

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

President's Message

Greetings in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem, born to bring salvation,



Plans are getting finalized for the 41st Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha June 25-29 at the CHI Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The convention theme is "Growing in God's

Grace," based on 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"* (2 Peter 3:18).

An exciting time is planned with many wonderful speakers and events. All the information about the convention including speaker biographies, Mites in Action speakers and all the servant events as well as the Gifts from the Heart information is in the winter *Quarterly* or at LWML.org. A bus is being secured for those who wish to travel to Omaha by bus. Make your plans now! Registration opens on March 1, 2025.

Each zone should have chosen their delegate for the convention and sent in the information to the District President by now. This information is needed to certify the delegates and make the arrangements for them. Each zone or region held their rallies this past fall and in reading through the reports received they were all uplifting, educational and successful.

Our rallies are so important to the relationship building in the LWML Minnesota North District. *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* (Acts 2:42)

Christian fellowship with other believers strengthens our faith and presents an opportunity for prayer and praise. Keep supporting each other and the LWML.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Rallies and at the LWML Convention in June. My prayers include you all.

God's Blessings to each one of you,



Kathy Brandt
LWML MN North District
President

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**2025 Prayer Service
now available**

Find it at lwml.org
Click on News and Events Menu Choose Prayer Service

UPCOMING DATES:

- Jan 15 All Winter Newsletter, Board of Directors Reports are due
- Feb 15 All YWR’s applications are due
- March 1 Registration for Convention opens
- March 15 Newsletter articles due for the Spring Newsletters
- April-May Zone Spring Rallies
- April 8 LWML Board of Directors at LCMS MNN office in Baxter
- April 30 Registration for Convention ends and late registration opens
- May 15 Scholarships for Church Workers/Seminarians application due
- June 1 Late registration for convention ends
- June 25-29 41st Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha, NE

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.



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:

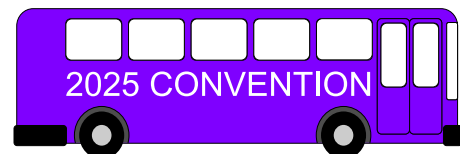
The 2025 Lutheran Women in Mission Convention logo features green leaves sprouting up and revealing the Lutheran Women in Mission icon to signify Growing in God’s Grace. It is based on the convention verse, 2 Peter 3:18 — *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him 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 His glory.”



Registration for the 2025 Convention opens on March 1 and ends April 30 and late registration ends June 1



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

Is Christmas done?

It is the season for putting away our Christmas decorations. Some will do it sooner, while others are just getting to it mid-January. As the decorations of Christmas disappear from our homes do not let the message of Christ’s birth disappear as at Christmastime when it is manifested in goodwill and charity to the needy.

“The Holy Spirit makes a permanent place in our hearts for the true meaning of Christmas. He calls us to believe in the miracle of Jesus’ birth, live in the love He gives, and serve with humility and joy.”

Just as the angels were messengers to the shepherds of Bethlehem, the Holy Spirit calls us to use our lives to share that true meaning of Christmas. God’s children do that by speaking words of love and forgiveness, by comforting and encouraging our friends and neighbors in their faith walk and by using the gifts that God has given us to serve with gladness.

May God strengthen you so that you are showing the signs of the true meaning of Christmas all year long.

Inspiration and quotations from Mustard Seed: “The Joy of Christmas” by Patricia Mitchell

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!

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 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.

CMS universities include:

- Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI
- Concordia University, Irvine, CA
- Concordia University Wisconsin
- Concordia University, Chicago
- Concordia University, St. Paul
- Concordia University, Seward

The two LCMS seminaries are:

- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo
- Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, ID

The Scholarship Committee will meet in June of 2025 to review applications and to prepare recommendations for presentation to the Minnesota North District LWML Board of Directors. **Remember the application deadline is May 15.**

Currently we have six students receiving scholarships; three men preparing for ordination; and three women – two enrolled in education programs and one enrolled in the Deaconess program.

For the 2024-2026 biennium, Scholarships totaling \$40,000 were designated for disbursement at the LWML Minnesota North District convention in June 2024. The scholarship funding request, along with other mission grants designated by the LWML MN North District, are funded through MITES and are presented at convention for adoption.

[17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
James 1:17 ESV

Mission Grants
 Mary Scott, Chairman
 missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org

Mission Grants Report

A total amount of \$25,600 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as indicated in the “Paid This Qtr.” The chart below details the current balance remaining of \$100,200 for the 2024-2026 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2024–2026 BIENNIUM (Balance as of January 14, 2025)	GRANT GOAL	PREVIOUSLY PAID	PAID THIS QUARTER	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$4,000
Grant 2	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Worker Students	\$32,000	\$9,600	\$6,400	\$16,000
Grant 3	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$20,000		\$5,000	\$15,000
Grant 4	DOXOLOGY – Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000			\$15,000
Grant 5	Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children - Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	\$15,000		\$5,000	\$10,000
Grant 6	St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Perham, MN	\$17,127	\$4,800	\$400	\$11,927
Grant 7	Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, MN	\$10,000	\$2,400	\$400	\$7,200
Grant 8	Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River, MN	\$9,840	\$2,400	\$400	\$7,040
Grant 9	Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aura, MN	\$15,000		\$3,000	\$12,000
Grant 10	Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Hmong Lutheran Books	\$5,033		\$3,000	\$2,033
TOTALS		\$147,000	\$21,200	\$25,600	\$100,200

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 October 2024 to December 2024

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

Mission Grant Responses From Surveys



Lutheran Heritage Foundation:

"Thank you so much , Mary, and all the good ladies of LWML Minnesota North, for your mission hearts to the Hmong People! Rev. Dr. Matthew Huse, Executive Director "Ladies of LWML, your special mission grants so much appreciated for Hmong work in Minnesota." Rev. R. Rahm, Founder

Immanuel Lutheran Church:

The grant money has been used to provide tuition assistance for more families. A new family with two children were given assistance. They had been home schooled, but now that the mother had to go to work, they are attending this school through the tuition assistance. Kelly Schmintke, Treasurer



Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch:

"Thank you for blessing the Ranch with your grant. The grant will be used in the replacement of our Minot gym floor. Thank you, and God Bless you. Jim

Young Women

Ruby Prochnow, Chairman
youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us that God may open to us a door for the word to declare the Mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison (Col. 4: 2-3).

In the organization of LWML, God has and continues to open a door for the WORD to declare the mystery of Christ. By God's grace, we build our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the only foundation. So it is with the LWML. We build only on the foundation of Jesus Christ. This foundation is now our Good Shepherd as we follow His will as equipped Saints to Serve Him with Gladness.



The symbol of the Lutheran Women in Mission illustrates the heart to love, the drop of blood of Christ, and the cross showing the purpose behind the efforts of the LWML. That symbol shows us that God gave us the greatest gift of all

out of love. He sent Jesus to give us the gift of forgiveness. He is the perfect size since he fits into any of our hearts. He sends us His Holy Spirit to provide the faith to receive this gift, to open it, and to believe in Jesus as our Savior. He did it all on the cross for each of us. We share this gift with our fellow congregational members as well as those we meet on our life's journey.

We especially want to share and encourage the YOUNG WOMEN in our congregations of the MN North District to join us in growing in this faith. We invite these YOUNG WOMEN to apply to be our district YWR (Young Woman Representative) at the national LWML Convention to be held in Omaha, Nebraska June 26 – 29, 2025. MN North District will be selecting 2 young women from our

congregations to represent the district. These 2 young women will receive an all expense paid trip to the convention.

Group presidents have the application form, and they are to be submitted to the district by Feb. 15, 2025. You can go to www.lwml.org to learn more of the faith enhancing experience. If you have any questions or just want to learn more, please contact Ruby Prochnow by texting or calling 320-808-3371. We know you will enjoy the event and be inspired by all the Young Women Activities. You will meet many young women gathering and learning how to Serve the Lord with Gladness as you grow in Christ the Lord.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruby Prochnow, Young Women Chairman

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, Ephesians 2:8 ESV

Leader Development

Deb Anderson, Chairman
leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org

Leadership Lessons from David

In 1 Samuel 17:37 we read, *“And David said, The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine...”*

Ever wonder why David was so confident as he faced Goliath when the whole army was fearful and afraid to step out and fight him? This statement from David gives clues to his confidence.

Perhaps David saw this from a different perspective than the army. We don't know how many battles the army had successfully fought when they witnessed the help of God. As David fought against the “paw of the lion” and the “paw of the bear” he gave all credit to God. He didn't see this as a battle of war but as another opportunity to experience God's help and see success from Him.

What about the opportunities God has given you to experience His power? Did you accept them or run from them?

What weapons did he use? Despite what the King wanted him to use...his sword, his helmet, his shield and armor... David relied on his sling and stones. He knew these tools had brought him success, and was confident that with the help of God and using these tools God gave him, he could be successful again.

What are the tools God has given you to use in your assignment? Were you a good steward of those tools, and did you trust God to help you carry out His assignment?

David knew the God who had been with him, who protected him and gave him success, thus he trusted Him. He heard the threats of Goliath against the God of Israel. When those around

him thought he was too young and inexperienced, he knew His God could beat Goliath.

Do you know your God, His power and might?
Do you place your trust in Him to win your battle for you, whatever that battle or assignment?

David had a purpose for the battle against Goliath. He wanted people to see that his mighty God, Yahweh, was the most powerful God on earth.

What is your purpose when you take on a leadership role, or take on a task for the Lord?
To proclaim your God, or point to yourself and what you have done?

David experienced success in victories over the lion and the bear; He experienced God's power through him. The army stood in fear that paralyzed them, and they could not move forward. David's experience made a difference.

Have you experienced God's power working through you? In tasks you didn't know how you would ever accomplish what God was asking you to do?

David's attitude was different from the others. In what way? “He saw Goliath not as a threat too big to hit, but as a target too big to miss,” says John C. Maxwell in “Leadership Promises for Every Day.”

How we look at things can make a difference in the way we approach assignments and tasks the Lord gives us to do. The biggest difference is working not in our own strength, but in the strength of the Lord, putting our trust in God and seeking His presence and help in all we do.

This lesson was based on an Excerpt from John C. Maxwell in “Leadership Promises for Every Day.” Submitted by Carole Borchers

Christian Life

Valerie Johnson, Chairman
christianlife@lwmlmnn.org

“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



This is the convention theme for the 41st Biennial Convention June 26-29, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska. 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. His grace is something we are freely given and the bright green color for the leaves and the word “grace” indicates new growth connecting it with God’s grace. I am praying that all zones have their delegates and alternates selected and that those planning to attend will be inspired to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm, support our missions and mission goals, and to be ready to dig deeper into God’s word.

When winter is behind us and spring is in front of us, we have the renewal of green leaves and spring. Spring means Spring Rally’s and business meetings, speakers, and fellowship. Please attend your rallies and support the work of the Lord. As Lutheran Woman in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, supporting missions, equipping women to honor God by serving others. Keep doing the things within your groups and zones. Encourage and support each other in honor of God by serving others with your gifts and talents.

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)
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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

***[30] He must increase, but I must decrease.”
John 3:30 ESV***



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