



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

President's Message

Greetings Dear Sisters in Christ! Springtime is here, fulfilling another of God's promises. *"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."* (Genesis 8:22)

Spring Rallies will be happening in April and May. I hope you are all planning to attend your zone rally. The speakers who have been scheduled will bring enlightenment and encouragement on a variety of topics. Meet your fellow LWML sisters and enjoy the day together.



The 41st Biennial Convention of the LWML will be in Omaha, NE, June 26-29, 2025. The theme is "Growing in God's Grace." The Bible verse is 2 Peter 3:18, "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."

All the information you will need about the convention can be found in the Winter Quarterly or at LWML.org under the "Convention Central" tab.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Kris Whitby who is currently serving as assistant to the President-Mission and Ministry for the LCMS Northern Illinois District.

The Bible Study leader will be Christina Hergenrader from Friendswood, Texas. She is the author of 12 books and many Bible Studies.

I look forward to seeing many of you in April and May at rallies and in June in Omaha as we celebrate the joy of God's grace!



Serving Him with You,
Kathy Brandt
LWML MN North District
President

Index...

President's Message	1
2025 Prayer Service	2
41st Biennial Convention	3
Human Care	4
Scholarships	5
Mission Grants	6
Leader Development	7
Young Women	8
Memorials & Honorariums	8
Christian Life	9
Structure	10
2025 LWML Retreat, LIC	11
2025 LWML Retreat Information	12
Board of Directors	13
Board Committees	13



**2025 Prayer Service
now available**

Find it at lwml.org

Click on News and Events Menu Choose Prayer Service

UPCOMING DATES:

June 15	Minnesota Northern Light Newsletter articles due
June 25-29	41st Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha, NE
July 8	Minnesota North District Board of Directors, Baxter, MN
Aug 8-10	Minnesota North District Retreat, Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN
July-August	Zone Board and Planning Meetings

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@lwmlmn.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.lwmlmn.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.



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

41st Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 26–Sunday, June 29, 2025



2025 Convention

Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Convention Center: CHI Health Center,
455 N 10th St, Omaha, NE, 68102

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:

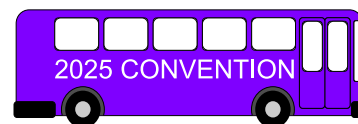
Each convention attendee will be:

- 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.

Convention Logo Explanation:

The 2025 Lutheran Women in Mission Convention logo features green leaves sprouting up and revealing the Lutheran Women in Mission icon to signify Growing in God's Grace. It is based on the convention verse, 2 Peter 3:18 — *"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."*

A fresh, bright green color is used for the leaves and the word "grace" to indicate new growth and to connect it with God's grace. Including the Lutheran Women in Mission icon links the logo with our organization and the convention goal "Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim



Karen Gorentz is lining up busses to go to the convention. One bus will start in Fargo, ND and then to Willmar, MN, the other starts in Bemidji and goes to Wadena, then to Sauk Centre. Call Karen at 218-234-3716 for more information.

Human Care

Jean Tester, Chairman
humancare@lwmlmnn.org

Does God get the glory?

Our mercy mission is to reflect the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we do those acts of service or provide for people's needs with supplies or money, we open the opportunity for someone to ask, 'Why are you doing this?' If sharing the love of Jesus is our primary mission, we should be sending our money and gifts of the heart to organizations who are also working toward that goal. In LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison's article, From the President section in the March 2025 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*, he addresses RSO's (Recognized Service Organizations) of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. The LCMS.org website says, "RSO's agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of LCMS."

How can we use that information in MN North? When we are asked to give or make, we can check to see if that organization is on the RSO list. If it is a local organization, we do the best we can to understand what that organization is doing in relation to the LCMS doctrine, especially in regarding life, marriage and families.

Reverend Matthew Harrison, in his article, specifically talks about Lutheran World Relief. "As the ELCA wandered away from the clear biblical teachings on sexual morality, this (LIRS)* and other intersections of the ELCA and the LCMS (such as Lutheran Disaster Response, institutional chaplaincy, military chaplaincy, Lutheran World Relief and so on) became ever more challenging." Lutheran World Relief has followed the ELCA. "Lutheran World Relief...became and remains a rebranded independent entity apart from the LCMS. ...It does charitable work as a

government contractor. There is no specifically Christian content, no sharing of the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins."

Since there is an RSO that does the same work plus more, it seems appropriate to make the change to send our quilts and kits to Orphan Grain Train. The gifts sent to Orphan Grain Train are delivered to LCMS churches. A specific example is from the articles after hurricane Helene about the Church in Asheville, North Carolina that received supplies from OGT and then distributed those supplies. Likewise, gifts to foreign destinations go to groups, organizations or churches that are connected to LCMS by doctrine.

Is that doctrinal connection important? It is. Just as in the apostle Paul's day when issues arose, his response was that Christians should not be "stumbling blocks" (1 Corinthians 8:9) to anyone. We want the message to be clear. These gifts are for you because of Jesus' love for us and for you. No other issues should get in the way of this and it's important that when that gift is received and the question (Why are you doing this?) is asked the answer can be clear. You are getting this gift because of the incredible gift our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ has given to us by dying for our sins!

**For more information on LIRS (Lutheran Information and Refugee Service) and LCMS connection to it read Reverend Matthew Harrison's full article in the Lutheran Witness, March 2025.*

Scholarships

Pam Stauty, Chairman
scholarships@lwmlmnn.org

Scholarships available through the LWML Minnesota North District are available to members of LCMS congregations attending or planning to attend one of the LCMS Concordia Universities or one of the two LCMS Seminaries with the intent of entering into full time church work within the Synod. Full time church work includes areas of service such as Deaconess, Church school teacher, Director of Christian Education, Director of Christian Outreach, Director of Parish Music, Director of Family Life Ministry, and much more. Also, men preparing for ordination at either Concordia Seminary, St. Louis or Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, are eligible for scholarships through the LWML Minnesota North District.

Applicants for the scholarships must be preparing for full time church work in the LCMS, be a resident of the Minnesota North District, a member of a LCMS congregation, and be enrolled in an LCMS university or seminary to receive funding. Each applicant will need a written reference from their pastor and two other persons, along with a completed MN North District LWML scholarship application form. Applicants for the scholarships are also to submit an essay answering the questions, "Who is Jesus and how does He still come and care for you?" and "How do you think the LWML scholarship opportunity will continue in your life and career choices?" The scholarship application and other information can be found on the district website, lwmlmnn.org, click on Scholarships on the committee menu. The application deadline for scholarship consideration is May 15, 2025. No late submissions can be accepted.

LCMS universities include: Concordia University, Ann Arbor; Concordia University, Irvine; Concordia University Wisconsin; Concordia University, Chicago; Concordia University, St. Paul; and Concordia University, Seward. The eligible seminaries are Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

The Scholarship Committee will meet after May 15, 2025, to review applications and to prepare recommendations for presentation to the LWML Minnesota North District Board of Directors.

Available funds for Scholarships totaling \$40,000 over the biennium were designated by the LWML Minnesota North District at its June 2024 convention. For the academic year 2025-2026, \$20,000 will be available for scholarship awards. The scholarship funding requests, along with other mission grants designated by the LWML MN North District, are funded through MITES.

Send your Scholarship application to:
Pam Stauty, Scholarship Chairman
LWML MN North District
7606 Rice River Road
Virginia MN 55792

Mission Grants

Mary Scott, Chairman
missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org

Mission Grants Report

A total amount of \$22,975 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: C.R.O.S.S. Appeal - \$4,425; DOXOLOGY - \$4,425; Physical Wellness for At Risk Children Dakota Ranch - \$2,425; St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham - \$3,425; Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker - \$1,925; Good shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River - \$2,425; Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora - \$3,925. The chart below details the current balance remaining of \$77,225 for the 2024-2026 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2024-2026 BIENNIUM (Balance as of April 8, 2025)	GRANT GOAL	PREVIOUSLY PAID	PAID THIS QUARTER	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	\$4,000		\$4,000
Grant 2	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Worker Students	\$32,000	\$16,000		\$16,000
Grant 3	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$4,425	\$10,575
Grant 4	DOXOLOGY – Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000		\$4,425	\$10,575
Grant 5	Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children - Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$2,425	\$7,575
Grant 6	St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham, MN	\$17,127	\$5,200		\$11,927
Grant 7	Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, MN	\$10,000	\$2,800	\$2,425	\$4,615
Grant 8	Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River, MN	\$9,840	\$2,800		\$7,040
Grant 9	Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora, MN	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$3,925	\$8,075
Grant 10	Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Hmong Lutheran Books	\$5,033	\$3,000		\$2,033
TOTALS		\$147,000	\$46,800	\$22,975	\$77,225

Leader Development

Deb Anderson, Chairman
leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org

Attributes of a Leader

Confidence in Christian leadership is being grounded in the Word, *“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)

No two groups of people have the same abilities because they are made up of unique individuals, each with their own set of God-given gifts. God has placed them together to achieve the plans that He has made for them. However, there are certain qualities that can be helpful in every effective leader:

- Listening to and learning from others in your group meaningful discussion that could turn a good idea into a plan of active service. *“Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.”* (Proverbs 11:12)..
- Encourage others to use their talents and help channel them to where they are most effective within the group. *“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- An agreeable attitude will go a long way in keeping a discussion moving and finding a successful compromise when necessary. *“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”* (Romans 12:18)
- Devote time to prayer. Pray for the guidance God has promised to send, listen for His instructions, and move forward expecting Him to be there with you. *“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.”* (Colossians 4:2)

- Enthusiasm in your service to the Lord will set an energetic example for your group. When your energy is lagging, explain to your group what you are feeling and allow them to serve and support you. Don’t rob them of an opportunity for service. *“[Do] the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man.”* (Ephesians 6:6b-7)
- Rejoice in your role as leader. God has placed you in this position for a reason and He will not abandon you. He has planned your life down to the smallest detail and will walk with you every step of the way. *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)
- Pray for and develop as many of these qualities as possible within yourself. Look for other leaders in your group with strong leadership qualities different from your own; mentor them and let them lead with you. Together your group can *“serve the Lord with gladness.”* (Psalm 100:2)

God's Blessings,

Article taken from 2021-2023 National Group and Leader Development Committee Members Christina Bean, Elaine Engelman, Jennifer Gierke, Brianne Stahlecker, Chairman Marie Chow, Vice President of Organizational Resources, advisory.

Submitted by MN North District Leadership Development Committee:

Deb Anderson (Chairman), Rev. Daniel Larsen (Pastoral Counselor), Sandy Phillips, Carole Borchers

Young Women

Ruby Prochnow, Chairman
youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org

Springing Into Spring With The Holy Spirit

As I write this article, I see the bright sunshine, and I feel the warmth from that sunshine. I think "Spring has Sprung!" Hip! Hip! Hurrah!

My husband has started the tiny seeds in the potting soil pots ready to germinate, to grow, to be replanted in the garden, to continue to grow, to flourish, to mature, and to bear produce for us to enjoy.

We are excited about all those steps listed above to be completed. Along with that excitement, I am reminded of how we "Serve the Lord with Gladness" in LWML. We plant God's Word (the seed), and the Holy Spirit causes it to germinate. This seed (God's Word) grows in the soil (the hearts of many). It flourishes and matures. It bears fruit (joy, peace, and love) for many to enjoy. Because of Jesus death, we enjoy that produce.

In God's Word we read the story of Jesus as He fell on His knees to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before His crucifixion. He cried out to God, the Father, *"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, never the less, not as I will, but as you will."* (Matthew 26:39). He asked His disciples to pray. He asked them for their support at such a time as this.

I am reminded of how we are to encourage and support each other. So it is with Sisters of Christ in LWML. We ask each other for support and encouragement as Jesus asked His disciples for that support.

Young Women's Chairman
Ruby Prochnow
320-808-3371

Memorials & Honorariums

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.

Memorials and Honorariums January 2025 to March 2025

In Memory of...

Ann Kester from Carol Westendorf
Aloma Gullick from Ottertail, St. John's
Marly Menze from Ottertail, St. John's
Marlys Hardekopf from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel
Evonne Bode from Perham, St. Paul's
Luella Asmus from Villard, St. John's
June Berkley from Villard, St. John's
Curt Butenhoff from Sharon Temanson
Ardella Triebenbach from Paula Triebenbach
Steve Redepenning from Jeanetta Heinrich
Kitty Utke from Frazee, Bethlehem
LaVana Meyhoff from Frazee, Bethlehem
Marion Ladwig from Frazee, Bethlehem
Marlene Larson from Ottertail, St. John's
Ron Pikkaraine from Ottertail, St. John's

Christian Life

Valerie Johnson, Chairman
christianlife@lwmlmnn.org

With the coming of spring we think of new beginnings. New life, blooming flowers, budding trees. Easter's promise. So much to reflect on. I found a poem on reflections entitled:

Reflections Of The Pledge

In Fervent Gratitude For The Savior's Dying Love And Blood-Bought Gift Of Redemption...

Am I truly grateful, Lord or do I just repeat the Words? How great a gift. How high the cost He gave for me who once was lost!

We Dedicate Ourselves To Him With All That We Have...

Do I really dedicate all that I have, both small and great: all that I am, could ever be to Christ, my Lord, or . . . to me?

And In Obedience To His Call For Workers In The Harvest Field, We Pledge Him Our Willing Service Wherever And Whenever He Hath Need Of Us...

This means I can't block out my time (this, Lord, for you; let this be mine!) I'll go here, but please not there! You ask too much, more than my share!

We Consecrate To Our Savior Our Hands To Work For Him, Our Feet To Go On His Errands...

Although adventure is my bent, could it be I'm also meant to serve in those unnoticed ways on humdrum, ordinary days?

Our Voice To Sing His Praises, Our Lips To Proclaim His Redeeming Love...

I should be different than the crowd: but sometimes I am just too proud. So many changes pass me by when I should stand and testify?

Our Silver And Gold To Extend His Kingdom...

Has the total sum of what I give been enough to change the way I live? Do I deny myself some pleasure? Show me, Lord, where is my treasure?

Our Will To Do His Will...

Can I avoid those I don't love yet claim allegiance to God above? Pick and choose who I will serve: not feed or clothe, but just observe?

And Every Power Of Our Life To The Great Task Of Bringing The Lost And Erring Into Eternal Fellowship With Him.

Is it my first priority to tell of life's eternity? Am I truly concerned with the salvation of every soul in every nation?

Lord, may the words within this pledge help me to be what I allege: your faithful servant tried and true, each day more in love with you. Amen

May we all *"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)

As Lutheran Women in Mission, you can find us wherever you are! Stay connected to Lutheran Women in Mission with:

On the web: www.lwml.org
On Facebook: [@theLWML](https://www.facebook.com/theLWML)
www.facebook.com/theLWML
On X: x.com/TheLWML
On Instagram: [@lwmlnational](https://www.instagram.com/lwmlnational)
www.instagram.com/lwmlnational
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www.youtube.com/user/theLWML
In the App Store and Google Play:
LWML App www.lwml.org/app

Available on Apple Podcasts, Google play, or the LWML App

Podcast: [LWML On the Go](http://www.lwml.org/podcast)
www.lwml.org/podcast

Structure

Karen Gorentz, Chairman
structure@lwmlmnn.org

Making A Difference

Greetings LWML Sisters and Brothers in Christ. This past fall, I started working with St. Paul's Church & School in Perham as their Campaign Assistant. What a challenging and rewarding experience this has been!

As some of you may know, St. Paul's Church voted to begin a campaign to raise funding for building updates to the school and a new parking lot. The ultimate goal of the project is 4.5 million dollars, where as, the minimum goal is to raise 2 million dollars. The campaign is based on pledges, creative giving, and one-time gifts. The campaign is designed to continue through 2027.

The project will include replacing the portable classrooms, building a new music room, a breakout space, hallway around the gymnasium to address acoustic issues, repair of the existing gymnasium walls, installation of a sprinkler system, a new HVAC system, a parking lot update to address student safety, and a new more secure entry way.

Interestingly, fifty percent of the students that attend St. Paul's Lutheran School in Perham, are not members of St. Paul's. Of those, fourteen percent are unchurched families. The school has thirteen staff members and uses Pastor Ratcliffe and DCE Chris Brown. Each staff member plays a vital role in the ministry at St. Paul's.

What a true blessing it has been working with these individuals throughout the fall and winter months. The school and ministry at St. Paul's are truly a mission field and seeing the work that is done behind the scenes for the children is truly breath taking. Thank you to those who make the school in Perham possible, for not only my children to attend, but for the community. It does make a difference in the lives of others!

On Saturday, February 8, LWML members and a few spouses, from Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

St. Cloud, met to make and decorate approximately 1,000 Valentine cookies thanks to funding from a Thrivent grant benefitting local emergency responders (police, state patrol, fire fighters, EMS, etc.). A few members also made cookies at home and donated them to the cause for an overall total approximating 1,400 cookies. Volunteers delivered the packaged cookies to the local facilities.





2025 LWML Retreat, LIC



2025 Fall Retreat - August 8-10 Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN

This year's speaker is Rev. Jacob "Jake" Gillard from Faith Community in Zimmermann, MN.

Rev. Jake Gillard will lead the Bible Study, "Growing in Gods Grace."

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)

The retreat theme is "**Understanding G.R.A.C.E**"

Have you ever wondered what makes Christianity unique when compared to other religions of the world? It comes right down to an unusual teaching called GRACE. The Rev. Jake Gillard is excited to share a message which will clarify GRACE & GOSPEL in a poignant way by unpacking a familiar text: 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 or, as Rev. Jake likes to call it "Jesus the Jokerster". This will be great for anyone who is open to seeking God's Truth in a fun and engaging way. Don't Miss It!

2025 LWML Retreat Information

2025 Fall Retreat - August 8-10 Lutheran Island Camp Henning, MN

Speaker is Rev. Jacob "Jake" Gillard from Faith Community Lutheran in Zimmermann, MN.

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Jake Gillard "Growing in Gods Grace."

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)

Retreat Theme is **"Understanding G.R.A.C.E"**

All Women of LCMS Congregations are invited to attend the LWML Fall retreat. You do not need to be a member of LWML! Bring your mom, sister, your daughters/granddaughters, and friends. We join as sisters in Christ to learn more about Him and how to share His love for us with others.

Tentative Schedule

Friday (Activities from 6:00-9:00 pm)

Registration 4-6 pm, picnic supper, servant events, campfire and evening fellowship

Saturday (Activities from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm)

Bible Study, keynote speaker, servant events, time for recreation activities, evening fellowship. Breakfast, Lunch and Supper included.

Saturday Recreation Activities Include:

Swings for chatting with friends, hiking in beautiful nature, quiet meditation, canoes, kayaks, servant events

NEW: Tour of Christ Ranch, pontoon rides, and for a \$25 fee: Trail ride on Horseback

Sunday (Activities from 8:00-11:00 am)

Breakfast, Devotions and Farewell

What to Bring:

Bible, Clothes for Minnesota August weather. Insect Repellent, towels and toiletries, pillow and bedding, flashlight, snacks to share at evening fellowship.

Registration information

There will be online Registration through Lutheran Island Camp at:

<https://www.islandcamp.org/schedule>

	Before July 18	July 18-25	(No registrations will be taken after July 25.)
2 Night stay	\$200	\$210	
1 Night stay	\$160	\$170	
1 Day only	\$110	\$120	

Camp prefers online registration, however if this is not possible for you, please call Kendra Voss at 319-381-2146 or email her at: voss.kendra@gmail.com, and she can help get you registered.

For more information contact:

Valerie Johnson at vwjohnso@runestone.net or 320-760-9540

Visit the Lutheran Island Camp FaceBook page for additional information:

www.facebook.com/share/19BkqAvrMp/?mibextid=wwXlfr

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