



LWML
Iowa West District

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eNews

June/July 2026

GIFT CERTIFICATES IN THE STORE

Are you still needing a gift for your YWRs or anyone on your list for appreciation gifts? The Christian Life store will have gift certificates available during convention. The gift certificates may be purchased in any amount.

The store will be open Thursday from 9am-1pm during registration. The gift certificates will only be redeemable during the convention, so purchase it early. Your recipient will appreciate having many opportunities to shop.

Christian Life Committee
Sherrill Phillips
Deb Rouse

Are you having difficulty getting to monthly meetings but still want to support LWML grants? Now you can register for automatic mites donated from a bank account either monthly or as one-time donations. You can type in this link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXXP> or use this QR code



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 as shown in photo above..*

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 text or call one of the following chairs to set up a time that you can help:

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

From our Iowa West District President

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29

Talk, talk, and more talk. Working on the Iowa West District LWML 42nd Biennial convention, there is so much talk. Preparing, writing, reading, getting ready for us to “Share the Light of Christ.” I pray that we all use words to build each other up. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we keep things sharing the light of Christ. This is my last E-News article as President of Iowa West District. It has been a very fast 4 years. I have met so many wonderful women of faith. We share one thing, a love for Jesus Christ and His gospel. Through His grace, we share and grow together to extend His kingdom.

I pray that each of you will continue to pray and support the mission of the LWML as the LWML pledge states, “In fervent gratitude for the Savior’s dying love and His blood bought gift of redemption, we dedicate ourselves to

Him with all that we are and have...” With that thought in mind, each of us needs to think before we speak, to let these words go through our minds, remind-ing us of our Savior’s undying love and His redemption. This is what we need to build each other up and show His love and light to the people around us. We will fail at times but God’s grace is greater than our frailties, and the Holy Spirit continues to strengthen and guide us.

See you in a couple weeks at Okoboji, and after that, throughout the district. Keep one another in prayer and joyful support.



Penny Schuessler
LWML - Iowa West District
President

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.

It's almost time for convention!

The LWML District Convention is almost here as I am writing this. I have been preparing for the Convention as have the leaders of LWML Iowa West District have been preparing and planning for the Convention. I have completed my tasks for the Convention. And I have a few duties that I am currently working on that I have been asked to take on. I am looking forward to the seeing you at the LWML District Convention. Be sure to say hello!

As I have been preparing, I have also been reflecting on my time as a Pas-toral Counselor for the LWML Iowa West District. I am nearing the end for my four-year term. I have spent time in prayer, meetings, preparing devotions, answering questions, reviewing articles, and getting to know the ladies of the LWML Iowa West District. I have reconnected with old friends and made many new friends.

I have enjoyed my time serving the LWML Iowa West District. Attending meetings, events, conventions, both at the national and district levels. I have been to rallies and retreats. I have met and seen many missionaries and I have learned from them all.

I thank you for your support and prayers over the last four years. I will continue to support and pray for the LWML as I transition from my role of Pastoral Counselor. I thank you for the opportunity to serve and work alongside you.



Rev. Edward E. Durand III
LWML IWD
Senior Counselor

LWML National Convention Charms

Submitted by: Carmen J. Thiedeman
LWML IWD Nominating Committee
Carroll Zone President

Jewelry often highlighted social standing or marked special milestones. In Genesis 24:22, Abraham's servant gifts Rebekah a gold nose ring and bracelets to secure a marriage alliance for Isaac.

At our Carroll Zone BOD meeting at St. Paul, Carroll in February, a piece of jewelry that stood out was the necklace made out of LWML National Convention charms.

Asking Gretchen Sump about this designed necklace, she said:

I had this necklace from James Avery since I was in Texas and decided it would be just the one for my national LWML convention charms. I took all my charms and the necklace to a jewelry store in Spencer last summer in 2025 and they attached the charms to the necklace in the order of the years of the conventions. The first convention was in St. Paul MN in 1975 and the last one was last summer convention in Omaha NE in 2025. I have 13 charms on the necklace. I am missing a couple of LWML National conventions charms but did attend those 2. It is fun to remember these conventions and trips. May the Lord help me to make a few more conventions.

~Gretchen Sump



Gretchen Sump
LWML IWD Historian
St. John's Church, Clarinda IA

Christian Life

Sherrill and I are looking forward to our Iowa West District LWML Convention June 11-13, 2026 – at Camp Okoboji and hope that we will see you there! With this in mind, we have two ideas for you to consider:

1. The LWML Store will be located in the Discovery Building at Camp. Please stop by for a quick peak when you get to camp and register.

2. Share the Light of Christ! There are some great new Devotional Materials, gift ideas and apparel available. If you are looking for ways to share Christ's Light, LWML "Devotions to Sew: Joy" sharable Mustard Seeds, the "Life After" series developed for working through widowhood, and several group Bible Studies to help you and your group "Share the Light of Christ!"

We are seeking people to assist with the convention store during our district convention by either restocking or selling items. You may volunteer to help us for 30 or 60 minutes and will need help during these times at convention: noon/evening mealtimes, Thursday afternoon during registration, and Friday evening. If interested, please contact Deb Rouse at 712.260.4867.

For your Summer Meetings, Zone Rallies or personal use, check out these ideas from the lwml.org website:

1. The Flag of Freedom: Continue to display your American flag with thanksgiving because you have the privilege of living in this free country. But also remember the freedom you have in the cross you display and be ready to share the Good News of Christ with others. As Christians, we stand united by our freedom through faith in Christ for all the world to see. We have a reason to celebrate that freedom and to wave our flag proudly because we have victory in Christ! A devotion on Citizenship, Christian Living, John 8:34-36. 1 page.

2. Free to Live: We yearn for freedom from the sinful nature, but there is no freedom without death. Only the death of Jesus Christ on the cross sets us free. A devotion on Comfort and Hope, Christian Freedom, Ro-mans 6:23, Genesis 2:17. 2 pages.

AND...

If you are looking for ideas to keep little ones busy this summer, check out the many craft projects available at May God bless you as you continue to read His Word and walk in His ways. <https://www.lwml.org/program-helps-creative-crafts>. There are greeting cards, bookmarks, ornaments and many other items to assemble, color and SHARE.



Deb Rouse
Christian Life
Co-Chairman



Comprehensive and complete plan

"I took my car to one place for an oil change, another for the brakes, and still another for a tune-up. Yet my car just doesn't seem to be running right, and no one is offering to step in to help me."

That same scenario might be true about your Christian estate plan. You might be tempted to focus on one thing at a time: a will here, an insurance policy there, a conversation with the financial planner periodically, and then the annual tax preparation. But do we think about how all those things are linked together? We need to, in order to have a comprehensive plan.

In a busy world, focused on quick productivity, we often miss the opportunity to weave the conversations of all our advisors together. In addition, inviting your pastor into these conversations, and your family, can bring a fullness otherwise missed. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help facilitate conversations in your circle of important people. Contact Ann Carrick for help to get started. My contact info is acarrick324@hotmail.com or 515-360-0709.

Gospel Outreach

“Watch & Pray”

In a few short weeks we will convene for HIS LWML Iowa West District Convention at beautiful Camp Okoboji.

I have two Gospel Outreach homework assignments for each of us before we meet.

1) If you have not already done so, plan for a 25-minute window of time, grab a glass of lemonade, cup of coffee, or a Diet Coke and watch the 2026-2028 Mission Grant Ballot video on our Facebook page (LWML – Iowa West District). While it will be the work of the delegates to vote on which of these 16 grants, we will fund in the next biennium we can each benefit from a greater understanding of the many opportunities there are to support our Lord’s Mission.

2) PRAY! Pray for the missions that are on the ballot for funding support, say a prayer of thanksgiving that we exceeded our mission grant goal for the past bi-ennium, pray for the convention Mites in Action speakers that will share how our LWML gifts in the last 2 years have supported Gospel Outreach, and for the four convention offering recipients, each supporting an important mission.

See you soon as we prepare to “Share the Light of Christ” together!



Brenda Dryer
VP of Gospel Outreach
& Special Focus
Ministries

2024-2026 LWML IWD Mission Grants

Grant Recipient	GRANT TOTAL	BALANCE
Rev. Bryan & Deaconess Keah Payne – Tanzania	\$ 10,000	PAID IN FULL
Fund Haitian Seminarians	\$ 8,000	PAID IN FULL
Serving Hungry & Starving Children With Nutritious Meals and the Gospel	\$ 10,000	PAID IN FULL
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: Nutrition Center Transformation	\$ 2,000	PAID IN FULL
Unity Ridge Lutheran School Scholarship Assistance	\$ 17,120.05	PAID IN FULL
Project Equip with Truth for Children, Families, and Church Workers Facing Gender Identity Challenges in Today’s Culture	\$ 19,400	PAID IN FULL
Financial Assistance for Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School – Expansion and Curriculum	\$ 25,000	PAID IN FULL
Hispanic Ministry Outreach – English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in different churches of the IDW	\$ 20,000	PAID IN FULL
Serving “Our Elders” through Meals on Wheels Perry Lutheran	\$ 25,000	PAID IN FULL
Financial Aid for Iowa District West Students Pursuing Full-time Church Work	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,500.00
	\$ 161,520.05	\$ 12,500.00

Mission Servants

As I write this, we are all busy preparing for convention. We can't wait to spend time with you doing the mission activity on Friday night. We also know we will be overwhelmed with all the in-gathering items that will be brought to convention.

We have heard from multiple zones about all the mission activities they have been doing. The Boone Zone made Heath kits, School kits, and Baby Care kits for OGT. They always surpass their previous goal. One of their groups holds a "Gift of the Heart Dinner" each November for their congregation to show their thanks for the support of the LWML throughout the year. Money donations received here help to support multiple organizations which are so appreciated by the organizations. Boone Zone has also been busy making quilts to do-nate to multiple organizations and making scarves and hats for the International Student Ministry at ISU. Creating warm clothing items for the students is the best part along with spending time together making them and then putting them out for the congregation to dedicate. An interesting project one of the groups did was to hold a contest among church members between the Pulpit side of church and the Lectern side of church on who could collect the most rolls of toilet paper. 1208 rolls were collected. The friendly competition was enjoyed by all, and the food bank was thrilled to receive so many.

Mapleton Zone has been busy collecting items for convention, making quilts to be donated, and providing meals for their congregations on special occasions.

The Carroll Zone reported that one group provided free meals to elderly & shut-ins in the community. Individuals are found by advertising in the paper. They then have people deliver the meals. The best part is the wonderful receptions they are given when they deliver the meals. Another group hosted a Valentine dinner with a fun night of food, fellowship, devo-tions, and games. Money received was able to sponsor two children from Haite. Another group assembled baskets for a silent auction for a family in need and another group made Sub sandwiches with their youth for Super Bowl Sunday. They really enjoyed working with the youth on this project. Lastly a group met to make backpacks and then met with a larger group to fill the backpacks which were then given to the local pantry.

The Council Bluffs Zone reports that they prepared Hygiene kits and Christmas boxes for OGT. They also hosted around 60 Veterans with a soup luncheon to honor them. This has become a yearly event.



Nancy Medick
Mission Servants
Chair



Mission Servants continued from page 8

The Des Moines East Zone reports that one group again held their yearly mission workshop. Other churches came to help and with many hands, the generous donations, and financial support from Thrivent, they were able to complete so many projects including laundry packets, Diana's Angels bracelets, rolled bandages, cards, blankets, and filled personal duffle bags. This group also helped with watching children for their Mom's group. This was a blessing for both groups.



As I write this, it will be my last e-news article. I have enjoyed being on the Mission Servant Committee so much. Thank you for your support and patience. A huge thank you to Ann for being on the committee with me. She is full of wonderful ideas and has been so helpful to me. As many of you know I have just recently moved and will now be in IED. I wish all of you wonderful ladies in IDW many blessings and I hope our paths will meet again as we continue to serve our Lord through the LWML.

News from the Zones

Des Moines East Zone Spring Rally

The Des Moines East Zone held their Spring Rally on April 25 at St. Paul Lutheran in Ankeny, and there were 38 in attendance. The theme was, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..." Matthew 19:14. After a delicious breakfast, we worked on a mission activity assembling Christian coloring booklets for the children at both preschools represented by our presenters.

We then moved into the sanctuary for our morning devotion led by Rev. Joel Newton, Pastor at St. Paul. Next on the agenda was our speakers. At the 2025 Fall Rally, we chose the two Christian preschools in our Zone (Christ The King-Altoona's preschool [Children of Christ Preschool] and Hope Lutheran-Des Moines' preschool [Hope Lutheran Preschool]) as our mission projects to support. Our Rally speakers were Pastor Schonkaes and Sue Hyland from Christ The King and Gina Acers, Director at Hope Lutheran Preschool. Each of the preschools received half of the \$439.00 collected at the Fall Rally along with the ingatherings, which were items the preschools requested for the classrooms.

A short business meeting followed that included information about the upcoming District Convention, and our Pastoral Counselor, Pastor Matthew Tooman from Peace Evangelical-Des Moines, led us in prayer after addressing our prayer requests. It was a great morning of fellowship and learning about the many little children who have come to know Jesus by attending the two preschools in our own Zone. The 2026 Des Moines East Zone Fall Rally will be held at Christ The King-Altoona.

News from the Zones

Denison Zone Spring Rally

The Denison Zone Spring Rally was held at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison on Thursday, April 16th. The theme for the rally was taken from John 11: 25-26, Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Pastor Wade from Zion Lutheran opened the rally leading us through the Service of Matins which included the hymn, "Christ Be My Leader." The devotional, "Life in Christ" related closely to the rally theme.

Denison Zone President, Deb Green, greeted everyone but due to recent hospitalization, Vice-President, Cindy Gray called the rally to order, led the LWML pledge and conducted the morning event.

Wanda Pritzel, Licensed Independent Social Worker, from Lutheran Family services was the guest speaker. She shared a video featuring several clients who benefited from their many different programs.

District Financial Secretary, Chris Mahnken, reported that the goal for the 2024-2026 biennium was met, and anything collected now will be added to the 2027-2029 funding.

The Women of Christ presented a comical skit, "The Mighty Mite" emphasizing the importance of our mite donations and all that the LWML does with our small change and prayers.

The short business meeting included an introduction of the members of the Denison Zone LWML Board and updates from Peggy Wunschel, the co-chair for the upcoming District Convention to be held at Camp Okoboji June 11-13. Brenda Miller, chair of Convention Hospitality invited those who enjoy crafting to help with centerpieces, etc needed for the convention.

Zone LWML Counselor, Pastor Torreson led the closing devotion based on John 11; 3-24 which is from the passage preceding the theme verses.

The Zion Ladies Aid had beautiful small and various vases filled with spring flowers to set off their wonderful salad and dessert luncheon. Forty-five people attending each were asked to take a vase of flowers home with them or to give to someone not able to attend this event.

The Denison Zone Fall Rally is tentatively planned for September 24th at Our Savior in Denison. Please plan to attend this uplifting event.

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
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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
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