



LWML Iowa West District



October/November 2025

LWML Iowa West District Mission Goal 2024-2026 Biennium

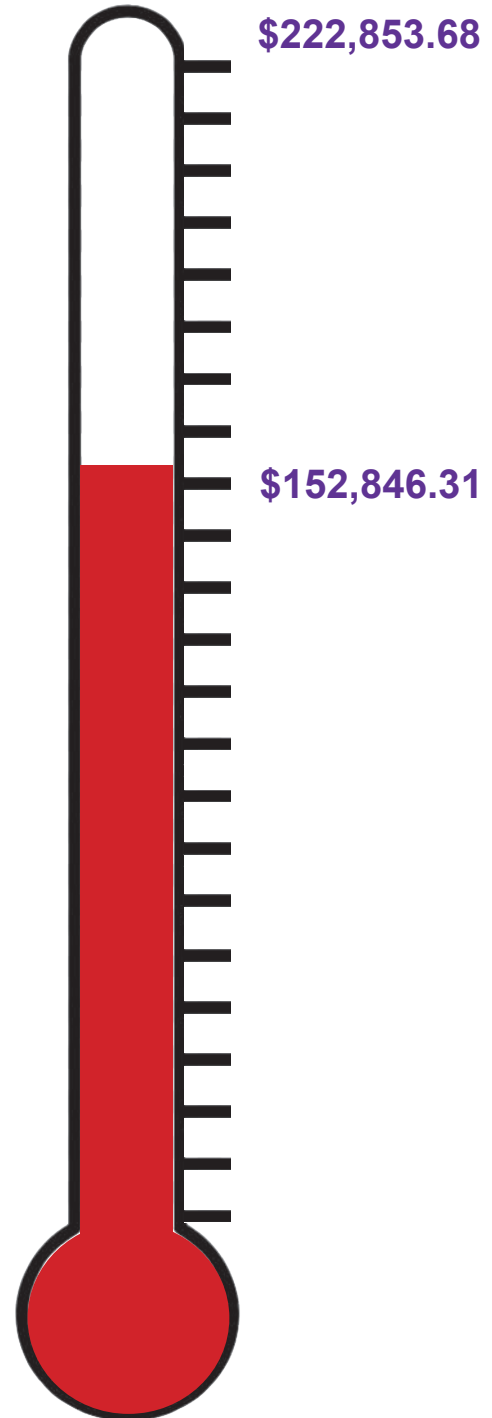
Progress as of
September 25, 2025

We NEED Your Help!

Our current total is \$152,846.31.
We still NEED \$70,007.37 BY MARCH 31ST
to meet our goal.
We are behind on meeting that goal.

Mite resources can be found at
www.lwml.org/mites-received.

You can also print a monthly report
from this website.



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

From our Iowa West District President

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 his who call you out of darkness into His marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

Where is the light? Are you sharing His marvelous light? Watching the news, we see this world is full of darkness. People are hurting each other. People are angry, and frustrated. Hopelessness is everywhere. The devil wants us to feel hopeless and frustrated. He especially loves to see God's chosen people treating each other poorly.

I love listening to Christian music. I came across a song by Mercy Me "The Best News Ever." Some of the lyrics are "Some say Don't give up – stay strong great advice but then they say What if I told you the fight is already won. It is the best news ever." This "best news" is what we, as a chosen priesthood, must share. And we are to share this all the time with everyone.

We are looking forward to our LWML Iowa West District Convention June 13-15, 2026 at Camp Okoboji. Plans are in the works, and you need to plan to attend.

Look for the Light of Christ today and every day. If someone has trouble seeing the Light, remind them that we have the best news ever.



Penny Schuessler
LWML - Iowa West District
President

Financial Reports

Gifts received August and September 2025

Mission Account		Rally Mites	
Memorial/Honor District 75%/National 25%		Sioux City zone	\$85.00
Pat Behrhorst	\$20.00	Light That Endures Fund	\$ 0.00
Nadine Blume	\$20.00	General Account	
Marg Hepp	\$25.00	Thrivent Choice	\$35.00
Roger Peters	\$20.00	Fall Retreat cash offering	\$1,313.00
Vivian Clausen	\$50.00	*Plus \$2,000 in checks made out to Mission Central	
Alice Bates	\$20.00		
Doris Kahl	\$25.00		
Memorial Mites District 100%		Quarterly Report July 2025 to September 2025	
Roger Day	\$20.00	Zone mites	\$19,930.73
Marvin Meyer	\$20.00	Memorial mites 75%/25%	\$180.00
Gifts District 100%		Memorial mites 100%	\$105.00
August BOD mites	\$465.00	Other mites	\$576.14
Anonymous for mites	\$250.00	Rally/Prayer service mites	\$85.00
Fall Retreat mites	\$317.75	100% District gifts	\$1,532.75
Faith Adel special mite offering	\$500.00	Stamps	\$0.00
Other Mites		TOTAL	\$22,409.62
Faith Council Bluffs noisy mites	\$166.64	The Light That Endures Fund	\$0.00
Faith Adel noisy mites	\$245.50		

Duck and Cover

Psalm 91:4-6 – He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

In this psalm there is no wielding the sword of the Spirit, no taking the fight to the foe. These psalm verses direct us to a “duck and cover” kind of strategy. It is time to seek shelter! We have sad experiences with such circumstances. We cannot fight tornadoes or floods, hurricanes or earthquakes. Even with medical help, our defenses are limited in cases of severe illness. In the face of death—our own or that of a loved one—there is nothing we can do. The shelter suggested in this psalm, with its comparison to feathered wings or shield of wood or metal, does not seem to be very substantial.

Yet the promised shelter in the psalm is stronger than any earthly refuge. It is a shelter that provides more protection than sandbags in a flood or plywood covering windows. This shelter offers greater safety than a secure basement in a storm or strong medication. Our refuge is the faithfulness of God. As He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5b). We certainly believe His promise, but we may find ourselves asking, “Where were You, Lord, when this happened? Where was Your shelter?” The storm or flood sweeps a home away. Illness ruins health or takes the

life of a loved one. Where is the faithfulness of God when those things happen?

Why does God allow such things to happen in the lives of His people? The answer to that question lies hidden within God’s will and wisdom. It is an answer beyond our earthly understanding and not for us to know. But where is His faithfulness and steadfast love? Our faithful God is right where He promises to be, covering us with His love and sheltering us with His peace. How can we be

sure of that? We only need to look to the cross of Jesus. In faithful, steadfast love, God sent His Son to be our Savior, to suffer and die for our sins. Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we know that “neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38b-39). God’s faithful, sheltering love for you will always be firmly in place, anchored by the cross of His Son. Whatever happens, God has you covered.

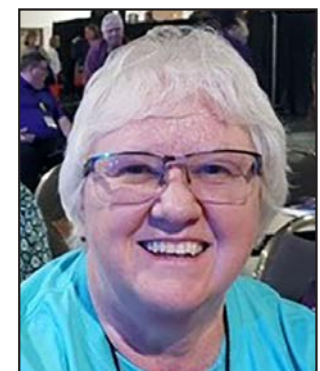


**Rev. Edward E.
Durand III
LWML IWD
Senior Counselor**

Mission Servants

What a busy but beautiful time of year. The days are cooler, the grass continues to be green and growing, but you can see the hint of fall coming as the trees are starting to get their color. We had a wonderful day at Mission Central on the 20th. Thank you to all who brought items for our ingathering. You donated school items and baby items for Orphan Grain Train plus filled their cars with needed items. You gave generously \$955 dollars to Mission Central and donated needed school items, personal care items, hats and scarfs, and helped finance some additional items all for IOWAY. The ladies had so much fun decorating wooden crosses, bookmarks, and cards for the Perry Lutheran Home. We were able to provide these along with lip balm, lotion, and crossword puzzle books for 25 welcome kits. The items have all been delivered and all were very, very grateful.

At this time, we are working on a new form for you to report your mission projects for the last 6 months. It was decided at the District Board meeting that we would no longer require groups and zones to count or weigh all their donations as this does require a lot of time on your part and on ours to try to report on all the many wonderful donations you collect. We are still finalizing the form, but we are going to be doing a form that just highlights the mission projects that have meant the most to you. We will then share those projects with all of you through the E-news. Once we have the forms all completed, I will be e-mailing them to the Zone Presidents and Mission Servant Leaders for them to distribute to all of you. With this way of doing it we will not have to worry so much about deadlines so hopefully that will be helpful too. May you be blessed by all the mission projects that God is leading you to do for your church, your local community, and across the world.



**Nancy Medick
Mission Servants
Chair**

When Wealth Isn't Enough: Stewarding What Really Matters

Gift Planning — LCMS Mission Advancement

"I have concluded that the accumulation of wealth, even if I could achieve it, is an insufficient reason for living. When I reach my end of days, a moment or two from now, I must look backward on something more meaningful than the pursuit of houses and land and machines and stocks and bonds. Nor is fame a lasting benefit. I will consider my earthly existence to have been wasted unless I can recall a loving family, a consistent investment in the lives of people, and an earnest attempt to serve the God who made me. Nothing else makes much sense."

— Dr. James C. Dobson (1936–2025)

Dr. James Dobson, who recently entered eternal rest, spent his life pointing families toward Christ and the importance of living with eternal priorities. His words echo a truth we confess as Lutherans: everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. Wealth, recognition, and achievement fade quickly, but faith in Christ and the blessings He entrusts us to steward endure forever.

Lutheran perspective on legacy

Martin Luther reminded us in the Large Catechism that all we have — daily bread, possessions, relationships, and opportunities — are gifts of our gracious God. These blessings are entrusted to us not merely for our own comfort but so that we may serve our neighbor and support the proclamation of the Gospel.

Gift planning gives us the opportunity to confess our faith in

Christ through how we steward what God has given, ensuring that our blessings are used in ways that reflect our baptismal identity and the hope of eternal life.

Practical steps to consider

- Speak with your family. Share how your faith informs your plans, so they understand that your decisions flow from trust in Christ.

- Review your documents. Make sure your will, retirement accounts, and estate plans reflect both your care for loved ones and your commitment to Christ's Church.

- Consider blessings for ministry. Gifts through your estate can support your congregation, LCMS missions, Lutheran schools, and the training of pastors and church workers through the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund.

- Seek Godly counsel. Our LCMS Gift Planning Team is here to walk alongside you, helping you make decisions that align with your faith and stewardship values.

Walking together in Christ

As Dr. Dobson reminded us, what makes life meaningful is not possessions or fame but family, people we invest in, and service to God. As Lutherans, we know that this service flows from God's grace in Christ Jesus, who redeemed us "not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood." (Small Catechism, Second Article).

That Gospel hope shapes the legacy we leave. I would like to help you get started with your gift planning. Please feel free to contact me at acarrick324@hotmail.com or 515-360-0709.

From the Nominating Committee

Well I was hoping to quote a saying from the TV show "The Voice". My team is full.. Unfortunately that is not true.

WE are still in need of a candidate for President and VP Gospel Outreach and Special Focus Ministries.

Names have been given and followed up on by my committee. No yeses have been given. If you are having second thoughts or would like to toss your name on the ballot. Please, give one of us a call, text or email.

Let's Share The Light of Christ by serving on the ballot for these positions.

Thanks on behalf of the nominating committee members WE appreciate all your prayers, phone calls etc.



Julie Carstens
Nominating Committee
Chairman

Organizational Resources

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

I sometimes wonder what each disciple thought when they heard these words from Jesus. Did they understand the impact each would make and how that would ripple throughout the world? Probably not. They may have been like each of us and wondered how they could be a witness and what words they would say to people. Remember many were just fishermen—how would they approach people from different countries with different languages?

The key was that the Holy Spirit did the work by giving them the words (even in languages they had never spoken!) and they talked about what they had witnessed as they spent time with Jesus. Each had a different way of telling others what they had seen as shown in the four Gospel books.

Jesus continues to call us to be witnesses to our neighbors and the people we meet each day. Each of us will share our stories of what we have learned about Jesus and his love for us and what the Holy Spirit guides us to say and do. While we certainly want to share this with those who are closest to us: families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and those we meet within our community; we also have opportunities to share our experiences, talents, and gifts with those in other places.

Perhaps you'd like the opportunity to be a petal pusher in Pasadena or you would like to be a short-term mission volunteer you learned about on the [lcms.org](https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/international/missionary-service) international missionary page (<https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/international/missionary-service>). By being an active woman in LWML you may apply for the Women in Service Helping Exclaim Salvation (W.I.S.H.E.S) Grant that was adopted in 2020. There are still funds available until June 2026. More information about this grant along with the application form are found at <https://idwlcms.org/gotodownloadfile.php?file=1278>. Click on “#11 IWD LWML Application for WISHES.”

May the Holy Spirit continue to lead you to those who need the Gospel message. Do not fear this, He will also give you the words to say.



Jeanette Hinkeldey
VP Organizational
Resources and
Christian Life

Christian Life

With the rise of social media, many have found their fellowship without presence. There certainly are positives about connecting electronically, but it's a poor second cousin to face-to-face. Many of you might recall a long running advertisement for a large telecommunication company which went “long distance is the next best thing to being there.” It may be next best, but even they knew it was not best.

The writer of the Hebrews made being together an imperative. He urged Jewish Christians who were facing persecution to stand their ground and meet together. [Hebrews 10:24-25] King Solomon also knew the beauty of being together when he wrote in Ecclesiastes 4 that a three-strand cord was not quickly broken. Fellowship was always meant to be a strength and I'm sure that you LWML sisters will agree that we are better when we are together. I always find much joy in 'meeting together' with my LWML sisters at church, zone or district events, in prayer, in study, in giving mites, in using our hearts and hands to benefit our neighbor. I pray that all of us not only find the joy of meeting together, but that we continue to invite others to expand our fellowship and are filled with God's help and hope and prepared for service in His Kingdom.

Please check the [LWML.org](https://www.lwml.org) website for other events and opportunities to continue to meet together. There you will also find the “Seek. Pray. Serve” 2025-2027 Planner, which offers many devotions, Bible studies, and sketches for your meetings. It's free!



Sherrill Phillips
Christian Life
Co-Chairman

Gospel Outreach

UPDATE: 2024/2026 APPROVED MISSION GRANT BALANCES

Grant Recipient	GRANT TOTAL	BALANCE
Rev. Bryan & Deaconess Keah Payne – Tanzania	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Fund Haitian Seminarians	\$ 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	\$ -
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	\$ 12,500
	\$ 161,520.05	\$ 52,200.00



Brenda Dryer
VP of Gospel Outreach
& Special Focus
Ministries

“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” Acts 13:47



It’s hard to believe that we are just a month away from the deadline to submit a 2026/2028 district mission grant application. Applications must be emailed to me by 11:59 pm October 31, 2025. The details and grant application can be found on the Iowa District Website, LWML, grant tab. Please reach out to me soon if you any questions at bsdryer50@gmail.com or by phone at 641.420.3556.

Please keep our mission grant ballot selection committee in your prayers as they will begin their review of applications in November.

REMINDER: At the District Board meeting held in advance of the 2024 convention action was taken to extend the 2020-2022 WISHES scholarship grant opportunity. In accordance with the bylaws of our LWML district the Board can extend the deadline for utilizing grant funds for special circumstances. Due to the pandemic this grant has been extended and \$10,200 is still available to support short term mission trip scholarships in the amount of \$500 for LWML ladies in Iowa District West. Details can be found at Iowa District West - LWML.



© Can Stock Photo

News from the Zones

Mapleton Zone



The ABC Triple Parish LWML group of the Mapleton Zone usually plan an outing in August instead of its usual monthly meeting at one of its churches. This August, at the suggestion of group president, Roxie Petersen, the ladies chose to help sort clothes at the Orphan Grain Train in Ida Grove. Sharon Irwin, OGT branch leader, accommodated our group by opening up the OGT depot for us on a Wednesday. We then decided to invite others to join us to make it a servant event. Here is our group picture taken by Sharon Irwin. Note all the smiles on our faces. God is good.

Ida Grove St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML hosted the annual IDW Mapleton Zone prayer service Thursday morning, March 20, 2025. The theme was based on the Biblical Beatitudes entitled "Blessed are They..." Coffee and rolls were served before the service. The ladies were blessed to have 3 Mapleton zone ministers Rev. R. Cormeny, Rev. N. Wehmas, and Rev. Merrill to progress the prayer service without interruption.

To follow the Mapleton Zone LWML tradition, the group ladies at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ida Grove also hosted the Spring Zone Rally Saturday, April 26, 2025. Greg Steenbock, member of St. Paul, greeted each lady in the narthex of the church. The rally began at 10am after a brunch. Rev. Dr. Keith Haney was the honored guest

speaker who spoke on the story of the woman at the well from John 4:7-31.

A special invitation was extended to all interested attendees-to take home a special "Flat Jesus" and share His gospel good news with others.



FLAT JESUS wants you to take him home!

We encourage everyone (all ages) to take a Flat Jesus and carry Flat Jesus with you, keep him in your car, or at work, etc.

We encourage you to have Flat Jesus with you as you read through the Bible this next year, which will begin at our New Year's 6:00PM Worship Service. Take him with you any time you're out having lunch, dinner, driving, etc..

To help keep your focus on Jesus We also encourage you to take a picture of him by your Bible, (unfortunately if you use one of the Bible apps, we aren't sure how that works lol), or at your lunch table, dinner table, or car, etc..



Pictured, left to right, Gregg Steenbock, wife Lorna, zone treasure and Rev. and Mrs. Haney.

This article was inadvertently omitted from the previous eNews.

Adair Zone LWML Fall Rally

On September 13th, the Director of Ministry Advancement for Lutheran Family Services, Wanda Pritzel, joined an awesome group of ladies (and a few pastors as well) at the LWML Adair Zone Fall Rally at First Lutheran Church in Wiota, Iowa. They collected an in-gathering of bubbles, pens, markers, and journal books for use in the counseling program, plus an offering to support LFS and Veterans of the Cross ministry. They were so grateful for a wonderful turnout and a beautiful day.



Historian's Queries

By Gretchen Sump, IWD LWML Historian

I want information from the 1980 IWD Convention. How many delegates? and total attendance numbers. If there is any amount of offerings for that convention I would like that also. Thanks for your help.

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

IWDprespenny@gmail.com
 hinkeldeyharmonies@gmail.com
 bsdryer50@gmail.com
 iwdsecdeb@gmail.com
 iwdlwmlfinancials@gmail.com
 iwdlwmltreasurer@gmail.com
 durande@ymail.com
 pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org
 carstensjulie50@gmail.com

APPOINTED PERSONNEL

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

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

sherrillphillips2@gmail.com
 gdrouse1281@ncn.net
 nmedick@yahoo.com
 schauerann@gmail.com
 mgraham1783@gmail.com
 cayleigh.mcbee@gmail.com
 marilyn1945@ncn.net
 lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com
 sjackerman99@gmail.com
 gretchensump3@gmail.com