

# Women On a Mission

Minnesota South District

[www.mnslwml.org](http://www.mnslwml.org)

Summer 2016

## JOURNEYS

As I write this, my husband and I have just arrived home after being in Texas for the winter. We like our time in Texas, but it is nice to be home. That said, we have our belongings all over our house. Not all things pack neatly by category, so most boxes have to be gone through, and things have to be put back where they belong. I'm not the neatest person in the world, but until most things get put away, it isn't good. I do need a certain amount of order.

God created the world, and put everything in order, and saw that it was good. We try to live our lives in an orderly way. Good order can be ruined in so many ways. As we are on our journey through life, as sinners, with the consequences that go with our sin, we make our lives less than orderly. Tragedies and unexpected circumstances can completely throw us into chaos. Whether we have a small amount of disorder, such as my messy house, or a tragedy, we can always depend on our Loving God to be there to comfort and help us. He has given us His Word and we can depend on His promises.

My husband and I had a long journey to come back to Minnesota. I would like to encourage you to make the short journey to Mankato for our LWML District Convention on June 24 – 26. You will only have to pack for a few days. We will meet under the theme of "The Living Word." Friday will be Christian Life Day, with our MNS District Counselors leading us in Bible study on being "Equipped by Scripture for God's Good Works." Friday evening we will have the Convention Opening Communion Service with Rev. Tom Park as proclaimer. Bible study during the convention will be led by Rev. Greg Seltz, Lutheran Hour Speaker. We will have Mission Inspiration speakers, vote for new officers and the Mission Grants that our mites will support for the next two years, good food, wonderful Christian fellowship with our LWML sisters in Christ and much more with some surprises. Please make the journey and join us in celebrating and studying "The Living Word."

Margaret Hesemann, LWML Minnesota South District President 2014 - 2016

## PURPLE PRIZE PACK!

Try saying that fast four times. I bet your home is full of purple things. I'm sure your closet has at least one purple item in it that you wear at LWML events. You might be like me and have a purple outfit for everyday of convention. As the Purple Prize Pack lady I will be awarding individuals with LWML items throughout the convention. In order to win you must have your convention registration number with you at all times. This number can be found on the Delegate/Guest Receipt and Confirmation sheet that you received prior to convention. Watch for me in my purple outfits and you might just be my next Purple Prize Pack winner.

Joy Anderson, VP of Servant Resources

## EVENTS AND DEADLINES

- June 24-26, 2016 26th Biennial Minnesota South District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention Minnesota South District
- August 5, 2016 Deadline for WOM Articles
- August 13, 2016 Board of Directors April meeting

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**Submit articles for the Women On a Mission to: [comm@mnslwml.org](mailto:comm@mnslwml.org)**



**Next WOM Deadline: August 5, 2016**

## 2014 - 2016 Gospel Outreach

Name of Grant	Beginning Balance	Previously Paid	Paid This Quarter	Paid to Date	Unpaid Balance
The Dwelling Place, Transitional Housing Program, Domestic Violence, Twin Cities	\$10,000.00	\$4,540.00	\$5,460.00	\$10,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Expanding Outreach to Ethnic Women & Families - POBLO, Rochester	\$12,000.00	\$6,455.00	\$5,545.00	\$12,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Tuition Assistance for Students Seeking a Lutheran High School Education, MN South District	\$80,000.00	\$55,090	\$24,910.00	\$80,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Trinity/HOPE, Feeding Children in Haiti	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op, Fort Wayne, IN	\$10,000.00	\$5,834.00	\$4,166.00	\$10,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Mission Central - Funding Missionaries & Support for Church Planters/Vicars in India	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Lutheran Braille Workers' Lutheran Library for the Blind	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Ghana Seminary Support - LCMS	\$10,000.00	\$5,834.00	\$4,166.00	\$10,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM)	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Assisting Youth/College Students to be Companions/Camp Counselor Interns, Bethesda	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
How Can I Understand? Lutheran Books for Families in Ethiopia	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
CLEF—International Lutheran Hymnal Project	\$10,000.00	\$5,834.00	\$4,166.00	\$10,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Shepherd's Canyon Retreat/Client Scholarships	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$9,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Mission Focus Expansion of New Pastor Orientation Process/New Worker Retreat (partial)	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Total Mission Grants Projects	\$195,000.00	\$170,000.00	\$24,910.00	\$195,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
National LWML	\$65,000.00	\$54,663.56	\$10,336.44	\$65,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID
Total Mites	\$260,000.00	\$224,753.56	\$35,246.44	\$260,000.00	FULL AMOUNT PAID

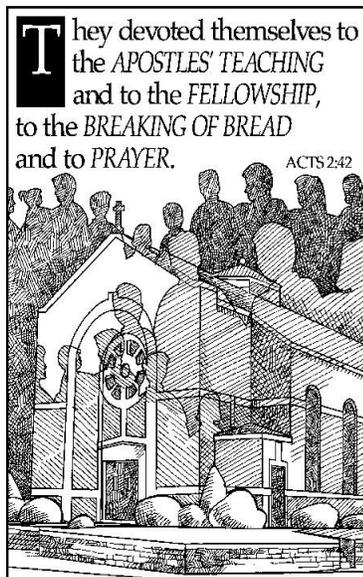
### The WOMEN ON A MISSION (WOM)

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*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)*

This brief passage gives us a clear portrait of the Christian Church soon after the Day of Pentecost. This portrait also shapes our understanding of what the Church is today. Whatever else an individual congregation may be, it must be these things if it is rightly to be called Church.

1. **The Church is people devoted to the apostles’ teaching.** That teaching is recorded for us in the New Testament. It proclaims that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures in which God promises to send our fallen world a Savior from sin, death, and hell. This salvation is found in no one else. Peter’s Pentecost preaching in Acts 2 is a wonderful example of the apostle’s teaching/preaching and a model for the church’s message today.
2. **The Church is people devoted to the fellowship.** The Greek word *koinonia*, or fellowship, means “coming together to share what you have in common.” This is why the church “congregates” or gathers on Sundays and at other times. In the Divine Service we share the gifts of God’s grace as they are given to us through God’s Word and Sacraments. These gospel gifts are what we Christians have in common no matter how different we are in other ways.
3. **The Church is people devoted to the breaking of bread,** the Supper of our Lord’s Body and Blood. Here our crucified and risen Lord Jesus literally touches our lives with the forgiveness, life, and salvation He won for us on the Cross. These fruits of His death are given to us so that we may live fruitful lives of faith toward God and fervent love toward one another. It is the food and drink of people who are alive forevermore in Christ.
4. **The Church is people devoted to prayer.** Prayer is the response of faith to the gifts God promises and gives. True prayer has its source in God’s Word and the prayers He gives us there – including the Psalms and the Lord’s Prayer. Prayer is an attitude of joyful dependence upon God for all that we are and have. It is an attitude of continually receiving good gifts from God with thanksgiving. It is an attitude of continually praising God by giving good gifts to our neighbors according to their needs.

The Church is all about sharing – sharing in the eternal blessings Christ gives us in His Word and Sacraments, sharing our lives and all that we have with each other (see Acts 2:44-45). All this makes it absurd, selfish, and sinful to call yourself a member of a Christian congregation and yet never to “congregate” with your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you are truly unable to come to worship on Sunday morning, let your pastor know. He will be happy to make other arrangements for your spiritual care – to include you in the life of your congregation by bringing God’s gifts of grace to you. You need Christ! We need each other! So “do not neglect to meet together, as some are in the habit of doing” (Heb. 10:25). God has some incredibly good gifts to give you when you “come to church”, when you gather with His baptized people around His Word and His Supper. He also has some incredibly good gifts to give to others when His Gospel bears fruit in your life!

-Pastor Loel Wessel

## Christian Life Day—Friday June 24, 2016

Theme: "Equipped by Scripture for God's Good Works"

Bible Verse: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and teaching in righteousness, so that man may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Presenters are:

- ◆ Teaching — Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth
- ◆ Rebuking—Rev. Robert Mundahl
- ◆ Correcting—Rev. Loel Wessel
- ◆ Training in Righteousness—Rev. Lowell Sorenson

Goal: Women growing in faith, through the Word are equipped to carry out the mission of our Lord in their families, congregations and communities.

Christian Life Day will provide a day of inspirational learning, interactive sharing, joyful praise sing-a-longs, Christian fellowship, and delightful fun.

Our Saturday, June 25th Christian Life Luncheon Speaker will be our very own LWML sister, Joyce Lanie, "The Battle Belongs to The Lord". Joyce will share with us how she and her family faced the challenges of cancer through faith in Christ Jesus.

Registration: If you would like to attend, check Christian Life Luncheon on the District Convention Registration form.

The Christian Life Committee is looking forward to spending a beautiful inspirational faith building day with you. You all come!

Joan Proehl  
Vice President of Christian Life

## MN South 26th Biennial Convention Mankato, MN ~ June 24-26, 2016 Gifts from the Heart

What excitement we must be experiencing as Gifts From the Heart for the District Convention are gathered at society meetings, zone winter retreats, and spring rallies.

This article is a brief reminder to send me the number of pairs of socks you have collected. As Christ gave His life for all, may we follow His example by remembering those in need.

Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed!

### MERCY MERCY MERCY

The Mercy Kits are the same as the original Hygiene Kits. Each kit should include a large, dark-colored bath towel, one dark-colored wash cloth, one bath-sized bar of soap (4-5 ounces and in its original wrapping), and one adult-size toothbrush (in its original wrapping), one tube of toothpaste, one sturdy comb (remove the packaging) and six Band-Aids secured together. These kits must be assembled and secured with string prior to the convention.

The Human Care committee chose the Open Door Health Center, Dental Division, in Mankato for the second Gifts from the Heart Ingathering. The dental kit for children will include ONE toothbrush for ages up to five years old OR one toothbrush for children ages five to seven years old, toothpaste, and flossers. Flossers are easier for the children to use as they have short handles. Pack the items in a quart-size (or larger) bag.

The third Gifts from the Heart Ingathering will be socks. All socks are to be in their original packaging. If your organization is collecting socks, our committee would appreciate your cooperation by sorting the socks into four categories (Infant, Toddlers, Women, and Men's). Your Zone may distribute them as you see fit.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,  
Jan Pfeiffer  
Vice Chairman of Human Care

## LWML MN South Convention Offerings

Four offerings recipients have been selected for the LWML MN South Convention. They are:

1. 2016-2018 LWML MN South Mission Grant Goal
2. POBLO International
3. Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition – LINC
4. Rachel's Hope – Austin, MN

If you are unable to attend the convention and would like to support any or all of these offerings, you may send your offering and indicate to which offering you would like your contribution to go.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The Mission Statement for our LWML is: “The Mission of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 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.”

It was the desire and prayers of the 2012 -2016 Christian Life Committee to in some small way help each of our LWML sisters live our LWML Mission statement through our LWML District-sponsored Workshops, Women’s Retreat and the Christian Life Day of our LWML District Conventions. These opportunities were prepared to encourage, to strengthen, and to enable each of us to use our gifts in the ministry to the people of the world.

Acts 1:8 NIV. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the **ends of the earth.**”

The 2012 – 2016 Christian Life Committee Counselors Rev. Lowell Sorenson; Rev. Robert Mundahl;; Committee members Marlys Kopischke, Fauniece Witt, and myself would like to thank you for your participation, prayers and words of encouragement for these past four years. Everything was so appreciated.

Vice President of Christian Life  
Joan Proehl

## LWML Minnesota South Convention Highlight DVDs available to order.

A set of DVDs containing highlights and Bible Studies from the convention as well as short clips about each Mission Grant recipient will be available for ordering following the convention. Orders will be accepted until December 15, 2016. Orders received by Sept 15, 2016 will be shipped on or before October 15, 2016. Order forms can be found at <http://www.mnslwml.org/resources/forms> and will also be available in the convention folders. More details and pricing will be available on the website: [www.mnslwml.org](http://www.mnslwml.org). Email [communicationvp@mnslwml.org](mailto:communicationvp@mnslwml.org) with any questions.

### First-timers Luncheon!

Those attending their first LWML Convention this summer should sign up for the First Timers Luncheon. Come and enjoy lunch with Snow White and the Seven dwarfs and hear how they team up with LWML and tell what LWML is about and how Christ wants us to share the Gospel. Space is limited so make sure you sign up for the luncheon on the Convention registration form. Questions regarding the First-timers Luncheon can be direct to Jan Pfeiffer, Deb Vinkemeier, or Wendy Greiner .



## Memorials Received

**February 1—April 30, 2016**

Ray Crippen	Malinda Fennert	Beatrice Mensing (7)	Terry Busse
Marcy Crocker	Genelle Krause	Doloris Haus	Anmarie Trocke
Ira Schafer (2)	Gretchen Wendel (2)	Elaine Schentzel (2)	KariAnn Uecker (7)
Kenneth Kazemba	Verla Ling	Louise Kiebach	Elaine Reinhardt
Laddie Merkwan	Florence Neitzel	Phyllis Huls	Esther Weber (2)
Kay Hermann	Velma Day	Bernetta Hanson	Nancy P. Gusa
Mavis Plath	Ruth Schoenfeld (2)	Gladys Kaduce	Earl “Bud” Ponto
Ella Steinbeck	Norman Halverson	Virginia Yerks	Dorothy Tangen
Grace Huddleston	Robert Anderson	Duane Hausman	

I do have envelopes for the MN South District Memorials.  
If you need some, please let me know and I will send them to you.  
Joann Rosenfeld, Financial Secretary

## THE GIFT OF MITES

Deb Vinkemeier  
VP of Gospel Outreach

What comes to mind when you hear the word “Outreach”? Are you thinking helping others, providing service to the needy, or doing things in the community? Now, put the word Gospel before Outreach and you have Gospel Outreach!

Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus says “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

Did you notice the word “GO”? Those two letters also can stand for “Gospel Outreach”. We are God’s ambassadors here on earth and we are to use our mites to do Outreach Ministry. We can do this by daily dropping our coin or coins in our mite box and praying for our Mission Grants.

We will be voting on a new Mission Grant Goal at our 2016 Convention. We need to remember that even if societies do not meet during summer months that our grants do not stop. Please remember to continue to give to mites even when we do not meet or when we are on vacation. “**Joyful Response**” is an electronic mite-giving program which makes an easy way of giving and you won’t even miss a month. You can find the form on our website at [mnslwml.org](http://mnslwml.org).

We have a Great Commission ahead of us this biennium. Our mites need to continue strong to support our Mission Grants that reach out to all nations to bring them to be baptized and learn and know about Jesus love. We are commanded to further God’s Kingdom.



If you are attending the convention stop by the “Rocking for Mites”. Also, even if you are not going to walk the Mission Walk on Sunday, you are encouraged to get pledges for the Mission Walk. Your pledge sheet is in your packet or contact me and I will happy to send you one. Contact me at [gospeloutreachvp@mnslwml.org](mailto:gospeloutreachvp@mnslwml.org) or 612-720-7264,

Now, GO and outreach your mites!

Dear Lord, as you command us to go and baptize and teach all nations, help us to remember that this is Your work in us and through us. Keep us faithful to Your Word and the Gospel message of salvation in Christ alone. Enable us to encourage one another in our giving as we support many with our mite offerings to go and share Jesus' love in our communities and around the world. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## Is Your LWML Group “Brain-Friendly”?

As we plan LWML activities, we can make our meetings, events, and even our Bible studies more “brainfriendly.” Consider these ideas to update and invigorate your next event:

1. Be in prayer and in the Word as you plan. Don’t be too busy to do what is most important.
2. Plan for interaction and movement. Try a mixer which requires women to move around, or start your meeting with exercises or stretching. You could even go for a walk and then get in the Word together.
3. Connections are the key. Have a theme to which women can connect on a personal level. Be sure all the components of your event follow the theme. People forget 90% of what they hear and learn, usually within hours of hearing it, but emotional context helps them remember. That’s why stories are such an effective way of sharing.
4. Schedule time where new ideas can be discussed without structure. The brain recalls information that it shares out loud, and women usually like to talk. For example, discuss different ways you can serve the Lord with gladness in your congregation that don’t involve traditional activities such as serving food. Make a list of every idea and choose two to carry out this year.
5. The brain hates boring and moves on. You only have 30 seconds to get everyone’s attention and 10 minutes to keep it. Restart the “attention clock” every nine minutes and 59 seconds (or sooner) during long presentations or discussions to keep everyone involved. Take a break and come back to an item if the topic is starting to drag on and on ... that is a much better option than losing your audience.

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League - Helping Organizations Participate Effectively  
[www.lwml.org/resources/hope-committee](http://www.lwml.org/resources/hope-committee)

## PAID IN FULL

*“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14*

Isn't it a great feeling when you have a bill and it is marked "paid in full". We are able to experience that feeling as Christians believing that Christ went to the cross with all our sins. With God's great love for us, our sinful bill was marked "Paid in Full" with Christ's body and blood.

We remember that great love God gave us so freely by giving our mites and supporting our Mission Grants that others may experience that great love and to know that their sins are forgiven.

We have great celebration not only because our bill was paid in full, but that our LWML MN South Mission Grant Goal has reached its 2014-2016 Mission Grant Goal of \$260,000.00 and now all the Mission Grants are "Paid in Full". Praise be to God!



The Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Deb Vinkemeier, was pleased to present Mayer Lutheran High School Principal, Kevin Wilaby, and Executive Director, Joel Landskroener, with a check from our LWML MN South District in the amount of \$24,910.00 to complete the Mission Grant for "Tuition Assistance for Students seeking a Lutheran High School Education, MN South District."

Joel Landskroener thanked the Minnesota South District of the LWML for this precious gift for the students. He along with four Lutheran High Schools are grateful to have our prayerful encouragement and financial support as they prepare Christian leaders for a world that so desperately needs them.

Thank you everyone for your support of prayers and your mites. When we do not cease in praying and continue to trust in our Lord – all good things do happen!

## PARLIAMENTARY PAUSE

### **Convention Delegates and Credentials Committee**

A convention delegate is chosen by her society to represent her society in all voting and other business of a convention. As a representative of her society, the delegate needs to prayerfully consider the wishes of her society when voting.



Upon registering for the convention, the delegate's credentials (authority to vote) must be approved.

The Credentials committee is charged with making sure the delegates registered are in attendance and presents to the assembly the number of eligible voters.

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Bylaws Chairman

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