

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

VOL. LVI, NO. 3

English District

October 2020

From LWML President Debbie Larson

October 16, 2020

Dear LWML District Presidents and LWML leaders,

This letter is a reminder to all of us during this political season to be aware of LWML's tax-exempt status. The LCMS publishes a Congregational Treasurer's Manual and it has a section that applies to all tax-exempt mission organizations. I would like you to read it and keep it in mind as you and your LWML leaders post on social media. I'm including the section below:

8.101: Political Campaign Prohibition

The IRS has begun an aggressive educational and enforcement campaign to make charities aware of the statutory rules against engaging in political activities. Accordingly, the Synod's Accounting Department is also reminding all synodical entities that their efforts, if any, to "educate voters," must comply with tax code requirements concerning political campaign activities. The code absolutely prohibits churches and other religious organizations from endorsing or opposing any candidate for public office.

Whether a particular activity, action, or expenditure constitutes the conduct of prohibited political activity depends on all the facts and circumstances in each case. For example, organizations may sponsor debates or forums to educate voters. However, if the debate or forum shows a preference for or against a certain candidate, it becomes a prohibited activity.

The political activity prohibition does not restrict free expression by leaders of synodical entities who are speaking for themselves. However, ministers and others who commonly speak or write on behalf of a synodical entity must clearly indicate, at the time they do so, that their public comments in connection with political campaigns are strictly personal and not on behalf of the Synod or organization they represent. Partisan comments by employees or representatives of synodical organizations aimed at political candidates must never be made in official organization publications or at official church functions.

The entity could lose its tax-exempt status and/or be assessed an excise tax if the IRS finds it violating this prohibition. Also, contributions to organizations that lose their tax-exempt status are not deductible by the donors for federal income tax purposes.

The IRS discusses in greater detail the political prohibition in its fact sheet, FS-2006-17; Publication 1828, Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations and also Revenue Ruling 2007-41. These publications and other information about the political campaign prohibition are available at irs.gov.

Each of us have opinions that we have a right to share but please remember that the LWML President is the official spokesperson for the LWML. Please make sure that it is clear you are representing only your own opinion as you share on social media. I do not want political statements to be made on any LWML social media pages (i.e. LWML district pages, Heart to Heart Sisters, Young Women, etc.) Please be careful with your posts. We do not want to lose our tax-exempt status.

As always, let me know if the LWML Board of Directors can do anything for you or your district. You are constantly in our prayers and on our hearts. Remember, our God reigns and we are HIS!

Serving together with you,
LWML President Debbie Larson



Date: June 24–27, 2021

Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus

Scripture Verse: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).*

LWML English District President

Darlene Keca

lwmldarlene@gmail.com

Greetings from Wisconsin,

Our Lord provides us with so many things to be thankful for, especially friends, family and you my LWML brothers and sisters. One of the many benefits I receive while serving in this position.

Did you know you can keep up with LWML devotions, news, and promotions? There is a Sign Up Today option on the bottom of the lwml.org home page. Whatever you select can be sent directly to your personal email.

There is so much information on the LWML website, whenever you have a few minutes just take a look, you'll be amazed at what's available.

Here is a portion of the Mustard Seed Daily Devotion from October 21, 2020. Since this issue's theme was centered on Thanksgiving it felt appropriate to share this with you.

Of the Word

The Apostle Paul reminds us to ...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Christian men and women make thanksgiving to God a number one priority. We thank our Heavenly Father for all that He has done for us. We thank Him for food, clothing, shelter, family, and all that is needed to support this life here on earth. Most importantly, we thank Him for the gift of His Son Jesus who suffered, died, and rose again so that we might receive eternal life.

The next issue of the *Accent* will include additional information relative to the 39th Biennial LWML Convention to be held Thursday, June 24 – Sunday, June 27, 2021 in Lexington, KY. In the past LWML has offered pre-convention sessions on various topics. These sessions do NOT appear on the regular convention registration form. The district presidents are responsible for registering those from her district wishing to attend these sessions. Just something to consider if you are planning to attend!

Several months ago Zoom was something other people did to stay connected with family and friends. Now it has become part of the norm for the LWML (societies, groups, zones and districts). LWML President Debbie Larson recently used Zoom to connect the Presidents Assembly and several members of the Board of Directors. We had a total of 53 in attendance. So even in uncertain times God has a plan, we just need to be willing to adapt.

I would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider serving on a committee for the LWML English District. Additional members are needed for these committees: Bylaws, Christian Life/Human Care, Mission Grants and Leader/Member Development. Please contact me if you have any questions or are willing to accept an appointment for a two-year term.

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in one body.
And be thankful (Colossians 3:25).*

Sincerely your sister in Christ,

Darlene Keca





Heart to Heart Sisters

Banner Design Challenge

The Heart to Heart Sisters Committee (H2H) extends an invitation to participate in the Heart to Heart Sisters District Leader (H2H DL) Training that will take place June 23-24, 2021, prior to the LWML Convention, June 24-27, 2021, in Lexington, KY. The training sessions will begin on Wednesday, June 23 at 3:00 p.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24. The H2H Sisters District Leader trainee will be required to attend from June 23-27, 2021.

The H2H Sisters District Leader Training Program equips women to support, encourage, and develop the H2H Sisters program in their district. Women who have experience in cross-cultural ministry and a passion for reaching out to other cultures should be considered for H2H Sisters District Leader training. Deaconesses and other professional church workers can serve as H2H Sisters District Leaders as well. It is important that the candidate for H2H Sisters District Leader is proficient in English, have computer access and a personal email address along with an understanding of the purpose and mission of the LWML.

The District Leaders in Training are required to attend all training sessions. Attendance is of the utmost importance to assure that the candidates are trained and ready to work within their district upon their return.

The LWML English District is looking for a woman who would like to participate in this training. If you have any questions or would like to receive the Training Application Form, please contact Darlene Keca, LWML English District President at lwmldarlene@gmail.com Subject: H2H Sisters. Upon completion of this program the trainee will be asked to accept an appointment to serve as H2H Sister District Leader for the LWML English District. There are funds available to help defray some of the costs to attend the training program as well as the convention.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4, 7)



Inviting all artists, doodlers and otherwise creative sisters in Christ to rise to the Banner Design Challenge! No, you are not being asked to make a banner, but simply to create a design to be used on one, namely the LWML English District banner to be displayed at the LWML 2021 Convention: *Running the Race...Looking to Jesus*. Please consider submitting a uniquely English District design that incorporates the convention theme, based on Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* This is an ideal opportunity for short term service to the Lord.

Please send your questions and creations to Diana Honebrink, Vice President of Organizational Resources at knirbenoh@juno.com. Designs will be accepted until January 8, 2021. The winner of the Banner Design Challenge will be announced in late January at which time an appeal will be made for a banner maker to rise to the Banner Making Challenge!

You received Christ Jesus the Lord, so continue to live as Christ's people. Sink your roots in him and build on him. Be strengthened by the faith that you were taught, and overflow with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7 God's Word

Senior Counselor

Rev. Gordon Naumann

gordonnaumann@gmail.com

As the leaves start to change into their brilliant autumn colors, heralding in yet another fall season, just so, by nature, our lives are molded by the changes and chances of life, and, as Christians, observing the circle of life, may it also please us to see in all things the providence of God and know that the whole world is in His hands.

The Lord graces us with His presence, granting us a portion of His Spirit, giving us the strength to live for today and the wisdom with which to always seek a better direction for our lives. Just so, the Word of God is rewarding as we get to see the fruits of the Spirit which flow from we who are connected to the Vine, Jesus Christ, from Whom we joyfully extend as His branches.

To quote from hymn 892 from the Lutheran Service Book, *"Come, ye thankful people, come. Raise the Song of harvest home. All be safely gathered in ere the Winter storms begin. God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied"* (stanza 1). We sing this together to encourage one another in our mutual endeavor to comfort and support each other in the good times and the bad. Like wheat gathered safely into a barn are we brought together by God's providence to worship and give thanks for all that God has provided, knowing He orders all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Yes, we are safe under His protection; He grants all that we need, including the good news of our salvation delivered by His gracious messengers and more, the fruits of His labors through we who believe, producing a bountiful harvest in love toward our neighbor.

Indeed, may we look out for the opportunities the Lord puts in our path to witness our faith in both word and deed. For faith is not without love which is the fruit of our faith in the Lord. May He be with us always and uphold us with His good works. As lights of the world, may we shine with brilliant colors with the changing of the season and share in the beauty of His creation, taking in our stride the changes and chances of life, the trials and tribulations, the celebrations and abundant blessings we know come from an almighty and merciful Lord and God. For *"all the world is God's own field, fruit unto His praise to yield"* (stanza 2 of said hymn).

My prayer for you is that, as the Lord's grain, you truly experience the richness and wholeness the Lord has already declared yours through our Savior, Jesus Christ. May it give you reason to praise and honor His name often and in considering every blade and ear of his harvest precious, be brought an abundance of consolation and joy in the praise of the saints here on earth as it is in heaven, as we all with one voice give glory and honor to our God Who is all in all worthy of our adoration and thanksgiving.

His praise be on our lips forever and ever, Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor
To God be the Glory



**Treasurer
Carol Klein**

**VP Gospel Outreach
Gail Arndt**

It's been a tough year going through an historic pandemic. The missions our District voted to support with our mites need the funds now more than ever. God has blessed us to be able to provide funds to Operation Barnabas Military Share Food Distribution - our First Mission Grant. Our next District Grant is for Most Ministries Clean Water Filters. Please encourage your societies and churches to continue to give their change (and bills) to assist us in supporting these worthy causes. Ideas for fundraising during a pandemic include:

Noisy Offerings - put a Coffee can decorated with the LWML logo on a table so as members enter or leave church, they can drop in their change. Perhaps only on the last Sunday of each month so people are not saturated. This works best if the Pastor or member mentions it in the bulletin or during the announcements, either the week before or the week of the offering.

On-line Auctions - assemble gift baskets, post a picture to the church website with a time frame and have bidders send their bids via email. The highest bid during the time frame gets the basket.

Advertising - Place a board in the narthex showing pictures of the missions we are supporting and talk to people about them (keeping a 6 ft distance).

I am sure your societies have far more ideas than this, so keep being creative and keep those mites coming in! God Bless you all!!

Carol Klein,
Treasurer

PRAISE THE LORD!

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good for his steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 106:1

It is with shouts of praise that we give thanks, that our first mission grant was paid. Operation Barnabas (Military Food distribution) in Mechanicsburg, PA received their mission grant from Linda Goheen, Philadelphia Zone Treasurer, the beginning of October. These funds come at a good time when temperatures are cooler and warm meals are needed.

Thank you to all our LWML members whose mite contributions made this possible.

WANTED: Mission Grant Proposals for 2022

WHEN: Now through MAY 1, 2021

WHO: Any English District LWML member, society or church may make a proposal

DOLLAR AMOUNT: Grants may request dollar amounts up to \$3,000

HOW: Look at the grant application on the English District website, fill it in, along with a brief informational background on the mission and a Whereas: document.

Send all information to Gail Arndt at gealwml@gmail.com or mail hard copies to Gail Arndt at 4322-24th Street Dorr, MI 49323

Mission Grant website info:

<https://englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com/mission-grant-request-sample-and-guidelines.html>

<https://englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com/mission-grant-proposal-request-form.html>



Paying Mission Grant

Operation Barnabas Military Share Food Distribution

At the request of President Darlene Keca, Linda Goheen, Philadelphia Zone Treasurer and a member of Calvary, presented the check for Mission Grant #1, for the Operation Barnabas Military Share Food Distribution at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg, PA. The check was presented to Robert Ardner, Calvary's Operation Barnabas Chairperson, after the Divine Service on October 4. Since it was LWML Sunday at Calvary, Linda used the opportunity to address the congregation about LWML as well as make a public presentation of the grant check.

After having expounded on LWML and mites and how they work to help fund projects at the Zone, District, and National level, Linda produced the check from inside her little Mite box she was holding to present to Bob!

Bob was assisting at the altar that day (hence the robe), so knowing he would be in attendance, he was not told in advance about the check. He was both surprised and delighted! He followed with thanks and a brief update on our Military Share Food Distribution Program and how the grant will aid those efforts. They are currently serving an average of 38 military/veteran families each month totaling 94 people. The program costs of about \$250 a month are underwritten by just such grants as well as contributions from the congregation and local military and veterans' organizations.

You will see in the photo where Bob is showing off the check to the officers of Calvary's LWML Unit that he was wearing purple under that robe!

Calvary's Officers: left to right
Linda Goheen, Treasurer
Kay Ardner, Vice-President
Tamara Lukens, President
Joyce Moul, Secretary



Mission Grant #2

MOST Ministries Clean Water Filters—\$3,000

For 30 years, MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term) Ministries in Ann Arbor, Michigan has been meeting the physical and spiritual needs of people around the globe with the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Ministry began in 1989 as the vision of one couple who learned of servant opportunities in Haiti and took a team there. Since then, it has grown into a nonprofit organization which has sent more than 5,500 team members on short term mission trips to 50 countries around the world, directly impacting 225,000 lives for Christ.

MOST Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and is a Covenant Member of the U.S. Standards of Excellence in Short Term Missions, the first LCMS sending agency to achieve this status.

Our ministry facilitates over 20 different programs, but installing clean water filters in conjunction with health and hygiene education is one of our most desperately needed and requested projects. In 2018, MOST Ministries sent out 9 water teams, serving approximately 400 families with an in-house portable water filter. In addition, each mission team also has a clear plan for delivering the Gospel message to each person while caring for these critical needs.

According to UNICEF, an estimated 1,800 children under 5 die each day from illnesses linked to unclean water sources, or poor sanitation and hygiene. Typically, the children die of dehydration from unchecked diarrhea. The World Health Organization states that at least 1.8 billion people use a drinking-water source each day that is contaminated with feces. In 2012, MOST Ministries began using Sawyer water filters to improve our water project - previously, our teams were constructing one or two bio-sand filters by hand each week. The work was intensive, requiring layers of sand, rock, and sediment to filter water. If the filter was disturbed or moved in any way, it was rendered useless. When we began using the Sawyer filters, we were ensured of the continued effectiveness of the filtration and were able to install approximately 40 filters during each one week project.

In Central America, MOST Ministries began by using the Sawyer Point One Filter, which filters out protozoa, bacteria, and parasites. We saw a marked improvement in health and in school attendance when we sent follow-up assessment teams. We have now used these filters all over

the world with great success, improved health, and as a vehicle to build relationships and share the Gospel.

Sawyer water filters are an all-in-one system -- versatile, portable, and require no additional replacement parts if they are cared for properly. The Sawyer Point One water purification kit includes a small, lightweight filter that can provide up to 170 gallons of clean water per day. This kit is a portable filtration device that removes bacteria and protozoa at a 0.01 micron absolute (99.9997% removal rate). The only additional item needed to purchase in country are simple clean five gallon buckets for water storage.

With each water filter installed, the team teaches about proper maintenance of the filter and shares a devotion and prayer in the family home focusing on baptism and Living Water. At the same time, in the week-long, VBS-style health and hygiene lessons at the local missionary's church, we share about Jesus washing the disciple's feet, among other Bible stories.



Young Women Representative

Emily Terry

I had the honor of representing our English District, as a Young Woman Representative, at the Mobile Alabama Convention in 2019. I cannot thank the ladies in my local LWML enough and I am very grateful they encouraged me to apply for the YWR. I had the opportunity to meet many other young women from around our country and learned that we all have various talents that blend to serve our Lord in unique ways.

Attending the convention as a YWR, you may look at your schedule and find it quite overwhelming. Let me tell you, it really isn't. It is full of wonderful opportunities for volunteering, learning and behind the scene activities to see how everything effortlessly comes together to serve God.

I began my morning with helping with Gifts from the Heart for a couple hours before our YWR sessions began. I highly recommend participating in any extra activities that they have available for you. This was an amazing experience.

My YWR agenda began with a meet and greet amongst ourselves, then we met with our district to smile big for a district photo. We then had a mini district caucus, where Stephanie and I were introduced to everyone and presented the YWR pin.

The convention kicked off with a beautiful service involving many pastors who helped with communion and the service. Both the opening and closing services of the convention were beyond phenomenal with the praise and songs and overall energy.

We had a nightly wind down for a Bible study and to review the next day's agenda. We would also have a speaker come in and tell us about how God spoke to them. This is one of the many benefits of being part of the YWR group. Hearing these stories of faith and how God called other women to use their talents is very heartwarming.

Meetings, yes there are a fair number of meetings that you attend as a YWR. Normally meetings can be quite dry and boring, however, these are quite the opposite. We sat with our district president, Darlene, and other voting members from our district. Darlene is a wonderful mentor and willing to answer all questions about the voting process. The meetings are to discuss and vote on missions, announcements are made about money raised through mites and various speakers talk about answering their call from God and how the mites have brought the Word of God to so many people all around the world. We also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Glory Mae, the humerus interrupter, who herself has an interesting story about how God led her to use her talents.

During lunches and dinners, you will have the privilege of meeting other women who God has guided into various paths to serve Him. Their stories all have the same common theme of how rewarding it is to follow Christ and serve the Lord with their talents. This opportunity is special for the YWR ladies and one of the biggest benefits of the program. It may even open your eyes and heart to something that is right in front of you and you just haven't had the opportunity to see it yet.

For anyone planning to attend the convention, they have special interest luncheons. This is something you do not want to miss out on. The impact these speakers have on so many others is profound. We all went to different luncheons and it was heartwarming meeting up with our fellow YWR's and discussing the different people's backgrounds and how God has led them to inspire others with their talents.

In Summary:

You will be busy, but time flies when you're having fun and meeting new people who share your faith.

- You will meet many amazing women and share ideas on how to tell other women about God's word.

- You will be a part of phenomenal church services that give you that overwhelming feeling that you just can't quite explain, but it warms your heart and soul. - You will learn how much of an impact just a few women getting together, saving a few pennies here and there, led to helping so many people around the world learn about our Savior.

- You will also learn about how the whole process works and how much love, faith, and time that goes into making these missions from our mites possible.

Continued next page



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- Most importantly, you will feel your faith grow. Especially with all that is going on in the world at this time, it is so good to hear and see how God works through us to keep the light shining for Him.

Please pray for...

MISSION GRANTS 2020–2022
Mission Goal: \$18,000

**Military Share Food Distribution—
Operation Barnabas—Calvary Lutheran
Church, Mechanicsburg, PA—
\$3,000—PAID**

**MOST Ministries Clean Water Filters
(Mission Opportunities Short Term)
Ann Arbor, MI—\$3,000**

**Epiphany Lutheran Church Food
Truck, Epiphany Lutheran, Dorr, MI—
\$3,000**

**Restoring Hope through Outreach
Programs, Mt. Calvary Lutheran
Church & Camp Restore, Detroit, MI—
\$3,000**

**Soldiers of the Cross, LCMS Mission
Advancement, St. Louis, MO—\$3,000**

**Chaplain Scholarships for Medical
Mission Trips, LCMS Mission Advance-
ment, St. Louis, MO—\$2,500**

**Grief Share—Grief Recovery Support
Group Program, Catalina Lutheran
Church LWML Society, Tucson, AZ—
\$500**

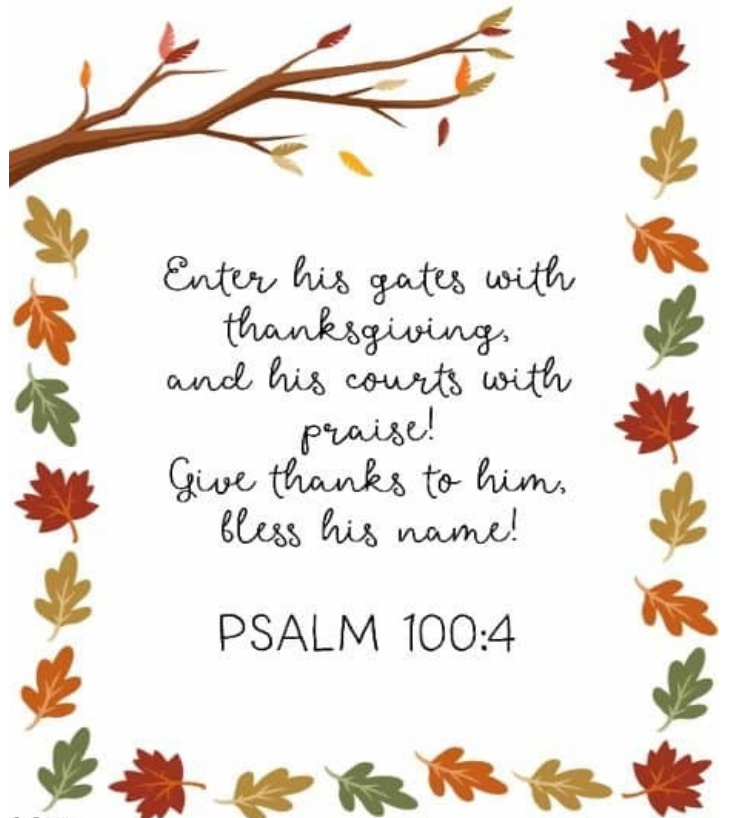
If you have any questions about being a YWR, please do not hesitate to ask. Trust me, you will not regret taking the time to fill out the application and attend the convention as a YWR, or just attend the convention on your own to build on your faith and talents. God has a plan for you and sometimes we just need a few friends to help us move forward with that plan.

God Bless,
Emily Terry



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If you want your name removed from this mailing send your email address to: cactuslwml@gmail.com.



Young Woman Representative Application



LWML 39th Biennial Convention June 24 – June 27, 2021 Date: _____

Convention Location: Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center – Lexington Kentucky

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Congregation _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please answer the following questions. Use a separate sheet of paper if needed. **Return the completed form before February 1, 2021 to the Committee on Young Women**
emmylou83@gmail.com

- 1) The LWML motto is “Serve the Lord with Gladness” (Psalm 100:2). How do you do this in your life?

- 2) What groups and activities are you involved in or have you been involved in at your church?

- 3) What do you know about the LWML? Have you been involved at any level?

- 4) Why do you desire to be a Young Woman Representative for the district?

5) What do you feel your special interests, talents, and gifts are?

6) Will you commit to serve in some capacity in your district after the convention?

7) Your district is making a financial commitment to send you to the LWML convention. It will be an exciting and spiritually inspiring event with very little free time. You are expected to participate in the full scope of the convention. Are you able to do so?

Please ask someone who knows you well, perhaps the person who encouraged you to apply, to answer the following question, “Why do you feel this woman would make a good LWML Young Woman Representative?”

Ask this person to answer on a separate sheet of paper and include their name and relationship to you. Attach their sheet to your application form.