

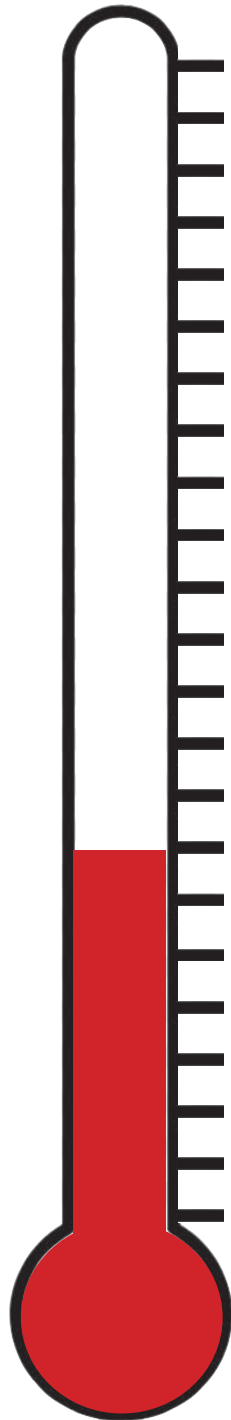


LWML
Iowa West District

LWML Iowa West District



December 2024/January 2025



\$222,853.68

\$76,133.88

LWML Iowa West District Mission Goal

2024-2026 Biennium

Progress as of
November 25, 2024



The December/January eNews articles will be due to Editor Lisa Wilson by January 20.
Send articles to lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com

From our Iowa West District President

2 Peter 3:18 - *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen*

2025 is just around the corner and with 2025 we are looking to grow in God's amazing grace. Get ready to grow! This summer we will be meeting in Omaha at the CHI center just across the river from home. (more or less) It is time to attend the 41st Biennial LWML National convention June 26-29, 2025. The convention is conveniently located very close to Iowa West District.

We have chosen 3 young women to represent us at convention more about this in our Leadership development article. The convention will be a great chance to see LWML sisters from everywhere. We will hear about all the amazing things our mites have done to enable missionaries to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world.

I hope that quite a few of you can make it to the convention it is an amazing experience to see so many sisters in Christ, encouraging each other, sharing God's word and growing in His grace, to extend His kingdom.



Penny Schuessler
LWML - Iowa West District
President

The end times

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this." (Revelation 1:17–19)

The close of the church year comes with readings on the end times, primarily from the Book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse of St. John. Revelation is interesting for many reasons: the use of vivid colors, the shocking imagery, and the fact that this particular book was not widely accepted at first.

According to The Lutheran Study Bible, (TLSB) "the last book of the Bible also startled and repulsed people who first read it. Whereas congregations immediately and universally accepted the Gospels as genuine portraits of Jesus, Christians needed time to see the value of Revelation. Some congregations in the Early Church would not include Revelation in their list of books to read during worship, even though John wrote Revelation for that specific purpose. Yet in time, Christians embraced this intense and dramatic portrait—a personal revelation—of our Lord Jesus Christ."

At the writing of this I have been preparing for the Last Sunday of the Church Year. I am using the Reading for Christ the King Sunday. The Epistle Reading is Revelation 1:4b-8.

In my devotional life, I use For All the Saints A Prayer Book For and By the Church, it follows the Church Year, so my Epistle Readings lately have been from Revelation. I have noticed that John, the author, use vivid colors, there is talk of scrolls, trumpets, plagues, dragons, four beasts, and the four horse rides. This all makes for an interesting read. I can be called scary, I suppose, giving one a sense of dread or woe. But that is not purpose of Revelation, "the throne is the central thematic element of the Old Testament apocalyptic literature, See Ezekiel chapter one and Daniel chapter seven. Revelation chapters four and five build on this theme by depicting the enthronement of Christ after his ascension." (TLSB) The focus on the Christ sitting on his throne, this central theme reveals that "Revelation is not chiefly a book of woe but a book of comfort for God's people." (TLSB). So with all the craziness in our world, and hurricanes, wars, and rumors of war, are we living in the End Times, only God the Father knows. But we should be living like we are in the End Times. Focus on Christ, and his throne of comfort. Because Christ will return.



**Rev. Edward E.
Durand III**
LWML IWD
Senior Counselor

LWML Servants

Just a reminder that the LWML Nominating committee is looking for names for the LWML IWD 42nd Biennial Convention in June of 2026,

Please pray about it yourself, or encourage someone to submit their name to serving on the LWML. The joy will be yours in serving the lord.

Names are needed for:

President

VP of Gospel Outreach and Special Focus Ministries

Financial Secretary

Junior Pastoral Counselor

Nominating committee-9 candidates from different zones

Julie Carstens, Nominating Committee Chairman

711 6th St. SW Spencer IA 51301

carstensjulie50@gmail.com

319-830-9134

Thanks on behalf of the committee members,

Jill Feilmeier/Nancy Schoen Carman Thiedeman/Breanna Wetzler



Julie Carstens
Nominating Committee
Chairman



Time to share Jesus – especially at Christmas

“There are so many things I wish I could share with my children, but whenever we are together, it seems we are always racing off to a soccer game or dance recital. We never really get to talk.” This was the sentiment that Rachel was expressing to her sister as the two were enjoying an unseasonably warm November day on the screened porch. Rachel’s husband passed away suddenly about two years ago and since then, these two sisters have spent more time together.

“I know what you mean,” said Karen. “But that changed for me a few years ago when Bill and I put our estate plan together. We worked with an LWML Gift Planning Counselor, and she kept insisting that we create a statement of faith to share with our family and friends. She called it a Family Blessing. The counselor also urged us to meet formally with our kids to share the details of our estate plan with them.

It was then that Bill and I both read our Family Blessings to the kids out loud. By the end we were all shedding some tears and hugging. It was the first time in a long time that we had deep conversations about our confidence in Jesus, rather than just talking about attending Sunday service. It was great.”

Rachel responded, “You know, since Fred died, I have been needing to review my estate plan. Maybe I’ll give the counselor a call and see if she can help me do the same thing.”

Your estate plan is not just about money and laws. It is about relationships and sharing Jesus. To get started on your journey and kindle those conversations with the people you love most, contact Ann Carrick at acarrick324@hotmail.com or 515-360-0709 for help. And, maybe consider making a plan to do this after the first of the year. Blessings to you this Christmas!

Mission Servants

I will make my message short as I have so much to report for our donations reported for May through November. Every time I do this, I am so greatly amazed at how much is done through the LWML throughout our District. As we are beginning the Advent Season it is a time of giving but Jesus reminds us to give at all times, to serve one another. Paul also writes in Romans 12:13 "Share with the Lord's people who are in need and practice hospitality". Praise God for the opportunities He gives us to follow His word. Thank you to all of you!

I have recorded as how they are listed on the donation form. There were 16 zones reporting.

IOWAY: \$590, 225 rolled bandages, 160+Quilts, 49 Blankets, 125 burp cloths/bibs, 300 knit hats, 161 washcloths, 8 baby kits, and additional pillowcases and school supplies along with \$400 for LERT and 8 hours of work for LERT.

Orphan Grain Train: \$1,175, 1,437 Quilts, 190 health/hygiene kits, 301 school kits, 126 baby kits, 678# bedding with additional 198 blankets, 855# men's clothing, 1416# women's clothing, 1156# children's clothing, 31# underwear, 1503# non designated clothing, 59 pillowcase dresses, 50 dolls, 75 winter hats, 45 bars of soap, 502# medical supplies, 24 pr shoes, 37 plastic mats, 10 Christmas boxes, 203# fabric, sewing machine, bicycles, kitchen items, and misc. coats, scarves, belts, purses, gloves, toiletries, school supplies and lap robes. \$2000 for Hurricane Helene, 2800 hours donated.

Seminary Students: \$15,918.50 and \$3,000 in donated clothing. Mission Central: \$12,261.90

Other Religious Organizations: LWR-\$755, 89 school kits, 83 personal kits, 212 Quilts. AGAPE-\$460, 1,951 diapers, 70 bottles, 9 coats, 6 Quilts, and 18# misc. items. Camp Okoboji-\$950, 696 zip lock bags, 130 food items, and several Quilts. Flood/Disaster Relief-\$6,515, 39 Quilts, 35#clothing. \$11,675 cash donations to multiple other religious organizations: Bible Translators, Lutheran Church Charities, Perry Home, Phils Friends, Guatemala Mission Trip, Gospel Mission Sioux City, African Ministries, Honduras Orphanage, Main Street Living, Mission Field Montreal, International Ministries Ames, Braille Bibles, Lutheran Family, Hispanic Ministries, Good Shephard Home, Iowa Lakes Lutheran School, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Hope Ministries, Cherish House, Lydia House, David's Harp. Additional 68 Quilts, 245 washcloths, 167 toothbrushes, 650# clothes, 900 cross bookmarks sent.

Community Outreach: \$3,612.71 and 1,476# of food to local food pantries, Mercy Meals, Siouxland Meals, and Salvation Army. \$3,400 and approx. 2,237 items to local schools and pre-schools. \$16,953 to 28 different local organizations across the District, too many to name them all. 821 diapers, 530 pullups, 22# bedding, 51#fabric, and 272 other items to local organizations.

Congregations: \$3,710 to support youth groups, Sunday Schools, needy families, Camp Okoboji scholarships, VBS, and Pastor appreciation. 36 Quilts to members, 180 hand made cards to shut ins along with May baskets to shut ins, 200 meals in ham give away, along with confirmation banners, bibles, baptismal napkins and hours helping to support their congregations.

Other: non designated cash donations of \$7,875, 244 misc. Quilts, 1,193 misc. items to Harvest Academy, Caring Hands, Algona Quilters, Taking it to the Streets, Swaddling Clothes, Mohm's Place, etc, 200 little dresses to Fort Dodge, 109 glasses, and multiple other items including ink cartridges, pill bottles, blessing bags and items for shelters and the homebound. Reported hours worked: 12,464

Thank you to all those who sent reports in. I have tried to capture most of the items reported but I am sure I have missed some, and due to the size I consolidated many of the items so not all may be individually listed.



Nancy Medick
Mission Servants
Chair

Gospel Outreach

The Big Question

At my workplace as we evaluate the effectiveness of our programs and events, we ask ourselves the question, “If we discontinued the program or stopped this event would anyone notice and miss the activity?” If the answer is no, we pivot our efforts.

I pondered a similar question recently, “What would happen if the LWML stopped their Gospel Outreach efforts, would anyone notice? The overwhelming response is YES! Think about the impact of our mission efforts to extend our Lords’ Gospel at the group, zone, district, and national level.

- The spare change and dollar bills that collectively provide millions of dollars to support mission grants.
- The quilts made with love by our women that keep a child in an orphanage warm or serve as shelter for homeless people in faraway countries.
- The comfort offered by our ladies as they donate food and serve families during their times of deep despair at funeral lunches.
- The countless health and school kits and layettes that find their way to those in need across the world via our partnerships with other RSOs.
- In gatherings of diapers, gift cards, non-perishable food items, Bibles, underwear, you name a need and our ladies come together with generosity and a love for our Savior to provide items to meet those needs.

As the number of people attending church at our District congregations is decreasing and fewer and fewer ladies are joining our LWML groups we must remember the impact our mission efforts and be inspired to ask others to join us on the LWML mission. It might be inviting another lady to attend a Zone event with you, engaging our Sunday School children in collecting mites, asking the congregation to pray and support our mission causes on a regular basis.

I am grateful for each one of you and the work that you are doing to maintain and grow HIS LWML organizations and your willingness to try something new; for keeping our mission work as part of your prayers and giving.

May God continue to bless you through the wonderful Christmas season and as we move into 2025.

“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:11-12



Brenda Dryer
VP of Gospel Outreach
& Special Focus
Ministries

The Power of 12 Break Out Session Ideas LWML IWD Convention 2024

IN GATHERINGS

- Collect Christmas Shoe Box Items
- Consider a joint effort with the congregation’s youth.
- Collect items for a local need.
- Make it personal.
- Make it fun.
- Collect and/or make items for the “Phil’s Friends” cancer mission.
- Utilize Thrivent funds.
- Be intentional about setting times for in gatherings beyond group and zone events.
- Collect fleece and then tie blankets.
- Loom hats.
- Collect supplies and roll bandages.
- Collect gift cards for Mission Central.
- Be intentional about efforts to sign cards for local nursing home residents. Make it more than a one-person job.

2024 – 2026 Biennium LWML Iowa West District Mission Grant Update
(as of November 18, 2024)

Grant Recipient	GRANT TOTAL	BALANCE
Rev. Bryan & Deaconess Keah Payne – Tanzania	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Fund Haitian Seminarians	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Serving Hungry & Starving Children With Nutritious Meals and the Gospel	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: Nutrition Center Transformation	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Unity Ridge Lutheran School Scholarship Assistance	\$ 17,120.05	\$ 17,120.05
Project Equip with Truth for Children, Families, and Church Workers Facing Gender Identity Challenges in Today’s Culture	\$ 19,400	\$ 9,400
Financial Assistance for Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School – Expansion and Curriculum	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Hispanic Ministry Outreach – English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in different churches of the IDW	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Serving “Our Elders” through Meals on Wheels Perry Lutheran Home	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000
Financial Aid for Iowa District West Students Pursuing Full-time Church Work	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000.00
	\$ 161,520.05	\$ 119,520.05

A video detailing these grants can be found on the Iowa District West - LWML website for use in HIS Zones and group/congregation communications. To God be the Glory!



Christian Life

Looking Forward to the Season

I don't know about you, but I enjoy the Advent Season so much! 'Tis the season of gatherings, treats, anticipation, Christmas carols, family and especially a "Season of Giving". Some spend hours pouring over their lists of gifts for family and friends...some even use massive spreadsheets to make sure everyone in the same category gets what they want, the same number of gifts that are of similar cost, etc. It can be overwhelming sometimes!

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we have the calling to Serve the Lord with Gladness during this "Season of Giving" in lots of ways. The LWML website, www.lwml.org includes many opportunities for giving, and also several resources for reflection on our giving. One I have enjoyed is the archived devotional 5 Images of the Giving Christian, written by the Rev. John Heckmann. He portrays the Christian Giver as someone who:

- Gives Faithfully
- Gives Compassionately
- Gives Gracefully
- Gives Proportionately
- Gives Globally

I would encourage you to visit the LWML website, if possible, and download and share this Devotion during the upcoming Advent season, and carry its insights throughout the New Year!

Have a Very Merry Christmas!



Deb Rouse
Christian Life
Co-Chairman

Historian's Queries

By Gretchen Sump, IWD LWML Historian

Please share these questions with older members of your society, and hopefully give/send me comments.

Query 1 – Think back to 2012. If anyone has an issue of the E-News from 2012 when it started, please send me a copy. The e-News was initially sent monthly to the Board of Directors to share news more current than articles in the Harvest (which was quarterly). By January 2013 it became bimonthly according to a motion in the Board of Directors minutes.

Query 2 – Does anyone remember the Anniversary Moments shared at the 1996 of 50th Anniversary Convention. Were you even one who shared these spots. I have pictures of 2 women in rocking chairs. I also have pictures of women standing giving reports. Was that you?

Query 3 – What changes have you seen in each decade of the LWML, especially in the last 30 years?

Query 4 – Does someone have pictures from this past 2024 District Convention with individuals they can identify? If so please send me a few (like 3-6)

Query 5 – What is your most favorite memory or tradition of your society, zone, or district LWML experience?

Please share stories with me by e-mail gretchensump3@gmail.com, by telephone at 712-542-4561, or mail to 609 North 15th Street, Clarinda, IA 51632.

December Newsletter Article

“There are so many things I wish I could share with my children, but whenever we are together, it seems we are always racing off to a soccer game or dance recital. We never really get to talk.” This was the sentiment that Rachel was expressing to her sister as the two were enjoying an unseasonably warm November day on the screened porch. Rachel’s husband passed away suddenly about two years ago and since then, these two sisters have spent more time together. “I know what you mean,” said Karen. “But that changed for me a few years ago when Bill and I put our estate plan together. We worked with an LWML Gift Planning Counselor, and she kept insisting that we create a statement of faith to share with our family and friends. She called it a Family Blessing. The counselor also urged us to meet formally with our kids to share the details of our estate plan with them. It was then that Bill and I both read our Family Blessings to the kids out loud. By the end we were all shedding some tears and hugging. It was the first time in a long time that we had deep conversations about our confidence in Jesus, rather than just talking about attending Sunday service. It was great.” Rachel responded, “You know, since Fred died, I have been needing to review my estate plan. Maybe I’ll give the counselor a call and see if she can help me do the same thing.”

Your estate plan is not just about money and laws. It is about relationships and sharing Jesus. To get started on your journey and kindle those conversations with the people you love most, contact...

December Bulletin Sentences**December 1, 2024**

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Have you ever endeavored to express your faith and desire for your family to remain in the faith, in a short, succinctly written piece that you can share as a lasting testimony even after the Lord calls you home? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you to initiate this project, including sharing some examples. For assistance, contact...

December 8, 2024

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Around the holidays, we do not want to become morbid, discussing topics that are difficult. But if the opportunity presents itself, consider sharing with family your confidence about care for your body at life’s end, or the joy in your heart about directing God’s things through your estate plan. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you talk through what you want to share. Contact...

December 15, 2024

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Someday, when the Lord calls you home, your estate will turn over the financial assets to family, ministry or other charities. Have you ever considered preparing a letter to each of the beneficiaries of your estate, sharing with them why the Lord directed you to share with them? Maybe this could translate into face-to-face conversations right now. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can ask you questions, assisting you to become specific about how your faith translates into your gifting plan. Contact...

December 22, 2024

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Many speak of estate planning from the perspective of “What legacy are you leaving behind?” If we are honest and think about those who have passed before us, their value is not in being remembered after they are gone, but in the impact they made on each of us during their life. If you would like to discuss this with your LWML Gift Planning Counselor and how that translates into your estate plan, contact... May you have a very blessed Christmas!

December 29, 2024

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. The end of the year is a time to reflect and consider what has transpired during these last days. It often focuses on an end and then a new beginning. For Christians, we always live with a deep expectancy of living out eternity in God's Kingdom because of Jesus. Let that be your resolve this year: to weave that confidence into your estate plan. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor would be happy to help. Contact...

Contact Linda Gage or Carol von Soosten for more information.
Email: Linda.Gage@lfnd.org Phone: 800-741-4138 lwmlgiftplan.org
Email: Carol.vonSoosten@lfnd.org Phone: 800-741-4138 lwmlgiftplan.org

News from the Zones

Denison Zone LWML Fall Rally

The Denison one LWML Fall Rally was hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Dow City on Thursday, September 19th. The theme for the rally was, "Pray Without Ceasing" taken from 1 Thessalonians 5:17. There were 38 people present for the occasion.

Zone President, Peggy Wunchel opened the 2024 fall rally with members reciting the LWML pledge. Deb Osborn introduced the speaker, Megan Torresen who authored the book, "Fourth in the Fire: A Story of God's Faithfulness in the Heart of the Furnace." As outlined in her book, Torresen described her family's spiritual journey through the major health issues of her husband's brain tumor, and expected child's heart problems. Megan went on to share how she and her family as well as their church and community realized the power of prayer.

Iowa West District Financial Director, Chris Mahnken, thanked the group for their contributions to mites and

encouraged them to explore creative ways to raise additional mite dollars. Ladies from immanuel Schleswig presented the skit, "Pray Without Ceasing." The coffee shop setting included ladies discussing the "right" way to pray.

A short business meeting was led by Zone President, Peggy Wunchel. The Denison Zone Executive Board was introduced. Two amendments to the Bylaws were presented with unanimous approval. Pastor Trunkhill installed new officers, Deb Green, Sharon Peters, and Cindy Gray. The closing devotion and prayer, led by Pastor Trunkhill, focused on the four different kinds of prayer and ended with the LWML song, "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

The morning event ended with a delicious sandwich and salad luncheon served by the gracious hosts of Bethlehem Lutheran.

Des Moines East Zone

The Des Moines East Zone held their Fall Rally on October 12 at Mt. Calvary in Indianola, and there were 39 in attendance. The theme was Pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His Harvest. Luke 10:2

The ladies of Mt. Calvary served breakfast and our Pastoral Counselor, Pastor Tom Vanderbilt of Mt. Calvary, led us in a Bible study based on the theme. Nancy Medick, Zone President, had a short PowerPoint presentation of pictures taken at the District Convention. Those who attended added their comments on the experience.

A short business meeting was held along with the election and installation of new officers. We also had an election of a mission project to receive the offering collected that

day of \$515.00. The project chosen was Hope Ministries' Hope Center for Women and Children, Des Moines, and the intention is to a representative from there to speak at our Spring Rally.

The ingathering was hygiene items for the men who live at Harvest Academy, a therapeutic community located in rural Indianola. The men were also given the 'God's Survival Kits' made that morning as the Rally mission project.

It was a great morning of fellowship and the study of God's word. Our Saviour-Des Moines will host the 2025 DME Zone's Spring Rally on April 26 with the theme, You have come to Mt. Zion...the Heavenly Jerusalem. Hebrews 12:22

Get on the bus

THERE IS STILL ROOM ON THE IOWA WEST BUS TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN OMAHA, JUNE 26-29, 2025!!! If you are interested in riding the bus, we still have room for 15 more! Please let us know as we would like to fill the bus if possible. Send your \$25 bus deposit to: Deb Matasovsky, 508 East 12th St., Storm Lake, IA 50588 by December 1st! Make checks payable to: IWD LWML with convention bus deposit written in memo line. We hope you can join us.

Jan Magnussen
 (712)732-1708 (H)
 (712)299-1246 (C)
 janmag78@gmail.com

Deb Matasovsky
 (712)732-5486 (H)
 (712)299-4443 (C)
 hdmata83@gmail.com



ELECTED OFFICERS

President
 VP Organizational Resources & Christian Life
 VP of Gospel Outreach & Special Focus Ministries
 Secretary
 Financial Secretary
 Treasurer
 Senior Pastoral Counselor
 Junior Pastoral Counselor
 Nominating Committee Chairman

Penny Schuessler
 Jeanette Hinkeldey
 Brenda Dryer
 Deb Schmidt
 Chris Mahnken
 Sharon Hamann
 Rev. Edward E. Durand III
 Rev. Nicholas Thackery
 Julie Carstens

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 carstensjulie50@gmail.com

APPOINTED PERSONNEL

Convention Planner
 Christian Life Chairman
 Christian Life Co-Chairman
 Mission Servants Chairman
 Mission Servants Co-Chair
 Leader Development Chairman
 Leader Development Co-Chair
 Structure Committee Chairman
 Editor/Information Technology Chairman
 Parliamentarian
 Historian

Julie Coy
 Sherrill Phillips
 Deb Rouse
 Nancy Medick
 Ann Schauer
 Martha Sunderman
 Cayleigh McBee
 Marilyn Kuehnast
 Lisa Wilson
 Sue Ackerman
 Gretchen Sump

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