



LWML
Iowa West District

LWML Iowa West District



District Convention Special Edition

District Convention **SPECIAL EDITION** eNews



Penny Schuessler
LWML -Iowa West District
President

From our Iowa West District President

Sisters in Christ:

Join us for the LWML Iowa West District Convention June 11-13, 2026 – at Camp Okoboji in Milford, IA.

The convention begins on Thursday, June 11 at 1:00 p.m. with our first meeting. Each congregation (unit) can send 2 delegates to convention. We will be voting on new leadership to serve for the next 4 years. We will be voting on a new mite goal and grants for the 2026-2027 biennium. We will also be voting on by-law changes to make way for our district procedure manual that will be presented in the next biennium.

The opening worship will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, IA at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11. Our proclaimer for the service will be Rev. Ben Dose, the first vice president of

Iowa District West.

Our Bible Study leader will be Deaconess Betty Knapp. She will show us the Light of Christ through the word of God.

Our Keynote speaker is Linda Rieser, 2003-2007 national LWML president. She will share her journey in the Light of Christ.

Deadlines:

Please choose delegates and have them register before April 1 so we can have the by-laws sent to them in a timely manner (45 days) before convention.

41st Biennial Convention • June 11, 12, 13, 2026 at Camp Okoboji



The theme is “Share the Light of Christ” from the verse “But you are a chosen people, priests of a King, a holy nation, a people to be saved to be His own and to tell of the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2: 9

Convention Goal “Share the Light of Christ as Daughters of the King!”

Convention Objectives: As the Father enlightens us in praise and study, let us worship and adore Him.

While serving the Son, let our willing service shine His saving light. Led on our way by the Holy Spirit, let our paths be illuminated by His redeeming love.

LWML Iowa West District 42nd Biennial Convention

June 11-13, 2026 Camp Okoboji—Milford



Keynote Speaker
Linda Reiser
Past LWML President








Proclaimer
Rev. Ben Dose
District First Vice-President



Bible Study Leader
Deaconess Betty Knapp

***Celebrate the Lord
and share the light of Christ!***

-  Thursday Evening Church Service
-  Mission Walk
-  Servant Events
-  Variety Show
-  Sisters in Christ Prayer Partners



REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE MAY 10, 2026
LWML IOWA WEST DISTRICT 42nd BIENNIAL CONVENTION
“Share the Light of Christ” – 1 Peter 2:9
Camp Okoboji – Milford, IA June 11-13, 2026



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME _____ LWML ZONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE _____

CHURCH _____ LOCATION _____ GROUP _____

PLEASE CIRCLE WHAT BEST MATCHES YOUR REGISTRATION CATEGORY

VOTING DELEGATE
(registration due April 1)

ALT. VOTING DELEGATE
(registration due April 1)

ZONE PRESIDENT

**DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER/
VOTING**

PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENT

**DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER/
NON-VOTING**

GENERAL REGISTRATION

YOUNG WOMAN REP

PASTOR

HOST ZONE WORKER

GUEST

SPEAKER

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME ATTENDEE TO THE DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION? YES or NO

A. REGISTRATION

Fee **ON OR BEFORE May 1, 2026, \$50 / AFTER May 1, 2026, \$60**

A: _____

B. LODGING/MEALS OPTIONS

OPTION 1: CAMP LODGING/MEAL/SNACK BUNDLE (2 nights air-conditioned including Thursday lunch – Saturday lunch) / ENTER **\$210** on Line B

OPTION 2:

A. **FRIDAY ONLY LUNCH /SNACK BUNDLE / Enter \$25.00** on Line B **(OR)**

B. **FRIDAY LUNCH / DINNER / SNACK BUNDLE / Enter \$40.00** on Line B

OPTION 3: MEAL/SNACK BUNDLE (Thursday lunch – Saturday lunch) available to those staying off site desiring to eat meals at Camp / ENTER **\$115** on Line B

OFFSITE LODGING OPTIONS – YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO RESERVE AND PAY FOR YOUR HOTEL ROOM

Remember you will be responsible for your transportation to Camp.

B: _____

INDICATE ROOMATE SELECTION (S): _____

If none is indicated, when possible, you will be housed with others from your Zone.

DO YOU REQUIRE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE HOUSING? YES OR NO

NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO HOUSING ASSIGNMENTS

C. ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION ITEMS

(Indicate all that apply and add fee total to Line C)

_____ Special Food Allergy Accommodations / ADD \$20

Explain: _____

_____ Linen & Towel Rental / ADD \$15

_____ **Wednesday night** lodging & meals (includes Thursday breakfast) / ADD \$70

_____ Private Room (limited availability) / ADD \$50 per night = _____ ADD THIS AMOUNT

If applicable, names of non-registered guests/family members staying with you:

_____ Non-Registered Guest Meal Bundle (Thursday lunch – Saturday lunch) /

_____ X \$125 = _____ ADD THIS AMOUNT

_____ Non-Registered Guest overnight # _____ x \$40 / night

C: _____

PLEASE ADD A+B+C FOR GRAND TOTAL:

Mobility Scooter / limited quantity / \$50 - **CALL CAMP FOR RESERVATIONS and TO MAKE PAYMENT – DO NOT INCLUDE THIS AMOUNT IN YOUR REGISTRATION – THE NUMBER TO CALL IS (712) 337-3325**

ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION WALK ON SATURDAY MORNING? YES or NO

PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSION: I, the undersigned, give LWML IWD and CAMP OKOBOJI permission to use my photograph in publicity to promote the organization and its events. I understand that by signing this form the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Photo Permission Signature Required

CHECK PAYABLE TO: LWML Iowa West District (memo: 2026 Convention)

Mail this registration form, **a pre-addressed stamped envelope**, and check payment by **MAY 10th** to:

Marilyn Kruger

806 S. 121st Street

(402) 850-3315

Omaha, NE 68154

There will be NO refunds for meals and lodging after May 31, 2026; registration fees will not be refunded. The 2026 LWML IWD convention begins at 1 pm on Thursday, June 11th and adjourns at Noon Saturday, June 13th.

YOU WILL RECEIVE A RECEIPT IN YOUR PRE-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. A MISSION WALK PLEDGE FORM WILL BE INCLUDED IF YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THAT EVENT. PLEASE BRING THE RECEIPT FORM, AND IF APPLICABLE YOUR MISSION WALK PLEDGE FORM WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT CONVENTION. A HEALTH FORM WILL BE COMPLETED AT REGISTRATION.

ANNOUNCING Friday Evening Activities

Entertainment returns to the convention stage as a part of the Friday evening activities. No, the budget wasn't increased enough to provide professional entertainers this year! We are tapping our very own local talent to share with you all. It will be a "Variety Show," featuring skits, music, singing, comedy, lip sync, etc, etc. You won't want to miss this evening of good Christian fun!

Along with the "Variety Show" performances, we will also reveal the winners of the gift baskets from the Mites Silent Auction, and announce the Prayer Partner matches on Friday night.

Following all of these exciting events, the Mission Servant ladies, Nancy Medick and Ann Schauer, will lead us in putting together a Servant Event project for everyone who wants to help. See their column for further information on what they have planned.

Another option for attendees after the "Variety Show" is to just do "old fashioned visiting" with each other, or return to their rooms to relax following a very busy day.

Silent Auction for Mites

The Silent Auction returns this year, but with some big changes! Instead of lots and lots of mystery packages, this year there will only be one basket from each zone on which to bid. AND they will NOT be a mystery. Zones are each being asked to create and bring a basket with the items visible, so everyone can see the contents. They are to be packaged with clear cellophane or netting. On display in the Dining Hall, we will all have many opportunities to see them and make our bids. Winning bidders will be announced during the Friday evening activities, so everyone will know who won what. Remember ladies, it's all for mites, so be generous with your bidding!

WANTED:



IOWA WEST CORN BADGES

REWARD: \$5 Coupon
for products at the
LWML Convention Store.

Locate your extra badges hiding in drawers, suitcases, bags and other dark places in your home.*

Return them in great condition.

**"New" badges only.*

List of Nominees for the 2026 LWML Iowa West District Convention

PRESIDENT

Brenda Dryer Boone Zone

VP OF GOSPEL OUTREACH & SPECIAL FOCUS

MINISTRIES

Ann Bass Spencer Zone

Sharon vonQualen Carroll Zone

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Vicki Kolpin Cherokee Zone

Sandi Overcamp Des Moines West Zone

JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Rev. Paul Kaldahl Spencer Zone

Rev. David Lyons Sac City Zone

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joni Bentsen Sac City Zone

Barb Brockelsby Carroll Zone

Deb Green Denison Zone

Carol Hanson Adair Zone

Deb Matasovski Storm Lake Zone

Ruth Obermeier Spencer Zone

Sherrill Phillips Boone Zone

Allison Ripperger Humboldt Zone

Melissa Wyatt Des Moines West Zone

Confirmed Convention Break Out Sessions (as of 2/26/26)

Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for Mission, Stewardship, and Human Care / Iowa District West, LCMS - "Neighboring"

Breanna Wetzler, Boone Zone - "Leadership"

Carol VonSoosten, LWML Gift Planning Counselor
"Christian Estate Planning"

Young Women IN MISSION

YWRS WANTED!

Are you interested in learning more about LWML? Join us at the District LWML convention as a Young Women's Representative! YWRs will learn about the LWML, while meeting other young Lutheran women from our district. There will also be fun activities and crafts! If you are interested, or know a young woman who may be interested, contact the president of your group or zone!

Zone YWRs, if you have additional questions you can email Martha at mgraham1783@gmail.com. See you in June!

Sister Prayer Partners

You can return home from this year's convention with a sister prayer partner! The plans for the 2026 convention include a project to match LWMers from across Iowa West District to pray for each other.

Everyone who wishes to be paired with another woman will fill out the following form. These will be collected and drawn in sets as part of the activities on Friday evening. Pairs will be announced and posted so that partners can locate each other during the convention. From there they can decide when and how to be in touch.

CHRISTIAN LIFE LWML CONVENTION STORE INFORMATION

Location:	Discovery Center Room
Open times:	Thursday: 9 am—1:00 pm Friday: noon hour and 5-8 pm
Payment Methods:	Cash or Check only

Help Wanted: The District Christian Life Committee is looking for volunteers to work in the LWML Convention Store throughout our District Convention. Work hours are when the store is open and shifts are 60-90 minutes. Please contact one of the following chairs to set up a time that you can help:

Sherrill Phillips—515-480-8367
Deborah Rouse—712-260-4867

Yellow Visors = Convention Hosts



District Convention is just around the corner. Are you ready? When you're at convention and find yourself lost or needing direction, look for someone in one of these yellow visors and they will be able to help you.

Mission Grant Ballot

Grant Proposal	Requested Amount
Iowa West Branch of Orphan Grain Train	\$20,000
Ministry in Mission - Support for Lutheran Family Services of Haiti – Jacmel Lutheran Home	\$12,500
Mission Central - Sharing the Light of Christ – Supporting New Missionaries	\$16,000
Lutheran Heritage Foundation – Bibles for Our Hispanic Families	\$8,500
Lutherans for Life - “For Life” Ministry Development	\$7,500
Forged By Fire – Sharing our Savior One Meal at a Time	\$3,500
Agape Pregnancy Center, Des Moines	\$5,000
Perry Lutheran Home – Sharing Christ’s Love Through Engagement: Lucynt Pro Mobile Units	\$33,600
Lutheran Family Service - Christ-Centered Crisis Pregnancy & Adoption Support for Iowa Women & Babies	\$20,000
Lutheran Confessional Church Pakistan	\$10,000
Lutheran Bible Translators – Changed Lives, Shared Word: Restoring the Bible Printing Fund	\$5,000
Worship Anew – Gospel Access for Aging Adults	\$12,000
Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministries - Program Plans and Materials for Hispanic Outreach	\$26,100
Lutheran Braille Workers – Sharing the Word in Large Print: Opening a New Ministry Production Center in Iowa	\$10,000
POBLO International - Training to Develop an Effective Ethnic Outreach to Prepare to Open Two IFC’s in Des Moines, IA	\$5,000
Financial Aid for Iowa West Seminary Students	\$20,000

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Are you or your group interested in an after-convention servant activity? We have an opportunity to do a packaging event Saturday afternoon at Mercy Meals, Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux City. Please let Chris Mahnken know of your cmahnkeniowa@gmail.com.

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IWD LWML 42nd Biennial Convention Mission Servant Activities

Ingathering Items to be brought to Convention

For Swaddling Clothes Organizations across the District

1. Any size and brand infant/toddler disposable diapers (Not adult)
2. Baby wipes (any brand)

For Camp Okoboji

1. Dish Towels
2. Rugs of all sizes
3. “Gain” brand laundry soap
4. Bleach
5. Paper Towels

For Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministries

We are asking each zone to bring specific items that are needed so please check with your Zone President and Zone Mission Servant representative on how they will be collecting the needed items. Please let us know if you are not able to collect and bring your assigned items.

Adair Zone----10 regular sized bath towel, lightweight approx. 50” x 26”. Suggest Walmart Mainstay towels

Boone Zone----20 wash clothes (Please not microfiber)

Carroll Zone-----20 bath sized bar white Ivory Soap (In original packaging)

Cherokee Zone-----10 newborn cotton t-shirts or “onesie”. Size 0-3, or newborn

Council Bluffs Zone----10 baby receiving blankets, soft cotton or flannel 30x30 or 48x48

Denison Zone----20 cloth prefolded diapers (cotton with reinforced center panel, min. size 12x16)

Des Moines East Zone----20 pairs of diaper pins (40 total)

Des Moines West Zone--10 regular sized bath towels, lightweight approx. 50”x 26”. Suggest Walmart Mainstay towels

Emmetsburg Zone-- 20 wash clothes (Please not microfiber)

Fort Dodge Zone----10 newborn cotton t-shirts or “onesie”. Size 0-3, or newborn

Humbolt Zone--20 bath sized bar white Ivory Soap (In original packaging)

Le Mars Zone----10 baby receiving blankets, soft cotton or flannel 30x30 or 48x48

Mapleton Zone----20 cloth prefolded diapers (cotton with reinforced center panel, min. size 12x16)

Northeast Zone----20 pairs of diaper pins (40 total)

Northwest Zone--10 regular sized bath towel, lightweight approx. 50” x 26”. Suggest Walmart Mainstay towels

Sac City Zone----10 newborn cotton t-shirts or “onesie”. Size 0-3, or newborn

Sioux City Zone----20 cloth prefolded diapers (cotton with reinforced center panel, min. size 12x16)

Southwest Zone----10 regular sized bath towel, lightweight approx. 50” x 26”. Suggest Walmart Mainstay towels

Spencer Zone----10 newborn cotton t-shirts or “onesie”. Size 0-3, or newborn

Storm Lake Zone----20 cloth prefolded diapers (cotton with reinforced center panel, min. size 12x16)

Each Newborn Kit will also contain a baby hat. If you like to knit or crochet and would like to make some hats for the kits below are the instructions from Global Health Ministries' Website. Please contact Nancy Medick Mission Servant Chair if you are willing to make some of the hats so we can make sure we have enough.

Note: The circumference of a newborn baby's head is approximately 14 inches. As a guide, purchase a 5-inch Styrofoam ball at a craft store. The cap should fit comfortably on the ball.

Knit Baby Hat:

- Use baby yarn or thin soft 3 ply and needles to match yarn.
- Cast on 68 stitches on 2 needles - very loosely.
- Rib: 2 knit, 2 purl for 12 rows.
- Continue in stocking stitch until 3.5 inches.
- Decrease gradually for 1 inch (total length of cap 4.5 inches).
- Pull yarn through remaining stitches, gather and fasten.
- Sew seam.

Works equally well on four needles, and then you don't have a seam to sew. Also nice if you simply continue in rib for the full length of the cap

Crocheted Baby Hat:

Hook size: G (smaller or larger depending on how tightly you crochet)

Six double crochets equal 1 inch.

Finished Size: Cap length measures approximately 5½ inches

Row 1: ch 4, slp st in starting ch, ch 3 (counts as first dc), 9 dc in circle, join with slp st into beginning chain 3. 10 dc.

Row 2: ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first dc and in each dc around. Join with slp st to first sc. 20 sc.

Row 3: Ch 3 (counts as first dc, now and throughout), turn; dc in next 3 sc, 2 dc in next sc, *dc in next 4 sc, 2 dc in next sc; repeat from * around; join with slp st to first dc. 24 dc.

Row 4: Ch 1, turn; sc in first dc, sc in next dc, *2 sc in next dc, sc in next dc, repeat from * around, join with slp st to first sc. 36 sc.

Row 5: Ch 3, turn; dc in first sc and in each sc around, join with slp st to first dc.

Row 6: Ch 1, turn; sc in first dc, sc in next dc, *2 sc in next dc, sc in next dc, repeat from* around, join with slp st to first sc. - 54 sc. This is your last increase.

Row 7: Ch 3, turn; dc in first sc and in each-sc around; join with slp st to first dc.

Row 8: Ch 1, turn; sc in first dc and in each dc around; join with slp st to first sc.

Row 9 thru 18: Repeat Rows 7 and 8 for pattern, keeping each round at 54 stitches

Optional Edging: Row 19: (shell stitch) chn 1, sc cr in same space, *skip 2 sc, 5 dc in next sc, skip 2 sc, sc in next sc. Repeat from *, ending with sc in last sc, slp stitch to beginning sc, cut thread and fasten (9 shells total)

Servant Events to look forward to at Convention

1. Sort and assemble Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministries
2. Come join us for a special Servant Event on Friday night

Thank you for your donations. If you have any questions, please contact
Nancy Medick, 515-371-4639, e-mail nmedick@yahoo.com
Ann Schauer, 712-490-7129, e-mail schauerann@gmail.com

Convention Offerings

Thursday:	David's Harp, St. Paul Council Bluffs Check made out to: LWML Iowa West District Memo: #1
Friday:	Mercy Meals of Siouxland Check made out to: LWML Iowa West District Memo: #2
Friday: (close of session)	Baskets passed for Camp Okoboji staff Check made out to: Camp Okoboji
Saturday:	Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries Check made out to: LWML Iowa West District Memo: #3

(Special request from our financial officers, PLEASE DO NOT FOLD CHECKS and money. This will save time as offerings are counted.)

Memorial for Sisters in Christ from Iowa West District

**ATTN ZONE PRESIDENTS--2026
IWD LWML CONVENTION
MEMORIAL DISPLAY.**

Please contact each of your Group Presidents within your Zone and ask them to submit names of those LWML sisters in Christ who have passed away during the period of May 15, 2024 to May 15, 2026. Those names, along with their respective Zone and Town, should be submitted to

Deanne North at
dlnnorth@aol.com or
Jackie Hembry,
at hembrys@msn.com.

**Deadline to submit:
May 15, 2026.**



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