journeys Lutheran School and \$601.32 being applied to our Female Church Work Scholarship Fund. Mite contributions totaled \$589.42. An outpouring of Gifts from the Heart was presented to the Hope Lutheran Food Pantry and Charis Pregnancy and Family Help Center, both in Fond du Lac. Lap blankets were completed and mitten ornaments were created for The Lutheran Home in Wauwatosa. It was a wonderful time for Christian fellowship and renewed friendships.

Mission Grants: Our grant #1 (Orphan Grain Train, Wisconsin Branch) and #2 (LCFS) have been paid and we are now working toward grant #3, the SWD Church Work Student grant, 30,000. As of the end of September, the amount needed to pay this grant is \$27,069.33.

Thrivent Financial: Are you a Thrivent member? If so, are you aware of the Thrivent Choice Dollars program? This is a program where eligible Thrivent clients can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds, including directing to nonprofit organizations such as the LWML SWD. For more information on eligibility for this program, please contact your Thrivent representative.

As always, thank you for your generous mite contributions!

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



2024-2026 Mission Grants

These are the 2024-2026 Mission Grants:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Orphan Grain Train - Wisconsin Branch | |
| | Paid in FULL! \$15,000 |
| 2. Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of WI
Child Therapy Expansion - Mental Health
Coverage | Paid in FULL! \$25,000 |
| 3. SWD Church Worker Grants | \$30,000 |
| 4. LCC Comfort Dogs of WI | \$21,000 |
| 5. Teaching God's Children with Special Needs -
Journey School | \$50,000 |
| 6. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church MKE -
Restoration | \$25,000 |
| 7. Financial Assistance for CTS, Fort
Wayne Food & Clothing Co-op | \$15,000 |
| 8. 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 that 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.

Please see the website lwml-swd.org for Mission Grant information. Look under Resources then District and each grant is listed. Posters and bulletin inserts with pictures and full project descriptions are now available for you to use in your groups and congregations!



2024/2025 Events to Remember

- Nov 2 Zone Presidents + One Training
9 am - 4 pm Bethlehem LC - Wales
- Nov 15 Statistical Reports due to Corr Sec
- Nov 15 Group Officer forms due to Corr Sec
- Dec 15 Spring Rally forms due to PR Chair
- Jan 15 *Mission Lamp* articles due
- Jan 31 9-4 EC Mtg - St Peter LC - Reedsburg
- Jan 31-Feb 1 Winter Getaway - Cranberry
Country Lodge Tomah WI
see details on pgs 6, 7 & 12
of this issue of the *Mission Lamp*
- Feb 1 TLC Scholarships due to Pres
- Feb 8 9-4 BOD mtg - location TBD
- Feb 22 Snow date BOD mtg



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