



Lutheran Women
in Mission

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

Evangel

Fall 2025

Quarterly Newsletter

A Season to Speak



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LWML PLEDGE

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; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deaconess Liz Borth



Ageless Seasons in Life

Before the sprout, there is a seed buried in the earth. Changes occur without anyone watching or even noticing. Then the ground breaks and the young plant is exposed to sun, rain, hail, cold, heat, insects, disease and neglect, and yet the expectation for this new life is to grow and produce fruit. Isn't this like the conception and birth of a human being? When a child is conceived there is a season of quiet change. Birth brings another seasonal change for mother, child, and family. As the child matures and grows, more seasons in life come and go. The expectation is that the child of today will become the adult leader of tomorrow. He

or she will change the world. Each of us was once a child and now as adult leaders, we are changing the world.

I think life seasons are not necessarily age related. True, physical and mental maturity affects what we do and how we do it: a young child is limited, a teen is restricted, a young adult is energetic, middle-age brings resourcefulness, senior years are freeing and resolute. Every season brings challenges, sorrow, fear, growth, maturity, joy and surprise. Holy Scripture instructs us there is a time and a place for everything and all is pre-determined by our almighty God. He did not give us life simply to exist and wade through age phases. We are gifted for a specific time, not always related to age, by a timeless and ageless God.

In every season we are given His magnificent gifts for our own pleasure as well as to share. The LWML women from all over the nation who met together in Omaha exhibited talkative, flexible, helpful, curious, growing, and ageless women. In everyone I met, I witnessed true pleasure and joy in serving Jesus. In your current season of service, care-giving, study, employment, raising children, or anything else, may any self burden be lifted so the light and joy of Jesus is as evident to those around you as it was to me in Omaha.

New email address: lwmlflgapresident@gmail.com

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Hanes



There was a season when I explored different ministries, volunteering on a one-time basis with opportunities that surfaced. During this time, I met someone whose ministry was preaching the gospel to inmates at the county jail. Curious, I asked if I could go with him to observe. He was open to it and invited me to the next women's Bible study.

It all seemed exciting until a few days prior, when he asked if I would also give my testimony to the group. My approach to sharing the gospel is more action-based, behind the scenes, or individually through conversation – not to a larger group of people I've never met before. When I expressed my hesitation, he said just share what God has done or is doing in my life. I wasn't sure how it could make a difference, but I agreed. I spoke, then sat and listened to the Bible study.

God clearly had His own plan and purpose in mind because, a little over a year later, I was walking in the downtown area of that city when a stranger stopped me and asked if I was the one who shared my story that day. I said yes, that was me. She said she was one of those inmates. She told me how my words gave her hope and thanked me multiple times. I was in awe. I spoke of God's mercy and love in this new way, and He was able to use it for His glory.

VP MISSION SERVICE

Silvia Grasberger



What is your favorite time of the year? Is it spring, summer, fall or winter?

In the spring the air is fresh and flowers bloom, here in Florida however that season is short and we roll right into summer.

Summer brings family vacation adventures; others enjoy a staycation to relax right at home. Fall and winter, well that would be my favorite as I look forward to gathering with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and the birth of Jesus in December.

During our earthly life however we also experience seasons such as loneliness, job loss, financial struggles, serious health issues, divorce, loss of a child, being a caregiver to an elderly parent or disabled family member. These seasons are real and could affect any

one of us at one point in our lives; I confess I have experienced several of these in my lifetime, have you?

It is not for you to know times or seasons that the father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:7-8).

This verse reminds us that God is in control, and everything is fixed by his own authority. It also reminds us that during our seasons of struggle we have the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us and strengthen us to be his witness to others who may be experiencing one of these seasons in life. God can turn any season in our life into a great story-an everlasting story. What's your story?

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sheryl Lutz

My Season to Speak has always been to try to let people know I'm Christ's by the way I act: such as, in line at a store, or on the phone with a customer service agent. I have been a cashier in many places and even worked for a cable company as a phone person. So, even if I'm particularly frustrated with whatever I've called about, I always try to remember the cashier I'm in line for, or the person on the other end of the phone does NOT make the rules or set the prices. They are working to pay bills for their families as I am.

I have gotten more confident in speaking about my faith over the years, but not as much as I'd like to be. I wear a "Gospel Bracelet" that gives me the opportunity for the "Elevator Witness" when asked about it. It has five colors: Yellow for Heaven where Jesus is and I want to go;

Black for my sin keeping me separated from Him; Red for His blood shed for me; White for His Forgiveness making me pure; and Green for my growth in Him until I go to Heaven.



We have received funds in memory of:

- Rev Hinman, by Faith, Parrish, FL LWML (scholarship)
- Dorothy Sell, by Redeemer, Stuart, FL LWML (mites)
- Delores Glienke, by Norma Bringle (mites)
- Bea Daily Bequest sent to LWML for Districts.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. Paul R. Meseke

As I look at Acts 1: 7-8 I hone in on the end of verse 8. “and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (NKJV) emphasis added.

On a mission trip to Panama, I shared Christ without words, as I don't speak Spanish.

Little children played enthusiastically with a net, catching cloth fish after hearing a VBS story of the great catch of fish. I sat and helped one little girl with the craft that afternoon, sweating in the heat (no A/C). After our activities and snacks for the day, the little girl I had helped clutched my hand, wanting to take me home to be her dad (explained to me by the indigenous Pastor). Later, I realized that the love I had shown, as Christian love, transcended language, age, and location, and touched this little girl's heart.

Our witness is to be worn on our sleeves and seen by all. Now I realize that this little girl taught me, this educated pastor, something about the love of Christ which lives within us. The season to speak is always, and we don't necessarily need words to convey the love of Christ. But what is it to live like Christ? *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8).

Speak in love even as Christ loves us. We see it in the mite recipients, whom we don't know and the love shown to them through LWML. Another season of speaking!



TREASURER

Bunnie Koelsch



A Season to Speak and to Hear: Bearing Witness to Our Lord's Love

As Treasurer, I've witnessed firsthand how our resources—time, talent, and treasure—become channels for God's message. This season calls us to speak boldly of Christ's love, whether in Sunday sermons or casual conversations over coffee. Every greeting, every testimony, every financial gift echoes His grace and mission.

Speaking is vital, but it's only part of the story. Our acts of compassion—helping a neighbor with bills, supporting mission outreach, and stewarding church finances with integrity—speak volumes about the Gospel. When we manage our resources faithfully, we embody the stewardship Jesus taught, inviting others to see His love through tangible acts.

None of us stands ready by our own strength. God equips us through prayer, study, and fellowship. He refines our character in trials, teaches generosity in seasons of need, and deepens our faith when we trust Him with our budgets. Reflect on times when He guided your decisions, strengthened your resolve, or opened doors to share His message.

As we enter this season of witness, let us commit our words and resources to the work of Christ's Kingdom. May every gift reflect His love, every conversation point to His grace, and every act of stewardship draw others nearer to Him.

As Treasurer of the district, I wish to thank all of you for using your voice in the form of mites and other donations. This allows the district to use their voice for the needs of LWML throughout the district as well as world wide.

VP MISSION GRANTS

Cheryl Briggs

As of August 1, you have collected and submitted mites to pay \$36,000 in District Mission Grants. There are ten months left in this biennium. In that time, to pay all of the grants voted on at the convention there needs to be an additional \$35,000 in mites collected. This does not include the portion for National. Please pray for our grant recipients. Keep submitting those mites so that we will be able to help them in their mission work. The grants can't be paid until the mites are received.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ... a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b).

I grew up in Western New York where the seasons were well defined by the weather and the change in colors. As I was thinking about seasons as written in Ecclesiastes, it first

brought to mind the annual seasons I grew up with. Then the seasons of life came to mind: childhood, those teen years, wife, mother, career and now retired with grandkids. So many blessings!

Our task for today's season is to speak on Christ's behalf. I have always felt that being kind and helpful is powerful.

There was season of being a Sunday School teacher and VBS Director. Later, there was a time of silence where I thought God forgot about me. After a few years I became involved with the LWML and was drawn to Mission Grants.

What better way to speak on Christ's behalf than to share all of the works being done in the name of Lord.



VP SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Linda Meseke



I never saw myself as any type of leader. The first time I led a Vacation Bible School, it was pretty overwhelming. I felt the same way as leader of my first Bible Class, my first Women's Ministry event, and my first mission trip. All of those things were successful. God had surrounded me with capable, willing, faithful people who all wanted to serve too! He had encouraged and equipped me, and He had done the same for those helping and supporting me. Through God's grace, He continues to equip me for the tasks today and in days to come.

It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:7-8).

That truly speaks to me! I rarely know the complete plan, and I don't need to. But you and I must trust **His** plan and know that He will guide us so that we can be the best servant and witness in His Kingdom. I pray that this Scripture speaks to you as well. Be watchful - you will see Him working in your life and equipping you to witness, now and into the future, at any age, and at any time.

NEXT EVANGEL DEADLINE

November 5, 2025

Send articles & photos to:

evangel.flga@gmail.comWrite in **Word** with pics as attachments.**Exec Board:** 250 words**Zone Articles:** one paragraph plus pics**PLEASE list everyone in all photos**

GETTING TO KNOW OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name: Bunnie Koelsch

Title: Treasurer

Home Church: Hope Lutheran, Melbourne, Florida

First LWML Event: 1994, District Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida

Day Job: Part-time bookkeeper at Prince of Peace Anglican Church

Born in State: Maryland

Confirmed in State: Arizona

Reason for Moving to FL-GA District: Parents moved here due to work in 1969, met husband and became Lutheran

Favorite Bible Verse: *And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly.* (Luke 22:44a)

Favorite LWML Memory: Being sworn in as LWML FL-GA District President

Treasurer Responsibilities: make authorized payments, submit books for financial review at close of each biennium, be bonded, prepare operating budget, prepare retreat and convention budgets.



SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN — Lois Ford

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Luke 10:2).



BEAR Witness

School is back from summer vacation. Teachers have met their students and now it is time to dig into the curriculum for the year. In Lutheran Schools that curriculum is to speak God's love and forgiveness to all their students in addition to math, reading, spelling, history, music, art, tech lessons, etc.

The Florida-Georgia District has 26 schools, two include high schools, and 32 free-standing preschools. In all these schools it is important to have Lutheran teachers who understand that above all the other subjects, the most important thing for every student to learn is that Jesus loves them!! And even young children can BEAR witness to that love. It is the Season to Speak love and kindness to ALL.

Right now, we are only funding ONE scholarship for a Lutheran teacher coming from the entire district. It is OUR job, it is our future, to seek and encourage students in your church, school and Sunday school to become a **LUTHERAN** teacher.

"Lutheran school teachers understand that school ministry is far more than providing excellent academics, which they do extremely well. It's about helping every child to know, without a doubt, that they are a unique and deeply loved child of God, living in His grace, and learning to serve others as Jesus served us."

— Jennifer Tanner, Executive Director, Schools & Youth Ministry, FL-GA District LCMS.



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MISSION TRIP COORDINATOR — Scarlet Holcombe



Florida-Georgia District LWML 2025 Mission Trip to Point of Grace Academy in Kenya: Reflections of Scarlet Holcombe, Whitney Marsh, Karen and Abby McCarthy and Rev. Francis Schroder.

This week is an opportunity to escape the breakneck pace of the West.

Scarlet Holcombe has a solid relationship with Point of Grace Academy and she is an expert with the ins and outs of travelling overseas. In all transparency, the experience is one of adventure and joy and a little fear and frustration. But, the Holy Spirit relieves fear and showers blessings.

Arriving in Atlanta, the team met to re-pack thirteen suitcases and three carry-on bags with generous donations. Customs is tricky, and having the bags searched is an expectation. The flight was interrupted by a medical emergency (not one of our team) and delayed arrival by five hours.

Quote from Whitney Marsh: "I have to say with that big of a flight, children of all ages, and all the various nationalities, it was impressive to see how well everyone did under the circumstances." Abby McCarthy, ten-year old granddaughter of Karen McCarthy shares her first impressions: "When we were walking through the school (on tour) I knew I had to trust in the Lord. I was really nervous but I loved it." Abby met her pen pal and quickly made many friends.



The beauty and expanse of Point of Grace Academy is impressive. The school campus is quite large with lots of farmland, hothouses, and animals. Every one of your senses is stimulated in this amazing adventure.

Braying donkeys are the official trumpeters to begin the day. Breezes crossing Lake Victoria cool the skin. Fresh African seasoning and spices tease tastebuds into submission. It is mesmerizing listening to the beauty of English, Swahili, and Luo being shared in conversation. A listener must focus on how words are spoken.

Each mission team member has specific responsibilities so everyone's gift from God shines His love. Teaching, crafting, speaking, singing, and playing. The Lord kept all busy in His work. The gifts sent need to be sorted daily so pillowcase dresses, school supplies, science kits, and craft materials can be purposely distributed. Home visits, souvenir jewelry from local artists, songs in worship, and hugs guarantee no one leaves empty.

Point of Grace fills every heart with tranquility. Now it is time to go home: "I miss my family and can't wait to hug them tight, but leaving the ones I love here in Kenya and the family I have made with my missionary teammates, pierces my heart with a sting that I can't describe. When will I be back? God's timing is not mine; His timing has been perfected since the beginning of creation. *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)"

An invitation is open for you to experience blessings, a sweet spicy cup of tea, and friendship with inspiring Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ.

The knitters and crocheters at All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, Georgia, had their needles busy making a host of items for the students, families, and mission field of Point of Grace Academy in Kisumu, Kenya. In six months they crafted 150 caps for children, 7 headbands, 22 hair ties, 22 dish cloths, 13 butterflies, 25 pocket prayer shawls, and 3 children's blankets.

Around the Zones...

TREASURE COAST ZONE

Betsy Ablott - President

Our units are looking forward to our Fall Rally, October 4th in Port St. Lucie. Our Gifts from the Heart will be medical supplies for the Habitat for Children's Ministry in Haiti. Our guest speakers will be Meschac and Shirlon St. Amour who manage the ministry. It builds a medical clinic for traveling doctors and supports the hundreds of recently displaced Haitians. Our July zone Gift from the Heart drive was very successful in collecting school supplies for each unit's recipient. Hundreds of backpacks, pencils, and glasses were collected to help our communities feel the love of God. We had five attendees at the recent National LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. We were inspired by the over 4,000 attendees and many speakers telling of the Lord's work being shared because of the grants they were awarded.

HEARTLAND ZONE

Jean Harrison - President

Our 2025 LWML Spring Rally was held at Peace Lutheran Church in Okeechobee, FL. We were welcomed with a continental breakfast and then started our rally with a Communion Worship Service led by our LWML Zone Pastor Anthony Arias and Peace Lutheran Pastor Deon Hull.

We had our business meeting, letters from President Deaconess Liz Borth were read and discussed, and reports were done by noon. We were provided a great luncheon, drinks and desserts by the Okeechobee Ladies. Leah Suarez, Director and Founder of Our Village Okeechobee spoke on the many services they provide to the community: peer support, prevention coalition, food pantry, tutoring, etc. Our Gifts from the Heart went to this great project.

Pastor Arias closed the day with a benediction.

ZONE RALLY DATES

ATLANTA

Bethlehem Lutheran, Columbus
October 18, 2025

EAST CENTRAL GEORGIA

Trinity Lutheran, Savannah
October 18, 2025

GREATER ORLANDO

St. Luke Lutheran, Oviedo
October 4, 2025

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Peace Lutheran, Dunnellon
September 27, 2025

SOUTH PALM BEACH

Trinity Lutheran, Delray Beach
October 4, 2025

SOUTHWEST

St. Michael Lutheran, Fort Myers
November 8, 2025

ST. PETERSBURG

Grace Lutheran, St. Petersburg
November 1, 2025

TALLAHASSEE

Messiah Lutheran, Valdosta
April 28, 2026

TREASURE COAST

Grace Lutheran, Port St. Lucie
October 4, 2025

WINTER HAVEN

Christ Lutheran, Lakeland
November 8, 2025

We want news about YOUR zone!

Send a **paragraph** (50-250 words)
and pictures to be included in an
upcoming issue!

Please identify everyone
evangel.flga@gmail.com

Around the Zones...

GREATER ORLANDO ZONE

Carol Lynn Scheer - President

The Greater Orlando Zone will have their Fall Rally Saturday, October 4 at St. Luke's, Oviedo. Afternoon LWML Group will be the host. The Rally theme is "Entertaining Angels Unawares" - *Do not neglect to show hospitality to*

strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (Hebrews 13:2)

Our Gifts from the Heart speaker will be from E.S.T.H.E.R. (Encourage, Strengthen, Teach, Help, Equip, Restore) Single Mothers Outreach. Our other speaker is from I.R.I.S. (I Read, I See) Lending Library for the Blind. Some type of servant event will be available for the ladies to participate in.

Approximately 19 from our zone, including family and pastors, attended the National LWML Convention in Omaha. Greater Orlando Zone made up about 25% of those that attended from the LWML FL-GA District. How fantastic is that! We are blessed! Some of those people graciously took knitted hats (some by car and others by plane) to give to Phil's Friends, in the amount of 365 hats. The hats will go in the care packages Phil's Friends send out to cancer patients.

TAMPA ZONE

Eloise Schwarz

Our May LWML meeting at Faith Lutheran, Parrish FL featured a presentation on the *Petal Pushers*® by Faith members, Tom and Marjorie Weiss.

The Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, California will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is the only Christian float in the annual parade.

Being involved in the hands-on project of making the multiple floats seen in the parade is not a secret. Tom and Marjorie Weiss were counted among the dedicated group of 4,000 spending the week between Christmas and New Years creating the Lutheran Hour Ministry float and seven others. These *Petal Pushers*® as they are called, carry on the mission of providing the Gospel through the 5.5-mile parade route.

Anyone interested in this year's Luther Tours running from 12/28/25 to 1/2/26 go to petalpushers.org

NORTH CENTRAL FL ZONE

Sheryl Lutz - President

All ladies in the zone were invited to a women's retreat hosted by Trinity (98 attendees) and a speaker meeting at Our Redeemer.

This was my first National Convention, and what a blast! I was enrolled in a Writers' Workshop where we learned how articles we submit get looked at, edited, and maybe used. At our District Caucus, we met Julie, our District Heart-to-Heart Sister, plus a couple from Pakistan using their "season to speak" to Muslims and others about Jesus. All before the Opening Divine Service! I loved the Parades of District Banners, Country Flags of the 83 countries that have received LWML grants, 79 YWRs, and over 300 hostesses from Nebraska East and West Districts! The speakers, Bible study, music, plus voting for LWML Mission Grants and officers were so inspiring.

2025 National Convention



Four of the five Treasure Coast attendees: Janelle McPartland, Betsy Ablott, Paula Griffin and Ellen Griffin (Not shown: Nancy Kaufman)



District Banner carried by District President Liz Borth and YWR Lilly Boettcher



Mission Walk over Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge raised over \$73,000 — enough to fund one approved grant. L-R Deb Schraeder, Sarah Elston, Lonna McEwen, Carol Lynn Scheer

2025 National Convention



From Atlanta Zone: Sarah Elston,
Louise Cox, Norma Palmer

Scarlet Holcombe
with flag of Kenya



Purchase group photo or \$19.61 from
enjoyphotos.com

Username: 2025 LWML Convention

Password: 48762

Georgia Zone Presidents: Lonna McEwen,
Sarah Elston, Kitty Anderson



2025 National Convention

HIGHLIGHTS TO SHARE:
President, Liz Borth



Over 3,700 LWML people registered for this biennium convention in Omaha, Nebraska. Amazing to see so much purple and even more amazing at the easy flow of foot traffic. Despite some problems with transportation from

hotels, it was uplifting and encouraging to see how sisters-in-Christ help each other and work together.

attendees from our entire District participated in two pinning ceremonies: Our YWR, Lilly Boettcher (Sarasota), and our first trained Heart to Heart Leader, Julie Kociuba (Tropical).



There are no words sufficient to describe the amazing experience of worshipping our Lord with over 4,000 people at the Opening Worship Service. Celebrating the Lord's Supper was incredible in that setting with over 100 clergy. The 40 beautiful District banners opened our business meeting with a procession of District



Our Convention began in a most appropriate manner with the prayer service for the Prayer Chapel held on the Ak-sar-ben patio (that is Nebraska spelled backwards). As the Pastor spoke words from Isaiah 55:10, "*for as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven....*" the rain actually did come down! We all scurried inside and finished the opening worship right outside the prayer chapel. Those very early morning Bible studies were interesting and stimulating and thought provoking for 806 people. If only there had been a coffee pot available.

The 537 eligible voters had fun practicing on the voting devices and then our 19 Delegates celebrated with all the LWML Florida-Georgia District delegation at our caucus. It was there the

Presidents and Young Women Representatives. The Florida-Georgia banner was designed and made by Tropical Zone, Elaine Stier.

The business of the convention included early, online voting. For one week in May, 555 voters cast 5,240 votes for the top 10 of 46 2025-2027 mission grant candidates. These are listed on our Florida-Georgia website. During Convention meetings, spokespersons of previous mission grant recipients spoke with appreciation for the LWML grant that allowed them to reach more people with Christ's Gospel.

The Lutheran Braille Workers received one of the first grants LWML distributed in 1941 and since that time LWML has granted over \$800,000 toward the continued ministry to those persons with poor or a loss of eyesight. At



2025 National Convention



our District Retreat in September 2025, we will serve the Lutheran Braille Workers by putting together Bibles.

Forged by Fire, received a 2025-2027 grant to purchase a laundry trailer. Rev. Paul Ernewein shared the mission and impressed us with his description of “Chick-Fil-A on steroids”.

He also stated no person

leaves hungry, and unlike some other groups assisting in disaster areas there is no limit to how many meals a family can have.

Lutheran Deaf Outreach also received a grant for 2025-2027. Rev. John Reinke is deaf himself, but his dynamic and enthusiastic speaking presence encouraged everyone to laugh and cheer! Soon, five new production centers will produce 10,000 large print and braille Bibles and Christian materials.

Our District Mission Coordinator, Scarlet Holcombe, has arranged a trip to the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, also a 2025-2027 grant recipient. Think about a honey Sunday at your church to support the programs at the ranch (I received a bottle at the Exhibition Hall—yum!).

Despite an initial malfunction of some voting devices, voting for new officers for our National LWML concluded on Saturday and on Sunday, all were installed before the Sending Worship Service.

We also voted on and passed bylaw changes that give our LWML a better flow of duty explanations and transparency in mission grant fund distribution.

Another interesting speaker came to us from LWML—Canada. Since 1993, LWML has connected Lutheran women in Canada and the United States. VP District Administration ABC

District, LWML—Canada, Sherley Hearty, shared the 30 year celebration challenge and spiritual reset: spend 30 minutes every day reading 30 Bible verses for 30 days. Sounds like a positive challenge to share.

On Saturday morning, a procession of 76 Countries where we support Lutheran Missions included some participants in ethnic dress. Scarlet Holcombe represented Kenya.

The goal of our Convention is to deepen our roots in faith and extend His love through our actions. The opportunities to show this in person and to support even when unable to attend proved fruitful for our mite box and our mission grants. The preliminary report of Tee Up 4 Mites

is \$18,000. The 1,627 walkers wearing corn-yellow shirts walked across the bridge spanning the Missouri River into Iowa and brought \$73,610.04! This is enough to fund one grant (comment from Sarah Elson-Atlanta Zone).

The Convention ended with a parade of volunteers in their green shirts. It is an amazing production to be sure. We



also had a warm Oklahoma invitation to the 2027 National Convention July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City. Mark your calendars and set aside funds “for a little bit of heaven, come to OKC in 2027.”

Many of us left before the sending service to make connections with airflights. Some were delayed, but spending an additional four hours with ladies in purple was enjoyable and the wait time flew by. We truly were a witness to God’s Grace in Omaha and in the airport. Attending a LWML National Convention is something every Lutheran Lady in Purple should experience at least once.



2024-2026 MISSION GRANTS AS OF 8/1/2025

GRANT RECIPIENT	GRANT	DISBURSED	BALANCE
#1 Facilitating Futures: Forward Paths for Young Men and Women Aging Out of Foster Care	10,000.00	2,500.00	7,500.00
#2 Reaching College Students So They Thrive in Christ	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
#3 Wheels of Plenty	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
#4 Center for Seafarer Mental health	8,750.00	0.00	8,750.00
#5 Proclaiming Jesus to the Visually Impaired	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
#6 Christian Care and Early Childhood Education	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
#7 Surgical Sterilizer	10,000.00	8,500.00	1,500.00
#8 Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
#9 Who Is My Neighbor? Bible Books for Non-English speakers	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00
#10 Missionary Couple for Christian Outreach to International Communities in the Florida-Georgia District	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
#11 Trinity Lutheran Academy Security Locks	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
#12 Buma Village Project (partial)	487.83	0.00	487.83
TOTALS	106,737.83	36,000.00	70,737.83

Praise GOD for His
blessings!

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the LWML FL-GA District is to share the love of Christ with women of all ages and diversities and to foster a recognition that the mission field exists both at home and abroad.

LWML FL-GA DISTRICT**DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

Deaconess Liz Borth

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Hanes

VP MISSION GRANTS

Cheri Briggs

VP MISSION SERVICE

Silvia Grasberger

VP SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Linda Meseke

RECORDING SECRETARY

Kathy McCartin

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sheryl Lutz

TREASURER

Bunnie Koelsch

SR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

vacant

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Rev. Paul R. Meseke

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NOMINATING

Louise Cox

REGISTRAR

Ada Jarmosevich

SCHOLARSHIPS

Lois Ford

STRUCTURE

Pat Powell

WEBMASTER

Stephanie Edgar

YOUNG WOMAN DEVELOPER

Lydia Landes & Ashley Pridgeon

LWML National News — www.lwml.org

- ✠ LWML National Convention was held in Omaha, Nebraska on June 26-29, 2025. <https://www.lwml.org/convention>
- ✠ Jan Struck has officially retired as humorous interrupter. Check out the memories in the Sunday Extended Edition of the convention newspaper.

MISSION GRANTS

New mission grant goal is \$2,622,270

All 33 grants are listed at <https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants>

The international grants were

- 2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons
- 6. Introducing Muslims to the Savior
- 13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti
- 14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel
- 16. Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa
- 18. Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses
- 19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber, Dominican Republic
- 28. MOST Ministries
- 32. Proclaiming Christ in Honduras

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS 2025-2029

Vice President of Christian Life: Shari Miller

Vice President of Communication: Linda Guteres

Vice President of Gospel Outreach: Anne Hartman

Recording Secretary: Dianna Just

Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Michael Schmidt

- ✠ Next convention will be July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City.

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