



LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
80 Years*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are now in the Fall season, one of my favorite times of the year. As leaves change color and the air turns crisp: It is the time of the year for reflection and thanksgiving – *“Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”* (Psalm 106:1)

Fall invites us to let go of the past burdens and negative thoughts, like trees shedding leaves, you can give up those beliefs or experiences that inhibit personal growth and renewal – *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”* (Hebrews 12:1)



We gather with family and friends during this season to strengthen community ties and foster a sense of belonging. *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* (1Thessalonians 5:11)

Our LWML Retreats are always a time of renewal. This year the theme was “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”. There were 65 attendees who met at Lutherlyn Camp in Butler, PA, for an inspiring, uplifting, and rejuvenating time. We listened to Ethel Chadwick as she shared her incredible story of coming to know Jesus, spent time being with old friends and making new ones, and feeling the presence of God that surrounded us at Lutherlyn Camp.

Fall is also a time where many zones have their events that include elections. My prayer is that when your elections happen, you pray, look at the positions to see if it is something you can and want to do, and consider being a candidate.

The Anthracite and Philadelphia Zones are working hard planning our 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention on June 12-14 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Lancaster, PA. More information is available in this issue of the LINK.

Please remember that there are many resources available for you from our LWML National including, Fall Resources, Bible Studies, Leader Development Information, Mission Service Activities, etc. at www.lwml.org.

Blessings as you celebrate the season of Fall knowing that we have a Friend in Jesus, who is always with us.



Dee E. Grzyb,
LWML Eastern District President

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)



COUNSELOR'S

CORNER



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ:

This summer has been particularly busy for myself and my wife Linda. I was fortunate to take ten youth to the National Youth Gathering with the help of two adults that went along with us. Linda and I celebrated our 50th anniversary with a two-week trip that left us more tired than we had expected, but enjoyable none the less. Add to that assisting congregations that are vacant and filling in for a few well-deserved escapes for the brothers. Then last, but not least putting our plans in place for the trip to BEE Liberia in November.

The summer has truly been a roller coaster of activity. Of course there are other little duties that float to the surface that demand quick attention and then fade to the background.

This sounds like the life we all live, spectacular highs with day-to-day tasks packed in around these times. This can be an exhausting life if we let it.

I'm thinking about Jesus's ministry here. His time on earth was definitely a roller coaster of activity. And for one example in Matthew 14 we see that He made time for rest and prayer. We read that He was alone taking the time to pray after the death of John the Baptist. However, the crowds soon found him and out of compassion he spoke to them and then fed them because they were in a desolate place. And after that event he sent them away, even the disciples, to again have time to rest and pray.

Do we take time to be alone and to pray to our Father in heaven? In our crazy world I think often we don't stop to think about our time with God. We tend to just run from one task to another, wondering why we feel exhausted. We are expected to take that time of rest. But more importantly we need that time to look for guidance and wisdom in our day-to-day lives. Without such reflection we will burn out. We may even walk away. So we are encouraged especially by Saint Paul to persevere, to be wise in what we are doing, and using God's wisdom to be discerning. Perhaps we may find we expend a lot of energy on things we think are important but really have little value.

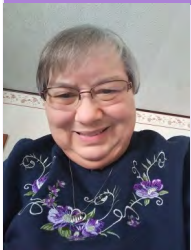
Our mission is not to get bogged down and grumble, rather to be like Jesus; to welcome, to invite, to lift each other up, to carry the message of mercy to those who are wandering in the dark.

Enjoy the rest we have in Jesus, listen to the wisdom He offers so that we may continue the mission we are called to do.

I encourage you to continue in your fellowship with each other and being His hands and feet.

Blessings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, Rev. Carl Emberger, Senior Counselor

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS—LINDA BAHR



Taken from "God's Grace in a Lemon-Filled World," by Aretta Gordish.

Article entitled: Unable to Pray

Based on **Romans 8:26-27**

I am sure you have heard the saying: "If life throws you lemons, make lemonade." Lately life has thrown me a bowl full of lemons. Lemons are sour, especially the lemons life hits us with every day. It is hard to make lemonade when you are in pain, when your heart is breaking, or when you are afraid life is sour. Sometimes it is even hard to pray.

Did you know that there are amazing health benefits inside a lemon? They are packed full of vitamin C, fiber, iron, and more. They are good for household cleaning, for making facials, and in recipes to make delicious foods, both sweet and savory.

Good can be found in our struggles as well. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. He intercedes for us and knows exactly what to pray, specifically asking for God's will for our lives. Our struggles, our trials, and our pain often keep us from praying as we should. Keep in mind that in addition to the Holy Spirit groaning to God on our behalf, Jesus has also provided a prayer we can use daily.

Prayer: Dear Father, we thank you for providing us with a prayer that is always perfect: The Lord's Prayer. We thank You for our sisters in Christ who keep each other in prayer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



News from the Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell



The work of the Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department is to engage, encourage and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior with people of their communities and the world.

THE 2024-2026 GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell

Mission Grant Chair – Margaret Klees

Mission Grant Co-Chair – Barb Gillette

Leader Development Chair – Sharon McGuan

Leader Development Co-Chair – Megan Migyanko

Structure Chair – Rebecca Bessell

Structure Co-Chair – Alice Pfonner

Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon, Nominating Committee Chair – Susan Bell



I had the privilege of honoring our 1st timers at the LWML Eastern District Retreat in September. We currently had 5 first timers!

Susan Bell, VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28: 7

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE—SHARON MCGUAN & MEGAN MIGYANKO



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10



Have you ever thought about Jesus being described as the best Leader Development Coach of all time? I say this with absolute respect for Jesus, the Holy Son of God. Think of how He called each of His disciples, individually, uniquely, lovingly and then challenged

them to lead as they learned to follow Him. He taught them to trust Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life. He led by invitation and example, teaching them *"it is better to give than to receive"* and *"whoever would be great among you must be the servant of all"*. May we ever look to Jesus, our Great Leader Developer, as we lead others, in our families, societies or wherever the Lord invites us to serve Him.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The Leader Development Committee is asking you to consider leading others in a couple special ways:

- ◆ Pray that the Lord might lead you to seek out another sister in Christ and extend an invitation to church, Bible study or an LWML society or zone event. You may need to reach out several times, but trust God to lead you and let His Spirit do the work.
- ◆ Look around your congregation and ask God to lead you and your society to seek out a young woman that could attend our 2026 Eastern District Convention, June 12-14 at the Double Tree Resort in Lancaster, PA, as a Young Woman Representative (YWR). Each Zone may send one YWR, preferably between the ages of 22-35. Her transportation, registration, meals and hotel expenses will be paid by the district. Last biennium, our district was blessed with five beautiful YWRs, and they in turn were blessed by the convention, our fellowship and the message of Jesus' love for each of them.

Your Zone President will be emailing a copy of the Young Woman Representative Application and Guidelines to each society in your zone. You can also download a copy of the Application and Guidelines from our website <http://www.east-dist-lwml.org/>. Or if you have questions, you can email Sharon McGuan at salmcg23@gmail.com. I will be happy to answer any questions and forward the Application and Guidelines to you.

Once completed, please give your application to your society president. **All societies need to submit applications to their Zone President by January 30th.** Each zone will select one YWR to attend convention by February 15th.

God bless you—Sharon McGuan, Megan Migyanko.



The Nominating Committee for the 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention has been formed.
The members are:
Susan Bell-Chair-Philadelphia Zone; Bev Wicher – Buffalo Zone;
Kathy Pavelock – Central NY North Zone; Rebecca Bessell – Genesee Zone; Linda Breight – Pittsburgh Zone

Do you love LWML and the work that we do and the mission support that is accomplished through national, district and zones? That work can't work without willing volunteers. It is time to consider what your gifts and talents are and how you could help our LWML Eastern District to continue the work we do.

We are presently seeking names of people willing to run for positions on the LWML Eastern District Executive Committee/Board of Director that will be voted on at the 2026 LWML District Convention.

The positions that need to be filled are
President—VP of Christian Life/Special Focus—
VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources—Treasurer—Pastoral Counselor

JOB DESCRIPTIONS - These are general descriptions. The complete job descriptions as well as Nomination and Consent forms can be obtained from anyone on the Nominating Committee.

President - Oversees the work of the LWML Eastern District including presiding at the District LWML Conventions and meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She is responsible for appointing various committee members to the Board of Directors. Signs all vouchers for payment of authorized expenditures. Keeps in communication with the Board to make sure all necessary decisions are being made. Visits and helps promote the work of the LWML Zones. She also attends LWML National Board meetings when requested.

Vice President Christian Life/Special Focus - May perform the duties of the office of the President, in the absence or at the request of the President. Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Coordinator of the Christian Life/Special Focus Department. Responsible for issuing the membership charter to a new society; reports to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

Vice President Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources - May perform the duties of the office of the President, in the absence or at the request of the President. Coordinates the Gospel Outreach/Organization Resources Department. Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Serves as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Oversees the preparation of the convention manual with the assistance of the Vice President of Communication. Develops a list of eligible LWML members to serve in appointed positions to assist the President and performs other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

Treasurer - Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Is bonded at the expense of the LWML District. Receive deposit slips and monthly report from the Financial Secretary; receive and deposit all money in a financial institution approved by the Executive Committee; keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; make all payments as authorized; serve as chairman of the Budget Committee; serve as member of the Legacy of Love Committee; submit records for financial review annually; performs other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

Pastoral Counselor - Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Serves the LWML District in an advisory capacity; attend all LWML District Conventions; attend the LWML National Convention as directed by the Executive Committee; submit articles to the Editor for publication in the Eastern District Newsletter, submit a written report for the Convention manual; serve as the spiritual leader for the Board and Executive Committee and help with services at retreat and convention when possible; and other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

All officers serve a four year term. Any LWML member may nominate a candidate for office. If you know of anyone that meets the criteria as set forth in the by-laws of the LWML Eastern District, who you have spoken to and has indicated that they would be interested, please let one of the nominating committee members know.

For Nominating Forms or any questions, please contact Chairman Susan Bell, 814 Dover Court Place, Downingtown, PA 19335, 610-937-1483 at sbell_7238@comcast.net

MISSION GRANT NEWS



Does your preschool or school need new materials or computer? Does your church have a need that would help them with a project or mission? Do you have an organization near and dear to your heart that could use some funds for a project? Think about submitting a mission grant application! Grant requests can be up to \$5,000.

Want more information or a grant packet emailed to you?
Please feel free to contact Meg Klees at margaretklees@gmail.com or 570-877-2168.

Grants must be submitted via email or postmarked by October 15, 2025 to be considered for the 2026-2028 biennium.



GRANT UPDATE

2024-2026 BIENNIUM MISSION GRANT UPDATE

We are pleased to share that **GRANT 6** has been paid. **GRANT 6 for \$4,900** will fund the repair/replacement of the air conditioner unit in the Tiemann Chapel at Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY, which is used for different worship opportunities, including serving the Alpha Deaf Lutheran Church community. Requested by the Genesee Zone.

GRANT 7 will be paid shortly (when all the necessary paperwork, has been received) in the amount of \$3,550 to help fund the monthly "Lunch and Learn" program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence NY. Requested by the Buffalo Zone.

GRANTS 3 and 5 were moved to the bottom of the list, according to our guidelines, since their projects were not ready to implement the projects.

We have paid out \$20,450 for Mission Grants so far this year (including the two above).

OUR TOTAL MISSION GRANT GOAL FOR THE LWML EASTERN DISTRICT IS \$33,989.53.

WE STILL HAVE 3 GRANTS TO BE PAID TOTALING \$13,539.53.

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE REQUIRED 25% TO NATIONAL AND 25% FOR DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES!

THESE GRANTS MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 31, 2026!

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO MITES TO ENABLE US TO PAY ALL OUR MISSION GRANTS

Serve the Lord With Gladness

NEWS FROM THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- Zones, please review your bylaws periodically.
- Send changes to Structure Committee for Review at rlb54@roadrunner.rr.com
- Our contact information is listed below:

Rebecca Bessell – Chair
585-415-6368
rlb54@roadrunner.rr.com

Alice Pfonner – Co-Chair
716-873-9377
alicepfonner@aol.com



Updated District Bylaws are on our website. They can be found at the following link: www.east-dist-lwml.org and clicking on [2022 LWML Eastern District Bylaws](#)

EASTERN DISTRICT LEGACY OF LOVE ENDOWMENT

The general purpose of the endowment is to receive gifts to be used for the mission and ministry of the LWML Eastern District. The Fund has three focused purposes.

- ***Scholarships** for LWML members to attend LWML National LWML events and conventions.
- ***Leadership Development** for LWML members to attend District and National training.
- ***Undesignated/Unrestricted** which will provide financial assistance to support the ministries of the LWML Eastern District.

This is a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on the mission of the LWML Eastern District by sharing your faith and supporting ministries.

All gifts are sent to the Eastern District Financial Secretary, Beth Scholl.

There are so many ways to do this. If you would like more information or have questions please contact me, **Legacy of Love Endowment Chairman, Rebecca Bessell**, rlb54@rochester.rr.com, 585-415-6368

I would love to speak with you.



Rebecca Bessell District Liaison
Meg Klees Co-Chair
Rev. Carl Emberger Counselor
Susan Bell Co-Chair



SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 12-14
2026

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE ANTHRACITE AND PHILADELPHIA ZONES



DoubleTree Resort
by Hilton Hotel Lancaster
In beautiful Lancaster, PA

The Word of the Lord Remains Forever



LWML 2026 Eastern District Convention Logo

The logo was designed by Margaret Klees and was based on 1 Peter 1: 24-25, *“for all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”* It was finalized and approved at the Board of Directors meeting in March 2025.

HAPPENINGS AT THE LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION!

- ◆ **Date: June 12-14, 2026**
- ◆ **Hosted by Anthracite and Philadelphia Zones**
- ◆ **Where: DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel**
- ◆ **2400 Willow Street Pike**
- ◆ **Lancaster, PA 17602**
- ◆ **The Keynote Speaker will be Sharla Fritz**
- ◆ **The Ingathering will be books, learning materials, non-perishable food items, crayons, colored pencils activity books and toys.**
- ◆ **The Servant Event will be filling backpacks with school supplies and making cards for residents of Luthercare.**
- ◆ **The entertainment will be Glorify Performing Arts, a Christian dance troupe from West Chester, PA!**
- ◆ **There will be a mite walk!**
- ◆ **There will be a convention choir!**

SEE YOU THERE!!

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



Did you know that Linda Breight, from our Eastern District, is on the LWML National Special Focus Committee? Linda, a member of Christ Lutheran Church in the Pittsburgh Zone, has a passion for all of God's children, especially for those who have diverse capabilities. She has personal experience with those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have intellectual or developmental needs. Linda's goal is to raise awareness that individuals with special needs experience challenges in daily life and may also encounter barriers within congregations and worship settings.



One of the questions the LWML National Special Focus Committee asks is “How do we welcome ALL people into the fellowship of believers?” They provide a wide variety of resources such as Disability Ministry Assessment Tool, Improving Ministry Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, and The Church is for EVERYONE to assist congregations in meeting the needs of all members. You will also find specific resources to minister to those who are blind and visually challenged, intellectually and developmentally challenged, and deaf and hard of hearing on their website <https://www.lwml.org/special-ministries>.

We are **ALL** *fearfully and wonderfully made* (Psalms 139:14a), **ALL** *precious in [God's] sight* (2 Kings 1:13b), and **ALL** *one body in Christ* (Romans 12:5), therefore, we strive, with God's help, to include women of **ALL** abilities as together we *serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalms 100:2).

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

We had a fun summer. Some of the Buffalo Zone ladies volunteered to help with VBS at Pioneer on the Lake! It was mostly supported by St. John's church in Angola, but other volunteers from the Zone were teachers, leaders, and helpers! What a blessing for almost 30 children! We ended that week with a church service at Pioneer and a picnic with invitations to all Lutheran Women in Mission and families, celebrating Susan Knowles' new position at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne!



Later that afternoon some of us attended the Ordination of Pastor Parkhurst. We wish both the Knowles and the Parkhurst families the best as they begin the journey that God has sent them on!!!!

Moving on to upcoming events, our November gathering will be on the 8th and we will be voting on officers and appointments. If you are interested in being an officer OR a member of our Board/Planning committee, please contact Sharon McGuan, our current Vice President and Chair of the nominating committee. Looking to the future, we are still trying to visit our outlying churches and educate them on LWML, mites, grants, and being active in some way as Lutheran Women In Mission. We look forward to the upcoming District Convention in 2026 and to what God has planned for the Buffalo Zone, District and National Lutheran Women in Mission.

Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone President

GENESEE ZONE

What a great LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat we had.

Thank you to those of you who helped us obtain the Thrivent water filtration Cause Kits for one of the Retreat Interest Sessions. Several churches in the Genesee Zone were involved in this project. We received 28 boxes which ended up totaling 83 completed water filtration kits. The majority of the kits were assembled at the retreat held in September and the rest got done shortly after. Each kit brings clean water to those in 57 countries around the world and can provide a household of up to 10 people with clean water for up to 10 years! Each kit was sent with a personal message to the recipient. It was a great service project to share with our fellow Sisters in Christ.



Kathy Ippolito and Barbara McHenry

CNY-SOUTH

We had our first "Let's Get Together and REJOICE!" gathering (rally) in July. President Dee was our guest speaker; she discussed and shared about Mites and what we do with our Mite money and how mission grants make a difference.



We also as a zone got to meet our new Pastoral Counselor Rev. Phillip Callahan from Faith Lutheran, Corning, NY. He is also active in the military and will be deploying out in October for 10 months to Europe.

We are blessed as a zone to finally receive Pastor Callahan for we have been without a Pastoral Counselor since 2019 when Pastor Grabenhofer was called to the Northwest.

Elections will be coming up in October for President and Secretary of our zone. And we will be chatting about and gathering a retreat committee together for the 2026 LWML Eastern District Retreat.

Anita Getty, CNYS Zone President

PHILADELPHIA ZONE



The June LWML National Convention in Omaha, NE, was wonderful and inspirational.

On Saturday November 1, 2025, LWML English and Phil-

adelphia Zones Joint Fall Rally will be held at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA, and will include impressions of the national convention from Carmen Davis, recipient of the first-time attendee LWML Eastern District Grant.

Susanne Ferro, Philadelphia Zone President

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

LWML ED Retreat September 19-21, 2025, Lutherlyn Camp

Friday Devotion



Speaker
Ethel Chadwick



Ingathering Items for Lutherlyn
children's summer camps



Music



First time attendees



Baker Chapel



Water Filtration Kits
Interest Session



Visual Faith
Interest session



Saturday Evening
Entertainment



Sunday Worship
Pastor Emberger
and Pastor Dobler



Music



Sunday Worship Choir



PITTSBURGH ZONE



Each fall, at our
Fall Zone Rally,

the Pittsburgh Zone selects a Prayer Service offering recipient. It is our hope that throughout the year, our churches will schedule Prayer Services around the Zone, utilizing LWML's wonderful Prayer Service resources and collecting funds for the designated organization. The Zone's 2024-2025 recipient was Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center, an RSO of our synod. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center helps pastors, missionaries, spouses, and other full-time Christian ministry workers reclaim the joy of life & ministry through week-long intensive counseling retreats.

In June, Zion Lutheran Church in Bridgeville, PA, held a Prayer Service and Luncheon. Deaconess Joanna Lee gave a presentation about Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center and her own personal experiences of care there. Together with other churches, our Zone collected over \$10,000 for this wonderful RSO. Praise be to God!

Tevia Grimenstein, 2nd VP, Pittsburgh, Zone

UPCOMING
EVENTS

March 19-20, 2026	EC/BOD Doubletree, Lancaster PA
June 2026	EC/BOD Dates and location TBD
June 12-14, 2026	LWML ED Convention DoubleTree Resort Lancaster, PA
September 2026	LWML ED Retreat Date and locations TBD
July 8-11, 2027	LWML 42nd Biennial Convention Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Report of the Financial Secretary—Beth Scholl

Total Mites: \$ 5,782.14

Donation to Mites:

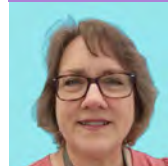
In Honor of Isabel Dettner's 85th Birthday
Given by the Sunday AM Coffee Group

Memorials and Honorariums Given By:

Legacy of Love – Gift
Sharon Wolff
Legacy of Love – Gift
Sharon Wolff

Thrivent Choice Dollars Given By:

Judith Morrison
Terry Hoffman
Sharon McGuan
Judith Nordell

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF
COMMUNICATION —SUSAN MORRIS

We are in the thick of Mission Grant application season! A great place to look for grant opportunities is in our societies and churches where there is usually a need. If you need inspira-

tion, check out the LWML Eastern District web site for current and past grant recipients. In the meantime, keep sending in your mite monies for our current Mission Grant recipients. Questions? Reach out to Meg Klees.

**REMINDERS!**

- Please send in any Directory changes that you may have to ED_VPComm@gmail.com
- If you have not done so, please send your checks into your ZONE Treasurers for the

Quarterly subscriptions.

Sue Morris
VP Communication
(215) 514-8678

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Vacant

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**Next Deadline**

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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716-913-4140

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is December 1, 2025

The Link is published four times each year.

April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

Please remember to send all LINK related email to the lwmlink@gmail.com address and not to my personal email. Mail can sometimes get lost in my personal email and this will make sure everything gets into the LINK as requested.
Thanks Bev Wicher

Seek. Pray. Serve. 2025–2027 Planner

Seek. Pray. Serve. is the planner for 2025–2027. This planning resource includes over 50 devotions, Bible studies, and sketches to encourage your faith. This two year planner replaces the previous title, *Equipping Saints to Serve*.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture (Psalm 100:1–3).

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we seek our Lord in His Word, we come to Him with our prayers, and, in knowing Him, we serve Him with gladness by loving our neighbor and proclaiming the Good News of salvation in Jesus. The materials in this manual have been designed to help participants joyfully join their LWML sisters in Christ both to grow spiritually and to serve Him by spreading the Word. Each item in this manual has been LCMS doctrinally reviewed so you can use them with confidence, knowing that they truthfully proclaim God's Word.

You can download it at this link <https://www.lwml.org/posts/featured-program-helps/seek-pray-serve-2025-2027-planner>



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CELEBRATE LWML SUNDAY

Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.

This year's theme begins a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025 we focus on Proclaiming Christ.

Everything we do as Lutheran Women in Mission begins with Christ's message of repentance and forgiveness. The Ascension text of "GO" (Luke 24:44–53) is the mission emphasis for Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025. On Ascension Day, Jesus gave his followers an assignment "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, have a responsibility to proclaim the message of Christ, to be that body which proclaims repentance and forgiveness, showing forth the merciful Christ in what we do and say. As Lutheran Women in Mis-

sion we continue to support, encourage and uplift missionaries, and also provide physical support and compassion to all people. It is the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name that motivates us to do this work. All Glory be to Jesus!

This year's service is written by Rev. Mark Maas, LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor.

You can find all the materials you need for LWML Sunday at this link <https://www.lwml.org/lwml-sunday>