



"Serve the Lord with Gladness..." Psalm 100:2

Greetings in the name of our Newborn King and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This past October, the LWML Minnesota North District sent five participants to the Assembly of Leaders meeting in St. Louis, MO. They are working to bring the information they received to present it to the rest of the district this year. The AOL team members are; Valerie Johnson, Julia Johnson, Leanna Hasbargen, Elizabeth McTighe and Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy. They will be presenting a training session at the LWML Retreat in August.

In addition to the Retreat training event, they will be recording a skit video to be used by all Zones/Groups and will be presented at Group meetings and Zone rallies. Please watch for more information as the plans are finalized.

The LWML convention in Milwaukee is quickly approaching. In the Winter edition of *The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* you will find all the registration information, speaker biographies and housing information. Please look this over carefully and start to make your plans now. Our Zone delegates have been chosen and we will have 16 of the 17 Zones represented at the convention.

The Theme for the 2023 convention is *Celebrate the Lord of the Nations*. Dates are June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, WI. We are encouraging you to attend this convention as it is relatively close by and easy to travel to. Refer to *The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for full information on all the events and activities being planned.

I have had the opportunity to attend some three rallies this past fall and again have met so many wonderful ladies who are working for the Lord Jesus Christ. Our bylaws state: "For mutual encouragement and inspiration, regional and/or zone rallies, mission fairs and/or workshops shall be held". Attending these rallies have been uplifting and so much fun!! Fellowshiping with believers is so important. I encourage you all to attend your zone rally, and if you can, attend any other zone rally.

I keep you all and the LWML in my prayers as we go forward "Serving the Lord with gladness."

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

Blessings to you all,

Kathy Brandt,
LWML Minnesota North District President
president@lwmlmnn.org



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Leader Development

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Rev. Reed Stockman, Pastoral Counselor • Emily Gruenwald
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Recently our LWML group experienced a fun event that showed love and appreciation to women who have been serving longer than some. Our "younger" Circle provided a morning of appreciation by starting with a continental breakfast and time for fellowship (talking and laughter), an ice-breaker, a Bible study and then lunch. They also had giveaways! It was a great time of sharing and celebrating!

The "ice-breaker" was taken from the new "What's Your Why?" taken from the Assembly of Leaders, 2022, on the LWML Website. Our program leaders chose five questions that led to great discussion and even a lot of laughter. Those questions chosen were:

1. Who introduced you to the LWML?
2. Why are you or why did you get involved in the LWML?
3. What is (or was) the most exciting part of being a Lutheran Woman in Mission?
4. Who could you introduce to the LWML and how could you encourage them to participate with you?
5. What specific new idea (or old idea) can you share that will make a difference in your local group zone, or district?

Following this time of sharing, our Bible study leader chose the Gift of Service, part six of the Gifts, Chosen For You, part 6. Good learning and sharing. This complete Bible study can be found on the website. Take a look!

Carole Borchers
Leader Development Chairman

2023 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 15	Group Reports Due to Zone Officers
Jan 31	Zone Reports Due to Zone Officers
Mar-May	Spring Rallies
Mar 15	Minnesota Northern Light Spring Issue articles due
Apr 11	BOD Meeting
June 15	Minnesota Northern Light Fall Issue articles due
June 22-25	LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI

Mustard Seed
Devotions can be sent directly to your email daily. Visit www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions to sign up.



Milwaukee Convention Bus



LWML Convention

June 22-25, 2023
at the Wisconsin Center In Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

As we are making plans to Celebrate the **Lord of the Nations** at the 40th Biennial LWML Convention in Milwaukee we are also making plans to travel to the Convention. You are encouraged to travel by bus. Let someone else do the planning and the driving.

There will be two buses going from the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts. While all the plans are not complete, this is what we do know.

There is still plenty of room for people to ride. If you have not signed up, let me know as soon as you can. It won't be too late to sign up. I will need your name, address, email address, and cell phone number if you have one.

The buses will leave Minnesota on June 21, and return on the June 26. Current plans are to have one bus start the trip in Bemidji and another one in Fargo. Passengers will be picked up on the way. The stops they will be making along the way will be finalized once we have a list of passengers' addresses. Comfort and meal stops also will be available along the way.

Current plans are to arrive in Milwaukee late Wednesday afternoon/evening. That will give time to participate in the Thursday events such as Servant Events, Choir practice, donating blood and pre-convention activities scheduled for the delegates.

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

The hotel for Charter bus travelers has not been identified yet. I will be working with the convention staff to do the hotel registration for the bus travelers. When you register for the convention, **do not** register for a hotel unless you are planning to stay in a different hotel. Anyone wanting to stay at another hotel will need to make their own arrangements to get to and from that hotel.

The bus will be providing shuttle service to and from the hotel where we will be staying and the convention center.

It is anticipated the round-trip cost for travel to and from the convention will probably range from \$200 - \$230. There is plenty of room for additional passengers. If there are more than anticipated, the cost will be less. This **does not** include motels and extra-cost activities.

Please check the Lutheran Women's Quarterly and online at www.lwml.org for more convention related information.

There is still time to sign up to take the bus. Contact Nadine Drevlow at drevlowmn@hotmail.com or (218) 770-3679, Esther Schlicker at easchlick@gmail.com or (218) 316-2924, your Zone President, Regional VP or District President, Kathy Brandt.

Young Women

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Rev. Reed Stockman, Pastoral Counselor • Barbara Angland • Marcia Lips • Stacy Larsen

When I was first living in Florida, a friend at church asked me if I would like to go to breakfast with her on a Saturday morning. She picked me up on Saturday and took me to my first LWML Zone Rally. At this point, I was unfamiliar with the LWML, but I really enjoyed the fellowship with other women, the Bible study, music, and delicious coffee! Several months later, she asked me to go with her again and I agreed. I still wasn't sure what the LWML represented. I went and was asked if I would be interested in being a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the district convention. I filled out the application and was accepted.

At the district convention, I finally understood what the LWML was all about. I knew about Mite Boxes, but at the district convention I was able to see how that money added up and where that money went. I saw the heart of these kind LWML ladies and what fun they have getting dressed up in purple. After that convention, I was approached to see if I would be interested in attending a national LWML convention. I filled out the paperwork and was so excited when I was accepted to be one of the two YWR Representatives from the Florida-Georgia District to attend the 2009 National LWML Convention in Portland, OR.

At the national convention, I was able to see that well over \$1,000,000 is collected every two years and distributed to missions around the world. I was in complete awe and I sat in a room with 5,000 other women who love Jesus and want to share that love with everyone. I met many amazing women on that trip with whom I still keep in contact and am able to be encouraged by and encourage through social media when we are not gathered together. At the 2021 National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, I was

able to meet up with the lady who invited me to the first LWML rally in Florida and attend the worship service with her.

I encourage you to invite someone you know to come attend an LWML function with you. Continue inviting her so she too can see what the LWML is all about.

God Bless the LWML.

Stacy Larsen,
YW Committee Member

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11).



Gayle Caruso and Stacy Larsen


WHAT'S YOUR 80?
1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

What's Your 80?

In thanksgiving for 80 years of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission.

We are planning a montage of your activities at the 2023 LWML Convention on June 22-25 in Milwaukee. Be sure to take a picture of your group's 80. Submit one or two photos and brief description of "your 80" to depcom@lwml.org. These will be used to build the montage. If you would like your pictures and information included in the Northern Light Newsletter, send them to editor@lwmlmnn.org in addition to depcom@lwml.org. Visit lwml.org/80 for more information.



Moorhead LWML quilters made over 80 bibs for the Christian Children's Center at Our Redeemer.



Moorhead LWML wrote over 80 notes of encouragement to the city rehabilitation center and jail through an organization called Hearts of Clay. They also provided a Christmas basket for one of the rehabilitation homes.


WHAT'S YOUR 80?
1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace
What's Your 80?

Photos from "What's Your 80?" skit presented by Detroit Lakes LWML on LWML Sunday. Idea taken from Trinity Bemidji's LWML, who also presented a "What's Your 80?" skit.



LuAnn Carow, Kathy Steinmetz, Betty Greiff, and Evonne Bode (in rocking chair)



Betty Greiff, Kathy Steinmetz, Tina McDonald, and LuAnn Carow



What's Your 80?

The year 2022 marks the 80th Anniversary of the LWML. Much has changed in our world and within the LWML in those 80 years but the heart of LWML remains the same – to serve God by serving others.



Detroit Lakes LWML Skit Cont'd - When Vikings took the colors of the LWML: Rev. Ratcliffe, Julie Woeste, and Jessie Steeke. Linda Boedigheimer, narrator.

Mission Grants Report

A total amount of \$21,000 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$3,000 for Orphan Grain Train; \$3,000 for C.R.O.S.S. Appeal; \$3,000 for Lutheran Island Camp, Summer Camp Program Updates; \$2,000 for Swaddling Clothes; \$2,000 for "Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program; \$2,000 for DOXOLOGY Pastoral Care and Well-Being; \$2,000 for Project 24, Christ's Care for Children - Kenya; \$2,000 for New Shepherds for South Sudan; \$2,000 for Connecting People in an inclusive Christian Housing Community. The chart below details the current balance remaining for the 2022-2024 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2022-2024 BIENNIUM (Balance as of January 11, 2023)	GRANT AMOUNT	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Orphan Grain Train	\$10,000	\$2,000
Grant 2	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$18,000	\$8,000
Grant 3	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	\$6,000
Grant 4	Lutheran Island Camp, Summer Camp Program Updates	\$10,000	\$6,500
Grant 5	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students	\$32,000	\$21,000
Grant 6	Swaddling Clothes	\$10,000	\$5,000
Grant 7	"Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program	\$10,000	\$6,000
Grant 8	Doxology Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000	\$11,000
Grant 9	Project 24, Christ's Care for Children - Kenya	\$10,800	\$6,800
Grant 10	New Shepherds for South Sudan	\$7,500	\$3,500
Grant 11	Promoting an Inclusive Christian Housing Community of Faith	\$13,700	\$9,700
	TOTALS	\$145,000	\$106,500

Human Care

Jean Tester, Chairman • humancare@lwmlmnn.org • 218-207-9654

Committee Members

Rev. Reed Stockman, Pastoral Counselor • Sheri Adkins • Sandra Trittin • Bev Olson

In this season when we ask our societies and zones to send in a count of what they have done, it feels very close to boasting about all our good work. When I listened to Pastor Bernie Worrall (Immanuel, Fargo, ND) preach from "The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-17)", I was again reminded of God's attitude toward exalting ourselves.

If counting reminds us of how much we have and the many needs in our community and world, it is good to do so. If counting and recording gives other sisters in the LWML ideas of new ways to serve the Lord, especially if it inspires new workers in our congregations to join in, it is God pleasing. If counting gives us a way to give God the glory as we rejoice in the joy of His birth, death, and resurrection and we pass that joy on to those around us, we are living God's plan.

If counting leads us to think, however, like the Pharisee – "See Lord how much I am doing," compared to my neighbor, then our 'gifts of service' are not God pleasing. Counting could tempt us to forget that all that we have are 'gifts from God', for which God asks us to be good stewards. That means God asks us to use these resources in His service and to His glory. If counting leads anyone to think that they are earning a place in heaven by their hard work here on earth,

it is a bad thing. If we LWML women, who know that the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is our only way to eternal life and we are not mindful of this, the devil could use that counting to tempt others whose faith is not that strong. So if we speak and demonstrate by our actions that we know that we are justified ONLY by what Christ has done, we can inspire, be creative, share our abundance, and count as we *Serve the LORD with Gladness!* (Psalm 100:2).

Inspiration from 2022 Human Care reports from 14 of the 17 zones

- Brought lunch to widows
- Supported fostering families
- 80 postcards for women in jail
- Celebrated 80th birthdays in honor of LWML 80th anniversary
- "Jesus paid the price." on popsicle stick crosses covered in pennies - handed out on Ash Wednesday at Church and nursing homes

Jean Tester
Human Care Chairman



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world.

Scholarships

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Committee Members

Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Pastoral Counselor • Valerie Johnson • Connie Groen

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him (James 1:5).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7).

Has anyone ever learned too much of God's Word? Has anyone ever learned all that they need to know about the Word of the Lord? Has anyone ever not benefited from the Truth?

I like to encourage my Sunday school students to be where God may work in them so that they desire the wisdom of the Lord above all earthly studies. I am certain that if they desire the wisdom of the Lord, they have Christ and they shall have the armor they need for whatever they encounter in life and shall be brought into eternal life in heaven.

At the Appleton Zone Joy Shop this fall, Rev. Nabil Nour encouraged us to "pass the baton" to the younger generation. He said "God wants the lives of His people to be so permeated with His Word that everywhere they go or look, His Words loom large before their eyes. Sitting or lying down? Yes. In between their eyes? Yes. On the door post? Yes. Our lives are to be awash with God's Words."

Our Lutheran schools offer learning beyond what is necessary for a life here on earth. They go above and beyond to teach the wisdom of the Lord and eternal life.

Learning the wisdom of the Lord is hard work, but not impossible. God gives us the gift of His Word to make us wise unto salvation. He puts wisdom inside of us through Baptism, the Lord's Supper and hearing of the Word.

It is never wrong to spend time and money for an education from an LCMS Lutheran school. It may be harder and require more resources, but that is nothing compared to the riches gained through the study of His Word. As the Bible says, "*The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.*" (Psalm 9:9) and "*The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe*" (Proverbs 18:10).

Perhaps because you have Christ living within you and you are His temple, it shall be easier for you to sit at the feet of Christ and study His Word than it is to constantly fight against God, to run after worldly pleasures. Because you have Christ living within you, you can step out in faith, trusting that no matter how much the devil and your sinful flesh tries to deceive you, the Lord Jesus Christ shall provide all the wisdom you need to successfully achieve His purposes for you.

I encourage you, no matter how old you are, to step out in faith and not hinder the wisdom of the Lord. Study His Truth yourself and use your resources to teach others as well. You shall not be disappointed.

The Minnesota North District LWML uses many of their resources to encourage the spreading of wisdom of the Lord. One way this is done is to offer scholarships for those within the Minnesota North District attending one of our synodical colleges for a church worker degree. To learn more about the scholarships visit the LWML District website at lwmlmnn.org. The scholarships link can be found under the committee menu.

Teresa Klatt,
Scholarship Committee Chairman

Structure

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Committee Members

Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Pastoral Counselor • Beth Heller • Sonya Gunderson

But all things should be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Do you recall a time when you had a mess to clean up and it was harder than it should have been? Exodus 14:14 reminds us that *"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."* The same holds true in our mission work as the Women and Men of the LWML. We may not always agree with everything that we are working on within our groups or zones; however, we are still working for the Lord. As LWML members, we are to always serve the Lord with gladness!

Take a moment to reflect on our meetings within our groups and zones. What do you like about your meetings? What would you change? How are your meetings structured? Do you bring a lime Jell-O salad on the 4th Tuesday at 2:37 p.m.? What if you brought a lettuce salad instead? Your LWML Sisters won't disown you and God won't either! *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness (Psalm 86:15).*

In your reflection, did you smile when you thought about your meetings? Did your reflection bring you to the positive or to the negative aspects first? Paul tells us about being anxious, *"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* (Phillipians 4:6).

We often get anxious when we hear the word 'Structure'. We are all one unit under God, working to serve HIM throughout our work and life. The word 'structure' refers to how we run our meetings and that looks different for every group. Here are some basic tips to help your group run smoothly:



1. **Pray:** Pray for each other, the work you are doing, and to help guide your hearts and minds.



2. **Bible Study/Devotion:** Incorporate a devotion or a bible study into your meetings to become closer to God.



3. **Business Meetings:** Parliamentary procedure will help make things go as smoothly as possible. This also depends on how many people you have at your meetings. A larger group will be easier to manage with parliamentary procedure.



4. **Constitution:** If your constitution is outdated, or you have inadvertently changed how you have managed your group, our structure committee can help you!



5. **Fun:** Most of all, make sure you don't get caught up in all the 'rules'. You are God's children that are here to serve His Kingdom. Make your meetings enjoyable, encourage others, and in all that you do, give Thanks to God!

Structure (cont'd)

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League prides itself on the mission work that we do throughout our groups, zones, and districts, nationally and around the world. The structure of the organization helps us to move forward and act as one, with all the moving parts needed to attain such a lasting impact. Our groups are a very important part of the organization, because without you, the LWML wouldn’t be what it is! Remember to keep praying, be in the Word, use structure guidelines to make your meetings go more smoothly, and most importantly, have FUN doing God’s work.

And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail (Isaiah 58:11).

Karen Gorentz,
Structure Chairman



Christian Life

Valerie Johnson, Chairman • christianlife@lwmlmnn.org • 320-760-9540

Committee Members

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy, Pastoral Counselor • Corky Rainer • Peggy Pasche • Esther Schlicker

As fall comes, the chill in the air and an occasional snowflake or two, we are reminded of the warmth of God’s love for us — always there and wrapped around us. Because of Jesus we are never left out in the cold.

With the coming of the Birth of Christ we celebrate the coming of the Messiah, God’s gift of His Son. We will always have a safe and warm place in eternity. *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

Keep the message of Jesus in the Christmas season with the many resources available on lwml.org for program helps and bible studies of the season. A wonderful way to incorporate “What’s your 80?” into your holiday would be by sending 80 Christmas cards. I will have given out 80 cards to church members, LWML Board members and family and friends. As angels announced the joy of His holy birth and the joy of His resurrection, may your life be filled with the Joy of Christ.

In Christ,

Valerie Johnson
Christian Life Chairman



Memorials and Honorariums

October 2022 to December 2022

- In memory of Lorraine Kent from Susan Schmidt
- In memory of Esther Berger from Alexandria, Zion Evening Guild
- In memory of Arlene Bailey from Sauk Centre, Zion LWML
- In memory of Arlene Hoffman from Bellingham, Trinity Ladies Aid
- In memory of Sharon Wentzlaff from Tom & Gwen Ruhoff
- In honor of Bud & Dorothy Vangness' Anniversary from Bellingham, Trinity
- In memory of Jerome Bardson from Corky Rainer
- In memory of Noreen Clasen from Doris Weispfennig
- In memory of Jerome Bardson from Yvonne Bardson
- In memory of Howard Drackley from Corky Rainer
- In memory of Ann Lunning from Ottertail, St. John's LWML
- In memory of Marlyn Vangness from Bellingham, Trinity
- In memory of Lorraine Kent from Diane Althoff
- In memory of Vivian Koenecke from Alexandria, Zion
- In memory of Alice Normandin from Bill and Helen Phalen
- In memory of Argil Lueders from Ottertail, St. John's
- In memory of Janet Stockman from Jon and Glenice Hall

Memorial gifts and honorariums should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Jan Carlson, 408 3rd Ave S, Princeton MN 55371. Phone: 763-631-0399 (C), financialsec@lwmlmnn.org. The financial remittance form can be downloaded from the resources page of our district website at lwmlmnn.org.

LWML 2023 Prayer Service

The 2023 Prayer Service, written by former LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler of Clarinda, Iowa, is "My Soul Rejoices," based on Psalm 5:11a. It will bless your heart and life as you join with your sisters and brothers in singing songs of prayer and praise to the Lord who continues to bless you daily. Singing familiar hymns, joining together in the Word, and spending time in prayer, individually and corporately, will help you recognize and give thanks for your God-given blessings. "My Soul Rejoices" is filled with hymns, the Word, and prayer. You can look forward to a joyous and uplifting worship service whether it is used in the congregation or the LWML district, zone, or group.

You can find this prayer service at lwml.org under news and events.

"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy ..." (Psalm 5:11a)



MISSION GOAL REACHED!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



As you may know, the National LWML Mission Goal for the 2021–2023 biennium is \$2,150,000.

We have great news!

We are filled with gratitude and joy as we announce that God has worked through your generosity and stewardship to surpass this goal. The Mite offerings you have shared now total \$2,154,511. Visit lwml.org/posts/news/2021-2023-mission-goal-reached for more info.

LWML MN North District Board of Directors



LWML MN North District
www.lwmlmnn.org
 LWML: www.lwml.org

Submit an article

Does your zone or society have an event or story to share? Please send your article and pictures to the Editor at: editor@lwmlmnn.org.

Minnesota Northern Light

Sign up to receive an email notice each quarter announcing when the *Minnesota Northern Light* is ready to download from the district website: www.lwmlmnn.org.

Prayer & Praise Mite Calendar

A great help in your prayer and praise life – especially remembering the mission grants we’re supporting. Download this month’s calendar from the Publication Menu.

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