The Time is NOW

Have you heard about “The Time is NOW”? If you attended our District LWML Convention this summer, ‘business cards’ were distributed, and said “The Time Is NOW”. If you have gone to the National LWML website, you’ve seen “The Time Is NOW”. Are you thinking another program? Or, possibly, you have not heard about it at all.

“The Time Is NOW” is an initiative to help the LWML refocus on our basic common core values: **Being in God’s Word, Missions, Service, and Fellowship.** It is imperative, even urgent, that women share with other women the contagious joy that results from being a member of LWML! The Time is NOW!

Membership in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is declining. LWML membership is declining with church membership. Our membership is predominately older. We need to engage younger women. At the same time, in a survey, LWML has a great trust factor. We do what we say. We try to fulfill our obligations. LWML is an organization for all generations.

**WORD - The Time is NOW …**
- to continue to be in the study of God’s Word and read the Bible daily;
- to share God’s Word and its message of salvation in Jesus Christ alone with women in our lives;
- to be God’s witnesses of the Gospel wherever and whenever He has need of us.

**MISSIONS - The Time is NOW …**
- to support missions around the world through our mites and gifts for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- to encourage missionaries in their important work through prayer;
- to be God’s missionaries wherever and whenever He has need of us.

**SERVICE - The Time is NOW …**
- to look for opportunities to make a meaningful difference in the lives of hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people at home and throughout the world;
- to encourage the women in our lives of all ages, stages, ethnicities, and experiences to value the principle of service and to look intentionally for ways to comfort and aid a needy world;
- to serve as God gives the opportunity wherever and whenever He has need of us.

**FELLOWSHIP - The Time is NOW …**
- to offer friendship, support, and encouragement to the women in our lives, to intentionally look for opportunities to welcome the women in our lives to grow in faith and relationships as sisters in Christ;
- to share, through varied settings, the story of what Jesus has done for us with the women in our lives wherever and whenever He has need of us.

The Time is NOW to look to the future of LWML. What can we do intentionally to refocus in these four areas? Some suggestions:

- Buy a Bible and read through it with a child or grandchild in mind, making notes and marking passages. Give it to that child or grandchild.
- Door offering once a month at church, with an article about a mission project.
- Meet and talk to ethnic people where they are, speak to them, get to know them. Younger women don’t talk, they text, email, connect on Facebook. Keep this in mind, and try to connect with them in a way that is comfortable for them.
- Include women of all ages in projects such as sewing for Diana’s Angels or quilts.

Think about and pray about “The Time Is NOW”. What are your ideas to focus on Word, Missions, Service, and Fellowship?

Margaret Hesemann, 2014 - 2018 Minnesota South District President
### 2014 - 2016 Gospel Outreach

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Grant</th>
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<th>Previously Paid</th>
<th>Paid This Quarter</th>
<th>Paid to Date</th>
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**Events and Deadlines**

- **Jan. 1, 2015** YWR Zone Applications due to Shirley Johnson, 80534 County Road 22, Hector, MN 55342
- **Feb. 1, 2015** Deadline for WOM Articles
- **Feb. 7, 2015** District Board of Directors Meeting, North Mankato
- **May 12, 2015** District Board of Directors Meeting, North Mankato
- **June 25-28 2015** 36th Biennial Convention, Iowa Events Center, Des Moines, Iowa
LWML and CPH Collaborate on Store and Shipping
The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and Concordia Publishing House (CPH) have joined together giving the LWML an increased visibility. This collaboration will also allow the LWML Office and Store to run with a greater effectiveness.

November 3, 2014 was the kickoff of the collaboration, now all LWML Store items may be purchased through CPH, which is just a click away on the LWML website. CPH will manage the sale and shipping of LWML products and resources.

Anyone wishing to order material from LWML will click on the Store tab found on the LWML website, as they always have, and follow the simple directions given. When they have chosen their items and are ready to check out, they will be asked to create an account with CPH – this will simply allow CPH access to information needed for shipping and payment. The LWML and CPH are pleased to offer this secure and easy shopping experience. Many LWML customers are also CPH customers, and this will allow orders to be combined and save on shipping costs.

To celebrate this improvement, the LWML is having an Inventory Reduction and Closeout Sale (through February 1, 2015) on many items. Check out all products and resources and save today!

If you have any questions, contact the LWML Office at (800) 252-5965 or lwml@lwml.org.

Transportation Planning for the Des Moines Convention
I sure am looking forward to serving as your transportation chairman (or as I call myself the bus lady) to the National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, June 25-28, 2015. I hope you will make plans to join me and other LWML'ers on the charter bus(es). There will be assigned hotels for those taking the charter buses (LWML has negotiated special lower hotel rates for charter bus passengers only) so you do not need to complete the housing form in the Winter Quarterly—that will be taken care of already! Only those persons riding the charter bus will be allowed to stay in these assigned hotels. Our bus(es) will be used as shuttle between the hotel and Convention Center every day.

My plans are that we will arrive in Des Moines on Wednesday evening June 24 so that everyone can participate in Thursday activities such as delegate session (3-4 pm), choir rehearsal (12:30-2:30 pm), Servant Events begin at 9 am and exhibits also open at that time, tours, etc. Then we will leave the Convention Center immediately following the Sunday session bringing us home Sunday evening. REMEMBER—YOU DO NEED TO COMPLETE THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM WHICH YOU WILL FIND IN THE WINTER QUARTERLY. Be sure and let others in your society know of this opportunity.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RIDING THE CHARTER BUS(ES)? IF SO I NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION BY MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015:

| NAME | ___________________________________________________
| ADDRESS | ___________________________________________________
| TELEPHONE | ___________________________________________________
| EMAIL | ___________________________________________________

I look forward to hearing from you!

Joyce Swedean
1535A Clemson Drive, Eagan, MN. 55122
651-688-8245
swedeanjar@comcast.net
THIS IS THE 2015 QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Please renew your Quarterly subscription now. Subscription rates will be the same as last year. The cost is $5.00 per subscription when 10 or more are sent to one address; if less than 10 are ordered, the cost is $6.50 per subscription. Please include all society information AND sender information asked for on the order form. This order will assure that you will receive the Summer, Fall and Winter 2015 and Spring 2016 issue of the Quarterly.

All Quarterly renewals or questions regarding your subscription should be directed to the LWML MN South District Quarterly Manager, Barbara Fellersen. You can contact Barbara at quarterlymanager@mnslwml.org or 507-236-3102. Please do not mail your Quarterly renewal check with your Mites or to the national office. PLEASE SEND THIS ENTIRE PAGE WITH YOUR ORDER.

YOUR QUARTERLY ORDER IS DUE MARCH 1, 2015

Send this entire page

1 to 9 subscriptions @ $6.50 per subscription:  _____ # ordered x $6.50 = $ __________

10 or more @ $5.00 per subscription:  _____ # ordered x $5.00 = $ __________

Add $5.00 Late Fee if order is placed after March 1, 2015:  $ __________

TOTAL ENCLOSED: ................................................................................................  $ __________

Society Information

Society Name____________________________________________________________________________________

Church Name ____________________________________________________________________________________

Address Quarterly Should Be Sent To ________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________ State _________ Zip________________________

Sender Information

My Name_______________________________________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________

City ______________________________________ State _________ Zip _________________________

Phone Number ___________________________________________________________________________________

E-mail _________________________________________________________________________________________

Please send this COMPLETED WHOLE PAGE ORDER FORM and a CHECK FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT
(made payable to LWML MN South District) to:

Barbara Fellersen
LWML MN South District
Quarterly Manager
601 Shoreacres Dr. #304
Fairmont, MN 56031-2244
Happy Holidays?
From Pastor Lowell Sorenson

To all the women (and men) on a mission: I wish you a very warm and happy holiday season! Wait...is that acceptable? Should a pastor or any Christian really use the greeting: “Happy Holidays”? Isn’t that too generic? Does that really give witness to our Christian faith? After all, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, Jesus is the reason for the season. Actually, He is the reason to celebrate all our days and seasons.

A few years back, I remember Christians being quite upset when certain stores made it a policy not to say “Merry Christmas” anymore. “Happy Holidays” is deemed acceptable, but not anything with those offensive names like “Jesus” or “Christ.” We are right to be saddened by the loss of Christian influence in our culture. The redeemed hate (yes, “hate” – see Psalm 119:104, 128) to see Christ taken out of Christmas.

But let’s not be too quick to dismiss “Happy Holidays” as something completely pagan. Actually, while the unbelieving world may not realize it, the word “holiday” has nothing to do with the holly plant, with its green foliage and lovely red berries. It has everything to do with what is holy. The word “holiday” comes to us from the Old English word hāligdæg (hālig “holy” + dæg “day”). A holiday is a holy day! I know, I know, some of you are going to give me that speech about a word’s meaning being more determined by its current use than by its etymology.

Even if one accepts that as true, we Christians have a reason to let the world know why this is a special season – this is a holiday season because Christians celebrate Jesus. The unbelievers have this season of merriment and joy because of Christ and because of God’s people. They should thank us. We Christians celebrate “holidays” because they are holy days – days especially set apart to thank and praise the Triune God for all His benefits to us. Especially are we thankful for the incarnate Son of God, come to save us from sin, death, and hell. The cradle and the cross go together.

So the next time the clerk wishes you “Happy Holidays,” don’t be shy about receiving the greeting with joy. Don’t get upset. Perhaps you might even want to say kindly in return: “These are indeed holy days and happy I am because of my Savior, Jesus Christ!”

Memorials Received
August - October 2014

Chester Maki
Bud Urtel
Penny Breuer
Earl Nolte
Florence Bester (3)
Ron Morris
Lydia Uecker
Vickie Ulbricht
Val Palmer
Doris Heidorn
Eleanor Hinchley
Janice Galstad
Donald Feit
Heintz Obermoller
Elaine Black
Victor Roth (6)
Frieda Leininger
Lyla Otto
Marcella Gebhardt (4)
LaVon Buckentin
Caroline Attig
Marion Holtzworth
George Rosin
Elaine Tesch
Lois Ochs
Eileen Shellum
Alice Schmuck
Margaret Flohrs
Shirley Gaarder

I have envelopes for the LWML MN South District Memorials. Please contact me if you would like some.

Joann Rosenfeld, Financial Secretary

PARLIAMENTARY PAUSE

When asking for nominations from the floor, it is not required to call for the nominations three times. This custom may have started when a presiding officer wanted to make sure that no one missed a chance to nominate someone or some other reason.

The motion to close nominations is never in order as long as anyone wants to make a nomination. Upon determining that there are no further nominations, the chair can simply state that nominations are closed.

Even when a nominating committee presents the assembly with a ballot, the presiding officer (not the committee chairman) must still ask for nominations from the floor. Balloting continues under the direction of the presiding officer.

Irene Mensing, Parliamentarian
Mighty Mites at Work for God’s Kingdom!
By Deb Vinkemeier, LWML Minnesota South District Vice President Gospel Outreach

Is your mite box sitting empty, tucked away in a corner or drawer? That little purple and white box filled with pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters can do great wonders to proclaim the Gospel. The mite box is intended for the mite’s contribution be given to support our district and national missions and to implement the LWML program.

You can go to http://www.lwml.org/missions/mite-history-php to learn about the Mite History and the LWML Missions. You may will find it interesting that it began in the 1800’s.

Every woman in a society should have a mite box and be dropping coins in it. Think of this as a Mite Challenge; GO and contact a woman in your congregation that does not belong to an LWML society or does not know what a mite box is. Introduce the mite box to her by giving her a mite box along with a Mite’s Calendar that can be found on www.mnslwml.org which can be printed monthly.

Explain to her the importance of the mite box and how the mites reach out to others around the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ through our Mission Grants.

Mite boxes are available and you may receive them through the district, zone, or LWML office.

“THE TIME IS NOW” to begin to pray, equip, and support labors in the harvest field. Begin now by looking over our Mission Grants and choose one and commit:
- To pray for that particular grant’s missionaries and recipients.
- Giving your mite offering with joy!
- Praying continually with thanksgiving, rejoicing in the fact that you are a blood-bought child of God!

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

YWR Applications for 2015 National LWML Convention

Are you a young woman, preferably 21-35, who loves the Lord and His mission and loves to serve the Lord with gladness? Do you know such a woman? Thank and praise the Lord for placing such faithful young women in our midst! Would you or a young woman you know be a good National Young Woman Representative to the National Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention in Des Moines, Iowa on June 25-28, 2015? Talk to LWML women you know. Pray about it. Then complete the application and make yourself open to the possibility of being a Minnesota South District Young Woman Representative for the LWML National Convention.

In the meantime, we will be praying for you! We are thankful for faithful women like you who love the Lord and His mission as much as we do. Applications are now available from your Zone President or on the Minnesota South District LWML website (www.mnslwml.org). Completed applications should be sent to: Shirley Johnson, 80534 County Road 22, Hector, MN 55342, by January 1, 2015.

“JOYFUL RESPONSE”

You can now donate your LWML mites electronically! “Joyful Response” is a free electronic mite giving opportunity for individuals and societies of the LWML. You can transfer your personal or society’s mites directly from your bank or LCEF Steward Account safely and conveniently. If you are interested in this giving opportunity, fill out the “Joyful Response” form and send it to Darlene Fretham.
Mary and Martha Really
Joan Proehl — Vice President of Christian Life

For a number of years I have listened to God’s Holy Word preached; I am a Bible Study leader, have participated in many Bible Studies over the years, and two women just continually inspire, encourage, and give me direction for my spiritual life. They are Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. Their unending love and dedication to their Lord Jesus is remarkable and cherished by all of us.

Mary was a shining example for making the right choice. Luke 10:38-39; “Jesus came to Martha’s home and she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet.” Verse 42 says “only one thing is needed; Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken from her.” There are times when my thoughts wander during Pastor’s sermon…”My, but Mrs. Happy looks really “stressed out” or “what am I going to have for lunch?” or “I hope we can get it all done before we need to go.” (I hope I am not the only one out there having this happen!) What about the days when by nighttime I am so tired that I neglect to pray or do my devotions? Or when I oversleep and get out of bed like a rocket and do not take time to say “Good Morning, Lord” and pray for a good day?

Then Mary’s choice comes back to me. “First things first, Joan, get your priorities right. Stay focused as Mary did and life will be much easier for whatever road God has me travel on.” Mary, we need to thank you for helping us to make a God pleasing-choice and for setting an example for all of us to follow. God, please give us the same faith Mary had in making the “right choice”. Thank you, Lord.

I can relate to Martha rather well. I am the one who will be the last one out of our church kitchen to join our Tabitha Circle women to start our Bible Study. Invariably, someone will say “Come, Martha.” Our Lord also gave Martha a loving reminder; “first things first.” However! Let us remember the beautiful faith confession Martha gave her Lord after the death of Lazarus. John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her; “I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” And in verse 27, Martha expresses her confident faith: “YES, LORD,” she told Him, “I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, WHO HAS COME INTO THE WORLD.” Whatever God gives me or you in life and especially at the time of death, it is my hope I can verbally or thoughtfully declare the same confession Martha gave to her Lord. Thank you Martha for the beautiful declaration of faith. May all of us witness the same confident faith Martha had in her Lord. Through thick and thin, her confession has given me the strength to meet each day’s needs. It is my prayer that Martha’s confession of FAITH will do the same for you.

At www.mnslwml.org

Do you need to contact someone on the Board of Directors? Did you know you could find the names, phone numbers and email address of every member of the Board of Directors of LWML MN South District? Including the Zone President! Just hover your mouse over “Contact” (top right hand corner) and then click on Board of Directors. Either make a phone call to whom you need to speak OR click on the Contact Me button, fill in your information, add your question and click submit! Please communicate with us!

LWML National Convention 2015 Banner

The banner processional of the LWML Convention will set the tone for the convention as it beautifully expresses the convention theme. “Bountiful-Sow-Nourish-Reap” and highlights the God-given talents of the districts. The LWML MN South District, is asking for a banner design to represent our district in Des Moines. Contact your Zone President for more information.
President
Margaret Hasermann
Ph. 507-220-5510
Email: president@mnslwml.org

Vice President of Christian Life
Joan Proehl
Ph. 507-462-3459
Email: christianlifepv@mnslwml.org

Vice President of Communication
Wendy Greiner
Ph. 507-340-7678
Email: communicationvp@mnslwml.org

Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Deb Vinkemeier
Ph. 61-720-7264
Email: gospeloutreachvp@mnslwml.org

Vice President of Human Care
Janice Pfeifer
Ph. 507-252-0300
Email: humanancarevp@mnslwml.org

Vice President of Servant Resources
Joy Anderson
Ph. 612-423-1204
Email: servantresourcesvp@mnslwml.org

Recording Secretary
Ruth Bacidi
Ph. 507-454-4418
Email: recordingsc@mnslwml.org

Financial Secretary & Equalization
Joann Rosendal
44366-220th Street, Arlington, MN 55307
Ph. 507-317-1009
Email: financialsec@mnslwml.org

Treasurer & Memorials & Bequests
Marilyn Coleman
Ph. 763-422-4982
Email: treasurer@mnslwml.org
memorials@mnslwml.org

Chairman of the Nominating Committee
Nancy Kohrs
Ph. 651-345-4319
Email: nominations@mnslwml.org

Nominating Committee Members:
Kay Stewart, Beth Schuster, Sherri Cox, Elaine Taggatz

Parliamentarian
Irene Mensing
Ph. 507-526-3430
Email: parliamentarian@mnslwml.org

Archivist-Historian
Lois Marquardt
Ph. 507-374-6566
Email: archivist-historian@mnslwml.org

Quarterly Manager
Barbara Fellersen
Ph. 507-235-3617
Email: quarterlymanager@mnslwml.org

Counselors
Rev. Robert Mundahl
Ph. 507-334-9610 (church)
Email: pastoralcounselor@mnslwml.org

Rev. Lowell Sorensen
Ph. 651-388-4577 (church)
Email: pastoralcounselor@mnslwml.org

Rev. Gary Zieroth
Ph. 952-448-2433
Email: pastoralcounselor@mnslwml.org

Rev. Joel Wessel
Ph. 507-346-2793
Email: pastoralcounselor@mnslwml.org

Meeting Managers
Joan Luedtke
Ph. 507-238-2177
Email: meetingmanager@mnslwml.org

LWML Store Manager
Juliene Klaustermeier
Ph. 952-466-3813
Email: lwmlstoremanager@mnslwml.org

Transportation Coordinator
Joyce Swedean
Ph. 651-688-8245
Email: buslady@mnslwml.org

Webmaster
Delores McGillivray
Ph. 507-288-6948
Email: webmaster@mnslwml.org

Committee on Young Women
Shirley (Sener) Johnson
Ph. 320-282-8616
Email: COYW@mnslwml.org
Sarah Culbert
Ph. 651-260-3703
Email: COYW@mnslwml.org

WOM Editor
Diane Fraundienst
Ph. 507-248-3800
Email: editor@mnslwml.org

WOM Circulation Manager
Carolyn Wagner
Ph. 507-866-4614
Email: circulationmanager@mnslwml.org

Heart to Heart Representative
Shing Vang
Ph. 651-762-9619
Email: heart2heartsisters@mnslwml.org

2016 Convention Chairman
Darlene Fretham
Ph. 507-723-6230
Email: darlenefretham@gmail.com
Patti Pierson
Ph. 507-669-2371
Email: prespipestonez@mnslwml.org

ZONE PRESIDENTS
Capitol Conference
NE Suburban: Renee Chambard 763-767-9671
presnesuburbanz@mnslwml.org
St. Paul Metro: Beth Schuster 651-631-8956
prestmtpaulmetroz@mnslwml.org

Crow River Conference
Arlington: Vivian Grisham 507-237-5264
presarlingtonz@mnslwml.org
Litchfield: Joanne Jarvis 651-470-5040
preslitchfieldlz@mnslwml.org
Mankato: Kay Stewart 507-304-5072
presmankatotz@mnslwml.org
McLeod: Maureen Krumrey 320-864-4162
presmcleodtz@mnslwml.org

Lyndale Conference
St. Croix River: Ruth Ann Moldenhauer
651-735-451 presstcroixrivierz@mnslwml.org
SE Suburban: Lois Peterson 952-322-3436
presessuburbanz@mnslwml.org

Minneapolis Conference
Minneapolis Metro: Ruth Hickey 612-724-1136
presminneapolismetroz@mnslwml.org
NW Suburban: Linda Gemelke 763-566-8516
presnwsuburbanz@mnslwml.org
SW Suburban: Pamela Hunter 952-461-6772
resswsuburbanz@mnslwml.org

Minnetonka Conference
Lake Minnetonka: Anna Gerber 952-475-9168
preslakeaminnetonka@mnslwml.org
North Carver: Ruth Bury 952-955-2836
presnoccoverrz@mnslwml.org
South Carver: Juliene Klaustermeier
952-442-0422
presstcarverrz@mnslwml.org

Owatonna Conference
Austin: Chyeral Stohlman 507-433-2252
presastuzin@mnslwml.org
Fairbault: Gloria Kenow 507-451-6941
presfarbauitz@mnslwml.org
Waseca: Judie Waters 507-835-7414
preswaseca@mnslwml.org

Southwest Conference
Blue Earth: Julie Ebert 507-235-9505
presblueearthz@mnslwml.org
Pipestone: Patti Pierson 507-669-2371
prespipestonez@mnslwml.org
Sherburn: Karen Borlison 763-764-7391
pressherburntz@mnslwml.org
Worthington: Caroline Witt 507-678-2717
presworrthtanz@mnslwml.org

Whitewater Conference
Lake Pepin: Doreen Hoffman 507-876-2806
preslakepepinz@mnslwml.org
Rochester: Sandy Weiden 507-951-6901
presrochesterz@mnslwml.org
Winona: Michelle Prigge 507-450-9204
preswinonaz@mnslwml.org