



"Serve the Lord with Gladness..." Psalm 100:2



*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (John 15:11).*

Greetings Dear Sisters in Christ!

The theme for the 2026 LWML Minnesota North District convention is **"Let His Joy be Your Joy!"** It is the joy of knowing that our dear Savior Jesus Christ went to the cross to secure our salvation and eternal life! It is the joy of Jesus knowing he was doing his Father's will and fulfilling God's promise of a messiah.

We will be focusing on that joy in June, as we gather in Waite Park for our convention. It will be three days of worship, speakers, music, and fellowship. Our new officers will be elected, and our 2026-2028 mission grants will be announced. The mite goal recommended by the District board is \$150,000 to be divided among the grants selected by the voting membership.

The convention begins Monday, June 22, with breakout sessions with our LWML president Eden Keefe. She will be telling us about the vision for the LWML in the future. Michele Hartshorn from Lutherans for Life will outline the work of this mission group. Rev. David Mommens will share his five weeks experience in the Dominican Republic. He was the first participant in an innovative new LCMS program called, "Expanding the Spanish Footprint." The program immerses LCMS pastors and seminarians in the Spanish language and Latino culture to equip them

### **Praise God! The 2024-2026 Mission Grants of \$147,000 are Paid in Full**

better to minister the Hispanic population in the United States.

Monday Evening, we will have our opening worship at Redeemer Church in St. Cloud, MN. Our three Minnesota North District Pastoral Counselors will lead the worship along with other pastors attending the convention.

Tuesday June 23, is a full day starting with the banner procession to officially begin the convention. Our Keynote speaker, Rev. Kris Whitby will speak, as will LWML President Eden Keefe. Throughout the day we will hear from several Mites in Action speakers sharing the impact our mites have made on their organizations. Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy will lead our Bible Study sessions. The Great River Resonance bell choir will present entertainment in the evening.

Wednesday morning will find us "Joyfully Walking with Jesus" on our Mite Walk and wrapping up the convention with Mites in Action speakers, installation of new officers and closing worship.

Enjoy fellowship with your sisters in Christ for a busy, informative, and fun three days in Waite Park. More details may be found in this newsletter.



Serving Him with you,  
Kathy Brandt, President  
LWML Minnesota North District

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**Attached Documents & Convention Downloads**

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These files are also available to download from the convention web page on the district website, [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org).

**2026 Upcoming Events**

- April 17-28 Zone Spring Rallies
- June 15 LW Supplement articles due.
- June 21 Pre-Convention BOD Meeting
- June 22-24 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial LWML North Convention at The Park Event Center in Waite Park, MN
- July 7 *Minnesota Northern Light* Summer Issue articles due. Send articles to Gayle.

**Submit an article**

Does your zone or society have an event or story to share? Please send your article and pictures to the Editor at: [editor@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:editor@lwmlmnn.org).

**Minnesota Northern Light**

Sign up to receive an email notice each quarter announcing when the *Minnesota Northern Light* is ready to download from the district website: [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org).

**Prayer & Praise Mite Calendar**

A great help in your prayer and praise life – especially remembering the mission grants we’re supporting. Download this month’s calendar from the Publication menu.



Mustard Seed Devotions can be sent directly to your email daily. Visit [www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions](http://www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions) to sign up.

**Christian Life**

Valerie Johnson, Chairman  
christianlife@lwmlmnn.org

*“These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full”  
(John 15:11).*

“Serving the Lord with Gladness” is what Women in Mission do. Our vision and goal is “bringing his lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.” This is done by what we do in LWML, either by our Bible studies, shut-in visits in home or hospital, praying for those in need, Fellowship, and support with all women at rallies, conventions and retreats.

Listed are the results from the Christian Life report form that each zone and group submitted in 2025.

**Christian Life activities** reported throughout the 2025 reports:

- All LWML regions did Christian Life activities that promoted Christian Life
- Helped members with cost of attending events such as conventions and rallies
- Announced all events in bulletins, newsletters, and with personal invitations
- Promoted the Prayer Chain within their congregations
- Made available the LWML Mite Calendar promoting mite donations and prayers
- Encouraged Sunday school teachers and VBS volunteers

**Ideas For Promoting Christian Life**

- Sponsoring Seminary Students
- Sponsor services on social media/Facebook
- Volunteer at Food shelf
- Challenge groups to a book club-reading Christian books by Christian authors

**How Can the District Christian Life Committee Help Groups**

- List what other groups have done
- Challenge groups to read Christian books by Christian authors and do a day of discussion
- Encourage churches to organize an LWML group

**Highlights listed from 2025 LWML Retreat**

- Liked speaker Rev. Jake Gillard
- Staying in cabins
- Wanted more things to do Saturday evening
- More singing, games or movie night
- Doing a food shelf donation
- Communication clear and knowing where events are happening

Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant  
(Matthew 20:26 NKJ)

Continue to pray for all LWML Minnesota North District Board members as some will end their term and others will start new ones. Pray for decisions made on the business brought forward during the convention and the voting of grants for the next biennium.

Please share your information and stories to the following:

- For Facebook posts: [share@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:share@lwmlmnn.org)
- District Editor: [editor@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:editor@lwmlmnn.org)
- For other posting and pictures send to: [vpcom@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:vpcom@lwmlmnn.org)

**Structure**  
 Karen Gorentz, Chairman  
 structure@lwmlmn.org

**Convention Reminders**

As we inch closer to convention, I would like to remind you of some common courtesies and orders with which to conduct business during the LWML MN North District Convention.

**Delegate Orientation** (Monday, June 22 from 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.) All delegates are required to attend!

**Convention Offerings** will be taken at the doors to the Main Convention Hall at the following times.

- Convention Offering #1: (7:00 p.m. Mon., June 22) At the entrance to Opening Worship
- Convention Offering #2: (1:00 p.m. Tues., June 23) At the entrance to Convention Meeting #2
- Convention Offering #3: (8:00 a.m. Wed., June 24) At the entrance to Convention Meeting #3

**Speakers**

- a. Please give yourself ample time to reach the stage. There will be seats available next to the stage so you can participate in the presentations before you. Speakers are to be seated next to the stage when there are at least two presentations ahead of you.
- b. At the time of your presentation, please wait at the microphone. The Convention Tech will adjust the levels.
- c. You **must** have permission from the Chair to speak. Once acknowledged, say “Madam President.” c.i. The president of the assembly will address you.
- d. Please speak directly into the microphone for the best sound quality. Before you speak, adjust the height of the microphone if needed.

**Assembly**

- a. Be courteous. Do not raise your voice if you can’t hear the speaker. The Convention Tech has control of the microphone volume and will adjust it accordingly. This process takes a few seconds to do. Please be patient.
- b. If you would like to address the assembly, proceed to the nearest microphone located in the aisles. Delegates will have priority to speak, unless otherwise designated. You may speak once. If you have another point to address, you must wait until all others are heard.
- c. To speak, you must have permission from the Chair. To do this, stand by the microphone located in the aisle and wait to be recognized. Once acknowledged, say “Madam President.”

**Motions and Points of Order:** Remind yourself of the following motions that may be relevant to the convention business:

Motion	What to Say?	Can Interrupt Speaker?	Need a Second?	Can be debated?	Can be amended?	Votes Needed
Introduce main motion	“I move to...”	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	“I move to amend the motion by (add and/or strike words...)”	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
End debate	“I move the previous question...”	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	“Point of order”	Yes	No	No	No	Chair Decision
Request information	“Point of information”	Yes	No	No	No	No Vote
Enforce rules or point out incorrect procedure	“Point of order”	Yes	No	No	No	No Vote
Verify voice vote with count	“I call for a division”	No	No	No	No	No Vote
Consider something out of its scheduled order	“I move to suspend the rules and consider...”	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Vote
Personal preference (i.e., noise, room, temperature and distractions)	“Point of privilege”	Yes	No	No	No	No Vote

### Scholarships

Pam Stauty, Chairman  
scholarships@lwmlmnn.org

The LWML Minnesota North District has had a long history of financially supporting students from the District who are attending a qualified Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod university in preparation for full-time church work. Through the LWML MN North District scholarship program, funded through MITES, a wide variety of students have been assisted, including pre-seminary students, Lutheran school teachers, deaconesses, parish music directors, directors of Christian Education and Christian Outreach, and men preparing for ordination at one of the Synod’s seminaries. A full



listing of eligible courses of studies which qualify for scholarships through the LWML MN North District can be found on the website, [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org).

This year, Maddux Neilitz, a second-year student at Concordia St. Paul, will be a “MITES in Action” speaker at the district convention to be held June 22-24, 2026 in Waite Park. Maddux is pursuing a degree as a Lutheran School teacher. She has served her home congregation at Holy Cross in St. Cloud as Sunday School teacher, youth leader, VBS assistant, and in other ways in preparation for her teaching career in Lutheran Schools. Maddux will be an inspirational speaker, for as she wrote in her scholarship application letter, “it so amazing to see how a community within the church wants to support young Lutherans going into church work... giving me a feeling that I’m doing exactly what I’m supposed to do.”

Make sure to attend her presentation! Applications for the 2026-2027 academic year must be received by May 15, 2026. The amounts available for scholarship awards for full time church-work students and men in the seminaries will be determined based on the amount of funds identified by the grant process at the Convention.

This year the amount of funds requested for men in the seminaries has been increased to better support their academic study while pursuing ordination. Concordia St. Paul, in an effort to help students pursuing full-time church work is offering free tuition. However, it must be remembered that students are still responsible for housing and food service costs, which at Concordia St. Paul are \$13,000 per year. Any financial assistance received by the students helps to alleviate various costs regardless of the LCMS university they attend.

Please keep our men and women who are pursuing full-time church work vocations in your prayers that their efforts come to fruition and that the Gospel of Christ may be spread not only to the sheep of the fold but to those living in darkness. Through the dedication of the Minnesota North District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, through MITES and their scholarship program, we ‘consecrate to our Savior our silver and gold to extend His kingdom’ through our District’s entering the servant field.

#### NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR!

The application form can be found at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). All applications and supporting documents must be submitted by may 15, 2026.



Our retreat speaker will be **Christina Walther**, from Northern Minnesota. She is deeply passionate about guiding individuals to

connect with Christ at every stage and walk of life. Her goal is that her faith and resilience inspire those around her as she embraces life’s journey with hope and gratitude.



#### Lutheran Women’s Missionary League LWML MN North District – LWML Retreat

August 7-9, 2026

Lutheran Island Camp - Henning, MN

*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full (John 15:11).*

#### “Strength for the Journey: Finding Joy in God’s Faithfulness”

Register for the Retreat at LIC: [www.islandcamp.org/schedule](http://www.islandcamp.org/schedule)

**Human Care**

Jean Tester, Chairman  
humancare@lwmlmnn.org

**Opportunities for JOY in His Service**

As the verse from the hymn states, our JOY is demonstrated in our service to other sinners. It reminds us of what the goal of our service is:

**To bring glory to His name as each sinner hears of His love for them.**

At this Convention, the Human Care Committee is preparing activities for you to participate in service. Come to the Servant Event Room where workers will be:

- Braiding the edges of fleece blankets for the St. Cloud Veteran’s Home and Lincoln Center Homeless Shelter of St. Cloud
- Cutting and sewing eyeglass cases for MOST Ministries. If sewing is your thing, we will have places to set up sewing machines, if you wish to bring yours.
- Packing donated eyeglasses in those cases. So yes, bring the prescription eyeglasses and all sunglasses, non-prescription also.
- Stringing beads for witness bracelets for MOST Ministries.
- Crocheting finger puppets for MOST Ministries. We have plenty of yarn and some J hooks.
- Coloring and writing cards for Phil’s Friends where they are sent to cancer patients.
- Making Cross necklaces for Forged by Fire who use them as a witness tool at hurricane, tornado, and flood disaster sites in the southern United States.

For those of you who love to do these activities but would like to be someplace else, we will have many of the above projects ready for you to “Grab and Go.”

Below and on the next page, are details about the organization for which we are doing projects:



**Phil's Friends** - Offers Christ-centered Hope for cancer patients by sending care

packages to cancer patients. The care packages are hand-decorated, and the contents are customized according to the age and gender of the recipient. They are filled with simple, practical comfort items that cancer patients can use during their treatment. They also received a Mission Grant at the 2025 National Convention to pay for supplies and postage.

**“Serve the Lord with Gladness”  
Verse 3**

“Serve the Lord with gladness!”  
There’s no greater JOY  
Then to serve the Master,  
Work in His employ.  
As we build the Kingdom  
Angels, too, rejoice  
Over every sinner  
Brought to hear His voice,  
Onward, then, for Jesus!  
Let this be our aim!  
“Serve the Lord with gladness!”  
Glorify His name!



The LWML of Zion Lutheran Church of Alexandria, MN sponsored a Human Care Ingathering for ADULT AND TEEN CHALLENGE.

The ingathering included the following items: 2 winter coats, 2 new pair shoes, 6 pair of jeans, 3 hoody sweat shirts, 5 sweaters, 5 stocking caps, fishing hat, and many pair of socks and underwear.

The staff showed much appreciation for the items and mentioned that the gentlemen would be so pleased to receive these donations. Adult and Teen Challenge’s mission is to assist men and teens to gain freedom from addiction and other life controlling problems.

**Convention Servant Events and Ingatherings will be held in the Rushmore room.**

Servant Events will begin June 22, 2026, Monday morning at 11:00 a.m.



**Forged by Fire** - Is based out of Louisiana, providing hot, home-cooked meals (comfort food) to communities affected by disasters. This non-profit ministry focuses on serving hope, offering up to 500 meals, and sharing the love of Jesus directly from a mobile kitchen. National LWML helped fund the trailer that is the kitchen. At the 2025 National Convention, they were approved to receive funds to purchase and equip an 8-station laundry trailer. The trailer is set up in the parking lot of an LCMS Church where trained volunteers have an opportunity to talk to the people about the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ.



**MOST Ministries** - Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries has been sending mission teams around the world for 35 years to share the Gospel in word and deed through acts of service to people in need. Teams participate in eyeglass clinics, clean water programs, medical clinics, construction projects, teaching English as a second language, plus women’s and children’s ministries. MOST has sent over 560 teams with over 6,600 team members and has served in 52 countries.

## Convention Ingatherings



**Terebinth Refuge**  
[terebinthrefuge.org](http://terebinthrefuge.org)

**Terebinth Refuge** is a Christ centered resource offering hope, healing, freedom and a safe place for sexually exploited and trafficked women. Providing education and awareness to the St. Cloud area in efforts to prevent human trafficking. Many of the women we serve have been exploited since childhood, experienced trauma, homelessness, and poverty. Without this place of hope and healing, these women have a higher chance of experiencing mental health problems and substance abuse issues.

### Items Needed

- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Canned goods
- Cleaning supplies
- Dehumidifiers
- Clock radios



**Place of Hope Ministries**  
[placeofhopeministries.com](http://placeofhopeministries.com)

**Place of Hope Ministries** is based in St. Cloud, MN, offering support and services because of homelessness, poverty, addiction, alcoholism and other crisis. They provide HOPE in the form of a Hospitality Center with free food, free medical care, free clothing, and free personal care items. They also offer shelter at the Living Hope Center. This is a shelter program for those coming off the street, looking for help with drugs and alcohol, or wanting a place to ‘recover’ their stability and peace of mind. This is a very structured program. Supportive housing for those who have experienced long-term homelessness is also available with an on-site coordinator.

### \*Items Most Needed

- \*Towels – bath and hand
- \*Wash cloths
- \*Twin sheet sets
- \*New pillows
- Personal care items
- Cleaning supplies:
  - Bleach
  - Disinfectants
  - Window cleaner
  - Murphy’s oil soap
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Coffee pots
- Sets of silverware
- Dish sets and glassware

**Mission Grants**  
 Mary Scott, Chairman  
 missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org

**Mission Grants Report**  
**\$147,000 Mission Goal Reached!**

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).*



Our Mission Grants goal for the 2024 – 2026 biennium was \$147,000. I am happy to report that your Mites made it possible to fulfill all of the Grants listed below. In fact we were able to fully fund the Grant to Lutheran Heritage Foundation, which had been a partial grant to begin with, bringing our total to \$150,468. A little birdie (Jan Carlson) told me that more Mites came in after these Grants were funded. You will find out that total at convention.

A total amount of \$15,925 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$4,487 for C.R.O.S.S. Appeal, Paid in full!; \$3,101 for St. Paul's Lutheran School Perham, Paid in full!; \$1,837 for Immanuel Lutheran School Walker, Paid in full!; \$1,045 for Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River, Paid in full!; \$1,988 for Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora, Paid in full!; \$3,467 for Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Hmong Lutheran Books, Paid in full.

The chart below details the current balance remaining of \$0 for the 2024-2026 biennium.

	<b>MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2024-2026 BIENNIUM</b> (Balance as of October 16, 2025)	<b>GRANT GOAL</b>	<b>PREVIOUSLY PAID</b>	<b>PAID THIS QUARTER</b>	<b>BALANCE REMAINING</b>
Grant 1	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$8,000	\$8,000		Paid In Full
Grant 2	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Worker Students	\$32,000	\$32,000		Paid In Full
Grant 3	C.R.O.S.S. Appeal	\$20,000	\$15,513	\$4,487	Paid In Full
Grant 4	DOXOLOGY – Pastoral Care and Well-being	\$15,000	\$15,000		Paid In Full
Grant 5	Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children - Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	\$15,000	\$15,000		Paid In Full
Grant 6	St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Perham, MN	\$17,127	\$14,026	\$3,101	Paid In Full
Grant 7	Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, MN	\$10,000	\$8,163	\$1,837	Paid In Full
Grant 8	Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River, MN	\$9,840	\$8,795	\$1,045	Paid In Full
Grant 9	Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora, MN	\$15,000	\$13,013	\$1,988	Paid In Full
Grant 10	Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Hmong Lutheran Books	\$5,033	\$5,033	\$3,467	Paid In Full
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$147,000</b>	<b>\$134,543</b>	<b>\$15,925</b>	<b>\$150,468</b>

**Young Women**  
 Ruby Prochnow, Chairman  
 youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org

**Memorials & Honorariums**  
**January - March 2026**

**Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.**  
 (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

**“LET HIS JOY BE YOUR JOY!”**

We have much joy to look forward to on June 22-24, 2026 as we congregate at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial LWML MN North District Convention at Waite Park, MN.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG WOMEN TO ATTEND this special event where we will:

- † Strengthen your relationship with the Lord
- † Enrich your faith in Jesus, Our Savior
- † Encourage other sisters in Christ
- † Deepen your love and devotion for Jesus

All YOUNG WOMEN are encouraged to become part of Lutheran Women in Mission. Prayerfully consider attending the convention. It is an opportunity for you to grow in your relationship with Christ. Come and join in the activities and fellowship with other YOUNG WOMEN and fellow Sisters-In-Christ. Along with the special activities, there will be door prizes, fun, and relaxation. Come, join us.

The Young Women Convention Flyer is attached to the newsletter and is also available on the convention page of district website [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). Please post this flyer on your bulletin boards.

For more information, please call or text Ruby Prochnow at 320-808-3371 or email [youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org)

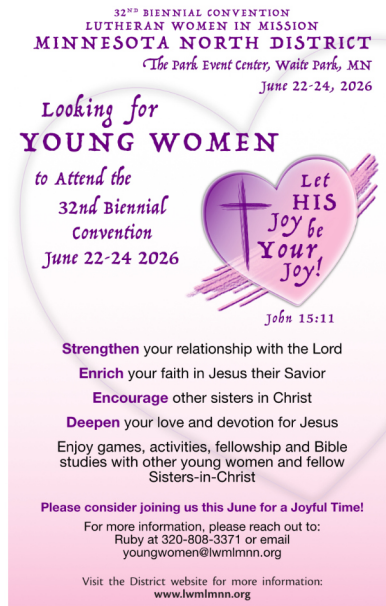
Memorial gifts and honorariums should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Jan Carlson, 408 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, Princeton MN 55371. Phone: 763-631-0399 (C), [financialsec@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:financialsec@lwmlmnn.org).

The financial remittance form can be downloaded from the resources page of our district website at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org).

**Memorials and Honorariums**  
**January - March 2026**

**In Memory of...**

- In memory of Amy Ahlfs by Ottetail, St. John's*
- In memory of Judy Uran by Corky Rainer*
- In memory of Judy Uran by Judy Nelson*
- In memory of Judy Uran by Lake Superior Zone*
- In memory of Geneva Paulson by Parkers Prairie, Immanuel*
- In memory of Betty Tatro by Mora, Zion*
- In memory of Mary Rottenberger by Detroit Lakes, Zion*
- In memory of Gene Carda by Mora, Zion*
- In memory of Bonnie Vrudny by Corky Rainer*
- In memory of Richard Swedean by Arnie & Diane Althoff*



32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention  
**LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**  
 LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT



**THEME:** Let His Joy be Your Joy!

**VERSE:** *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full (John 15:11).*

**DATE:** June 22-24, 2026

**LOCATION:** The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

**HOSTED BY:** Arrowhead II Region

## 2026 Convention Agenda

**Sunday, June 21, 2026**

- 3:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting
- 6:00 pm BOD/Nuclei Committee Chairman Meal

**Monday, June 22, 2026**

- 7:00-11:00 am Exhibitors Set Up  
*(Lobby Entrance Left Side)*
- 8:00 am Board of Directors Meeting
- 11:00 am Registration Opens *(Lobby)*
- 11am-3:00 pm Servant Events *(Rushmore)*  
Ingathering Begins *(Rushmore)*
- 11 am-6:00 pm Exhibit Booths Open  
*(Left side, Entrance lobby)*
- 12:30-1:00 pm Mandatory Delegate Meeting  
*(Main Ballroom)*
- 1:00-2:00 pm Breakout Session I  
*(Badlands, Yosemite, Glacier)*
- 2:00-3:00 pm Breakout Session II  
*(Badlands, Yosemite, Glacier)*
- 3:30-pm **Silent Auction** Set Up – *(Badlands & Main Ballroom)* Items may be viewed and bid on until 6 pm
- 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal *(Front, main ballroom)*
- 5:30 pm Dinner *(Yosemite and Glacier)*
- 7:00 pm Opening Worship *(Redeemer Lutheran)*

- 8:30 pm Open Reception/Meet the Candidates;  
Young Women Gathering  
*(Following Worship)*

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

- Breakfast On Your Own
- 8:00 am Convention Meeting #1
- Bible Study – **Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy**
- 10:40 am Keynote Speaker – **Rev. Kris Whitby**
- 12-1:00 pm Noon Lunch Served
- 1:15 pm Convention Meeting #2
- Speaker – **Eden Keefe**, LWML President
- Convention Business & Voting;  
Speakers and Guests
- 6:00 pm Dinner *(Yosemite and Glacier)*
- 7:30 pm Entertainment  
**Great River Resonance Bell Choir**  
Young Women Gathering

**Wednesday, June 24, 2026**

- Breakfast On your Own
- 6:00-7:00 am Mite Walk
- 8:15 am Convention Meeting #3
- Bible Study – **Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy**
- Closing Worship  
& Installation of New Officers
- 12:00 pm Adjournment

## Convention Keynote Speaker



**Rev. Kris Whitby**  
1107 Monroe Ave  
River Forest, IL 60305  
847-630-3357  
kris.whitby@nidlcms.org  
FAX: 708-449-3020  
[nidlcms.org](http://nidlcms.org)

**Rev. Kris Whitby** served for 24 years as a parish pastor both in Florida and Illinois. During that time he was honored to serve as LWML pastoral counselor in both the Florida – Georgia and Northern Illinois Districts and as pastoral counselor for LWML national (2009 – 2013). Pastor Kris currently serves as the LCMS Northern Illinois District’s Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry. He and his wife Marguerita (whom he met at an LWML retreat!) live in Mt. Prospect, IL and enjoy their three grandchildren, Colby, Avery, and Harry.

### **Presentation: The Joy of Doing Likewise**

In our world today, there are numerous challenges in being joyful followers of Jesus. Yet, we hear our Savior graciously call His followers to "go and do likewise" through His Good Samaritan parable. In his address, Pastor Kris will lead us through the joy found in this story of Jesus that shapes us to be like our Savior in the joyful task of bringing others His gift of grace.

## Bible Study Leader



**Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy**  
735 NE 1st Ave  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
218-999-4101  
pastorlovejoy@flcgr.org  
[www.flcgr.org](http://www.flcgr.org)

**Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy** – Along with being the Arrowhead Regional LWML Pastoral Counselor, Pastor Lovejoy has served First Lutheran in Grand Rapids for over five years now. Before that he was a pastor in NW Washington State for twelve years. His a graduate of Concordia Seminary St. Louis as well as Denver Seminary, Littleton. He has four children, two girls and two boys. He has been married to his wife Sarah for seventeen years and loves being in the Minnesota North District.

### **Bible Study: Where's the Joy?**

From wildfires, to crippling winter storms, from chaos in our cities and vitriol division in our government, from the victimization of our children through drugs and sex trafficking to the helplessness of a midnight hospital waiting room, where is the joy that Jesus speaks about in John 15:11? This Bible Study will explore what is meant by true joy, and how even in the worst of times God's eternal joy in Christ lifts us from moments of despair to the eternal blessedness of being His.

## Convention Entertainment



**Great River Resonance** (GRR) is the premier community handbell ensemble in the greater St. Cloud, MN area. Established in 2021 under the direction of Jordan Goodwater, GRR plays on five octaves of Schulmerich Handbells and seven octaves of Malmark Choirchimes and draws ringers from throughout Central Minnesota. GRR's repertoire ranges from secular to sacred, both cutting edge and classic.

Director: Jordan Goodwater  
[greatriverresonance.org](http://greatriverresonance.org)

## 2026 Convention Nominees

**Nominating Committee Report:**

The following people have consented to being candidates for office. Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Chairman Beth Dinger, Karena Lapolice, Carole Borchers, Brenda Petersen, Sandy Phillips, Tessa Giru.

**LWML District President** (2 year term)

Valerie Johnson, Hoffman  
Karena LaPolice, Clearwater

**Executive Vice President** (4 year term)

Marilyn Hiltel, Sauk Rapids

**Recording Secretary** (4 year term)

NA

**Financial Secretary** (4 year term)

Connie Johnson, Forest Lake  
Leanna Hasbargen, International Falls

**VP of Communications** (4 year term)

Terry Schoenborn, Naytahwaush

**Regional VP for Arrowhead II** (4 year term)

Gayle Clark, St. Cloud

**Regional VP for Lakeland II** (4 year term)

Pam Mansfield, Kerkhoven

**Regional VP for Park I** (2 year term)

NA

**Regional VP for Park II** (4 year term)

NA

**Lakeland Pastoral Counselor** (6 year term)

Rev. Keith Brustuen

## 2026 Convention Proposed Bylaw Amendments

**Structure Report by Karen Gorentz, Structure Chairman**

Regarding changes to the LWML MN North District Bylaws for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial convention.

To strike Article XIII Executive Committee, Section 2, C. and move it to Standing Rules

*Rationale:* Consistency with having concrete numbers and/or dollar amounts in the Standing Rules. Standing Rules can be changed at any District BOD meeting.

**Currently Reads**

Article XIII Executive Committee, Section 2, C.  
C. may make an emergency grant in the amount not to exceed two-hundred-fifty (\$250) dollars.

**If adopted, will read:**

Letter C, will be stricken from the by-laws and added to standing rules.

Standing Rules

VI. The Executive Committee may make an emergency grant in the amount not to exceed two-hundred-fifty (\$250) dollars.

## Opening Worship Service

All are invited to the opening worship service at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. (*Communion Service*).

**Contact Information:**

2719 3rd St N  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
Phone: (320) 252-8171  
Fax: (320) 240-9353  
[redeemerstcloud.org](http://redeemerstcloud.org)

# 2026 Convention Resolutions

## 2024-2026 MISSION GRANT GOAL RESOLUTION

**Whereas**, We, the women of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League in the Minnesota North District “Serve the Lord with Gladness” and contribute our mite money toward spreading the Gospel through funding various approved mission grants; therefore, be it

**Resolved that**, A goal of \$150,000 (one hundred fifty thousand) be set for the Mission Grant Goal for the 2026-2028 biennium.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION EXPENSE FUND RESOLUTION

**Whereas**, the LWML Minnesota North District Bylaws, Article XVIII, Finances, Section 3 states: Groups shall remit, through the zone treasurers, a yearly per member assessment set by the District Board of Directors and approved by the preceding district convention for the National Convention Expense Fund. These monies will fund the travel costs and expenses of not more than two (2) Young Woman Representatives to the LWML convention; monies for delegates’ expenses and travel costs and convention expenses of the District Board of Directors. The District Board of Directors shall determine how many and which members of the board shall attend, giving priority to the President and newly elected/appointed board members and one Pastoral Counselor; and

**Whereas**, it is beneficial to have as many board members as possible attend the LWML convention; therefore be it

**Resolved that**, the National convention Fund be increased to \$7.00 (seven dollars) per member per year for the 2026-2028 biennium.

## CONVENTION OFFERING RESOLUTIONS

### CONVENTION OFFERING #1

*(According to the LWML Minnesota North District Bylaws, STANDING RULES, I. PRE-CONVENTION AND CONVENTION OFFERINGS. The pre-convention and the convention offerings received at the opening and/or closing worship at the convention are designated as Mission Goal Offering.)* Offering #1 will be gathered and applied towards the LWML Minnesota North District Mission Grant Goal for the 2026–2028 biennium.

### CONVENTION OFFERING #2

*Lutherans for Life*

Lutherans for Life is scripture-based spiritual care to address life issues such as surprise pregnancy, abortion recovery, suicide, doubting salvation, and physician-assisted suicide. Through their work they are growing the number of voices across the globe that spread the joyful message that every human life is created and gifted by God, every human life is someone for whom Jesus Christ died, and every human life is the Holy Spirit desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him.

### CONVENTION OFFERING #3

*C.R.O.S.S. Appeal*

The goal is to provide critical funding support to each of our seven Lutheran Day Schools and to assist our schools to continue to provide a quality education to children within the setting of our Christian faith.

This offering will help provide scholarships for children who otherwise would not be able to attend, assist our schools to stay current with technology needs in the classroom, open the door to obtain and develop new programs to help meet the special educational needs of our students.



## 2026 - 2028 Proposed Mission Grants

The following Mission Grant proposals have met the criteria of the LWML MN North District Bylaws and were selected by the Mission Grants Committee to appear on the ballot. *Submitted by the Mission Grants Committee; Mary Scott (Chairman), Sandy Dressen, Sue Kuseske, Deb Joachim, Rev. Reed Stockman.*

### **Grant A: LHF – Lutheran Books for Little Children Around the World – \$5,400**

The Church's love for children began with people bringing babies to Jesus for a blessing and Jesus saying, "Let the children come to Me and do not hinder them ..." (Luke 18:16). But how can children come to Jesus without first hearing the Word? This grant will provide Lutheran books specifically for children, such as *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, *God's Word For You*, *Bible Stories in Pictures*, or *Luther's Small Catechism*, translated into the local language. LHF regularly answers requests from LCMS missionaries like Rev. Ted Krey in Central/South America, Rev. Shauen Trump in East Africa, and Rev. J.P. Cima in Cambodia for materials they and the local church leaders can use to teach the faith to Jesus' littlest lambs.

### **Grant B: Kids in Christ Preschool, Zion, Morris – \$2,500**

The proposed grant will enable Kids in Christ Preschool to continue extending the ministry of the Word by providing a Christ-centered early childhood education that nurtures children's spiritual growth alongside their academic and social development. Many families choose our preschool because of its strong faith foundation, convenient location in town, our caring teacher, and flexible scheduling options that help working families balance childcare needs while keeping Christ at the center of their children's early learning. This grant will allow us to sustain these vital services and continue sharing God's grace with the children and families in our community!

### **Grant C: Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: The Ranch Wellness Program – \$8,000**

Everything we do at the Ranch is Christ-centered and built on the foundation of our Christian faith. Children at the Ranch hear the Gospel and learn of Christ's love for them through chapel services, spiritual life groups, individual mentoring with our Chaplain and Deaconesses, and daily interactions

with Ranch employees. We bring Christ's presence to our work by showing up, being fully present, and surrounding our children with an atmosphere of faith. Something as simple as a bike ride with peers or staff can be an opportunity to share God's love with the children we serve.

### **Grant D: DOXOLOGY – \$15,000**

DOXOLOGY provides pastors with a unique study and renewal experience, rooted in the classic art of the care of souls (*cura animarum*) and informed by the insights of contemporary Christian psychology. The primary purpose of our organization is to provide training, mentoring and consultation services for pastors seeking to enhance their ability to help people struggling with the ever-increasing personal, family, and social complexities of contemporary life. The retreat training environment, grounded in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, ensures that pastors will be emotionally and spiritually refreshed and equipped by their participation. The Center provides a safe environment for clergy to reflect on their own spiritual and emotional health and assists them to review and enhance their professional competencies and skills as servants of Christ and stewards of God's sacred mysteries. DOXOLOGY strengthens pastors so they can more faithfully pastor others.

### **Grant E: Good Shepherd Lutheran High School, Elk River – \$15,000**

This grant directly extends the mission and ministry of the Word by making Christ-centered education accessible to families who might otherwise be unable to participate. At GSL High School, the Word of God is integrated into every aspect of school life through daily prayer, chapel services, biblical instruction, and Christ-centered relationships between students, faculty, and families. By providing tuition assistance, this grant ensures that more students can be immersed daily in an environment where Scripture shapes learning, character development, and decision-making. Students are not only taught academic

subjects but are also disciplined to live out their faith through service, integrity, and compassion. In this way, the ministry of the Word reaches beyond the classroom and into homes, churches, and the broader community as students live out their faith.

**Grant F: LBT – Shared Word. Changed Lives: Bible Printing and Distribution Fund – \$5,000**

We collaborate with local churches, linguists, and missionaries to ensure translations are accurate, culturally relevant, and spiritually transformative. Our holistic approach includes literacy programs, Scripture engagement, and community development. The Bible Printing and Distribution Fund is a critical component of our mission. It ensures that once a translation is completed, communities may receive printed Bibles without delay. In 2025, the fund enabled the dedication of two new translations in Ghana and Botswana, the printing 25,000 Bibles for dedication and distribution, the creation of worship materials of songs, poems, and liturgies in local languages. This grant will directly support the printing of 250 additional Bibles and contribute to our reserve for future dedications to strengthen local churches through Scripture-based discipleship.

**Grant G: Lutheran Island Camp – Training and Equipment Improvement – \$10,000**

Investing in staff training, adventure safety, and new program equipment directly strengthens Lutheran Island Camp's ability to share the Gospel in meaningful, relational ways. When campers and guests step onto the challenge course, climb a tower, or participate in an outdoor education experience, they are not just engaging in recreation—they are entering an environment where trust, courage, and community naturally open doors for spiritual conversations. Well-trained staff are equipped not only with technical skills but also with confidence to lead devotions, pray with campers, and connect everyday experiences to God's Word. Improving and expanding adventure elements broadens the camp's capacity to welcome more school groups, youth ministries, and community partners. Each additional group represents new opportunities to proclaim Christ, build relationships, and invite individuals into a deeper understanding of God's grace. A safe, modern adventure program also

strengthens the camp's reputation as a trusted ministry partner, enabling congregations to use the Island as an extension of their own outreach and discipleship work.

**Grant H: Main Street Living North Television Broadcast – \$10,000**

MAIN STREET LIVING is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North and North Dakota Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30-minute Lutheran Hour program (normally "This Is The Life," along with occasional church-season specials). In the Fargo/Moorhead area programs are broadcast starting at 9 am on KVRR Channel 15.1, and at 10 am on WDAY XTRA Channel 6.3. Please check your cable and satellite providers for the corresponding channel on your system. MSLN programs are also archived for one year and may be viewed at any time on [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com), then click on Fargo. It is especially valuable to shut-ins and during weather events. It presents an opportunity for Christians to hear and receive the word of God as delivered by LCMS pastors of North Dakota and Minnesota.

**Grant I: Special Education Ministries at Zion, Alexandria – \$15,000**

Expanding Zion Lutheran School's special education ministry is a direct and faithful extension of Zion Lutheran Church's mission to proclaim the Gospel and serve the whole child in the name of Christ. Since 1886, Zion has responded to God's call by meeting the spiritual and practical needs of its community. The school, established in 1890, has long been a primary ministry through which Zion lives out that calling, teaching God's Word while caring for children according to their individual needs.

This grant will help strengthen Zion's outreach, providing increased special education services to students that face learning, behavioral, or emotional challenges that are not being met elsewhere. Students and families experiencing trials of life encounter the love of Christ in tangible ways, and receive the help they need to thrive, engage in the community, participate in worship life, and explore faith. This model of care has already led to an increase of church membership and Holy Baptism for several families, demonstrating the spiritual impact of educational

ministry.

This grant allows Zion Lutheran School to live out its mission of instructing children about faith, embodying that faith through service, inclusion, and care. To continue its long-standing ministry of welcoming all children, nurturing their God-given gifts, and extending Christ's love to the Alexandria community for generations to come.

### **Grant J: Orphan Grain Train-Minnesota North Collection Center – \$4,000**

Gary Geske has been the Orphan Grain Train Coordinator/Manager for the Minnesota North District for many years. He had been serving in that capacity with Gene Pasche who died this past year. Since that time, he has a larger area to serve. Gary, like many of the OGT Collection Centers' Coordinators, donates his time, truck, trailer, and warehouse for the purpose of getting needed items to either Norfolk or Westfield Branches. Doing this is a great expense to him as he provides the necessary storage space, transportation equipment, fuel expense, and maintenance of his equipment.

Volunteers at the collection sites are truly the lifeblood of Orphan Grain Train. Across 27 regional collection centers and warehouses, these dedicated individuals work tirelessly to collect donations and transport them to shipping sites, making a real difference in countless lives. In the Minnesota North region, the Geske family stands out for their unwavering commitment. For many years, they have generously volunteered their time, using their own trucks and trailers to collect and deliver donations—all at their own expense. Their selfless service has been vital to our mission and has touched the lives of many in need. This grant would help cover transportation costs, fuel, and essential resources.

### **Grant K: Worship Anew: Gospel Access for Aging Adults – \$5,000**

Worship Anew, an RSO of the LCMS Church, has been engaging and equipping aging adults with resources to live a full and abundant life in Jesus Christ since 1980. We are requesting grant monies to share these resources with churches throughout the Minnesota North District by providing all interested churches with a sample resource box of materials from Worship Anew and then subscribing them to resources, especially to

the Broadcaster magazine. The Swatch Worship Anew, information on the Care Ministry, and sample copies of the Broadcaster magazine and the Hope-Full Living devotional. Our goal would be to have 25% of the 196 LCMS churches (49 churches) in the Minnesota North District respond, request a sample box, and subscribe to our Broadcaster magazine, a free publication. This grant would also support the airing of "Worship Anew" in Duluth on TCT (KCWV 27) every Sunday. This is a current and active station.

### **Grant L: Christ's Care for Children: Kenya (Project 24) – \$5,400**

*The Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* program offers more than just food and shelter, it is also designed to equip children with everything necessary for success in life. While living at the Project 24 facilities, children learn to plant, harvest, cook, tend to livestock, clean the compound and care for their personal space. The children begin and end each day with devotions. Choir practice, Bible study, and catechesis occur throughout the week too. The children are full, contributing members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, and some teach Sunday school classes for the younger students.

### **Grant M: St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham, Gymnasium Updates – \$17,500**

St. Paul's Lutheran School in Perham has provided faith-filled education to generations of area families since 1910. The school has been a staple in the community over the years since its inception. St. Paul's is proud to have space that many other organizations can utilize throughout the year. The gymnasium is an integral part of the school's curriculum and activities, as well as in the community. During the school year the gymnasium is used for physical education classes, the cafeteria, inside recess and school events. As stated above, the community also uses the gymnasium very readily. The current issues of the gymnasium impact its usability and include badly dinged and damaged walls from years of wear and tear. The acoustic problems make it extremely noisy to hold classes next to the gymnasium. The grant will help reduce the costs of repairing the walls and adding acoustic panels to the gym.

### Grant N: Swaddling Clothes – \$15,000

Swaddling Clothes at Redeemer is one of two such sites in Minnesota and one of twenty-six nation-wide. The origin of Swaddling Clothes is based on Luke 2.7: *"she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths..."* In the care and nurturing of infants and toddlers Swaddling Clothes helps to address the needs of the women vulnerable to abortion, infants and toddlers, and families facing challenges at the beginning of life stages. It has been found that financial reasons make abortion an option for many women and families. Swaddling Clothes provides, free of charge, a variety of items such as car seats, formula, safety items such as gates and drawer locks, clothing, and diapers, among other such items. The intent is to provide an alternative to abortion, to assist families, and to show the face of Christ Jesus to those in need. One is to consider the poor and marginalized, for there will always be those who 'can't make it,' those who are not resilient enough, are not skilled enough, who lack connections. The question then becomes: do we see where they stand, and do we stand with them? As God's people, we have an opportunity and calling to be open handed and tender hearted toward those in need.

### Grant O: Scholarships for Students Preparing for Full-Time Church Work Vocations – \$32,000

The Scholarship Committee of the LWML Minnesota North District is seeking funds by which to provide scholarships to full-time students of eligible LSMS universities who are seeking degrees in full-time church work such as Director of Parish Music, Lutheran School Teacher, Director of Christian Education, pre-seminary, Director of Christian Outreach, Director of Family Life Ministry, Director of Church Ministries, and Deaconess. Applicants and recipients are members of LCMS congregations and reside within the Minnesota North District.

### Grant P: Scholarships for Seminarians Leading to Ordination – \$16,000

The LWML Minnesota North District has a long tenure of providing scholarships to men preparing for ordination at the seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Concordia Theological Seminary and Concordia Seminary. This grant will provide financial assistance to these seminarians

to facilitate their theological education. *"And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"* Romans 10.14.

By providing scholarships to men preparing for the pastoral office within the Synod the proclamation of the Word of God, the primary mission and ministry of the church, will be facilitated. The demographics of the Synod's pastor contingent demonstrates an ongoing need for pastors to fill vacancies in parishes and in mission fields.

### Grant Q: Phil's Friends: Care packages and Cards of Hope – \$5,000

Phil's Friends is a Christian nonprofit founded in 2006 by Phil Zielke after he survived Stage 4 cancer twice. Phil experienced firsthand how overwhelming cancer can be. He was deeply encouraged by the simple acts of compassion from people who sent him a care package and cards, visited him in the hospital, and prayed for him and with him. He felt led by God to extend that same Christ-centered hope and tangible support to those facing cancer. What began as a small grassroots outreach in his townhouse basement has grown over 20 years into a nationwide ministry that provides free, personalized Care Packages, Cards of Hope, and hospital visits to thousands of cancer patients each year. To date, Phil's Friends has sent 70,000 Care Packages and more than one million Cards of Hope to those navigating a devastating cancer diagnosis.

In the past two years, Phil's Friends supported 154 patients within the LWML Minnesota North District, and we currently do not have funds designated for patients within the LWML Minnesota North District for 2026-2028. We are requesting grant monies to support 160 cancer patients who live within the LWML Minnesota North District.



## 2026 Convention Breakout Sessions



**Breakout Session A: "LWML Today and the Vision for the Future"**  
*Presented by Eden Keefe, LWML President*

Together, we will look at the current organization and identify strengths and opportunities. Standing on the solid foundation of Christ, we look to the future and the impact Lutheran Women in Mission will continue to have in the world, by God's grace.



**Breakout Session B: "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"**  
*Presented by Michele Hartshorn - Lutherans For Life*

*"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."* (Psalm 139:13-14)

God has a plan for you. Before you were born, He knew you. We should walk in his ways. He loves all of us as we are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made. Join us as we share the work of Lutherans For Life with a focus on the gift of life, and how human choices need to be founded on God's Word and His plan for each of us.



**Breakout Session C: "Expanding the Spanish Footprint"**  
*Presented by Rev. David Mommens, Melrose, MN*

Our cities in Minnesota have been changing for some time. The Holy Spirit is brining the mission field to us! St. Paul's Melrose sent Pastor Mommens to the Dominican Republic in partnership with the office of international missions to start a new program called, "Expanding the Spanish Footprint." Pastor Mommens will explain the need for worship services in Spanish and he will encourage you in your communities to react out to all our neighbors with the Gospel, regardless of the language spoken.

## Silent Auction

### Silent Auction to be Held at the MNN LWML Convention

This year convention goes at the Minnesota North District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, to be held June 22-24, will have an opportunity to support the mission activities of the MNN LWML by bidding on a variety of gift items through a 'Silent Auction.' All proceeds from the Silent Auction will go directly to MITES. Individuals, groups, or zones are encouraged to bring a basket or item ready to be displayed at the Convention for bidder's consideration. Cash and checks only will be accepted for winning bids.

If you are bringing a donation, you are asked to keep them in your room until after the second break-out session is finished. At that time your donation can be brought to the break-out room which will be where the silent auction will be held.

## 2026 Convention Mites in Action Speakers

Throughout the convention we will hear stories from several Mission Grant recipients telling us how the mites of the LWML have benefited them and those around them. How the simple gift of giving has impacted their lives as they *Serve the Lord with Gladness! (Psalm 100:2a)*.



**Rev. Mark Moss, Burnsville, MN**

I am a former Bible Translator for Lutheran Bible Translators in Sierra Leone, West Africa in the early 90’s. I’m also a retired Army chaplain having served on active duty 20 years for the US Army, to include tours in Iraq, Kosovo, South Korea and Germany. Finally, I am a former Theological Educator for the LCMS Office of International Missions in West Africa, having worked in Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone. I now work as the full-time mission speaker for Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) and am here to tell you about that work, and how the

LWML Minnesota North District is supporting the Hmong Ministry in the USA through the Bible books that LHF translates, prints and distributes.

**Mites In Action Presentation: Bible Books for the Hmong Community**

Rev. Mark Moss will give a short presentation on Hmong Lutheran Bible books produced for the Hmong community who immigrated to the USA in 1975. To date, about six books have been produced in the White and Blue Hmong dialects, which includes; "Luther's Small Catechism," "A Child's Garden of Bible Stories," "Jesus Never Fails," and more besides these three titles. These books are helping bring the Gospel to the Hmong community in the USA and world-wide.



**Candice Bicondoa, Perham, MN**

Candice Bicondoa has served as a Lutheran educator for the past 20 years. Her first 16 years in ministry were served as a teacher at St. Mark's in Hollywood, FL, and Prince of Peace in St. Cloud, MN. In 2022, the Lord called her into serving as a full-time principal at St. Paul's in Perham, MN, where she currently serves today. Candice has a passion for Lutheran education and impacting as many children as possible with the Gospel.

**Mites In Action Presentation: Kingdom Impact**

Through the generous funds awarded through the LWML Marketing Grant, St. Paul's Lutheran School has been able to help make the school more visible and the mission clear to the community. With intentional marketing, we are reaching more people to help increase enrollment and encourage retention of current families. We will highlight some of the exciting things we have been able to do with the marketing funds since the fall of 2025.



**Maddux Neilitz, Waite Park, MN**

I am a first-year student at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN. I am majoring in Elementary Education with a minor in the Lutheran Classroom teacher program. I am very passionate about church work and working with children.

**Mites In Action Presentation: Experience at Concordia St Paul**

I plan on talking about my experience at CSP and how the LWML scholarship has been a great help to me and my time at college.

## 2026 Convention Mites in Action Speakers Cont.



### Rev. Ben Hollingsead, Aitkin, MN

Rev. Ben Hollingsead serves St. John’s Lutheran Church in Aitkin, MN. He has been in pastoral ministry for thirteen years and joined the LCMS clergy roster in 2021 through the colloquy process. He previously served congregations in Wisconsin and Minnesota and was the St. Cloud Zone Pastoral Counselor from 2022–2025.

Rev. Hollingsead holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Bellevue University and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary. Before entering ministry, he worked at Offutt Air Force Base as a Purchasing Agent and Contract Administrator. He and his wife Amber are blessed with five children: Addison, Eden, Theodore, Augustine, and Eloise. His vocation as a husband and father is a central joy and grounding influence in his life and ministry. In his free time, he enjoys fishing with his kids.

Rev. Hollingsead has served in pastoral ministry for thirteen years. He began his ministry in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), where he served for eight years at Christus Lutheran Church in Clintonville, WI, and St. John’s Lutheran Church in Stacy, MN. In 2021, he entered the clergy roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) through the colloquy process. His first LCMS call was to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Eden Valley, MN, where he also served as the St. Cloud Zone Pastoral Counselor from 2022 to 2025.

### Mites In Action Presentation: **DOXOLOGY: The Care of your Pastor and the Care of Souls**

Through the support of the LWML MN North District, Rev. Ben Hollingsead attended the DOXOLOGY program, a retreat-based experience focused on the classic care of souls. This presentation will share how immersion in worship, pastoral reflection, and practical training in spiritual care have shaped his ministry. Attendees will gain insight into how the Church continues to care for God’s people through Word, Sacrament, and faithful pastoral practice.

## Convention Mite Walk



### Wednesday, June 24, 6:15 a.m.

With joyful hearts unite with your fellow mite walkers at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. Enjoy an early morning walk with your Lord and Savior, and “Let HIS Joy be Your Joy!”

Registration for the Mite Walk is \$10. Your registration includes a T-shirt with the mite walk logo. Bottled water, a snack are provided. Plan to enjoy a morning walk with Jesus and register for the 2026 Mite Walk. Be sure to mark and include \$10 on your registration form. Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors or society to support you through donations for the Mite Walk. Fill out the information on the Donation Form and turn in the form when you register at the The Park Event Center. A registration form and donation form are included in this newsletter and at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org).

All monies raised go toward the 2026-2028 biennial mite goal. Additional donation forms and convention information can be found on the LWML MN North District website: [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org).

**Web Links**LWML MN North District [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)LWML: [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)**Board of Directors****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

LWML District President

Kathleen Brandt  
2099 County Highway 24  
Ada, MN 56510  
[president@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:president@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-766-1135

Executive Vice President

Valerie Johnson, Christian Life  
[christianlife@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:christianlife@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-986-2848 (c)

Vice President of Communications

Gayle Clark  
[vpcom@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:vpcom@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-761-0521

Recording Secretary

Terry Schoenborn  
[recordingsec@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:recordingsec@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-849-6255

Corresponding Secretary

Karen Gorentz, Interim  
[corrsec@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:corrsec@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-234-3716

Financial Secretary

Jan Carlson  
408 3rd Avenue S  
Princeton, MN 55371  
[financialsec@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:financialsec@lwmlmnn.org)  
763-631-0399

Treasurer

Phyllis Sommers  
[treasurer@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:treasurer@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-689-8237

**PASTORAL COUNSELORS**

Arrowhead Region

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy  
[arrowheadpc@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:arrowheadpc@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-999-4101

Lakeland Region

Rev. Reed Stockman  
[lakelandpc@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:lakelandpc@lwmlmnn.org)  
319-480-8927

Park Region

Rev. Dan Larsen  
[parkpc@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:parkpc@lwmlmnn.org)  
507-430-9196

**REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Arrowhead I Regional VP

Pam Stauty, Scholarships  
[scholarships@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:scholarships@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-780-4873

Arrowhead II Regional VP

Marilyn Hiltel, Interim Officer  
320-387-2219

Lakeland I Regional VP

Mary Scott, Mission Grants  
320-351-6804

Lakeland II Regional VP

VACANT

Park I Regional VP

VACANT - Kathleen Brandt, Interim  
218-766-1135

Park II Regional VP

Karen Gorentz, Structure  
[structure@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:structure@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-234-3716

Human Care

Jean Tester  
[humancare@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:humancare@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-207-9654

Young Women

Ruby Prochnow  
[youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-808-3371

**APPOINTED PERSONNEL**

Archivist-Historian, Vacant  
[historian@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:historian@lwmlmnn.org)

Editor

Linda Pederson  
[editor@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:editor@lwmlmnn.org)

Information Technologist

James Wagner  
[InformationTech@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:InformationTech@lwmlmnn.org)

Media Content Manager

Sophia Greenfield  
[share@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:share@lwmlmnn.org)

**Communication Committee**

[vpcom@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:vpcom@lwmlmnn.org)  
[editor@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:editor@lwmlmnn.org)  
[InformationTech@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:InformationTech@lwmlmnn.org)  
Facebook: [share@lwmlmnn.org](https://www.facebook.com/share@lwmlmnn.org)

**Board Committees****Christian Life Committee**

Valerie Johnson, Chairman  
[christianlife@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:christianlife@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-760-9540

Committee Members

Peggy Pasche • Esther Schlicker  
Kendra Voss  
Rev. Reed Stockman

**Human Care Committee**

Jean Tester, Chairman  
[humancare@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:humancare@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-207-9654

Committee Members

Sandra Trittin • Sheri Adkins  
Bev Olson • Rev. Reed Stockman

**Leader Development Committee**

Kathy Brandt, Interim Chairman  
[leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org)

Committee Members

Rev. Daniel Larsen

**Mission Grants Committee**

Mary Scott, Chairman  
[missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-351-6804

Committee Members

Sandy Dressen • Deb Joachim  
Sue Kuseske • Rev. Reed Stockman

**Scholarships Committee**

Pam Stauty, Chairman  
[scholarships@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:scholarships@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-394-2289

Committee Members

Kristian Ryan • Cathy Tynismaa  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy

**Structure Committee**

Karen Gorentz, Chairman  
[structure@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:structure@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-234-3716

Committee Members

Glenice Hall • Sonya Gunderson  
Rev. Daniel Larsen

**Young Women Committee**

Ruby Prochnow, Chairman  
[youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org)  
320-808-3371

Committee Members

Barbara Angland • Stacy Larson  
Sophia Greenfield  
Rev. Daniel Larsen

**Church Workers/Public Relations**

MaryAnn Bell  
[churchworkers@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:churchworkers@lwmlmnn.org)

Committee Members

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy

**Public Relations, VACANT**



Lutheran Women in Mission  
**LWML MN North District – LWML Retreat**  
 Lutheran Island Camp - Henning, MN  
 August 7-9, 2026

*These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full (John 15:11).*

**“Strength for the Journey: Finding Joy in God’s Faithfulness”**



Our retreat speaker will be **Christina Walther**, from Northern Minnesota. She is deeply passionate about guiding individuals to connect with Christ at every stage and walk of life. Her goal is that her faith and resilience inspire those around her as she embraces life’s journey with hope and gratitude. She utilizes a blend of speaking and sharing of her original music – inspired by scripture, and resonates with the message she shares. The heart of her story revolves around her journey and her endurance through grief. She refers to her journey as “Turning my Why into Wonder”. She quickly has moved beyond asking “why” and instead embraced a sense of wonder about what God had in store for us. His ways are truly amazing.

**Tentative Schedule**

**Friday**

- 4:00 Registration (Cafeteria)
- 5:00 Supper
- 7:30 Campfire Bible Devotion
- 8:30 Fellowship/Snacks (Fireside Room)


**Saturday**

- 8:00 Registration & Breakfast
- 9:15 Bible Study - (Rec Hall)
- 10:15 Speaker - Christina Walther
- 11:30 Group Photos
- 12-1:00 Lunch
- 1:15 Speaker: Christina Walther - (Rec Hall)
- 2:15 Announcements & Canteen
- 5:00 Super
- 7:00 Activity Night

**Sunday**

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:30 Closing Service (Chapel) led by the Christian Life Committee

**BOOK EXCHANGE:**

 There will be a book exchange taking place. We encourage you to bring your Christian books to share with others.

**JOIN US** – as we gather together as sisters in Christ to learn more about Christ our Savior and how to share His love for us with others. All women of LCMS congregations are invited to attend. So bring your daughters and bring your friends.

**Online Registration Information**

Online Registration will be through Lutheran Island Camp. Registration Closes July 25, 2026  
<http://cwngui.campwise.com/Customer/islandcamp/browser-check-reg.html>

	Before July 7/25	After 7/25
Friday-Sunday	\$180	\$190
Saturday-Sunday	\$130	\$140
Saturday Only	\$110	\$120

Participants will have a choice of cabin or Retreat Center lodging and may choose their roommates upon arrival date.

**For More Information**

Contact Valerie Johnson at: vwjohnso@runestone.net or 320-760-9540

**What to bring?**

Bible, clothes for August weather, insect repellent, towels and toiletries, pillow and bedding, flashlight, snacks to share at evening fellowship.

More information may be found on the district website [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) and on the district [Facebook](#) page.



Lutheran Women in Mission  
**MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT**  
 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention June 22-24, 2026  
 The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

2026 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM  
**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**  
**COPY AND SEND FRONT SIDE ONLY**  
**ONE REGISTRANT PER FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Region: \_\_\_\_\_ Zone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>CONVENTION PACKAGES</b>	<b>Cost Before May 15</b>	<b>Cost After May 15</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Convention package includes registration and packet for adults 18 and over. If you are bringing <b>children under 18 years old</b> please contact the <b>Convention Registrar</b> .			
<b>Full Convention Registration</b>	\$75	\$100	
<b>Part-Time</b> (One day only, includes packet.)	\$35	\$50	
<b>Past District Presidents</b> (Free Registration) Must pay for meals.			
<b>Clergy</b> (Free Registration) Must pay for meals.			
<b>MEAL PACKAGES ARE SOLD SEPARATELY</b> (Not included in registration fee.)			
<b>Meal Packages</b> (Please mark your Tuesday evening meal choice.)		\$95	
Tuesday Evening Meal – Pork Tenderloin	Choice 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tuesday Evening Meal – Three Cheese Ravioli	Choice 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Mite Walk T-Shirt</b> (Light Pink with Purple Logo)			
Mark Size S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		\$10	
Make Checks Payable to: <b>LWML MN North District</b> <b>Total Amount of Check Enclosed</b>			

- Check all titles that apply to you.**
- Delegate
  - Guest
  - Nominee
  - Young Woman (18-35)
  - District Board Member
  - Zone President
  - Past District President
  - Speaker
  - Exhibitor
  - Clergy
  - Nuclei Committee
  - Convention Worker
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_



**CONVENTION ACTIVITIES** (Mite Walk will begin at 6:00 a.m. on Wed. June 24).

**MITE WALK** - Will you be participating in the "Joyfully Walking with Jesus"?  Yes

**CHOIR** - Will you be participating in the Choir?  Yes  Soprano I  Soprano II  Alto I  Alto II

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS** - Please indicate your first  1 and second  2 choice.

- Session A** "LWML Today and the Vision for the Future" Presented by Eden Keefe, LWML President
- Session B** "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" Lutherans for Life Presented by Michele Hartshorn
- Session C** "Expanding the Spanish Footprint" Presented by Rev. David Mommens, Melrose, MN

Do you have any special needs? (Disabilities, Food Allergies, Wheelchair, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**DELEGATE INFORMATION** **ALL DELEGATES MUST REGISTER BEFORE MAY 1**  
**IMPORTANT!** – If you are a delegate, please give your alternate's name.  
 ➔ **ALTERNATE'S** name, \_\_\_\_\_

## 2026 Convention Registration Information

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:** Sessions will be offered on Monday, June 22. Sessions begin at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Each session is one hour in length and will be presented twice. **On the front page**, please indicate your your first (1) and second (2) choice.

### **SESSION A** “LWML Today and the Vision for the Future”

*Presented by Eden Keefe, LWML President*

Together, we will look at the current organization and identify strengths and opportunities. Standing on the solid foundation of Christ, we look to the future and the impact Lutheran Women in Mission will continue to have in the world, by God's grace.

### **SESSION B** “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” Lutherans for Life

*Presented by Michele Hartshorn*

God has a plan for you. Before you were born, He knew you. We should walk in his ways. He loves all of us as we are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made. Join us as we share the work of Lutherans For Life with a focus on the gift of life, and how human choices need to be founded on God's Word and His plan for each of us.

### **SESSION C** “Expanding the Spanish Footprint”

*Presented by Rev. David Mommens, Melrose, MN*

Rev. David Mommens spent five weeks in the Dominican Republic (DR) in a new program called Expanding the Spanish Footprint. The program immerses LCMS pastors and seminarians in the Spanish language and Latino culture to equip them to better minister to the Hispanic population in the United States.

**OPENING WORSHIP:** All are invited to worship service at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. (Communion Service).

**SERVANT EVENTS:** Servant Events will be taking place on Monday, June 22, beginning at 11:00 a.m. and running until 3:00 p.m. You can choose how much time you want to spend in this area! Visit the District website: [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) for more information.

**TUESDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT:** You are invited to join us at 7:30 p.m. for an evening of entertainment by the **Great River Resonance**. *The premier community handbell ensemble located in the greater St. Cloud, MN area.* No cost.

### **MEAL INFO:**

(Full Meal Package)

#### **MONDAY DINNER BUFFET**

*Chicken Breast w/Herb Cream Sauce  
Garden Salad • Herb Roasted Red  
Potatoes • Green Beans • Dinner Rolls*

#### **TUESDAY LUNCH BUFFET**

*Fresh Garden Salad w/Dressings  
Sliced Ham, Turkey & Roast Beef  
Cheese Slices & Croissant Buns  
Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Pickle Slices  
Potato Chips • Fresh Cut Melons  
Soup du Jour*

#### **TUESDAY PLATED DINNER**

**Important:** This year there is a meal choice for the Tuesday evening meal.

**Choice 1** Pork Tenderloin  
w/Apple Bacon Demi-Glace  
Garden Salad w/Dressings  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Glazed Carrots • Dinner Roll & Whipped  
Honey Butter

~ or ~

**Choice 2** Three Cheese Ravioli  
Tomato Basil Marinara Sauce  
Shredded Cheese, Garlic Bread  
Garden Salad w/Dressings  
Glazed Carrots • Dinner Roll & Whipped  
Honey Butter

### **THINGS TO DO:**

Are you arriving in St. Cloud area early? Here are some things to do after you register on Monday, June 22. Attend **Breakout Sessions**; Do a **Servant Event** (Begins at 11:00 a.m.); Visit the **exhibits** (Opens 11:00 a.m.); Participate in the **Silent Auction**. (Opens 3:30 p.m.); or visit the many attractions in the St. Cloud area.

## **HOUSING INFORMATION**

## **ROOM COST “See Hotel Lodging Sheet”**

*You are responsible for your own housing arrangements.*

Two hotels are adjacent to the convention site; the Residence Inn® by Marriott and the Hilton Garden Inn®. Instructions and a full list of all hotels for convention are located on the Hotel Lodging Sheet included in the Spring Packet and on the LWML MN North District website : [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). Room blocks will only be held until **May 21, 2026** For more information or question, please contact the Convention Registrar Janice Carlson at (763) 631-0399.

Questions? Call Jan Carlson, Convention Registrar at: (763) 631-0399

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

- ➔ **Make a copy** of the front page and mail it.
- ➔ **Early Registration Deadline is May 15**
- ➔ Please **enclose** the total remittance.

➔ **Make Checks Payable To:**  
**LWML MN North District**

➔ **Mail the Registration Form and check to:**  
Janice Carlson, **Convention Registrar**  
408 3rd Ave S  
Princeton, MN 55371



Lutheran Women's in Missions  
**LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT**  
 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention June 22-24, 2026  
 The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

# Hotel Lodging Sheet

Lodging Nights: June 22 -24, 2026



## **HOUSING INFORMATION** *You are responsible for your own housing arrangements!*

Instructions and a full list of all hotels for convention on the table below, and on the LWML MN North District website: [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). Room blocks will only be held until **May 21**. For more information or question, please contact the Convention Registrar Janice Carlson at (763) 631-0399.

**Online Registration Information** is located on the back side of this page. A list of Frequently Asked Questions are included to help you, as you register your rooms and other general information.

Hotel (Location)	Rooms Blocked	Room Rates (Taxes Not Included)	Contact Information
<b>Residence Inn</b> 450 Division Street, Waite Park, MN, 56387	120 Rooms Available Rooms are blocked until May 21	\$149.00 plus tax per night	320-640-0200 Use GROUP CODE: <b>LWM</b> to get the same discounted rooms!
<b>Group Rate Booking Link:</b> <a href="https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1766511638918&amp;key=GRP&amp;app=resvlink">https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1766511638918&amp;key=GRP&amp;app=resvlink</a> <b>Arrival</b> Monday June 22, <b>Checkout</b> Weds. June 24. <b>Cancellation Policy</b> - 48 hours no penalty • <b>Check-in:</b> 4:00 pm • <b>Check-out:</b> 11:00 am • <b>Minimum Age to Check In</b> 21 • <b>Smoke Free Property</b> • <b>Pet-friendly rooms fees apply</b> • Visit the website for full amenities. <b>Free Hot Breakfast</b> (M-F 6:30 AM-9:00 AM, Sat-Sun 7:00 AM-9:30 AM) • <b>Free Coffee/Tea in Lobby</b>			
<b>Hilton Garden Inn St. Cloud</b> 550 Division Street, Waite Park, MN, 56387	100 Rooms Available Rooms are blocked until May 21	\$149.00 plus tax per night	320-640-7990 Use GROUP CODE: <b>92S</b> to get the same discounted rooms!
<b>Group Rate Booking Link:</b> <a href="https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/1dq01j">https://group.hiltongardeninn.com/1dq01j</a> <b>Arrival date:</b> Monday June 22, <b>Checkout</b> Weds. June 24. <b>Cancellation Policy</b> - 48 hours no penalty • <b>Check-in:</b> 3:00 pm • <b>Check-out:</b> 11:00 am • <b>Minimum Age to Check In</b> 21 • <b>Non-smoking rooms</b> • <b>Pet-friendly rooms fees apply</b> • <b>Breakfast</b> (Available for a fee)			
<b>Other hotels in the area are listed below, no room blocks are available at these.</b>			
<b>Homewood Suites</b> 115 37th Ave N St. Cloud, MN 56303	No Room Blocks	2 Queen beds-suite \$199/night	320-252-4448
<b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/stcmnhw-homewood-suites-st-cloud/">https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/stcmnhw-homewood-suites-st-cloud/</a>			
<b>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites</b> 145 37th Ave N St. Cloud, MN 56303	No Room Blocks	2 Queen Room \$167/night	320-252-5900
<b>Website:</b> <a href="https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/stclhdhx-hampton-suites-st-cloud-mn/">https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/stclhdhx-hampton-suites-st-cloud-mn/</a>			

For more information visit the District website: [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)



Lutheran Women's in Missions  
**LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT**  
32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention June 22-24, 2026  
The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

## Convention Registration & FAQs

### Frequently Asked Questions

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**Where do I register for meals?** On the registration form. The list of meals are on the back of the form. Note: This year you have a choice of entree for the Tuesday evening meal. Please indicate your choice on the front page of the form.

**Can I get a meal plan with just lunch and dinner?** No. We only offer the one meal plan.

**How do I register with a roommate or roommates?** On the online form there is a section which asks if you have roommate. Fill in the information with their name/names. Your credit card will be charged full price until your roommates register. Your roommates must register separately and also include a list of their roommates.

**Can I request a specific room?** Yes, indicate your requirements in the Special Requests section on the registration form

**Can I get a refund if I cancel after May 21?** LWML convention attendees can get a 50% refund after May 3 until May 21, 2026. No refunds will be made after that.

#### **Cancellation/Refunds - Hotel Rooms**

- Cancellation policy of individual rooms - 48 hours no penalty.
- Inside of 48 hrs is charged 1 night, no tax.
- No show - Payment for 1 night plus applicable taxes.

**What if I don't have a credit card?** All rooms and meals have to be secured by credit card. You may have to get a pre-paid card or ask a friend or relative to use theirs.

**Where do I send my Convention Registration Form?** The registration for attendance along with the registration fees should be sent to the Convention Registrar Jan Carlson, 408 3rd Ave S., Princeton, MN 55371, postmarked by May 15.

**What is the cut-off date for registration?** May 15 is the cut-off date for registration for convention attendance.

**Can I get a T-shirt?** You can receive a T-Shirts if you register for the Mite Walk?

**I'm helping with the convention. Do I get a discount on registration?** No. This year the registration was reduced for everyone because of the increased cost of lodging and food plan. We are doing our best to make the convention affordable for everyone.

**Can I bring my pets with to the convention?** No pets are allowed in The Event Center, although each of the adjacent hotels have a pet policy for a fee.

**What time does convention registration start?** Convention registration starts at at 11:00 AM on Monday, June 22, 2026.

**What time is room check-in and check-out?** Each hotel has a different check in time at 3 or 4 p.m. Please check the Hotel Lodging Sheet or visit the websites for more information. Check-out is at 11 AM on Wednesday, June 24.

**I have special dietary needs. Can I request them?** Yes, you may list your needs in the Special Request section on the registration form.

**What happens in case of an emergency?** Each registered attendee will receive a yellow medical emergency card in the convention packet listing names and phone numbers of the LWML Crisis Management Team. You are requested to fill out your medical information on the back of the card.

For more information visit the District website: [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)



Lutheran Women's in Missions  
**LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT**  
32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention June 22-24, 2026  
The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

## News Release Information

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### News Release for Church Newsletter:

*(Please post in your church newsletters for May and June)*

#### 2026 North District Convention Information

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Minnesota North District will be gathering at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN to hold its 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial District Convention June 22-24, 2026. The convention theme, "Let His Joy be Your Joy!" is based on the Bible passage, These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:11)..

The Convention Registration Forms may be found on the LWML Minnesota North District website, [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) and/or in the Spring edition of the Minnesota Northern Light newsletter. Hotel booking information can be found on the Hotel Lodging Sheet that is available to download from the convention page at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). Room blocks are reserved through May 21 at both hotels. A meal plan may be purchased separately if you chose to not stay at the hotel. A downloadable FAQs sheet is available if you have any convention question.

Check-in for the convention will begin at 11:00 AM, in The Park Event Center lobby. Breakout sessions will begin at 1:00 PM. Please review the agenda in your packet for further information. Opening Worship Service will be at 7:00 PM at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN. Convention business includes Bible Study, Mites-in-action speakers, a Mite Walk, singing, entertainment, food and fellowship. Officer elections and adoption of a new mission goal also are important parts of the business meeting. Rev. Kris Whitby is our keynote speaker. He serves as Assistant to the the President – Mission and Ministry for the Northern Illinois District. He was a parish pastor for 24 yrs, hosted a radio talk show "Faith Talks," and has written many resources for the LWML including Mustard Seed Devotions, Prayers services and the "At Table with Jesus" Bible Study.

More information and helps are available on the district website, [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org), in the Spring packet and the *Minnesota Northern Light* newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing you at the convention.

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**Note:** The News Releases can be found on the LWML MN North District website: [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) in PDF and Microsoft Word format.

## **Church Bulletin Inserts:** *(Post the following announcements in your Church Bulletin)*

### **Week 1:** *(Post May 10)*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial District Convention of the LWML Minnesota North will be held June 22-24 at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. The theme is "Let His Joy be Your Joy!" John 15:11. The Convention Registration Form and more information may be found in the 2026 Spring issue of the *Minnesota Northern Light* newsletter and on the LWML Minnesota North District website: [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org).

Be sure to book your room, register and choose your meal package before May 21, 2026. You are responsible for your housing arrangements. Hotel and lodging information can be found on the Hotel Lodging Sheet that is available to download from the convention page at [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org). A Convention Registration & FAQs document is available in the spring packet received at the Spring Rallies and can be found online. It contains detailed answers to frequently asked questions. We look forward to seeing you. Mark your calendar to attend!

### **Week 2:** *(Post May 17)*

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial District Convention of the LWML Minnesota North will be held June 22-24 at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. The theme is "Let His Joy be Your Joy!" John 15:11. Our Keynote speaker will be Rev. Kris Whitby. He serves as Assistant to the the President-Mission and Ministry for the Northern Illinois District. He was a parish pastor for 24 yrs, hosted a radio talk show "Faith Talks," and has written many resources for the LWML including Mustard Seed Devotions, Prayers services and the "At Table with Jesus" Bible Study. Bring your family for the recreational activities in the St. Cloud area while you attend the convention.

### **Week 3:** *(Post May 24)*

Inspirational speakers, Bible study and entertainment will be offered at the LWML Minnesota North District Convention June 22-24. The Convention will be held at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. Opening Worship will be held at 7:00 PM on June 22, 2026 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN.

### **Week 4:** *(Post May 31)*

The convention breakout speakers are: Eden Keefe, LWML President – speaking on LWML Today and the Vision for the Future; Michele Hartshorn – speaking on Lutherans for life: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made; and Rev. David Mommens – Spanish Immersion Program. Bible study led by Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy, and the entertainment by Great River Resonance handbell ensemble will be offered at the LWML Minnesota North District Convention June 22-24.

The convention will be held at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. Registration will begin June 22 at 11:00 AM in the main lobby of The Park Event Center. Opening Worship will be at 7:00 PM on June 22, 2026 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN.

### **Week 5:** *(Post June 7)*

The LWML MN North District Convention is happening soon! June 22-24, at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. Come listen to first-hand stories about MITES in action, be entertained on Tuesday evening by Great River Resonance the premier community handbell ensemble located in the greater St. Cloud, MN area.

### **Week 6:** *(Post June 14)*

We are looking forward to seeing you soon at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial LWML Convention at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN, June 22-24. "Let His Joy be Your Joy!" Make plans to attend. You will enjoy breakout sessions, singing, worship, and fellowship with all LWML ladies! God Bless. "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

### **For the June 21st church bulletin:**

Please pray for the LWML Minnesota North District Convention being held this week at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. Delegates will conduct the business of mission grants, setting a new mite goal, electing officers and make bylaw changes. Be with the speakers and guest as they gather for Bible study and worship in witness and fellowship – "Let His Joy be Your Joy!"

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**Note:** *The News Releases can be found on the LWML MN North District website: [lwmlmnn.org](http://lwmlmnn.org) in PDF and Microsoft Word format.*



# MITE WALK DONATION FORM

**LWML Minnesota North District**  
 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention • June 22-24, 2026  
 The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN

*John 15:11*

With joyful hearts unite with your fellow mite walkers at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN. Enjoy an early morning walk with your Lord and Savior, and **“Let HIS Joy be Your Joy!”**



Registration for the Mite Walk is \$10. Your registration includes a T-shirt with the mite walk logo. Bottled water, a snack are provided. Plan to enjoy a morning walk with Jesus and register for the 2026 Mite Walk. Be sure to mark and include \$10 on your registration form.

**Walker's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**State** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

### How to participate...

Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors or society to support you through donations for the *Mite Walk*. (Fill out the information below.)

Please turn in this Donation Form and donations when you register at the The Park Event Center. All checks are to be made payable to: **LWML MN North District**

Additional information about the *Mite Walk* will be posted on the District website: [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER and/or EMAIL	AMOUNT
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
<b>All monies raised go towards the 2026-2028 biennial mite goal.</b>			
			<b>DONATION TOTAL</b>



**LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT**  
**32<sup>nd</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
**2026 Mite Walk**  
**Medical Release Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please read the waiver and release information on the back of this sheet. If you agree with all terms of the release, please sign below. Bring this form to convention and hand in at the registration table.*

**AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE**

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER AND RELEASE**

I will not enter the walk unless I am medically stable. I agree to abide by all the directives of the walk director relative to my ability to safely complete the walk. I assume all risks associated with walking in this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather, conditions of the walking surface, all such risks being known and understood by me.

Upon acceptance of my entry, I release Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the city of Waite Park, Minnesota, The Park Event Center, the sponsors: their representatives and successors, from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my own participation in this event.

I grant permission to the LWML to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, or any other record of this activity for any legitimate purpose. In consideration of the safety of all participants, I agree that baby joggers, baby strollers, headphones, animals on leashes, skateboarders, skaters, and other roller blades are all prohibited. I acknowledge and agree that LWML is a service agency of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and cannot and does not accept any responsibility for my safety and well-being related to my participation in the walk. Furthermore, by signing this waiver, I consent to such medical treatment as LWML (or any of its authorized representatives) deems necessary or appropriate in the event of my illness, accident, or other medical emergency and I accept full financial responsibility for any fees or expenses relating to such treatment.

**Please Sign the front of this form.**

32<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION  
MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT  
*The Park Event Center, Waite Park, MN*

June 22-24, 2026

*Looking for*  
**YOUNG WOMEN**

*to Attend the*  
**32nd Biennial**  
*Convention*  
**June 22-24 2026**



*John 15:11*

**Strengthen** your relationship with the Lord

**Enrich** your faith in Jesus, Our Savior

**Encourage** other sisters in Christ

**Deepen** your love and devotion for Jesus

Enjoy games, activities, fellowship and Bible studies with other young women and fellow Sisters-in-Christ

**Please consider joining us this June for a Joyful Time!**

For more information, please reach out to:  
Ruby at 320-808-3371 or email  
youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org

Visit the District website for more information:  
[www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org)

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