



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

Convention Update

Plans for the LWML MNN District convention are coming together as we enter 2026!

The Convention Planning Committee met in November with the staff at The Park Event Center in Waite Park, MN. We reviewed and finalized several items. Following are a few items that were discussed.

Hotel accommodations: Room blocks have been established at both the Holiday Inn and The Residence Inn, the two hotels attached to the event center. The room charge will be \$149/room plus taxes, which is comparable to the rates in 2024. There will be information about other hotels in the registration materials. There will be a direct booking link available.

Opening Worship: The opening worship service will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. They will be our Host Church.

Menus and meal plans: They are being researched. Most likely we will only be offering 2 evening meals and 1 noon meal. Breakfasts are available at each hotel. One has a complimentary breakfast and the other is a paid breakfast. We are working to keep the meal plan reasonable.

Planned Events: There will be a Mite walk, a Silent Auction, and 3 breakout sessions. We will hear from Mites in Action speakers, Scholarship recipients and the LWML President Eden Keefe.

We are excited to have Rev. Kris Whitby as our keynote speaker and Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy as our Bible Study leader. Special entertainment will be provided by the Great River Resonance Bell Choir.

We have exhibitors lined up and let's not forget the mission grants that will be selected and announced at the convention. The Convention Planning Committee is excited to have everyone come and take part in the 2026 32nd Biennial LWML MNN District Convention in June! Watch for more details in the Spring newsletter.



Kathy Brandt

LWML Minnesota North District President

32ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION
LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION
MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT
The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN
June 22-24, 2026



John 15:11

*"These things I have spoken to you,
that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be full."*

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2026 Prayer Service

P.R.A.Y.E.R.

Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice

The 2026 LWML Prayer Service, based on the acronym P.R.A.Y.E.R. – Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice – is a classic, yet updated, service from over a decade ago.

Rev. Henke wrote that the service “prompts the participants to remember that God does not speak to His children in prayer. Rather, His children speak to Him, assured that He readily speaks to them in His Word and in the Sacraments, as the Holy Spirit gives His divine counsel through very clear direction or, sometimes, His ‘nudging.’”

Find it at lwml.org

Click on News and Events Menu Choose Prayer Service

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.

2026 Upcoming Events

- April 13 BOD and Committee Convention Tour at The Park Event Center
- April-May Zone Spring Rallies & Workshops
- May 15 Scholarship Application Deadline
- June 22-24 32nd Biennial District Convention
- August 7-9 LWML Retreat Lutheran Island Camp – Christina Walther, Speaker



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

32nd Biennial Convention
LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION
MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT



John 15:11

THEME: Let His Joy be Your Joy!

VERSE: *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11)*

DATE: June 22-24, 2026

LOCATION: The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

HOSTED BY: Arrowhead II Region



Rev. Kris Whitby

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rev. Kris Whitby

Serves as Assistant to the the President-Mission and Ministry for the Northern Illinois District. He was a parish pastor for 24 yrs, hosted a radio talk show "Faith Talks," and has written many resources for the LWML including Mustard Seed Devotions, Prayers services and the "At Table with Jesus" Bible Study.



BIBLE STUDY LEADER: Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy

Pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN



ENTERTAINMENT: Great River Resonance

greatriverresonance.org

The premier community handbell ensemble located in the greater St. Cloud, MN area.

For more information visit the District website: www.lwmlmnn.org

Human Care

Jean Tester, Chairman
humancare@lwmlmnn.org

Annual Human Care Reports

Thank you to all Zone Human Care Chairmen and those filling in for that position! I received at least a partial report from each of the 17 zones in MN North District. Lake Superior zone gets special recognition because 100% of their societies completed at least one activity in each of the five listed Human Care Activities. From all of the LWML groups; 70% in the District stated that they did an Outreach Activity, only 49% of the societies said they completed a Special Ministries activity.

We can do better. In fact I believe that we are doing better, just not seeing the activities that are being done as fitting into a category. In future communication, you will see some activities that groups reported in each category. My goal, as I work on those lists, is to inspire groups to keep up the good work and get ideas for things new to their group.



Place of Hope Ministries
placeofhopeministries.com

Offering support and services because of homelessness, poverty, addiction, alcoholism and other crisis.

We provide HOPE in the form of a Hospitality Center with free food, free medical care, free clothing, and free personal care items. We also offer shelter in our Living Hope Center. This is a shelter program for those coming off the street, looking for help with drugs and alcohol, or wanting a place to 'recover' their stability and peace of mind.

****Items most needed***

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| *Towels – bath and hand | Paper towels |
| *Wash cloths | Toilet paper |
| *Twin sheet sets | Coffee pots |
| *New pillows | Sets of silverware |
| Personal care items | Dish sets and glassware |
| Cleaning supplies: | |
| - Bleach | |
| - Disinfectants | |
| - Window cleaner | |
| - Murphey's oil soap | |



Terebinth Refuge terebinthrefuge.org

A Christ centered resource offering hope, healing, freedom and a safe place for sexually exploited and trafficked women. Providing education and awareness to the St. Cloud area in efforts to prevent human trafficking. Many of the women we serve have been exploited since childhood, experienced trauma, homelessness, and poverty. Without this place of hope and healing, these women have a higher chance of experiencing mental health problems and substance abuse issues.

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Canned goods
- Cleaning supplies
- Dehumidifiers
- Clock radios

Scholarships

Pam Stauty, Chairman
scholarships@lwmlmnn.org

LWML MN North District

If winter is here, can spring be far behind?

Applications for scholarships through the LWML MN North District must be received by 15 May 2026 to be considered by the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee reminds the Zones and groups of the District to encourage students to apply for the scholarships funded by the LWML Minnesota North District. Two areas are funded through the District; those preparing for full-time church work within the Synod and enrolled in a Synod university, and seminarians at either of the two Synod seminaries.

Those currently receiving scholarships are reminded that they will need to apply again in 2026 to be eligible for scholarships. Eligible students are encouraged to visit the LWML MN North District website for specific information and are encouraged to start the process early. Information can be found at *lwmlmnn.org*. Click on the scholarship link on the committee menu for scholarship information.



It is never too late to encourage high school graduating seniors to consider entering full-time church work. The Synod's universities offer a variety of career choices including

Deaconess, Lutheran School Teacher, church musicians, and pre-seminary courses, among others. Scholarships have also supported men seeking ordination at the Synod's seminaries; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Increasingly, men are entering the seminary as 'second career' students and they, too, are eligible for scholarship. To qualify for consideration as a scholarship recipient an

applicant must be a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, a resident of the LWML MN North District, and entering one of the Synod's universities or seminaries.

The Scholarship Committee will be seeking increased funding in 2026-2028, particularly for seminarians. Seminarians have already completed undergraduate degrees and are undertaking an additional four years of study to prepare for ordination, and in many cases, have college debt which they carry upon ordination. Assistance to seminarians while at the seminary can help reduce the financial burden. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers as they prepare to serve God's people in our Synod.

And don't forget the LWML MN North District Convention, that is to be held on June 22-24, 2026 at The Park Event Center in Waite Park, MN. We will again be hosting a "Silent Auction."

Volunteers are needed to help conduct the Silent Auction. Please let me know if you are interested in assisting me. Also, donated items for the Silent Auction are needed. Watch for details regarding the Silent Auction as the Convention date draws near.

Mission Grants
 Mary Scott, Chairman
 missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org

Mission Grants Report

A total amount of \$22,460 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as follows:

- Grant 1 - Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination - \$2,000 Paid in full!
- Grant 2 - Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students - \$8,000 Paid in full!
- Grant 3 - C.R.O.S.S. Appeal - \$4,488
- Grant 6 - St. Paul's Lutheran School Perham - \$3,101
- Grant 7 - Immanuel Lutheran School Walker - \$1,838
- Grant 8 - Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River - \$1,045.00
- Grant 9 - Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora - \$1,987



The chart below details the current balance remaining of \$12,457 for the 2024-2026 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2024-2026 BIENNIUM (Balance as of October 16, 2025)	GRANT GOAL	PREVIOUSLY PAID	PAID THIS QUARTER	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$2,000	Paid In Full
Grant 2	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Worker Students	\$32,000	\$24,000	\$8,000	Paid In Full
Grant 3	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$20,000	\$11,025	\$4,488	\$4,487
Grant 4	DOXOLOGY – Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000	\$15,000		Paid In Full
Grant 5	Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children - Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	\$15,000	\$15,000		Paid In Full
Grant 6	St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham, MN	\$17,127	\$10,925	\$3,101	\$3,101
Grant 7	Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, MN	\$10,000	\$6,325	\$1,838	\$1,837
Grant 8	Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River, MN	\$9,840	\$7,750	\$1,045	\$1,045
Grant 9	Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora, MN	\$15,000	\$11,025	\$1,988	\$1,987
Grant 10	Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Hmong Lutheran Books	\$5,033	\$5,033		Paid In Full
TOTALS		\$147,000	\$112,083	\$22,460	\$12,457

Christian Life

Valerie Johnson, Chairman
christianlife@lwmlmnn.org

“Let His Joy be Your Joy!” John 15:11 is the theme for the 32nd Biennial Convention of the LWML Minnesota North District. It will be held at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN June 22-24, 2026. Make sure to save the date. The convention information will be on MN North District website www.lwmlmnn.org and MN North District Facebook page. Christian Life committee will have information for groups and zones for the ingathering for convention for all women young and old. Watch for more information.

The LWML Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp will be August 7-9, 2026. Save that date as we will have Christina Walther as our speaker.

I am going over the Christian Life reports and will have them compiled for spring rallies. Please be sure to check out the www.lwml.org for the new 2026 Prayer service, program helps, Bible studies and devotions, you will also find videos of the Mission grant recipients from national LWML convention held this past June. Check out www.lwmlmnn.org for MN North District for Convention information, Mission grants forms and committee information. We are getting close to our Mite goal. The challenge is to have groups and individuals increase by 25% to complete this goal.

Wishing you a Blessed New Year and that it is filled with His Joy!

Christmas 2025 – LWML of Immanuel Lutheran in Parkers Prairie

Program/Devotional “Sweet Christmas” led by Audrey Jensen and Joyce Malmgren in which they shared the Christmas Story using Scripture and candy bars. Afterwards much laughter and joy were shared while playing games.

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11)

Would you like to share some information?

Our Communication Committee is ready to help you. Information can be posted on our district website, the *Minnesota Northern Light* newsletter, Facebook and the Lutheran Witness supplement page. Please share your information and stories to the following:

For Facebook posts: Send your pictures with names and information to share@lwmlmnn.org

For all other posting: Send your stories, pictures and events to vpcom@lwmlmnn.org and the Editor editor@lwmlmnn.org.



Young Women
 Ruby Prochnow, Chairman
 youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org

“Let His Joy Be Your Joy”

This past year of 2025, along with the many prior years, goes down in history. We praise God with gratitude for this history and for the blessings He showered on us over all those years as ladies “Served the Lord with Gladness.”

It was July 7-9, 1942, when the national LWML was organized, with roots in the 1850s to support local, district, national, and global missions. LWML encourages women of the LCMS congregations to use their gifts in CHRISTIAN SERVICE. We encourage the “Young Women” of all our Minnesota North District congregations to consider becoming an LWMLer, either as an independent member or by becoming a member of an established LWML group. By using their gifts serving the Lord, these Young Women will enhance the history of the LWML.



The LWML MN North District will be gather June 22 - 24, 2026, at The Park Event Center in Waite Park, MN. This convention theme, ‘Let His Joy Be Their

Joy’, will offer an expansive opportunity to learn more of the LWML. There will be games, door prizes, devotions, Bible studies, fun, and fellowship which will give the attending Young Women the opportunity to meet with other ‘Sisters in Christ’ who share their love of the Lord.

We pray the Holy Spirit will move Young Women to attend the convention, to grow their relationship with Christ, and enjoy the many activities planned for the Young Women of our district. Nothing in life is as important as our relationship with God and our understanding of His love for us through Jesus.

The Young Women Committee asks all LWML women to pray as the committee finalizes the activities to be carried out for the Young Women attending the convention. We ask that each LWML group to sponsor and encourage the Young Women of their congregation to attend the convention and “Let His Joy Be Their Joy.”

If there are any Young Women in your congregation who you think may desire to attend the convention and be involved in the above mentioned, speak with them, and please contact Ruby Prochnow at 320-808-3371.

Please encourage your Young Women to attend the convention to:

- Deepen their love and devotion for their Lord Jesus Christ
- Strengthen their relationship with their Lord
- Enrich their faith in Jesus their Savior
- Meet and encourage other sisters in Christ
- Enjoy games, activities, fellowship, and Bible studies with other young women
- Feel the joy and excitement of the Lord participating in the convention along with the YWR surprises.

Ruby Prochnow, Young Woman Chairman
 Zion Lutheran, Alexandria
 320-808-3371

Leader Development

Kathy Brandt, Interim Chairman
leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org

Me? A leader? No Way!

Have you ever had that thought? Has anyone said that to you when asked to accept a leadership responsibility? Let's take a look at what it takes to be a leader.

In general, guiding and influencing others toward a common vision or goal is called leadership. This can be done by an individual, a group or an organization.

In LWML it is easy to define our vision and goal; ***the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.*** It is in our pledge. It permeates all the things we do in LWML, whether it is making quilts, hygiene kits, school backpacks, or all the other projects we may have.

In our Bible Studies, prayer groups and devotions, we are reminded of the need to bring the lost and erring to the cross and the great news of salvation.

So how does leadership work in all this? We are women committed to helping others physically and spiritually. By just our nature as Christian women, we want to do this good work to the glory of God! We need leaders to encourage and motivate these actions. Think about who in your LWML group brings ideas to be considered. Which woman says, "I will gather the materials, words, or arrange for the distribution? Ideally, several women would come forward to take up one of these tasks. Is one of those women YOU?

Leadership starts with taking the initiative to do a job for your organization. If you don't know how to do the job, asking someone who does will solve that issue. Step forward, do your best and ask for guidance from your heavenly Father. He will be there with you and wants you to be successful.

Consider the opportunity to serve as a leader as we work together to have a successful convention in June 2026!

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 - December 2025**

In Memory of...

- Gladys Fenske by Ottertail, St. John's*
- Howard Ost by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- Connie Bump by Sauk Rapids, Trinity*
- Al Riedel by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- Dennis Karger by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- Lorene Sherman by Mora, Zion*
- Karen Khunaw by Doris Weispfennig, Villard, St. John's*
- Lawrence Weinrick by Ottertail, St. John's*
- IMary Alvarez by Ottertail, St. John's*
- Everald Timm by Garfield, St. John*
- Margaret Klefsaas by Jeanetta Heinrich*
- Janis Schoeneck by Alexandria, Zion*
- Darlene Wilke by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- Linda Moske by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- Jolene Samuelson by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- Betty Bigger by Frazee, Bethlehem*
- Lorene Sherman by Arnie & Diane Althoff*
- Anita Johnson by Frazee, Bethlehem*

***And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
(Romans 8:28)***

Advent by Candlelight

This event was held at Our Redeemer Church. It was a wonderful night of connection, learning the names of Jesus, and tasty treats!



**Web Links**LWML MN North District www.lwmlmnn.orgLWML: www.lwml.org**Board of Directors****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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