

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

VOL. LIX, NO. 2

English District

August 2023

2023 LWML Milwaukee  
Convention Highlights



The week of June 22, approximately 3,500 men and women assembled in the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee to put in practice our mission statement: To Proclaim Christ, Support Missions and Equip Women to Honor God by Serving others.

**Proclaiming Christ** - Every meeting at an LWML convention begins and ends with prayer. The Opening service on Thursday evening was awesome – with over 50 Lutheran pastors in attendance and most assisting with communion. A choir of 309 women lent their voices to the services on Thursday evening and Sunday morning.

**Supporting Missions** – Delegates from every LWML Zone voted to support a 2023-2025 mission goal of \$2,350,000 to support 31 missions throughout the world. Our Lord of the Nations continues to use LWML to bless His people, funding mission grants at a rate not seen before. We met our mission goal, set in Lexington, by January 2023 — three months early! We enter this next biennium with over \$325,000 already designated towards funding future mission grants. Alleluia!

1,200 people participated in the pre-convention Servant Events held at the convention center:

- ◆ American Red Cross – attendees donated 79 units of blood.
- ◆ 566 Backpack school kits were assembled for Orphan Grain Train
- ◆ 162 Fleece blankets were made for Phil's Friends and A Place of Refuge
- ◆ 1,167 Braille books and calendars were assembled for Lutheran Braille Workers
- ◆ 50,000+ Meals were packed for Orphan Grain Train
- ◆ 4,751 Witness bracelets were made for MOST Ministries
- ◆ 443 Cards of encouragement were written for Refuge for Women
- ◆ 254 Cards and bookmarks of encouragement were written for mission workers and military.
- ◆ 457 Cards of hope were written for Phil's friends.

A pre-convention golf outing raised \$49,254 for the 2023-2025 missions. The funds raised through the Mission Walk were \$121,333. Gifts from the Heart items collected at the convention included many more items plus \$43,189 in gift cards/checks/cash.

Offerings taken at the convention as of August 2 were as follows:

Offering #1 - \$60,617 for the 2023-2025 Missions

Offering #2 - \$38,083 for We Are Called to Care (Plano, Illinois) to help create a therapy and visitation room for children and families in the foster care system while sharing Jesus' unconditional love.

Offering #3 – \$40,844 for Wolf River Lutheran High School (Shawano, Wisconsin) to support the High School's Scholarship Fund

Offering #4 – \$29,519 for Milwaukee Area Crisis Pregnancy Centers – Concordia Gospel Outreach to provide Gospel-based materials including Bibles and the children's book *Alive Before you were Born*.

# LWML English District President

Carol Klein

[carolkleinlwml@gmail.com](mailto:carolkleinlwml@gmail.com)

**Mission Statement: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.**

It was wonderful to see my LWML sisters and brothers as we met to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” in Milwaukee last month. It is at these conventions that we have many opportunities to get involved in supporting mission projects. Those who have not attended a national convention miss the opportunity to see how God is working through this incredible organization.

As always at an LWML convention, the Bible Study Leader, Kaye Wolff, Key-Note Speaker, Rev. Greg Seltz, and many, many other speakers were inspiring. I especially enjoyed hearing all the Mites in Action speakers from organizations supported during the last biennium tell us how our funds were used. And, of course, Jan Struck and Abby Goehring always provide comic relief – with a message.

Finally, the pageantry was awesome. Seeing the procession of approx. 50 Pastors on Thursday, the procession of banners from each of the 40 LWML Districts on Friday, a procession of flags from the 83 countries where we have supported missions on Saturday, a record number of Young Women Reps (76) crowding the stage, the 22 Heart to Heart Sister leaders, and a procession of 375 men and women in yellow T-shirts who made up the Host Committee volunteers. It is not too late to go to the [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) website and choose the LIVESTREAM option and pick whatever session you would like to see to get a feel for the events.

Be sure to check out the English District Website at [englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com](http://englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com). There are many snapshots from the Milwaukee convention, our District mission grants, how the Zones have supported the 80 for 80 years initiative, copies of the Women’s Quarterlies, and many more items to explore.

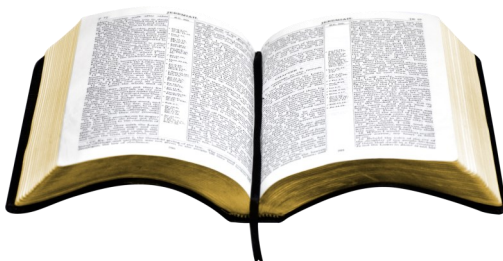
The Detroit Zone has been working hard on the 41<sup>st</sup> English District convention to be held in Dearborn (Detroit), Michigan April 26-28, 2024. Specifics as we know them at this time have been included on a separate page of this newsletter. They welcome any suggestions you may have. Feel free to be a contributor to this event.

Thank you all for your generous Mites contributions! We just paid our fourth grant and are preparing to pay the fifth (see the Gospel Outreach page). You are awesome Women and Men in Mission! We are in good shape to pay all our approved grants during this biennium. One quote I enjoyed at the convention: “Missionaries are not just the people who cross the seas, but the people who see the cross.” Praise be to God!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any suggestions and/or comments. I truly value your input.

Serving Christ alongside you,  
Carol Klein  
LWML English District President

*Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord,  
have never forsaken those who seek you. Psalm 9:10*



# 41st Biennial English District Convention

April 26-28, 2024



All Nations be  
Glad and Sing  
for Joy!



"May the nations be glad and sing  
for joy, for you rule the peoples  
justly and guide the nations of the  
earth."  
Psalm 67:4

The Greater Detroit Zone of the English District LWML invites you to mark your calendars for the English District LWML Convention in 2024. We are in the planning stages now and are getting excited about welcoming you all to Detroit!

**Convention Dates:** Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28, 2024

**Location:** The Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Detroit in Dearborn, Michigan

**Transportation:** If you fly to Detroit, the hotel has a free shuttle from the airport to the hotel and back. If you drive to Detroit, there is free parking at the hotel.

**Bible Study Leader:** Rev. Jeffery Miskus, First Vice President of the LCMS English District, Senior Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Mississauga, ON, Canada.

The Friday night Opening Holy Communion Service will be at Angelica Lutheran Church in Allen Park. Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, Bishop/President of the English District, will be the Proclaimer at the Service. There will be a reception at Angelica after the service.

Upcoming updates will include Mission speakers, Interest Session Speakers, Servant Events, Exhibitors, a Song Leader, Saturday entertainment, Pre-convention tours and other events. Please contact us if you have any ideas.

Convention Co-Chairs

Janet Stechholz – 734-679-9146, [davejan7@hotmail.com](mailto:davejan7@hotmail.com)

Anna Richert – 248-514-3527, [asrichert@comcast.net](mailto:asrichert@comcast.net)

Susan Boyle – 248-320-3413, [smvboyle@gmail.com](mailto:smvboyle@gmail.com)



## Convention Reflections



English District  
President  
Carol Klein  
and  
YWR Kelsey King  
with the  
English District  
Banner



My name is Kelsey King. For three years, on separate occasions, I was approached and asked to join the LWML. For three years I stubbornly declined. As much as I love the older ladies of my congregation and value their wisdom, I wasn't ready to join their ranks as the youngest by more than a couple decades. It wasn't until after attending the 2023 National LWML Convention, that the paradigm shift occurred. Not only was I given the privilege of spending four days surrounded by thousands of faithful Christian women praying together, worshipping together, and studying the Word together, but my eyes were also opened to what the LWML is really about - serving our Lord through service to others.

I've learned that it was very unfair of me to put the LWML in a demographic box. The missions they support, the money they raise, their faithful service to God and neighbor transcend age, race, culture, and every other barrier our sinful nature likes to place in our way. It is my prayer that young women would get involved in this amazing organization that helps so many and promises to offer support and encouragement as we carry out our Lord's call to share the Gospel throughout the world and to love one another. Put those preconceived notions aside and join us at the next LWML convention. You will not be disappointed!

My name is Anna Richert and I am co-chair of the LWML Greater Detroit Zone. From June 22-25, 2023, I attended my first LWML National Convention: "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," in Milwaukee, WI. I was excited to take advantage of all the opportunities at this convention. I was a delegate and found it extremely rewarding to vote for the 2021-2023 Mission Grants and the Officers. I sang in the choir, participated in the Mission Walk, and traversed the wealth of exhibits, including the LWML and CPH stores. The church services, Bible studies, pastors, speakers, and song leader provided truly soulful, Lutheran Christian worship and enlightenment.

But, what most inspired me were the various mission speakers representing for example, LAMP, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces, Phil's Friends, and many, many more. Getting a glimpse of what our Lutheran Women in Mission does in this country and around the world opened my eyes to mission field work of which I was largely unaware. What a blessing and inspiration this convention was for me to take home new-found enthusiasm and persevere more diligently toward those organizations witnessing and sharing the love and eternal salvation only found through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



# Heart to Heart—Sisters of All Nations

## Bethel Larsen

Greetings in the name of Jesus, Sisters!

Heart to Heart—Sisters of All Nations just celebrated twenty years as part of the LWML, going through some structural changes along the way. But what is it, exactly, and why does it matter? And how can we make it work among the far-flung congregations that comprise our non-geographical English District? Frankly, I am barely beginning to have a grasp of that question! However, our English District exists as the result of a cultural leap from worship in German to worship in English. Some of us, though we may look like our sisters of German descent, trace our roots back to other countries (Ireland, in my case). Though it may take more than a hop, skip, and jump to bring sisters of other ethnicities into our LWML circles, we will all be enriched by the effort—for that is, indeed, the reason that H2H exists!

At the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, I was privileged to attend the Heart to Heart District Leader Training. Beginning on Wednesday afternoon before the beginning of Convention and incorporating several activities before and after the regular Convention sessions, the training was led by H2H chairman Karol Selle and the 2021-2023 H2H Committee, Deb Vinkemeier, Linda Patel, and Giovanna Turincio, under the auspices of LWML Special Focus Ministries Vice President Deaconess Betty Knapp. (Karol Selle has been elected as Vice President of Special Focus Ministries for the next four years, with Deaconess Betty now filling a position on the Nominating Committee.) Karol and Deb alternated most of the teaching sessions, guiding the 27 participants through discussions on understanding different cultures (a HUGE topic in itself), what H2H is and is not, and how to communicate effectively when presenting H2H to our LWML groups at all levels and within our churches. Linda Patel taught us a very simple dance to present at the Friday evening celebration. My favorite part of the training was interacting with LWML sisters from all our various districts and a variety of ethnic backgrounds!

Our English District churches today may be set in urban, small-town, or rural settings. Some have welcomed refugees and other immigrants, seen congregations become more diverse as urban populations have shifted, or opened

doors to international students or businesspeople sent to our areas by their companies. Some of our congregations have women of various ethnicities worshipping in our midst who are not aware of LWML or the mutual benefit that can result from their participation. On the other hand, faithful LWML sisters in those congregations may overlook women sitting quietly in nearby pews or be uncertain how to draw them in. The task of H2H is to raise awareness among our LWML groups and help them to connect multicultural women with our mission. Its specific task is not to evangelize women of other cultures, as important as that work is, but to bring multicultural women who are already LCMS members into the mission of the LWML. May we help one another embrace that challenge? You may reach me at [godintent1214@yahoo.com](mailto:godintent1214@yahoo.com) or (616) 835-3156. Let's talk about it!



Bethel Larsen  
H2H District Leader 2023-2025





Sanders, Pastor Thomas J. & Cheryl

**A Heart Remembered ...**

**Cheryl Sanders May 15, 1951 to May 26, 2023**

Cheryl Sanders was an LWML sister who inspired others by sharing her mission minded heart. She encouraged many of us to join our LWML society at Trinity where we could be in the Word with Bible study while learning about missions. We shared a love of crafts and would get together to make angel and "Jesus in the Manager" ornaments to sell at the fall craft fair. In 1999, she named our Valentine's bake sale, the "Sweet Shop". Since then, over \$10,000 has been given for missions. She served many positions at our Society and the Chicago Zone levels. As Zone President, her creative ideas had us follow the "Yellow Brick Road" at Rally.

She encouraged us to be leaders which led to my continuing role as LWML Society Treasurer for over 20 years and my time as English District Treasurer. I joyfully served with both Cheryl and Pastor Tom on the Executive Board. Many lasting friendships have been made since Cheryl invited us to be Lutheran Women in Mission. She blessed my life in many ways. Cheryl is

survived by her husband, Pastor Tom Sanders and her sister, Janine Hitzke. In Cheryl's memory, I plan to donate to LWML Gifts of Love.

Sister in Christ, Debra Banks

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**Equipping Women to Honor God by Serving others –**

There were pre-convention training sessions, Mission speaker luncheons, a huge hall full of exhibitors for countless missions, and many other opportunities to learn how to utilize your God-given talents to serve others.

**GIFTS OF LOVE MINISTRY**

We are working to put in place an ENDOWMENT FUND for the LWML English District. There are two primary reasons to establish an endowment fund:

- ◆ Encourage our LWML ladies and their families to share their faith and bless their families while also making a lasting impact through charitable gift planning.
- ◆ An Endowment fund is a repository to invest and grow the gifts received to assist the English District in supporting our chosen tasks and missions in the future.

At the 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, Endowment Fund monies were used to reduce the convention registration fee by \$25 per person. This is only one example of how earnings from invested funds could be used in the future without touching the principle.

Please prayerfully consider the LWML English District Endowment Fund in your estate planning.



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If you want your name removed from this mailing send your email address to: [cactuslwml@gmail.com](mailto:cactuslwml@gmail.com).

## VP Christian Life/Human Care Barbara Taylor

Messages from our missionaries:

### Rev. Andrew & Megan Fedder - Serving the Lord in Romania and the Balkans

On top of our wonderful visits this month to see our work here and the Lutheran Parish Nurses International (LPNI) coming in September, two important tasks were completed in July. For many years now the church in Bucharest has worshiped at the Anglican Church near Piața, Romana. Unfortunately, we were informed in March that we would no longer be allowed to rent the space. While we were sad, we understood the Anglican church's reasons and we have remained friendly. They even gave us a generous three-month grace period to find a new location to worship. It was difficult finding a new location and it came down to the wire, but on July 2nd we held our first worship service at our new location. This new location is closer to most of our members and will serve us well into the future.

Last year, Megan and I were asked to work with Lutheran missionaries from all over the world to create curriculum teaching how the Lord uses missionaries to bring the Gospel to the whole world. We were blessed to work with some great people on this project, and this month it was finally released. Missions Unpacked for Kids or MU4K, is a free curriculum aimed at children from 1st to 6th grade with a selection of activities and lessons that can be swapped in depending on the age of the students. It is our hope and prayer that MU4K and projects like it will help raise up the next generation of missionaries to serve at home and abroad. I would also like to thank all of you. Because of your support for my work and the thousands of people who support the other missionaries who worked on this project, MU4K is free for anyone who wants to use it! Please feel free to use this program for Sunday school, home school, in the classroom if you're a Lutheran or Christian school teacher or in any way you can think of. Following is the link: <https://international.lcms.org/missions-unpacked-for-kids>

Thank you all for your support and prayers. One Heavenly Father is a God of means. He uses us as the means and instruments to bless our neighbor, to be His hands and feet. Our work is made possible through your generosity and your dedicated prayers for us.

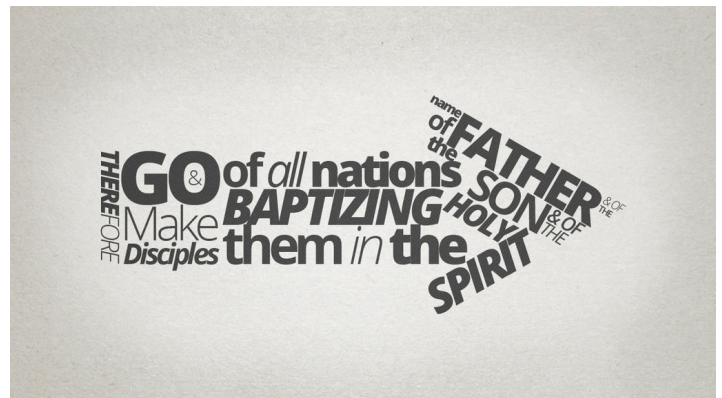
Christ bless you all,  
Pastor Andrew Michael Johnson Fedder

### Rev. Dale & Suzanne Kaster - Serving the Lord in Prague

The Czech Republic First, tell the LWML ladies that we thank them so much for their prayers and support. Those prayers mean a lot to us. You can tell the Ladies that the English-speaking congregation at St. Michael is growing bit by bit. Currently, we have people from 11 nations: America, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Indonesia, India, Madagascar, Pakistan, Slovakia, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. It is such a blessing to worship with all these people from different corners of the globe. Besides worship, we hold fellowship every Sunday and even fit in a day trip here and there - like to Kutna Hora. I also keep busy as the chaplain for the Eurasia region. I send out monthly letters to encourage our missionaries. And from time to time meet with people via Zoom. It is a privilege to pray with these people. This summer I will be leading a sending service for short-term missionaries from the United States. They will be holding English Bible camps out east. I am really looking forward to that trip.

I commend you to Christ,  
Rev. Dale Wm. Kaster Pastor and Missionary to the Czech Republic Chaplain to the LCMS Eurasia Region

Continued on next page.





**Rev. Ted & Rebecca Krey - Serving the Lord in Latin America & the Caribbean**

The Kreys and their children were at our national LWML convention! Rebecca and Mrs. Rev. Charles Ferry (a missionary's wife from another district) told us about the day-to-day life in the mission field - with some of its oddities. Then the Krey family sang the first verse of a hymn in Spanish, followed by the Ferry family singing the second verse in an Asian language, followed by us all singing the third verse in English. It was something to see - and hear!

**Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann - Serving the Lord in Latin America**

Nine wonderful men - representing the countries of Bolivia, Cuba, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, and Venezuela - graduated from the seminary on May 26. Many of you have heard of short-term mission teams. In the DR we have what we call short term mission education teams. These teams consist of a group of individuals who come to the island for 6-10 days, not necessarily to build, paint, garden, hold VBS, or do other activities, but to interact with our other missionaries, observe the work of the mission churches, schools, and mercy houses, and learn as much as possible about how everything works. If you are interested in this type of adventure, feel free to contact short term team coordinator, Erin Mackenzie, at [erin.mackenzie@lcms.org](mailto:erin.mackenzie@lcms.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Martin-Taylor, VP of Christian Living/Human Care



**From the Archives...**

Did you know that the first convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the English District took place in June 1944? Representatives from thirty-one societies in the Chicago and Cleveland areas gathered for the event at Christ Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois. This significant event occurred one year after the national LWML's inaugural convention. However, the national's second convention had to be delayed until 1947 due to World War II, which explains why the national LWML recently celebrated its 40th convention, while the English District will be celebrating its 41st next year.

By its Second Biennial Convention in 1946, the LWML of the English District had grown to include fifty-two societies spanning Chicagoland, Northeastern Ohio, Milwaukee, Detroit, Philadelphia, Toledo, and LaPorte. Thankful convention organizers wrote, "We know that our remarkable growth was possible only because of the gracious guidance and blessing of our Lord and pray that He will continue to look with favor upon our humble efforts in this important work of His Church."

As we head to Detroit in April 2024 for the LWML English District's 41st Biennial Convention, let us make their prayer our own.

Christie Trolinger, Historian





**Please pray for...**

**MISSION GRANTS 2022–2024**  
**Mission Goal: \$18,000**

**Circle of Grace (Dignity 4 Girls) -  
Western Michigan Zone—\$3,000—Paid**

**Outdoor Kitchen for Grace Orphanage  
in Haiti—Western Michigan Zone—  
\$3,000—Paid**

**Plan B Foundation—Greater Chicago  
Zone—\$3,000—Paid**

**Bible Books for Spanish Speaking  
Families—Greater Detroit Zone—\$3,000  
Paid**

**LCMS Campus Ministry—Arizona—  
Arizona Zone—\$3,000**

**Journey's Lutheran School Job  
Coaching Hours—Milwaukee Zone—  
\$3,000**



At the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee we had the great pleasure of presenting a \$3,000 check to Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, Executive Director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. This represents the fourth English District mission grant for this biennium and will be used to help provide 600 Bible Books to Spanish speaking families. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation is committed to translating and publishing the books of our Lutheran faith so that people of all nations may know and love their Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our next grant will go to the **LCMS Campus Ministry at the University of Arizona**. This Ministry strives to reach high school students throughout Arizona to provide guidance to help them maintain their faith throughout their transition to college. Funds will be used to provide seed money for their efforts and to develop and disseminate needed materials.

Our sixth grant will go to **Journeys Lutheran School in Hales Corners, WI**.

Thank you for your continued support of these grants through your Mite offerings and prayers!

Barb Quinn  
Vice President of Gospel Outreach

## EQUALIZATION INFORMATION AND FORM 2024

**EQUALIZATION...**is a method of endeavoring to equalize travel costs for LWML District convention delegates. In order to make the plan function it is necessary to have as near 100% participation as possible from all zones and individual societies in the English District. Even if a unit will not be sending a delegate to the convention (though you will miss a lot if you don't), you should still send in the amount set for equalization...that's what makes it EQUAL! **Each zone is entitled to send one delegate and societies two delegates to represent them at convention.**

**BECAUSE...**of the high cost of airfares, we encourage all zones and societies within a fair driving distance of Detroit to drive and/or car-pool when possible. All travel arrangements will be the responsibility of each delegate. The mileage allowance for a delegate driver is calculated using the current IRS mileage rate. Reimbursement can only be requested by the delegate driving; unless there are extenuating circumstances, which would need to be reviewed on a case by case basis. Only one delegate per car will be compensated for travel. Maximum payment will not exceed the lowest available coach airfare. The equalization chairman will reimburse your mileage with documentation of the round trip using mapping software (MapQuest etc.) based on the most direct route. Also, be prepared to provide a printed copy of what the round trip air fare would have cost even if you drive.

**BECAUSE...**women's attendance at LWML conventions is really leadership training for local congregations, we encourage you to ask your congregation's finance committee to include funds for equalization in the convention and conference segment of their annual budgets.

**PARTICIPATION...**for the 2024 LWML English District 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention in Detroit, MI is \$200.00 per delegate and \$200.00 for the zone president. We are encouraging all zones and societies to send in their payment(s) as soon as possible. The deadline for the total payment is March 31, 2024.

Thank you for your cooperation in this joint stewardship effort.  
Everyone sharing makes for a stronger LWML!

### LWML English District Executive Committee

(Please print)

Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Zone President \_\_\_\_\_

LWML Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Indicate if payment is for:

Society Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Zone President \_\_\_\_\_

Remit completed form with payment to: Darlene Keca, 9907 West Elm Court, Franklin, WI 53132  
Please make checks payable to: LWML ED - Equalization