

Lutheran Women in Mission

In Fervent Gratitude

As I write this article, I am finishing my 39th year of continuous service to the LWML as a pastoral counselor in one form or another, having been elected zone counselor four months after arriving at my first call in Kramer, Neb. Since then, I have been honored to serve on the zone and district levels more than a few times, as well as the national level. I share that with you to let you know that the next statement I am going to make comes after years of experience on all of these levels.

It has been a most incredible ride working with literally hundreds and hundreds of amazing Christian women who make up the premier women's organization of the Christian church on earth. I don't say that lightly or flip-pantly. The LWML is the premier Christian women's organization that puts great emphasis on teaching the Christian faith and producing material to aid women of all ages and all faiths in their growth and walk as children of God. We in the Texas District are blessed to have one of those authors and speakers in our midst in the person and ministry of Donna Snow.

As an added bonus, for the past 39 years, Deb and I have never had to decide where we were going on vacation, for it was always to a district or national or international convention. Ask our children where they went for vacation in whatever year it may be, and once they run through where the LWML convention was that year, they will know exactly where we went. True, most of them have been "working vacations," but when serving the Lord through the LWML it is not work, but rather the opportunity to "**Serve the Lord with gladness**" (Ps. 100:2). This exposure to and love for the LWML has led all three of our children to be immersed in the work of the LWML on the zone and district levels. If I may share a word of encouragement, involve your children, your grandchildren and your family in the joy of serving the Lord through the LWML.

And to my brother pastors, in my mind there is no group in the church more dedicated to being immersed in the study of God's Word together on a regular basis, to being in prayer, to doing the work of missionaries themselves, "**pledg[ing] Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. . . consecrate[ing] to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him,**" and to supporting the workers in the mission field, both locally and around the world.

I can also tell you, dear pastors, from almost 40 years of experience in a couple of districts and on the many levels mentioned, that the members of the LWML are ready to willingly and lovingly serve their pastors and their congregations in whatever ways they can.

Yes, "In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption," I thank the ladies of the LWML for letting us take this incredible ride with y'all. Every step along the path, even the very difficult ones, have been pure joy as together we have served the Lord of the church.

So, are you ready for a test? If the Lord is willing to grant us sufficient numbers of days, where will all of the members of my family be June 26–29, 2025? The answer: Omaha, Neb., for "Growing in God's Grace." We with those gathered for the LWML 41st Biennial Convention will heed Saint Paul's admonition to "**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)

Rev. John Heckmann

LWML Sunday 2024

Ready to Serve (Luke 1:38)

LWML Sunday is just around the corner ... Oct. 6, but can be celebrated anytime. Look for materials written by Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, president of the LCMS North Wisconsin District, at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.

May the Lord bless your celebration of Lutheran Women in Mission!

READY TO
serve

••••• LUKE 1:38 •••••

 Lutheran Women
in Mission SUNDAY

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Scholarship Awardees

Congratulations to these four young women, who have been selected by the LWML Texas District Scholarship Committee to each receive a \$2,250 scholarship for the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you to all the amazing women who applied for the scholarship. Please lift these young women up in prayer as they pursue the plans God has in store for them.



Caroline Browning
St. Paul, Fort Worth
Freshman, Concordia
University Nebraska



Elizabeth Crawford
Faith, Plano
Freshman, Concordia
University Nebraska



Olivia Hitz
St. Paul, Fort Worth
Senior, Concordia
University Chicago



Abigail Velten
Grace, Denison
Senior, Concordia
University Nebraska

LWML Texas District Endowments

The 2022-2024 biennium has drawn to a close, but our thanksgiving for the endowments and their blessings to our LWML Texas District have not! During this past biennium, we have rejoiced over each milestone of the endowments.

During 2022-2024 biennium:

The Mission Inreach Endowment celebrated 25 years of supporting spiritual enrichment, member development and leadership training. Nearly \$23,000 has been received in distributions from this endowment. In recent years, the earnings from this account are primarily used to train our zone presidents. This is a blessing because those dollars don't have to come from our mission goal.

The Scholarship Endowment awarded 12 scholarships, bringing the grand total of scholarships given since 1992 to 115. This endowment has funded \$116,825 to this endeavor. These numbers do not include the four new scholarships that have been awarded for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Mission Goal Endowment, established in December 2020, gifted \$602 toward the Mission Goal this biennium. These funds were added to the Mission Grant Goal total. In the coming biennium, a total of \$1,323 will be added to the Mission Grant Goal. What a blessing to be able to add funds to our Mission Grant Goal.

Planned giving commitments have been received through estate plans or beneficiary designations. This coming biennium, the Endowment Committee asks you, our dear sisters, how can we help you personally, your group or zone in learning more about the important work of the endowments? Are you interested in supporting the endowments through a planned gift but don't know where to start?

Legacy Deo ambassador Debbie Curry is available for individual or group presentations. Individual planning sessions are free and confidential. Debbie will be able to provide you with ideas of how to gift through your will, living trust or as a beneficiary designation. Endowment resources and committee contact information can be found on the LWML Texas District Endowment webpage: lwmltxdist.org/endowments.



Jean Hoffmeyer is a special lady who exemplifies the love of Christ as a servant in all that she does for the LWML. For many years, she served as president of her group and mentored officers to follow in her footsteps. While her talents are many, her special talent is playing the organ for worship services and LWML events. She was honored to serve the LWML Texas District as the convention organist at the 2018 LWML Texas District Convention in Waco.

Jean is very active in her group and zone working on quilt ministry for Lutheran World Relief, and is always eager to invite someone new to join as well as be an inspiration to long-time members. While searching for a way to be more involved with the ladies in her church, a friend invited Jean to join LWML after her retirement and mentored her along the way. Jean enjoys the camaraderie with ladies of various ages as they grow in faith together and continue to find ways to serve the Lord.

Not just a blessing to the Texas District, Jean was previously a member of the Oklahoma District, in which she served as society president and zone music leader, and volunteered at the 2003 LWML Convention in Oklahoma City.

