

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

## President's Message

Greetings to all my LWML Sisters,  
As the Omaha LWML Convention winds down, so many great memories and thoughts come to mind. An assembly of nearly 3,800 LWML ladies praised God, worshipped, heard his Holy Word and enjoyed the fellowship of like-minded people. The singing, the worship, the Mites in Action speakers, Rev. Kris Whitby's keynote speech, were all inspiring and joyful! Again, the number of wheelchairs, walkers, canes and oxygen apparatus told the story of the many faithful women who attended even with their disabilities. One lady was attending her 17th convention....34 years!

### We elected new officers including:

- Shari Miller, Montana District, VP of Christian Life
- Linda Guterres, Atlantic District, VP of Communication
- Anne Hartman, North Wisconsin District, VP of Gospel Outreach
- Dianna Just, Oklahoma District, Recording Secretary
- Rev. Micheal Schmidt, Kansas District, Junior Pastoral Counselor

### Nominating Committee members:

- Nicole Dowdell, Ohio District
- Karen Drury, Missouri District
- Katy Gifford, Minnesota North District—YAY!
- Patty Peters, South Dakota District
- Raquel Rojas, Atlantic District

Please keep these new officers as well as the previous officers in your prayers that they will be successful and willing servants of the LWML.



Our District was well represented with 90 plus members attending.

The Nominating Committee for the Minnesota North District will be chosen at the July Board meeting. These ladies will be meeting and will be contacting prospective candidates for office.

### Positions that need to be filled are:

- District President (2 year position)
- Executive Vice President (4 year position)
- Recording Secretary (4 year position)
- Financial Secretary (4 year position)
- Regional VP for Lakeland II (4 year position)
- Regional VP for Park I (2 year position)
- Regional VP for Arrowhead II (4 year position)
- Regional VP for Park II (4 year position)
- VP of Communications (4 year position)
- Lakeland Pastoral Counselor (6 year position)

If you are contacted, please give it prayerful consideration. We need good leaders in our district and everyone of you can be good leaders!

Fall Rally planning will be happening in July and August with the Fall Rallies happening after the District Board Meeting on October 14, 2025. Some will have Regional Rallies and others will have Zone Rallies. Pray for good planning and good speakers and/or activities. Plan to take part in these meetings and give your input for what you'd like to see at your fall rally!

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about the LWML Minnesota North District.



Serving Him with You,  
Kathy Brandt  
LWML MN North District President

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**2025 Prayer Service**  
Now Available

Find it at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org)

Click on News and Events Menu Choose Prayer Service

### UPCOMING DATES:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Aug 8-10     | Minnesota North District Retreat, Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN |
| September 15 | Minnesota Northern Light Newsletter articles due                    |
| October 16   | Minnesota North District Board of Directors, Baxter, MN             |
| Oct - Nov    | Fall Rallies and Workshops  |
| November 15  | Group Reports due to Zone Officers                                  |
| Dec 1        | Zone Reports due to District Officers                               |

### 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. To sign up visit: [www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions](http://www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions).

## 2025 LWML Retreat



### 2025 Fall Retreat - August 8-10 Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN

This year's speaker is Rev. Jacob "Jake" Gillard from Faith Community in Zimmermann, MN.

Rev. Jake Gillard will lead the Bible Study, "Growing in Gods Grace."

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)*

The retreat theme is "**Understanding G.R.A.C.E**"

Have you ever wondered what makes Christianity unique when compared to other religions of the world? It comes right down to an unusual teaching called GRACE. The Rev. Jake Gillard is excited to share a message which will clarify GRACE & GOSPEL in a poignant way by unpacking a familiar text: 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 or, as Rev. Jake likes to call it "Jesus the Jokerster". This will be great for anyone who is open to seeking God's Truth in a fun and engaging way. Don't Miss It!

### 2025 LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT RETREAT SCHEDULE

#### Friday

4:00-6:00 pm Registration  
7:00 pm Sing Along/Campfire  
8:00 pm Snacks/Games/Mission Project - Fireside Room

#### Saturday

8:00-9:00 am Registration  
8:00 am Breakfast  
9:00 am LWML League Pledge and song - Rec Hall  
9:30 am Bible study  
10:15 am Rev. Jacob Gillard – Speaker  
11:30 am Group photo  
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00 pm Hymn sing  
1:15 pm Rev. Jacob Gillard - Speaker  
2:30 pm Announcement/Guests  
2:45-5:00 pm Free time – Pontoon Ride/Christ Serve Ranch/  
Trail ride/Mission Project  
5:00 pm Supper  
6:30 pm Entertainment (Talent Show)

#### Sunday

8:00am Breakfast  
9:15am Closing service/good-byes

Thank you to LCEF for donating to the LWML Women Retreat.

**Human Care**

Jean Tester, Chairman  
humancare@lwmlmnn.org

**Recognize Your Gifts**

As I reflect on the LWML National Convention, I am so thankful that I was able to go. Ever since my mom was blessed to attend many conventions, I dreamt of going. As I was thinking what a wonderful gift it is, I remembered this devotion. I am sharing it here because it is all about using our gifts in Human Care as God puts them before us.

**Designed as a Gift**

From the Mustard Seed: Everyday Celebrations by Elaine Bickel and Jan Struck

**In the Word**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, (1 Peter 4:10a NIV)

**Of the Word**

When God created you, He designed you to be a gift to the people in your life! God gave you specific talents and skills to be that gift. He gave you ears to be a listener and eyes to see the needs of others. Our Father gave you a heart filled with His hope so those around you could see His presence in your life.

Because we are aware of our own sins and shortcomings, it is not always easy to believe we are a "gift." We may be hesitant to open ourselves up to others fearing they will see the "real" us –imperfect, sinful, a failure. Ah, but that's when God can use us despite our imperfections. Because we have received His forgiveness, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can share His message of hope and salvation in both words and deeds.

Be a special gift to someone today by sharing the beautiful message of hope that the grace of God gives us through His Son, our Savior, Jesus. His gift to us is eternal life with Him. What a gift!

**Walking with my Lord**

Lord God, thank You for the gifts You have given me. Help me to use them to Your glory as I share Your love with others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.  
(James 1:17)**

**2026 Convention Update**

Plans are underway for the Minnesota North District Convention to be held June 22-24, at the Park Place Event Center in Waite Park. Arrowhead Region II will be hosting the convention.

The co-chairs for the convention are Corles Rainer and Marilyn Hiltel. The three zones have been contacted for willing workers to help make this convention run smoothly.

Marilyn and Corles (Corky) will be contacting groups to get positions filled. If you or your group of women have a specific area in which you would like to help, please contact us. This is a great way to meet other sisters in Christ, and to perform acts of service in praise to the Lord!

Marilyn Hiltel (320) 309-8122 bmhiltel@jetup.net  
Corky Rainer (320) 293-2082 carainer@frontiernet.net



## Scholarships

Pam Stauty, Chairman  
scholarships@lwmlmnn.org

Applications for scholarships through the LWML Minnesota North District were received by the May 15 deadline from five students preparing for church work and one seminarian. Three of the Synod-affiliated universities are represented in the applications received. Awarding of the scholarships for the second half of the biennium was approved by the Board of Directors of the LWML Minnesota North District at its July meeting. Scholarships for students preparing for service within the church are supported by MITES offerings and the amount of scholarships available is decided by the LWML MN North District at each biennial convention.

Students are encouraged to apply for scholarships through the LWML MN North District. Eligibility for consideration for a scholarship is contingent upon enrollment in a LCMS affiliated university or seminary, full-time enrollment, residency in the Minnesota North District, membership in a LCMS church, and enrollment in a program leading to ordination or commissioning.

Church Work career opportunities include:

- Pastor
- Lutheran School Teacher
- Director of Christian Education
- Director of Christian Outreach
- Director of Family Life Ministry
- Director of Parish Music
- Director of Church Ministries
- Deaconess.

Full information regarding the scholarship application process and other relevant information can be found on the Scholarship web pages on the LWML Minnesota North District website, [www.lwmlmnn.org](http://www.lwmlmnn.org). To learn more about LCMS church work opportunities visit [www.lcms.org/set-apart-2-serve](http://www.lcms.org/set-apart-2-serve).

**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)**

The deadline for application will be May 15 of 2026. There are also scholarship opportunities available through the LCMS Minnesota North District. For information about those scholarships please contact the Minnesota North District at 218.829.1718 or 1.800.482.5022.

Lutheran Women in Mission groups are encouraged to download the "Are You Interested in Professional Church Work" flyer as found on the MN North District website. Please use the flyer to encourage young men and women within your parish to consider professional church work with-in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Begin the process of planting the seed of service within the LCMS early with students. One never knows how an encouraging word at a young age may affect someone's future!



Inside Mission Central  
(Photo courtesy of Jean Nygaard)

**Mission Grants**

Mary Scott, Chairman  
missiongrants@lwmlmnn.org

**Mission Grants Report**

A total amount of \$17,300 in Mites for LWML MN North grants was available this past quarter. The Board of Directors approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination - \$2,000; Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students - \$8,000; C.R.O.S.S. Appeal - \$1,600; St. Paul's Lutheran School Perham - \$1,600; Immanuel Lutheran School Walker - \$1,600; Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River - \$2,500. The chart below details the current balance remaining of \$59,900 for the 2024-2026 biennium.

|               | <b>MISSION GRANTS FOR THE<br/>2024-2026 BIENNIUM</b><br>(Balance as of July 8, 2025) | <b>GRANT<br/>GOAL</b> | <b>PREVIOUSLY<br/>PAID</b> | <b>PAID THIS<br/>QUARTER</b> | <b>BALANCE<br/>REMAINING</b> |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Grant 1       | Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination  | \$8,000               | \$4,000                    | \$2,000                      | \$2,000                      |
| Grant 2       | Scholarships for Full-Time Church Worker Students                                    | \$32,000              | \$16,000                   | \$8,000                      | \$8,000                      |
| Grant 3       | C.R.O.S.S. Appeal  | \$20,000              | \$9,425                    | \$1,600                      | \$8,975                      |
| Grant 4       | DOXOLOGY – Pastoral Care and Well-being  | \$15,000              | \$4,425                    |                              | \$10,575                     |
| Grant 5       | Physical Wellness for At-Risk Children - Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch                   | \$15,000              | \$7,425                    |                              | \$7,575                      |
| Grant 6       | St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham, MN   | \$17,127              | \$8,625                    | \$1,600                      | \$6,902                      |
| Grant 7       | Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, MN   | \$10,000              | \$5,250                    | \$1,600                      | \$3,675                      |
| Grant 8       | Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elk River, MN   | \$9,840               | \$2,800                    | \$2,500                      | \$2,090                      |
| Grant 9       | Swaddling Clothes, Redeemer, Aurora, MN  | \$15,000              | \$6,925                    |                              | \$8,075                      |
| Grant 10      | Lutheran Heritage Foundation-Hmong Lutheran Books                                    | \$5,033               | \$3,000                    |                              | \$2,033                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  | <b>\$147,000</b>      | <b>\$69,800</b>            | <b>\$17,300</b>              | <b>\$59,900</b>              |

## Leader Development

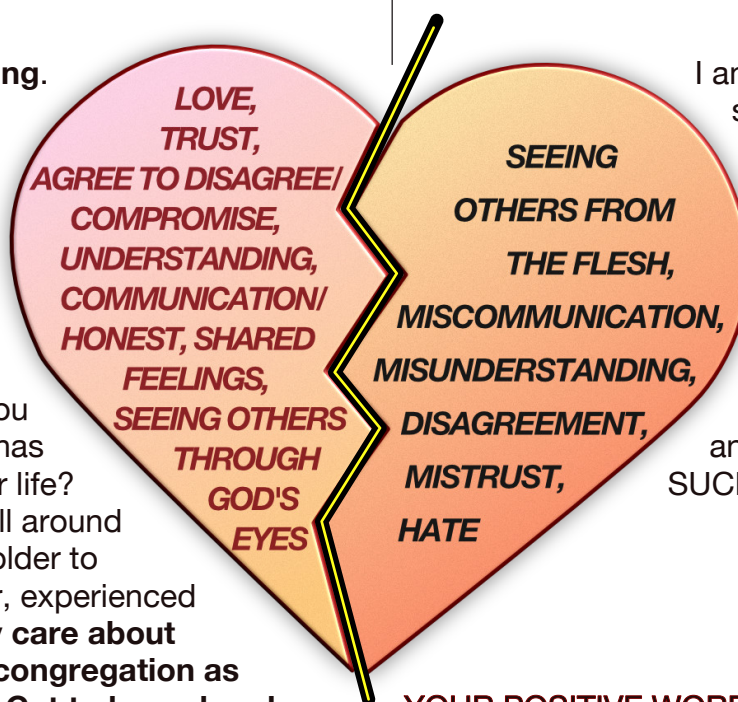
VACANT  
leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org

### Conflict?

The following information is taken from an outline provided by the Assembly of Leaders event in St. Louis, MO (2008) with the heading "A Time To Lead". The **bold print copy** is taken directly from the outline, with my interpretation and thoughts in regular print.

An important part of leadership is **mentoring**. What would your definition of the word mentoring be? After paging through several dictionaries I would summarize "to be a wise and loyal counselor". Are you a mentor? Can you name someone who has been a mentor in your life? Mentoring happens all around us in many settings: older to younger, peer to peer, experienced to novice. **Personally care about each woman in the congregation as Jesus cares for her. Get to know her, be interested in her, share with her, be enthusiastic about LWML, and encourage her to become involved in some aspect of LWML WITH YOU.**

How do you respond to conflict? **The heart diagram gives ways of responding to conflict. To the left of the line is what we strive for-to see others through God's eyes. To the right of the line is seeing others from our human condition. How we see others sets the tone for handling conflict in our leadership.**



**Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3:12-14)**

I am reminded of the second phrase of the LWML Pledge. "We dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we have." I ask myself, do I really dedicate all that I have? Let each of us ponder this so we can say to one another: "YOU ADD SUCH JOY TO LWML".

### YOUR POSITIVE WORDS AND ATTITUDES ABOUT LWML ENERGIZES OTHERS.

Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving a common goal.

Here it seems right to close with the LWML Mission Statement: "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 people of the world."

Article by Deb Anderson.

**Young Women**

Ruby Prochnow, Chairman  
[youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:youngwomen@lwmlmnn.org)

**Memorials & Honorariums****HOPE - Hope is the word of the day!**

- H** is for happy: Happy to be a Child of God.
- O** is for overwhelmed: Positively speaking, I am overwhelmed by all the blessings which God keeps showering on me and my family.
- P** is for prayer: Prayer of thanksgiving, Prayer of supplication, and Prayer of acknowledgement; acknowledging the three 'Omnis' we learned in confirmation. (omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent)
- E** is for eternal life: my final destination.

We live in a broken world, but we are not broken because of God's love, the love so deep.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have Eternal Life (John 3:16).*

Because of the Hope we have in Jesus, God asks us to encourage each other as He encourages us.

*Be strong and courageous. Do not frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1: 9b).*

In this broken world we hear daily noise which sometimes drowns our calm spirit. The spirit which showers us with "hope." Let us be encouraged by God's word.

*We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed (2 Corinthians 4: 8- 9).*

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  
 April 2025 to June 2025**

In Memory of...

Gary Blum from Mora, Women of Zion  
 Tom Heuer from Mora, Women of Zion  
 Joan Thalmann from Ottertail, St. John's  
 Tom Heuer from Mora, Gene & Rosalie Carda  
 Cassandra McCuskey from Delores Larson  
 Tom Heuer from Judy Sjoberg  
 Gladys Wagner from Kathy Brandt  
 Betty Bigger from Kathy Brandt  
 Doris Rixe from Wheaton, St John and family  
 Betty Bigger from Jean Tester  
 Gladys Wagner from Jean Tester  
 Gladys Wagner from Jack and Deb Anderson  
 Berni Konsor from Colleen Mackereth  
 Berni Konsor from Kimball,  
 St. John's Ruth Guild  
 Darlene Hilgren from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel  
 Al Kosola from Mora, Zion  
 Gladys Wagner from Fisher, Trinity  
 Charollette Wagner from Fisher, Trinity



### Christian Life

Valerie Johnson, Chairman  
christianlife@lwmlmnn.org

### Gift of Grace

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).*

Grace truly is the gift God has given us through faith in Jesus Christ. Not by us doing anything but believing that Jesus died for all our sins. As LWML Women in Mission we have heard a lot about God's grace. The 2025 National Convention theme was "Growing in God's Grace" 2 Peter 3:18 and many regions in Mn North District followed that theme.

LWML Retreat will be August 8-10, 2025, and will also use "Growing in God's Grace". Have you wondered what makes Christianity unique when compared to the other religions of the world? It comes right down to an unusual teaching called GRACE. The Rev. Jake Gillard is excited to share a message which will clarify GRACE & GOSPEL in poignant way by unpacking a familiar text: 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan' in Luke 10 or, as Pastor Jake likes to call it, "Jesus the Joker". This will be great for anyone who is open to seeking God's Truth In a fun and engaging way. Do not Miss It!

Registration is online through the Lutheran Island Camp website for your convenience, and the schedule and other information is available on the Minnesota North District website. With the busy summer coming upon us do not forget to register before July 25. If you are unable to register online you can contact Diane at Lutheran Island Camp at 218-583-2905 and she will assist you.

Registration: [www.islandcamp.org/schedule](http://www.islandcamp.org/schedule)

God's blessings this summer and see you at Lutheran Island Camp August 8-10.



Members from Minnesota North District who attended the LWML Convention  
(Photo courtesy of Jean Nygaard)

As Lutheran Women in Mission, you can find us wherever you are! Stay connected to Lutheran Women in Mission with:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| On the web:                       | <a href="http://www.lwml.org">www.lwml.org</a>  |
| On Facebook:                      | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/theLWML">@theLWML</a><br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/theLWML">www.facebook.com/theLWML</a>                        |
| On X:                             | <a href="https://x.com/TheLWML">x.com/TheLWML</a>   |
| On Instagram:                     | <a href="https://www.instagram.com/lwmlnational">@lwmlnational</a><br><a href="https://www.instagram.com/lwmlnational">www.instagram.com/lwmlnational</a> |
| On YouTube:                       | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/theLWML">@theLWML</a><br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/theLWML">www.youtube.com/user/theLWML</a>            |
| In the App Store and Google Play: |   |
| LWML App                          | <a href="http://www.lwml.org/app">www.lwml.org/app</a>  |

Available on Apple Podcasts, Google play, or the LWML App

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Podcast: | LWML On the Go<br><a href="http://www.lwml.org/podcast">www.lwml.org/podcast</a> |
|----------|--|

**Structure**

Karen Gorentz, Chairman  
structure@lwmlmnn.org

**Standing Rules**

Standing rules are rules that govern the administration of an organization. Let's consider what this means for us as Women in Mission.

The MN North District Bylaws has a section at the end of the document entitled Standing Rules. Bylaws of the organization is a document that provides guidance to electing officers, defining membership, and tells the members how the organization operates. What are the benefits of adding standing rules to the bylaws you may ask? The main answer is flexibility of modifying them without previous notice. Standing rules are essentially main motions that are added with notation of date and added at the end of the bylaws. These rules can be rescinded at any time, suspended for meetings, and allow flexibility when changing rules without prior notice like bylaw changes do.

If you were to search google for "standing rules" you would find many examples. You can add a standing rule for anything as long as it is passed at a meeting. Your group may add standing rules for any scenario including:

- More specific meeting dates (August 3rd is Bingo at Douglas County Living, February is the Prayer Service, 2nd Thursday of December is the Christmas Party).
- Those without name tags at each meeting will be fined \$5 which will be given to Mites. The president shall decide who will serve dessert each month.
- The group shall use purple toilet paper provided by Plucky in October to celebrate LWML Sunday.

Each rule can be modified at any meeting with a majority vote. New rules can be added at any meeting. Rules can be deleted and even suspended for any given time with a majority vote at any meeting!

Enjoy adding to your standing rules and modifying them as your organization evolves, takes on new traditions, and serves with gladness!



Inside Mission Central  
(Photo courtesy of Jean Nygaard)

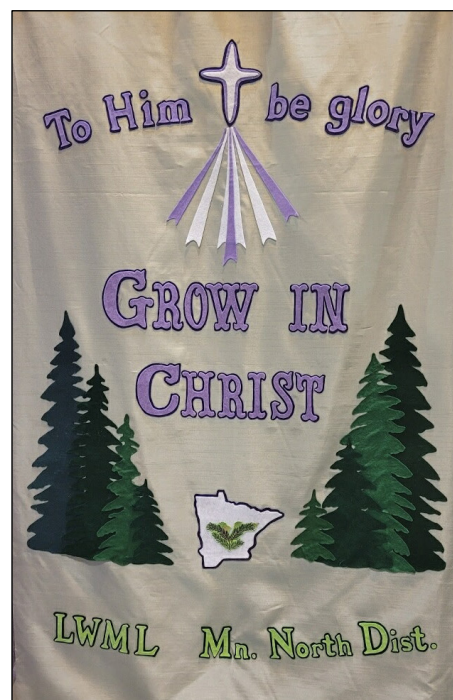


## LWML Convention Pictures

Thursday, June 26–Sunday, June 29, 2025



Catching the bus for the LWML Convention at Beautiful Savior in Fargo



Most of the members of the delegation from MN North District who attended the convention.



Photos courtesy of  
Jean Nygaard

**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  
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[president@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:president@lwmlmnn.org)  
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Lakeland Region

Rev. Reed Stockman  
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319-480-8927

Park Region

Rev. Dan Larsen  
[parkpc@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:parkpc@lwmlmnn.org)  
218-5583-2707 (O)

**REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

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

Arrowhead II Regional VP

Marilyn Hittel, 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  
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Young Women

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320-808-3371

**APPOINTED PERSONNEL**

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

**OTHER EMAILS**

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

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

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

Committee Members

Peggy Pasche  
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**

VACANT

[leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org](mailto:leaderdevelopment@lwmlmnn.org)

Committee Members

Rev. Daniel Larsen

**Mission Grants Committee**

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