



**LWML**  
Iowa West District

LWML Iowa West District



June/July 2025



## LWML Iowa West District Mission Goal

*2024-2026 Biennium*

Progress as of  
May 27, 2025



The June/July eNews articles will be due to Editor Lisa Wilson by July 20.  
Send articles to [lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com)

# From our Iowa West District President

## Share His Marvelous Light

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

I Peter 2:9

Mark your calendars on June 11-13, 2026, for convention! Wait! Hold on. Yes, I am talking about our Iowa West District LWML Convention! Plans are happening now for our 41st IWD Biennial District LWML Convention, "Share the Light of Christ" at Camp Okoboji.

But first, it is June 2025. and that means the 41st Biennial National LWML convention just across the Missouri River in Omaha, NE! I hope to see many of you at this very close national convention. We will have our district caucus Thursday afternoon. The time will be announced as we get closer to convention. At our caucus, we will introduce our Young Women Reps with a pinning ceremony. We will also have a special photographer take our district picture.

Thanks so much to Deb Matasovsky and Jan Magnussen for filling up our district bus for the Convention.

You do not have to be registered for the convention to attend the opening worship on Thursday, June 26 at 7:00pm. This is open to anyone, women, men or children. I highly recommend attending this service. It is not often we get to worship with 3,000+ fellow Lutherans, and receive the Lord's Supper. It is truly an unforgettable experience, an earthly glimpse of the multitude in Heaven.

May we all Grow in Grace in 2025 and then Share His Marvelous Light in 2026.



*Penny Schuessler*  
LWML - Iowa West District  
President

## HOW CAN YOU SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST?

**Submit your name or someone you know to fill the following offices for the LWML Iowa District West 42nd Biennial Convention in June of 2026. These offices are:**

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

The Nominating Committee asks you to pray about submitting your name!!

Let's 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

# The Ascension Of Our Lord

The “Rogation Days” that historically followed the Sixth Sunday of Easter, that is, the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday immediately preceding the Feast of the Ascension, were days of asking God to bless the fields and grant a fruitful harvest. The practice may have begun with occasions of natural calamity and poor harvests, but the active exercise of prayer in reliance on the Lord is always appropriate. The agricultural focus also offers a nice parallel to the mission of the Church in sowing the Gospel among the nations, as in St. Matthew 9:37–38, Psalm 67, and Luther’s “May God Bestow on us His Grace” (LSB 823). In either case, it is in the confidence of Christ Jesus, whose crucified and risen body is the Firstfruits of the New Creation (1 Cor. 15:20–23, Col. 1:15–18), that we call upon the Lord for the fields and the harvest (St. John 12:24).

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord on the Fortieth Day of Easter is certainly a high point and a transition within the course of the Season. It celebrates the exalting of our human nature to the right hand of God in the glorified Body of Christ Jesus, as well as His rule over the Church of all times and in all places, especially through the Ministry of His Gospel, as indicated in the Epistle appointed for this festival day in the three-year lectionary (Ephesians 1:15–23). The Ascension is not His departure or goodbye, but a profound transition in the way that Christ is in and with His Church. Exalted in glory, He ever lives to intercede for His people as our merciful and great High Priest (Heb. 4:14–16; 7:25, Rom. 8:34), even as He serves us by the preaching of His Word and the administration of His Sacraments within the Temple of His Church on earth.

Although the Feast of the Ascension is sometimes transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, it is certainly preferable to celebrate this Feast on the Fortieth Day of the Season. To do so not only preserves the integrity of this Feast in its own right, but it also then allows the Seventh Sunday of Easter to retain its unique character and liturgical significance between

the Ascension of our Lord and His outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

In the one-year lectionary, the Seventh Sunday of Easter (Exaudi) anticipates the coming of the Holy Spirit with the Word and promise of Jesus concerning “the Helper,” the “Spirit of Truth,” whom He would send from the Father in due season (St. John 15:26). The three-year series takes a different approach, proclaiming a portion of the Lord’s High Priestly Prayer (from St. John 17) on this Sunday each year. Whereas the one-year series highlights the ongoing work of Jesus in the ministry and witness of His Apostles (St. John 15:27), the three-year series highlights the ongoing Priesthood of Christ Jesus, who ever lives to intercede for us before the throne of God (Heb. 4:14–16; 7:25, Rom. 8:34). In this way, the Seventh Sunday of Easter in the three-year series is something of a “High Priest Sunday,” analogous to “Good Shepherd Sunday.”

Until the fourth century, it appears that the Ascension of Our Lord and the sending of the Holy Spirit were commemorated and celebrated together on the Fiftieth Day of Easter (Pentecost). As the Ascension came to be remembered on the Fortieth Day (Acts 1:3–9), the outpouring of the Holy Spirit became the sole focus of Pentecost Day. Regrettably, separating the Ascension from Pentecost Day tended to result in the premature ending of Eastertide and disrupted the unity of the great Fifty Days. Against this tendency, it is helpful to recall that the Feast of Pentecost is, properly speaking, the crescendo of the Paschal Feast.



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



Pastors and women gathered at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenfield Iowa on March 29th for the Adair Zone Spring Rally. Collected for the Camp Okoboji Grocery Shower were 48 various sizes of DAWN dishwashing soap, and 55 bagged breakfast cereal. Rev. Keith Schweitzer led a Bible Study “THE FEAST IS READY”.

# Financial Reports

## Gifts received April and May 2025

Mission Account		Other Mites	
<b>Memorial/Honor District 75%/National 25%</b>		Noisy mite offering, Faith Adel	\$31.40
Vesta Elder	\$20.00	Mitey Muffins -	
Ruth Lang	\$25.00	Beautiful Savior Polk City	\$328.40
Ardis Petersen	\$20.00	Rally and Prayer service	\$1374.55
Nicki Kuehnast	\$20.00	Boone, Cherokee, Emmetsburg,	
Jackie Kohnkamp	\$10.00	Mapleton, Northeast, Sac City,	
		Sioux City	
<b>Memorial Mites District 100%</b>		<b>Light That Endures Fund - Endowment</b>	
Delores Awegan	\$40.00	Carol Crouse memorial	\$50.00
Nancy Galvin	\$10.00		
Rosalie Downing	\$25.00		

## News from the Zones

### Carroll Zone

LWML Carroll Zone Spring Rally. was held on April 12, 2025 at Zion Lutheran Church, Manning Iowa. 27 members, 2 guests and Pastor Conner were present. The ladies of Zion hosted the Rally with a delicious brunch and good coffee.

Pastor Conner gave the opening and closing devotions. He asked the members to choose one thing they remembered about the scripture he read. As you can imagine there were multiple responses.

Carmen Thiedeman, Zone President introduced our guest speaker Rhonda Mohr. Rhonda serves as Assistant to the President of Iowa District West, in the areas of Education, Youth and Family Life. There are 8 Lutheran schools and 37 pre schools in Iowa District West. Rhonda emphasized on the importance of "Making Relationships". If it is between the youth, adults or families the center of every relationship starts with Jesus.

President Thiedeman conducted the business meeting. She reported on the LWML National Convention which will be held June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha. A bus will be taking LWML Carroll Zone members to the convention. If anyone is interested in going there is still room on the bus. Two YWRs from our LWML District will be attending the convention. Sharon von Qualen is on the ballot for LWML National Vice President of Gospel Outreach.

There are several societies in the Boone Zone and the Storm Lake Zone that have been disbanded because of church closures or are inactive. This includes Lidderdale which has been inactive for several years.

The LWML Carroll Zone Fall Rally will be hosted by Zion Arcadia. Date to be announced at a later date.

### Denison Zone

The Denison Zone LWML spring rally was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kiron on April 24th. The rally was hosted by the Ladies Aid of St. John's Kiron and by the Ladies Circle of Faith Lutheran Deloit. "Come to the Living Water" (John 7:37-38) was the theme of the rally. Forty-two people were present for the morning event.

The Zone Counselor, Pastor Mahnken, led the opening devotion. Pastor Mahnken explained the Feast of Tabernacles and how it tied in with the theme of the rally. Zone President, Deb Green, opened the 2025 spring rally with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Cross. The LWML pledge was spoken by the group as a responsive reading which included questions and answers.

The guest speaker was Jarryn Wiley-Pearce, Director of Christian Education at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Denison. Jarryn shared with the group the type of work she does with middle school and high school students, guiding and directing them through troubling transgender issues, pregnancy issues, etc. Human trafficking is a special danger she trains youth to recognize. Jarryn encouraged those attending to talk with our youth, be role models. and speak the truth. Our children do listen and they do remember, even when it doesn't seem like it,

# News from the Zones

because the Holy Spirit is always at work. An offering was taken and designated to help support zone youth groups attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. Jarryn pointed out how beneficial the gathering is because young people see they are not the only Christian kids in the world.

The Bethlehem Ladies Aid entertained the group with a comical skit, "A Revealing Conversation" written by Kenton Rohberg. The skit featured two characters, "Wallet" and "Mite Box." Wallet didn't have time to bother with small change! Mite Box quietly told Wallet about the BIG work the LWML does with

our small change and our prayers.

Pastor Mahnken led the closing devotion based on the theme, "Come to the Living Water." Prayer requests and the Lord's Prayer followed by the hymn, "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say," concluded the rally.

Following the morning event, a wonderful catered chicken dinner was served by the St. John's Ladies Aid and the Faith Ladies Circle. The Denison Zone LWML fall rally will be hosted by the Denison Christ Lutheran Ladies group on September 25, 2025 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Denison.

## Des Moines East Zone

The Des Moines East Zone held their Spring Rally on April 26 at Our Saviour in Des Moines, and there were 41 in attendance. The theme was, You have come to Mt. Zion.....The Heavenly Jerusalem, Hebrews 12:22. After breakfast, we worked on a mission activity which was decorating small glass jars and lanterns and filling them with candy.

At the 2024 Fall Rally, we chose Hope Ministries' Hope Center for Women and Children (HCWC) as our mission project to support. The HCWC was a former elementary school in Des Moines that has been remodeled and recently opened with 100 beds. Our Rally speaker was Leslie Green from Hope Ministries who talked about all areas of Hope Ministries, including the Hope Center for Women and Children (HCWC). The center

received the \$515.00 collected at the Fall Rally, the ingatherings brought to the Spring Rally, and all the jars and lanterns we decorated and filled with candy that morning. This past winter, the groups in the Des Moines East Zone collectively donated enough money to sponsor a suite in the HCWC for 2025, and we're talking about doing that again for 2026.

Rev. David Kuhfal, Pastor at Our Saviour, led us in a very interesting devotion about "the mountaintop", and then we had a short business meeting about the National Convention. It was a great morning of fellowship and the study of God's word. Peace Lutheran-Des Moines will host the 2025 DME Zone Fall Rally in October.

## Lutheran Women in Mission-IWD

### Fall Retreat

#### Mission Speaker:

Deaconess Sandra Rhein

*Missionary to Asia, Music Educator*

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**

Mission Central

Mapleton, IA

#### Activities:

Bible Study, Singing,  
Servant Activities, and Fellowship



# Gospel Outreach



**Brenda Dryer**  
VP of Gospel Outreach  
& Special Focus  
Ministries



The LWML National Convention is quickly approaching. I am looking forward to seeing many of my LWML Iowa West sisters in Omaha. After convention we will switch focus to our 2026 District convention; an important part of our time together will be the selection of the mission grants we will support in 2026-2028.

I have a couple homework assignments for all of us before and during the Omaha convention.

- For those attending the convention, as you are listening to the mission speakers, attending the breakouts, and walking the exhibit hall be mindful of missions that could be supported by our District mites. Direct people to our Iowa West website and the LWML tab for application materials.

- If you haven't already made your ingathering donation online, please do so at the LWML.org website. Encourage and challenge other ladies within your congregations to do the same. Things are changing. I know it's not the same as collecting and sorting boxes full of donations and then carting those boxes into the convention facility figuring out where they need to go. Blessings on those donations you are making in support of the important work to extend HIS gospel.

## **LWML District Mission Grant Application Cycle Open**

We have officially announced that we are accepting applications for mission grants to be considered at our LWML District Convention scheduled for June of 2026.

Application materials can be found on the Iowa District West website under the LWML tab. Applications are due October 31, 2025.

## **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](mailto: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



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**

		<b>Balance</b>
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
	<b>\$ 161,520.05</b>	<b>\$ 84,245.05</b>

As of May 24, 2025

# Mission Servants

Twice a year we gather what special projects and donations each zone has completed, and this report includes 11/15/ 2024- 5/15/2025. This was my first time of reviewing all the mission reports from the various zones to share with you. All I can say is "Wow". As I saw the organizations, the communities (near and far), and the people touched in so many different ways during joyous and difficult times, it brought a song that I have heard my daughter sing a couple of times- "The Servant Song". [sharing just a few verses]

The Servant Song Hymn (Richard Gillard)

Will you let me be your servant  
Let me be as Christ to you  
Pray that I might have the grace  
To let you be my servant too

We are pilgrims on the journey  
We are travellers on the road  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will weep when you are weeping  
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we've seen this journey through

These verses reflect the work, the time, the talents and the love that was shared with so many in a very short time by your zones. There is no way to share all the work and gifts that have been provided to all the organizations, congregations, communities- near and far. I would like to share a few highlights(which encompasses all reporting zones) and plan to share more in future articles as this does provide mission project ideas for your zones. To God be the Glory!!

Orphan Grain Train: 75 Hygiene Kits; 449 quilts; 2 large boxes of pillowcases; 14 mittens; 225 knit hats; 2 comforters; 38+pillowcase dresses; 3057 lbs of men, women and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, bedding, and household items; 450 lbs of clothing, 85 pairs of shoes, 8 lbs of towels, 146 lbs of bedding, 188 lbs of medical materials, 2 pair of crutches; 2 trailer loads of donated clothing; 12 teacher kits; school supplies;10 baby kits;1 hospice kit; fabric/patterns 126lbs; 17lbs of devotional materials Cash & Gift cards: \$2016 Camp Okoboji: \$7393; 2 quilts & 1 wall hanging for Quilt Auction; Camp Okoboji 55 bags cereal; 48 bottles of Dawn; 36 quilt tops; JOY Camp: \$200; 8 quilts IOWAY: 286 Rolled Bandages; 50 knit hats; \$250 Mission Central:\$2200; 48 stocking hats Concordia Seminary: Monies totaling for Food Bank and Seminary students \$6725 Lutheran Hour Ministries: \$575 COMMUNITY: Greenfield Chamber: \$450; Christ the King, Spencer, IA: \$675; Hawarden Church: \$500; Greenfield Tornado Victims\$850, quilts; Greenfield/Immanuel Lutheran: \$280.27 DONATIONS WITHIN YOUR CONGREGATIONS: 10 study bibles; 26 rolls of paper towels and 18 pkgs of baby wipes to Noah's Ark Preschool & Daycare; St John Youth Gathering Scholarship \$450; St John Bell Choir \$450; Confirmation gifts/ Graduate gifts; 180 hand made cards for encouragement and military persons; 15 Baptismal banners; 60 Christmas Ornaments for children; \$200 for VBS starter kit; \$500 new ovens; \$150 for National Youth Gathering; May baskets; Helping Hand to clean house; Advent Supper with donation to Youth Group; Peace Lutheran VBS- \$200; Lenten/Advent



**Ann Schauer**  
Mission Servants  
Vice Chair



**Nancy Medick**  
Mission Servants  
Chair

Mission Servants continued on next page.

meals; Thanksgiving meal; Senior meals; Cards for multiple occasions(Easter/Widow/Widower Valentine’s cards; \$1000 + 50 prayer bears for Immanuel’s Joyful Journey.\$100 Luther’s Small Catechism; baby shower; Poinsettias to homebound members; \$500 to member who lost home in fire; quilts for new babies; Gift card to member who had flooding; Main Street Living: \$1000

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out Nancy Medick or Ann Schauer, District Mission Servant Chair and Vice Chair, respectfully. You may email Nancy Medick: nmedick@yahoo.com Ann Schauer: schauerann@gmail.com Blessings on your continued mission projects.

## *Historian’s Queries*

**By Gretchen Sump, IWD LWML Historian**

Since this is convention time, I am asking about bus trips to national conventions. (I did not get any responses to this question in the last e-news, so here is your second chance to comment) Would you please list all the bus trips that you can remember and if there was something special about each trip. Did the people in charge have unique plans for you? A list of those ladies in charge of each trip would be interesting. I have been on 4 trips: Peoria 2011, Albuquerque 2017, Mobile 2021, and Milwaukee 2023. I think the comments by each person on the way home were the best part of the trip for me.

I have a list of these bus trips: 1991 Cleveland, 1997 Charlotte, 2004 Oklahoma (Marilyn Schroder), 2009 Portland (Betty Knudson), plus the 4 listed above. Who has been on the most bus trips? I look forward to receiving all your comments, memories and fun experiences on the bus.

### **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
Secretary	Deb Schmidt	iwdsecdeb@gmail.com
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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