



LWML
Iowa West District

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April/May 2025



LWML Iowa West District Mission Goal

2024-2026 Biennium

**Progress as of
March 26, 2025**



The June/July eNews articles will be due to Editor Lisa Wilson by May 20.
Send articles to lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com

From our Iowa West District President

Happy Spring – He Is Risen – He Is Risen Indeed

June 26-29, 2025 mark your calendars, register today and be blessed “Growing in God’s Grace” with all our sisters from across our LCMS. We are so blessed to have the National LWML convention so close to us. If you cannot attend the entire convention, come for a day and join us for worship. If you have never worshipped with 3000 Lutheran Women it is an experience you will never forget. This got me thinking of my first experience at International LWML Convention in 1985 in Ames, Iowa. My husband who was a Vicar serving at St. John Lutheran Church in rural Osage, Iowa. We both immediately became big supporters of Lutheran Women In Mission, Of course it helped as the LWML Iowa East District President Mrs. Loras Troge, was a member of St. John. She was one of the many women over the years who have inspired us to share the Gospel of Jesus and serving our Lord with Gladness. There are many faithful women who have mentored me and others to serve the Lord with gladness.

As I am writing this we are following our Lord to the cross and then triumphantly to the empty tomb John 13:5 “Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around himself”. Jesus who had no sin became sin for us, humbled himself to serve his servants. As women in mission, we dedicate ourselves to the great task of bringing the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with Him. We dedicate our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises. We are called to serve and in June we gather together as one to hear His word be refueled for the Mission we have to fulfill.

I hope to see all of you there, get ready for a lot of hugs



Penny Schuessler
LWML - Iowa West District
President



Date:
June 26–29, 2025
Location:
Omaha, Nebraska
CHI Health Center

Vocations of Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Vocation. A simple word to describe so many different talents, ages and parts of life. From being a child, to an adult. From attending school to working out in the world. God has given so many opportunities with same vocation; tell people about Jesus and show His love.

I am reminded what St. Paul tells us in 1Corinthians 7:17, "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches."

St. Paul gives us some good advice here for everyone is different, everyone acts different, everyone has different talents and different vocations of life that God has put them in. There is a reason for this. There is a reason that the vocation of a child is brother, or sister, student, friend, and so forth. There is a reason that an adult could be in the vocation of father, or mother, friend, employee, management, grandfather or grandmother, and so forth. You see there is no randomness to God's plan, everything is set for a purpose, and that purpose is to best spread the Word of God. There is a reason why LWML was formed. Giving women another avenue to serve God and one another.

Think about it. Was there ever a time in you life when you were influenced by someone, or someone helped

you out where you thought, 'How that person has some strong faith.' Did you ever help someone out or tell someone about Christ and by that their life was changed around? You may have had these, or not yet but Christ is always in our lives bringing us to people or bringing people to us that all people will have the chance to believe.

One vocation that we all are unified in is the vocation of being a Christian and believing the teachings of Christ. Even though we all have the vocation of being a Christian we are all still different and have different talents, but yet we are suppose to use those different talents that we have to help the Church and spread the Word of God. So wherever you are in life right now trust that God has put you there for a reason. Be a child, student, brother, sister, friend; be a parent or grandparent; a husband, wife, friend and do all this in a Christian Love. Christ first loved us and showed us how to love each other so let us do that with Christ behind us, leading us to serve His purpose, to tell others of His Love.



Rev. Nicholas Thackery
LWML IWD
Junior Counselor

Let's Share The Light of Christ!

Names are needed by the Nominating Committee for the LWML Iowa West District 42nd Biennial Convention in June of 2026 for the LWML offices of:

- President
- VP of Gospel Outreach and Special Focus Ministries
- Financial Secretary
- Junior Pastoral Counselor
- Nominating Committee-9 candidates from different zones

LWML Servants! Pray about submitting your name to
Share the Light of Christ!

Send/email/call

Julie Carstens, Nominating Committee Chairman
711 6th St. SW Spencer IA 51301
carstensjulie50@gmail.com
319/830/9134



Julie Carstens
Nominating Committee
Chairman

Thanks of behalf of the Nominating Committee members, Jill Feilmeier/ Nancy Schoen/ Carmen Thiedeman/Breanna Wetzler

Financial Reports

Gifts received February and March 2025

Mission Account		Other Mites	
Memorial/Honor District 75%/National 25%		Noisy mite offerings	\$186.71
Mark Meyer	\$20.00	Faith Adel and Faith Council Bluffs	
Bruce Gunderson	\$20.00		
Delmar Zinnel	\$20.00		
Memorial Mites District 100%		General Account	
Tristen Kunze	\$10.00	Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$808.00
Bob Stoltze, Jr	\$10.00	Light That Endures Funds	
Shirley Rex	\$1,080.00	Mabel Horn Bequest into Endowment	\$3,785.39
Ronald Neulieb	\$10.00	Legacy Fund	
Ruby Krakau	\$100.00	4% Foundation distribution	\$4,840.98
JoAnn York	\$15.00		

Annual Report

April 2024 - March 2025

Mission Account		General Account gifts	
Zone mites	\$ 91,257.77	Recycling	\$ 164.67
Memorial mites	\$ 675.00	Inreach	\$ 7,219.92
Other mites	\$ 1,183.59	Inreach gifts	\$ 74.00
Stamps	\$ 79.81	Thrivent Choice	\$ 898.00
Rally mites	\$ 3,123.61	The Light that Endures Funds	
Convention	\$ 9,189.86	Legacy	
100% Dist memorials	\$ 1,550.00	Memorials	\$ 110.00
100% District - gifts	\$ 934.24	Honor	\$ 50.00
TOTAL	\$107,993.88	Retirement gifts	\$ 4,000.00
		Endowment	
		Bequests	\$17,3993.70
		Memorials	\$ 140.00

THANKS FOR YOUR MITES! As we close out the first year of our biennium I want to thank all of the zone treasurers for their service. Our zone mites provide the bulk of the contributions that go to grants, both national and district. We honor those zones who sent in mites at least 10 of the 12 months. An * behind the zone name means they sent mites all 12 months. Adair*, Boone*, Carroll*, Council Bluffs*, Denison*, Des Moines East*, Fort Dodge*, Humboldt, Mapleton, Northwest*, Sac City, Sioux City, Southwest*, Spencer.

Chris Mahnken LWML IWD Financial Secretary

Christian Life

“Growing in God’s Grace” ...I’ve registered for the upcoming LWML Convention in Omaha, NE, and I hope that we will see you there! On the calendar, Spring has arrived, and we’re beginning to see a few signs outdoors as well.

Now is the time to Check out all the inspirational SPRING RESOURCES at <https://lwml.org/spring>. There you’ll find personal devotions such as:

- Day by Day – Growing in the Lord (Sprititual Growth)
- Bloom and Grow (Witnessing and Christian Living) and
- Tears of Joy (Easter, Joyful Tears)

If you are looking for Mission Service Activities for your group, you’ll find details on projects such as:

- When Disaster Strikes
- Mother’s Day and Beyond and
- Sharing Jesus’ Love in Action – with an Easter Basket

Remember to sign check your email for Daily Mustard Seed devotions, or sign up if you aren’t receiving them yet. What a great way to start your day! These Mustard Seeds offer an option to listen to rather than read the brief devotional message right from your email.

Praying for a blessed and joyful Easter for all of you.



Deb Rouse
Christian Life
Co-Chairman

Organizational Resources

A few years ago, I was involved in my local group’s program planning session when one of the members made the comment that even after five years as a member of Lutheran Women in Mission, she still did not understand the various terms such as who was involved in a zone or where all her mites went each month.

Perhaps you have questions about Lutheran Women in Mission? Are there others in your congregation who do not know the wealth of resources our group has to offer? Are you interested in creating a new group in your congregation?

The national Lutheran Women in Mission Group Development committee published and uploaded to the website a WELCOME PACKET that provides easy-to-read information and direct links to the wealth of resources that Lutheran Women in Mission offers its members, as well as information on how to organize new groups within a congregation and how LWML is structured. I personally discovered information I did not know in this packet, so it is a good resource for those of us who have been involved for many years. You may find this resource at <https://www.lwml.org/welcome>.



Jeanette Hinkeldey
VP Organizational
Resources and
Christian Life

Gospel Outreach

District Mission Grant Application Cycle Open

We are officially announcing that we are accepting applications for mission grants to be considered at our LWML District Convention scheduled for June of 2026 at Camp Okoboji. Application materials can be found on the Iowa District West website under the LWML tab. Applications are due October 31, 2025.



Brenda Dryer
VP of Gospel Outreach
& Special Focus
Ministries

Eligibility and Endorsement:

Appeals for LWML Iowa West District grants may be submitted by an individual Iowa West LWML member, group or zone with the appropriate endorsements of the applicant's president and the pastor/counselor.

Recognized Service Organizations of the LCMS (LCMS RSO) looking for an LWML Iowa West sponsor, may contact the Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Special Focus Ministries, Brenda Dryer (bsdryer50@gmail.com).

Grant Guidelines:

In addition to giving preference to grants within Iowa West, all mission grant proposals shall:

- be strictly MISSION in character
- fit into the plans and projections of the LCMS
- be current and ready for implementation, well documented
- be assured of continued maintenance after the allocated mites are exhausted
- not have been funded by the last District convention
- be endorsed properly (refer to Cover Signature Sheet)

Proposals consist of:

1. The Cover Signature Sheet
2. The Proposal in "Whereas" format
3. The Information Paper

While the application deadline is months away it's not too early to be thinking about worthy projects that meet the grant guidelines highlighted above.



**The 2022-2024 LWML
Iowa West District
Mission Grants have been
processed and paid!**

To God be the Glory!

LWML 2024-2026 Iowa West District Mission Grants

		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	\$ -
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: Nutrition Center Transformation	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Unity Ridge Lutheran School Scholarship Assistance	\$ 17,120.05	\$ 11,545
Project Equip with Truth for Children, Families, and Church Workers Facing Gender Identity Challenges in Today's Culture	\$ 19,400	\$ 9,700
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	\$ -
Serving “Our Elders” through Meals on Wheels Perry Lutheran	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000
Financial Aid for Iowa District West Students Pursuing Full-time Church Work	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000.00
	\$ 161,520.05	\$ 84,245.05

As of March 15, 2025

Historian's Queries

By Gretchen Sump, IWD LWML Historian

Please respond soon by e-mail gretchensump3@gmail.com or phone 1-712-542-4561. I look forward to visiting with you.

Query 1 – Did anyone who gets this E-News attend the Iowa West District convention in 1980? If you have a Convention Manual with notes or minutes, I am looking for the number of the voting body and the total attendance. I would appreciate your help to find this information.

Query 2 – Special memories as a YWR? To District or National Conventions?

Query 3 – Special memories as an officer or committee member on the district level?

Query 4 – What are your memories of IWD bus trips to National conventions?

Mission Servants

Spring is here and it now finds us with so many things to look forward to. Blessings to all of you as we go through Lent; learning and studying about Christ's teachings here on earth, remembering His death on the cross, and celebrating His resurrection, giving us salvation and peace in knowing we have eternal life with our God and our Lord. He has Risen, He has Risen Indeed! We are then reminded again to seek opportunities to serve our Lord here on earth. In May we will once again be collecting a list of all our donations from the last 6 months. Donation forms have been e-mailed to all the Zone Presidents to share with their groups. I will be traveling in May so groups please send your completed forms to your Zone Presidents or Mission Servants and they can then combined them and send them on to Vice-Chair Ann Schauer at schauerann@gmail.com or mail them to her at 2095 Roundtable Rd, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa 51054. You may send them anytime now, but they must be to her by May 15 to be included in this 6 month donation list. Last, we can look forward to our National Convention in Omaha. They are doing Gifts from the Heart different this year as you will order your gifts online and they will be directly sent to the organizations that have been chosen, Camp Luther of Nebraska, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, and University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry. Here are step by step

instructions on how to do that:

1. Go to national LWML site
2. Choose News and Events at the top
3. Choose Convention Central
4. Scroll down to Convention Documents
5. Click where it says in purple, "Download Gifts from the Heart Flyer"
6. Scroll down to the organization you wish to contribute to.
(Camp Luther, Lutheran Family Services, or University of Nebraska)
7. Click on their Amazon Wish List link and choose what you want to purchase for them
8. Add to cart and then pay
(Make sure your delivery is to the appropriate place so it will be sent to them.)

These may be ordered all the way up until convention starts.

The Gospel Outreach Committee will also be accepting VISA gift cards at the convention. Please make sure to write the dollar (\$) amount on the outside of each card. These will be dropped off at the GFTH collection location at the convention.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at National Convention as we "Grow in God's Grace".



Nancy Medick
Mission Servants
Chair



A difference of opinion!

As we continue to think about the tensions involved in Christian estate planning, this month we focus on how differences in opinion among family can create enough roadblocks to keep a plan from moving forward.

Imagine a husband and wife who have children, who have wandered into difficulties in their lives. Dad is the softy, just wanting to make their children's lives easier. Mom is stricter, demanding the children take responsibility for their behaviors. At times, this difference has created strain on their marital relationship.

Now imagine this same couple trying to jointly decide on a solid Christian estate plan. Dad wants to evenly divide the estate as lump sum inheritance between their three children. Mom wants to spread inheritance over time. She also believes that her children will

waste resources given to them, so she is motivated to support gifts for ministry. You can imagine that the typical response to this tension is avoidance. As a result, their last estate documents are forty years old, created before their children were born.

For this couple, the key will be to have open, prayerful discussion about their goals, looking to create a consensus about what is the Lord's will for use of His things.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can assist in a situation like this. While they aren't a marriage counselor, they can safely ask some questions that the couple has been avoiding. They can remind about the safe place we have in the grace of God. To get started in this faith journey, contact Ann Carrick at 515 360 0709 or acarrick324@hotmail.com

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Penny Schuessler	IWDprespenny@gmail.com
VP Organizational Resources & Christian Life	Jeanette Hinkeldey	hinkeldeyharmonies@gmail.com
VP of Gospel Outreach & Special Focus Ministries	Brenda Dryer	bsdryer50@gmail.com
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Financial Secretary	Chris Mahnken	iwdlwmlfinancials@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sharon Hamann	iwdlwmltreasurer@gmail.com
Senior Pastoral Counselor	Rev. Edward E. Durand III	durande@ymail.com
Junior Pastoral Counselor	Rev. Nicholas Thackery	pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org
Nominating Committee Chairman	Julie Carstens	carstensjulie50@gmail.com

APPOINTED PERSONNEL

Christian Life Chairman	Sherrill Phillips	sherrillphillips2@gmail.com
Christian Life Co-Chairman	Deb Rouse	gdrouse1281@ncn.net
Mission Servants Chairman	Nancy Medick	nmedick@yahoo.com
Mission Servants Co-Chair	Ann Schauer	schauerann@gmail.com
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