



MINNESOTA NORTHERN LIGHT

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Minnesota North District

Serve the Lord with Gladness! Psalm 100:2



SUMMER 2012

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The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world.

Visit the LWML websites:
www.lwml.org
www.lwmlmnn.org

Change

"For I the Lord do not change ..."
(Malachi 3:6).

Throughout my term as your District President, this word 'change' has been a recurring theme from me. Why is it something that I speak of so often? Why is this a word that I choose to dwell on?



Past President Cheryl Petersen

Because as humans and people living in this time, this world, change is what is constant. Yet, as I referenced above, the one thing that we can rely on is that our Heavenly Father does not change.

As is referenced in the book of John, "As it is, you do not belong to the world" (John 15:19 NIV). We live in this world and we are called, as we learned at the convention, to shine God's light to others to know the Gospel – that God is here, now, waiting for us to call unto Him and be His.

Now, back to the word "change." At the convention, new officers were elected to the district board. We welcome JoNette Brogaard as District President, Jenny Biorn as Treasurer, Tessa Giru as Corresponding Secretary, Judy Uran as Arrowhead I RVP, Doris Weispfennig as Lakeland I RVP, Deb Anderson as Park I RVP and The Reverend Anthony Cloose as Park Region Counselor.

"Change and growth are processes that will continue as long as we live on earth in our human bodies. Progress is vitally important."*

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created" (James 1:17-18 NIV).

continued next page ...

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We need to be about the work of our Father, and sometimes that requires change in how we go about the work.

“So, do your best and let God do the rest. As long as you are making progress, God is pleased. Progress can’t happen without change. When change comes to your life, embrace it.”*

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving (Colossians 3:23-24 NIV).

God’s richest blessings on each of you, serving the LWML in the Minnesota North District, your congregations and communities.

*God’s Blessings,
Cheryl Petersen*

(* - excerpted from Love Out Loud by Joyce Meyer.)



Past LWML Minnesota North District Presidents Virginia Ansorge, Phyllis Jastram and Laurain Jurchen were at the convention.

\$135,000 Mission Goal Adopted!

Convention delegates selected the following mission grants to be given for our 2012-2014 biennium:



- 1 - Orphan Grain Train - \$8,500
- 2 - Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students - \$50,000
- 3 - Financial Support and Staff Training for Lutheran Island Camp - \$10,000
- 4 - Food and Clothing Co-op, Ft. Wayne - \$10,000
- 5 - Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination - \$5,000
- 6 - Vehicles for Pastors and Vicars in Haiti - \$20,000
- 7 - Christian Education at Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch RRV - \$5,000
- 8 - Construct Classroom Building in Yambio, South Sudan (LHF) - \$10,000
- 9 - Christian Storybooks for SE Asia (LBT) - \$1,000
- 10 - Anyuak Ministry, Sauk Rapids - \$5,000
- 11 - Servant Events on the Fond du Lac Reservation - \$5,000
- 12 - Mary Okeyo Student Scholarship Fund for Travel (partial) - \$5,500

2012-2014 Mission Goal Status as of June 30, 2012

	Goal	Balance
Orphan Grain Train	\$ 8,500	5,500
Scholarships Full-Time Church Work Students	\$50,000	45,000
Financial Support and Staff Training LIC	\$10,000	10,000
Food and Clothing Co-op, Ft. Wayne	\$10,000	8,000
Scholarships Men Preparing for Ordination	\$ 5,000	3,138.02
Vehicles for Pastors and Vicars in Haiti	\$20,000	18,000
Christian Education Dakota Boys/Girls Ranch	\$ 5,000	5,000
Classroom Bldg Yambio, South Sudan (LHF)	\$10,000	8,000
Christian Storybooks for SE Asia (LBT)	\$ 1,000	1,000
Anyuak Ministry, Sauk Rapids	\$ 5,000	5,000
Servant Events Fond du Lac Reservation	\$ 5,000	5,000
Mary Okeyo Student Scholarship Fund	\$ 5,500	5,500
TOTAL	\$135,000	\$119,138.02

Scholarships Men Preparing for Ordination 2010-2012 remaining balance paid - \$3,418.02.

My Garden

What a wonderful time of the year! The flowers are so beautiful!



I enjoy the flowers, but I am not much of a gardener, and that's because I am not willing to invest the time needed to have a beautiful garden.

In many ways my garden reminds me of my spiritual life. First, I buy seeds or plants thinking that this year it will be different. But too often they don't get in the ground. The packets of seeds sit on my desk and the plants die.

In the same way, my Bible sits on the coffee table. I plan to read it, but I don't. Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Reading the Bible is hearing the Word of Christ. But just as the seeds don't grow until they are in the ground, my faith doesn't grow until I read and hear the Word of Christ.



Every time I hang out clothes I walk by a small flower garden beside the house. Early this spring I noticed weeds growing among the flowers. Many times I have walked by thinking I need to pull those weeds, but I'll do it later. Soon I don't even notice

the weeds because they have been there so long. Now they are huge and I'm going to have to work harder to get rid of them.

Similarly, sin is like a weed growing in my life. Sin often starts out as a bad habit that I know I should deal with right away. For example, every time I start to gossip, I know it's wrong and I need to stop gossiping. Sometimes I gossip with the excuse that I am concerned about the other person. Soon I don't even notice how often I am gossiping. Gossip has taken over a large part of my life. Now it's even harder to eradicate gossip from my conversation.

Occasionally I will buy a houseplant. The family joke is "How long will it live?" That's because I forget to water it. When my family tells me my plant is turning brown, I quickly flood it with water.

When a crisis comes along in my life, I open my Bible looking for guidance and comfort. But I often can't find anything helpful because I'm not familiar with the Bible. So I spend hours searching for something to help. I cry out to God, "Where are you?" He says, "I'm right here. Because you have failed to hide My Word in your heart, you have no reservoir of living water when you need it."

In my frustration to have a house plant, sometimes I resort to buying an artificial plant. Now I have something that looks good, but it's not real. There is no joy in seeing a new sprout or

a flower bud and it never changes or grows.

Sometimes my spiritual life is artificial too. I look good on the outside as I am doing some things so that it appears as though there is life. I am like the Pharisees that Jesus criticized in Matthew 23:5, "Everything [I] do is done for men to see."

In Matthew 23:27-28 Jesus says, "You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."

Gardens are here only for a season, and then we need to wait for another spring. Our souls are eternal. I pray that you are taking better care of your soul than I am of my garden; that you will be planted in the good soil of God's Word; that you will uproot the weeds when they are small; that you will nourish your soul; and that you will be real, not artificial.

*Mary Kuhnau
Christian Life Chairman*



Christian Life exhibit
at the convention.

New Leaders Elected



District President
JoNette Brogaard
Alexandria



Corresponding Secretary
Tessa Giru
Hackensack



Treasurer
Jenny Biorn
Zimmerman



Arrowhead I RVP
Judy Uran
Esko



Lakeland I RVP
Doris Weispfennig
Villard



Park I RVP
Deborah Anderson
Park Rapids



Park Region
Pastoral Counselor
Rev. Anthony Cloose
Frazee

Serving the Lord and His Church

“Summer time and living is easy. Fish are jumping and the cotton is high.” And school is out for a little while. It’s a time to regroup, refresh, refill the “piggy bank,” and reunite with friends and family after being away at school.



We all need to pause in our busy schedules to reflect on God’s many blessings, and listen to His voice as we study His Holy Word. In Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) our Lord tells us, “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ...”

We have received 19 applications for scholarships for the 2012 -2013 academic year! Reading through the many essays and references has been inspiring.

Some interesting statistics to ponder: five are children of pastors, three were home schooled, and seven are musical. There are three attending a seminary.

Of those seeking a church work scholarship, there are two pursuing degrees as a director of Christian education, nine as teachers, one as a deaconess, and four as pre-seminary students.

All of these applicants are committed to their goals to serve the Lord and His church. They are a diverse group of young (and not so young) people who possess many fine talents. They are already using these talents to advance God’s kingdom here on earth.

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to partner with them through our mites so that they can be prepared to answer God’s call in the harvest fields.

*Linda Jeske
Scholarship Chairman*

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Minnesota North District 25th Biennial Convention, June 25-27, 2012, at Breezy Point



Convention Delegates



Fun with Hats!



YWR Gathering with
Edie Norris & Cynthia Khan



SON Rise Mite Walk



Welcome new society,
Beautiful Savior, Callaway



Massages for Mites



Convention Choir

Lots more photos to see throughout this newsletter, in the convention newsletter, *Daily Illumination* (which is available online), and at the website, www.lwmlmnn.org.

Welcome our new Archivist-Historian

After enjoying the office of Archivist-Historian for eight years, I have decided to retire and would like to introduce you to the new Archivist-Historian, Kathleen Brehmer.



Kathleen served as President of Messiah Ladies League at Messiah Lutheran Church in Sartell for five years, and most recently as the Vice President. She also served as the Regional Vice President of Arrowhead II for two years.

Kathleen attended St. Cloud State University after working as a nurse for twenty-five years and graduated with a major in history and a minor in American Indian Studies. Her internship was at a museum working in the archival department where she fell in love with boxes of old papers!

She and her "wonderful husband" have four children and twelve grandchildren, with a new grandchild expected in November.

Please forward historical material to her at 905 N. 4th Ave., Sauk Rapids, MN 56379. If you have questions about archival and historical records, email her at historian@lwmlmnn.org.



Janet Miller at Archivist-Historian exhibit

I am thankful for the opportunity to have served in this capacity and to have met so many wonderful LWML members in person, via correspondence or telephone.

Janet Miller
Archivist-Historian

Thank you to Eldon Loibl of Frazee for making the crosses for the table decorations and also for creating very special crosses from balsam birch for the gifts given to the speakers at convention.



Society and Zone Structure



Thanks for stopping and visiting the structure exhibit during the district convention, "Arise! Shine! Your Light has Come ..."

Did you get all your questions answered? You can still contact the Structure Committee Chairman at structure@lwmlmnn.org.

With bylaws fresh in your mind, now would be a good time for zones and societies to look at their bylaws:

- * Do they say what you are doing?
- * Do any of the new district bylaw amendments change your bylaws?

"Let all things be done decently and in order" I Cor.40:4 (NIV).

Doris Weispfennig
Structure Chairman



- Immanuel, Parkers Prairie, for Helen Cigelski
- Zion Evening Guild, Alexandria, for Mary Zehner
- Zion Evening Guild, Alexandria, for Deborah Zastrow
- Betty Jacobs for Deborah Zastrow
- Trinity Ladies Aid, Bemidji, for Jean Schmeckpeper

Memorial and honor gifts should be sent to: LWML MN
North District, c/o Financial Secretary Marilyn Hittel,
6850 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-9715

Taking home the Light

Arise! Shine! Your Light has Come ... Yes the convention is over, but it is up to us to keep the light shining brightly. We need to take the light back to our societies and congregations to inspire those who did not attend convention to help us with the work of the LWML.

At the convention, the Young Women who attended learned about the larger missions of the LWML. They also learned about the larger structure of the LWML beyond their society and the opportunities to Serve the Lord with Gladness – through their mite donations or by

volunteering for his service. We had a great time with the young women at activities in the evenings at the convention. They are excited to learn more about LWML and serve their Lord. Harness that energy and use it in your congregations.

Does everyone in your congregation know the power of that little purple box? How your pocket change mixed with pocket change from around the state and country has built churches, hospitals, orphanages, and hope? The Mite Box has changed people's lives by supporting church workers all over the world allowing them to spread the Good News. The Mite Box has translated the word of God into countless languages including Braille, so that people can hear the Good News in their native language.

Our Young Women Committee booth at convention asked attendees what age they were when they first became involved in LWML. The majority said between the ages of 19 and 35.

The modern woman has varying responsibilities at different times in her life. I personally reached the half century mark last fall. My family responsibilities have changed. My children, while not out entirely on their own, don't need or appreciate me running the day to day details of their lives. My parents and mother-in-law are now demanding

more attention as they age.

I know that God gives me the strength to handle the challenges and decisions. The least I can do is make time to serve his people through LWML activities. I learned early in my involvement in LWML that you get much more back than you can ever put into it. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Serve the Lord wherever you are, as in Hebrews 13:1-2, "Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it" (NASV).

Lynnette Roshell
Young Women Committee
Chair



14 YWRs were at convention

Seeking YWRs to attend 2013 Convention

The Young Women Committee now begins work on choosing two young women to represent our district at the 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. It is an experience that will change their spiritual lives.

But we need your help! We can't talk to all of women between age 19 and 35 in the district. I ask all of you to be on the lookout for a woman who wants to grow in her relationship with the Lord and become inspired to Serve the Lord with Gladness.

Applications will be available in the fall packets, but are available now on the district website at www.lwmlmnn.org. They need to be returned to YWR Chairman Lynnette Roshell by December 1.



YWR Chairman Lynnette Roshell at the convention YWR exhibit

"Arise! Shine! Your Light Has Come ..."

I hope and pray you all had a wonderful and inspiring time at our convention last month at Breezy Point. I know I did. If you missed the Leader Development booth "Growing LWML Leaders Under the SON" it's not too late to still request some of the helpful handouts we had available for you to pick up or order by email:

- Leadership 101
- Flowering LWML Leaders
- Qualities to Look for in a Leader
- ABC'S of Effective Leadership.

Send me your request and I'll be happy to email them to you. Remember you can find many of these and other help handouts to print or order at www.lwml.org, click on "resources" and look and print to your heart's desire.

I know after a convention I come home invigorated and excited about the work of the LWML. I like to stop and take the time to review again the goals that should be standard for all LWML meetings; and also to see if the society I belong to is fulfilling those goals.

As a reminder, the standard goals we should be striving to meet for all LWML meetings are:

- assist LCMS women to affirm their faith in the Triune God;
- enable LCMS women to use their gifts in ministry to others;
- provide opportunities to bond in fellowship;
- provide opportunities to praise and serve God;
- enable the members to establish goals, set time-lines, and accomplish the ministry they have chosen to undertake; and
- provide the members with a voice in making decisions for the organization.

If my society strives to meet these goals, I know we are indeed fulfilling the mission of the LWML.



Leadership Development exhibit at convention. Pictured is Christine Hinckley

Is your society striving to fulfill these goals? If you are looking for help in planning and conducting a successful LWML meeting, look for *Meetings 101* #71226 in your LWML catalog or at the LWML store online at www.lwml.org (find the shopping cart and click on "shop"). You can also find this under the "resources" tab.

If you came home from the convention and you are ready to **Arise!** and **Shine!** because you know **Your Light has Come** – and you want to share that Light through your role as a LWML leader – please email or call me to assist you in that role.

You'll never walk that road of leadership alone. Our Lord and Savior is always with you as He reminds us, "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:20b RSV).

*Lynn Lahd
Chairman Leadership
Development*



2012 LWML Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp August 10-12

It's not too late to register for the LWML Minnesota North District Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp.

Reverend Don Stauty of Virginia, Minn., will lead our Bible study on the theme verse, "The greatest of these is love" (1 Cor. 13:13b NIV).

Reverend Bernie Seter from Grafton, North Dakota, will be speaking about Project 24 in Kenya, Africa.

Messiah's Minnesota Minutemen will be entertaining us with dramas. They are a group of actors and actresses of all ages and backgrounds from across the state of Minnesota.

For more retreat information, contact Mary Kuhnau at christianlife@lwmlmnn.org or 320-834-2135, or visit the district website for updates: www.lwmlmnn.org.



Arise! Shine! Your Light has Come

The convention is behind us. What a wonderful experience it was. We were filled with His Light! The speakers, Bible study, breakout sessions, exhibits and fellowship were uplifting, giving us the Spirit we needed to return to our congregations and let the light shine in everything we say and do.

Your generosity to the Human Care projects showed the love LWML women have for their fellow man. The Pregnancy Support Center was overwhelmed with the amount of items given to them. Bethany Good

Samaritan Home was amazed at the gifts they received and Lutheran Island Camp labored with joy as they handled the many pounds of shoes that were donated.



Servant Event: Eyeglass cases from ties



Servant Event: Rolling bandages

Thank you for the "Gifts from the Heart" donations. You again stepped up for our seminary students with phone, gift and gas cards. We logged in stamps and Campbells soup labels. The Servant Events on Monday were a success. Sixty women participated, rolling bandages, tying baby quilts and lap robes, and making eyeglass cases. The delight of giving was evident with the joyful buzz in the room.

This is my final article as Human Care Chairman. Thank you to my committee: Pastor Ronald Hobbie, Sandy Tiedemann, Barb Andring and Kari Aanenson for their willingness to serve.

I also want to thank all the zone and local Human Care Chairmen, who have shared the project ideas with their societies and worked diligently to fulfill the needs of others. Without their compassion, encouragement and leadership, the needs of many would not be met.



Rev. Bernie Seter,
Mission Speaker

A new slate of officers was elected at convention. Please welcome the new Human Care Chairman as she shares her ideas and her desire to reach out to others. Support and contact her with new ideas and projects that will benefit those in need.

Gifts from the Heart

There are numerous opportunities to "shine" and reach out to others, reflecting the light of Jesus in all that we do. Celebrate the summer months with these activities:

- Volunteer to assist in VBS projects.
- Share the bounty of your flower garden with others. Donate floral bouquets.
- Help an elderly neighbor with lawn or garden work.
- Host activities for the elderly and lonely to celebrate the summer such as a picnic, an afternoon at the lake, a visit to the park or a ride in the country.
- Plan activities and entertain children during summer vacation.
- Include children when planting your garden and encourage their help when caring for it.
- Share your produce with others.
- Make a special effort to reach out to someone that is struggling with life.
- Be generous to anyone that may experience a natural disaster.



Continued next page

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Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India once said, "You can give without loving. But you can't love without giving."

God bless all of you as you continue to love and to give.

*Your sister in Christ,
Ellen Strickler
Human Care Chairman*



Ellen Strickler, sorting
Green Sneaker Project
donations

Celebrate!

To help those of all ages celebrate their birthday, I encourage you to give "Birthday Kits" to your local food shelf.

A kit contains a cake mix, can of frosting, candles, sprinkles if you'd like and a disposable 9X13 cake pan. Pack it up in the pan and know that you have helped someone enjoy their special day. With the approval of the food shelf, you may even include a birthday greeting.

This is an excellent project for Sunday school or vacation Bible school classes.

Convention Mites & Offerings

Offering #1 for the 2012-2014 Mite Goal:

\$6,132.41

Offering #2 for People of the Book Lutheran

Outreach (POBLO): \$4,968.34

Offering #3 for Lutheran Malaria Initiative:

\$4,138.56

SON Rise Mite Walk: \$2,279.00

Miles for Mites challenge: \$14.00

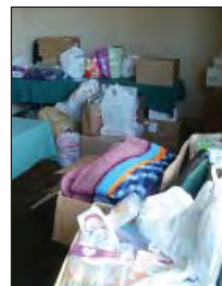
Massages for Mites: \$90.00



Gifts from the Heart Convention Ingathering

For Lakes Area Pregnancy Center:

- 500 baby quilts, blankets, and afghans
- over 800 pieces of clothing
- 20 packages baby wipes
- 65 packages diapers
- 40 newborn hats (hand-made)
- 18 homemade sweaters
- miscellaneous toys, bottles, toiletries, and booties
- 1 stroller, 1 baby walker



For Bethany Good Samaritan Home:

- 250 pair of slipper socks
- over 150 puzzles and word books
- 130 lap-robies, quilts and afghans
- miscellaneous personal care items, bibs

Lutheran Island Camp Green Sneaker Project:

- 900 pounds of tennis shoes

Also:

- 50 gift cards for seminary students
- 25 pounds of stamps and soup labels

Convention Servant Events:

- 60 women participated
- 800 bandages were rolled
- approximately 10,000 pre-rolled bandages received
- 30 baby quilts tied
- 30 lap-robies tied
- 40 eyeglass cases crafted out of neckties
- 15 Linus blankets made



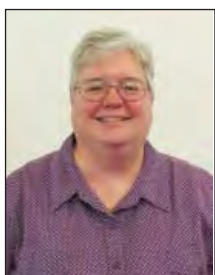
You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

(2 Corinthians 9:11-12)



E-Subscribe to our newsletter

Hard-copy subscriptions of the district newsletter have been eliminated. Only current unexpired subscriptions are mailed out.



Kristin Olsen,
Editor

Please locate one person in your society or congregation who has access to the online version of the *Minnesota Northern Light*, and who would be willing to print off one copy and then make copies to distribute to all society members. By eliminating hard-copy distribution of the quarterly newsletter, the district lessens the expenses for postage and copying so that more money can be put towards mites.

You may sign up to receive notices each quarter when the *Minnesota Northern Light* is ready for downloading by going to our website, www.lwmlmn.org. In the right-hand column on the first page click on "Minnesota Northern Light, SUBSCRIBE, CLICK HERE." This option is also available at the "Publications" tab.

After you have subscribed to the newsletter, you will receive an email that **you must respond to in order to complete the subscription process**. It will read "To verify your subscription to the Minnesota Northern Light eNewsletter list, please click on the 'visit this URL now ...' If you would rather unsubscribe,

do nothing and ignore this request! If you received this email by mistake or would rather unsubscribe, do nothing and ignore this request!" Note: If you do not respond to the confirmation email, you will be taken off the subscription list.

The *Minnesota Northern Light* is published each quarter after the district board meetings in January, April, July and October. You may find the newsletter at the district website www.lwmlmn.org.

You will also find the *Prayer and Praise Mite Calendar*, current and past LWML MN No. District *The Lutheran Witness* supplement pages (in color!), and past issues of the newsletter posted on the district website under the "Publications" tab.

Mite contributions

Remember that those \$5 bills with the purple marking fit nicely inside your Mite Box. Consider increasing your mite donation by at least \$5 a month to help meet our mite goal.



Marilyn Hittel
Financial Secretary

MN North District" and mail to: Financial Secretary Marilyn Hittel, 6850 Golden Spike Road, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-9715.

-11-

An invitation from President Kay



I know that prayer is an intrinsic part of my life and yours. How I would love to be able to sit with each of you, my sisters and brothers, over a cup of coffee or tea and pray together to our Father for our mites, our missionaries, and our grant recipients.

We can do this! I ask you to accept my invitation to join me every Saturday morning for "A Cup with Kay" ... praying for 9 minutes at 9 a.m. ("9@9").

Let this symbol remind you of my invitation; you'll find it in the LWQ and throughout the LWML website, www.lwml.org. As the steam rises from our cups, so will our prayers!

LWML President Kay Kreklau

LWML Sunday

The author of the 2012 LWML Sunday material is none other than The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod President Matthew C. Harrison. Designed under the theme, "Salted for Service," the service focuses on the Scripture from Mark 9:50 (ESV): *Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.*

Contact the LWML office 1-800-252-5965 or visit our website, www.lwml.org, to order materials.



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2012-2014 Board of Directors

Back row: Linda Jeske, Rev. Don Sauty, Rev. Ron Hobbie, James Wagner, Rev. Anthony Cloose, Lynnette Roshell.
Middle row: Janet Hasbargen, Mary Kuhnau, Kathleen Brehmer, Lynn Lahd, Deb Anderson, Kristin Olsen.
Front row: Judy Uran, Doris Weispfennig, JoNette Brogaard, Jenny Biorn, Marilyn Hiltel, Tessa Giru.