

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - IOWA EAST DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**May 3, 2025 - Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha, IA**

OPENING WORSHIP: Pastor Vesey

CALL TO ORDER: President Martha Hartwig called the meeting to order in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the previous meeting had been posted on the LWML-IED website for review. Hearing no additions or corrections the minutes stand approved as posted. Diane Torrey and Barbara Forsyth were appointed to review the minutes. A note was read from Kim Davis, thanking the BOD for the 2025 convention scholarship she received.

TREASURER: Report stands as submitted and will be filed for review. Jeanette Kreutner moved to make the current biennium 27 months long to include the 3 extra months due to the changes made to our fiscal biennium at the 2024 district convention. Motion seconded and approved. Jeanette then amended her motion that the 2024-2026 biennium run from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026. Motion seconded and approved. Treasurer Marna Mohr reported that approximately \$5300 will be in the bank today after a deposit.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Jennifer Determan reported that the Marshalltown Zone sent a check for \$310 to apply to the student scholarships this fall.

VP OF CHRISTIAN LIFE: Report stands as submitted. Marna Mohr moved to gift a t-shirt from the district items to the 2 YWR's going to the Omaha convention - seconded and approved.

VP OF COMMUNICATION: Report stands as submitted. Becky Gluesing noted the Historian/Archivist position is still vacant. Big events, BOD and EC minutes, treasurer reports and zone meeting minutes need to be submitted to the historian. Please send items to Diane Paulson as of now. Summer newsletter articles should be to Annette Raebel by May 10. Webmaster Jeanette Kreutner introduced Kim Davis as the assistant webmaster. Re-formatting is being done on the website and many pages are updated. Send any items to be posted to the Webmaster and ALIVE editor emails. Betty Borchardt, Registrar, has contacted all district groups requesting current numbers of members and Quarterly subscriptions. Statements for Quarterly payments will be mailed this summer. Make sure to update zone and group officers with the registrar - form is on the website.

VP OF GOSPEL OUTREACH: Report stands as submitted. Jeanette Kreutner reminded everyone that online meetings for zones are possible through IED Google Meets.

VP OF HUMAN CARE: Kay Berry reported that today the Gifts from the Heart are for Orphan Grain Train, and at the August meeting it will be Sleep in Heavenly Peace, an organization in Clinton County that

makes beds for kids who don't have one. More information on needed items will be posted.

VP OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES: Margaret Kistler reported that the monthly prayer calendars are being emailed out - next month the Eldora Zone is featured. A couple of bylaw reviews have been done. Margaret noted some groups have changed their names over the years, and to clarify the process if your group is changing their name, first bring the change to the zone for approval, then it will be presented to the district, according to LWML guidelines. Member Development chair Karen Boehme stated that Anna Davis and Mary Dubke are the IED YWR's to Omaha in June, and thanked everyone for donating gifts for them.

PASTORAL COUNSELORS: Pastor Ellingworth reported the Westgate Zone hosted a grief workshop, and he attended the funeral for our LWML sister Carol Lau.

ZONE PRESIDENT'S REPORTS: Reports stand as submitted.

Connie McQuiston, Pres. of Benton Zone reported that St. Stephen Ladies Aid in Atkins has changed their name to St. Stephen Women in Mission. This was approved at their zone rally. Connie McQuiston moved to approve the change, seconded and approved.

Becky Ernst, Pres. of Mt. Pleasant Zone reported that the zone is down from 7 to 4 active groups and have been having just one gathering per year. It was reminded that the District Standing Rules state that zones can decide how best to handle your zone business - there is no requirement to have a certain number of meetings or gatherings.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Report stands as submitted. Each zone needs to submit a name to Martha to be on the nominating committee for the 2026 district convention.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Linda Allan presented the banner for the Omaha convention - it is still in progress. It is being made so it can be used for future conventions with some minor changes. She continues to update the Speakers Bureau.

Lutheran World Relief: Dori Stanek would like to be replaced. Discussion was on whether a replacement was needed since LWR is no longer an RSO of the LCMS and many groups are donating to Orphan Grain Train, LCMS Disaster Response and the seminaries.

Short term Mission Coordinator Gretchen Rasmussen has a report which stands as submitted. Anyone donating sunglasses and cases can bring these to the August meeting.

The Christian Life Committee presented a skit written by Liz Roberts based on the LWML Pledge.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Convention 2025: Misty Lutz, Bus Coordinator, reported there are 27 confirmed riders. She will ask the bus company if they have a smaller bus than the 56 passenger bus reserved. If not, fees for the riders will go up. Pick up sites are not confirmed yet. Voting for grants will be online in May - all delegates

should have received an email on May 1 to confirm their email address. Delegate orientation will be Thursday from 2:30-3:30 and our caucus will be sometime between 3:45 and 6:20 also on Thursday - site and time not yet confirmed. The convention schedule is found online at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org). Martha is still looking for a retired pastor to attend as our district pastoral representative.

Pastor Ellingworth opened the afternoon session with Bible study based on the 2025 LWML Convention theme: Growing in God's Grace.

IED Retreat 2025: See submitted report.

IED Convention 2026 - Chairs Bonnie Thompson and Sheryl Dermody presented the theme and logo chosen by the convention committee - "Rooted in Christ" with the theme verse of Colossians 2:6-7. Becky Ernst moved to approve the theme, logo, and Scripture verses - seconded and approved. The suggested dates are June 12 - 13, 2025 with the pre-convention BOD meeting held on the 11th. Arrowhead suggested 5 choices for the site in the Iowa City/Coralville area - the committee narrowed it down to 2 and recommended The Graduate in Iowa City as the best site. Margaret Kistler moved to approve the convention dates of June 12-13, 2026 and the site of The Graduate in Iowa City. Seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS: Martha reminded the zone presidents to have a name for her by Aug. 1 for the nominating committee. Positions needed will be: President, Recording Secretary, VP of Christian Life, Financial Secretary, and VP of Gospel Outreach. Recommendations for the junior pastoral counselor will also be needed - please submit names to Martha and these will be forwarded to President Saunders for his recommendation. Please review zone and group bylaws and look for changes that may need to be considered at the 2026 district convention.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Pastor Vesey closed with prayer.

Sheryl Zinda  
Recording Secretary

Attendance for May 3, 2025

EC:

President Martha Hartwig - present

Becky Gluesing , VP of Communication - present

Sheryl Zinda, Recording Secretary - present

Rev. Jon Ellingworth, Sr. Pastoral Counselor - present

Rev. Mathew Vesey, Jr. Pastoral Counselor - present

Margaret Kistler, VP of Organizational Resources - present

Kay Berry, VP of Human Care - present

Marna Mohr, Treasurer - present

Liz Roberts, VP of Christian Life - present

Jeanette Kreutner , VP of Gospel Outreach, Webmaster - present

Jennifer Determan , Financial Secretary - present

ZONE PRESIDENTS:

Benton: Connie McQuiston - present

Cedar Rapids: Norma Swift, zone treasurer - present - filling in for Pres. Ginny Boyer

Clinton: Patti Christiansen - present

Davenport: Lois Kundel - absent

Dubuque: Diane Torrey - present

Eldora: Joy Reinert - present

Marshalltown - Peggy Wagner, zone VP - present - filling in for Pres. Tammi Christensen

Mt. Pleasant - Becky Ernst - present

St. Ansgar - Betty Borchardt - present

Waterloo - Nancy McHone - present

Westgate - Barbara Forsyth - present

Williamsburg - Jo Johnson - present

APPOINTED PERSONNEL:

Bonnie Thompson, Meeting Manager and 2026 Convention co-chair - present

Judy Westergren, Parliamentarian - present

Linda Allan - Speakers Bureau - present

Dori Stanek, LWR - absent

Karen Boehme, Member Development - present

Gretchen Rasmussen, Short Term Mission Coordinator - absent

Jan Brown, Christian Life - present

Tammy McKay, Christian Life - present

Karen Kuessel, Christian Life - present

Misty Lutz, Bus Coordinator - present

Annette Raebel, ALIVE editor - absent

Loretta Wuerdeman , ALIVE asst editor - absent

Sheryl Dermody, 2026 Convention co- chair - present

Tammy Van Haafte and Tammi Christensen - 2025 Retreat co-chairs - absent

Present: 32



## LWML Iowa East District Board of Directors Report

**MEETING DATE, May 3rd 2025**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**IED LWML PRESIDENT: - Martha Hartwig**

Activities since February meeting:

Wrote an article for Alive

Registered YWRs, Anna Davis and Mary Dubke, for convention and filled out forms as requested by Committee on Young Women

Spoke with Anna and Mary

Met with the Convention Planning Committee both online and in person

Visited 2 possible convention sites

Corresponded with Desirea at Arrowhead

Contacted all zone delegates to confirm registration

Reviewed list of IED people registered for convention

Attended zone events of Marshalltown and Cedar Rapids zones

Represented LWML at IDE Lutheran Laymen's League (LHM) convention

Prepared Call to Meet and Agenda for April 22 EC meeting and May 3 Board of Directors Meeting

Other correspondence and activities as needed

**V.P. ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES: - Margaret Kistler**

**V.P. CHRISTIAN LIFE: - Elizabeth Roberts** I've written a skit for the board meeting.

The committee will be doing it during the meeting on May 3rd.

I have reached out to individuals who had prayer requests and those who lost a member recently.

The store items are posted on the website. It seems Jan has sold many items. We talked about giving our YWR's a t-shirt from the store. I think that is a great idea!

**V.P. COMMUNICATION: - Becky Gluesing**

**Shout it out! Praise the Lord! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed.**

**I continue to send out emails with relevant information to the BOD and create Facebook posts as requested or if the need arises. Please be sure to contact me with information that should be shared.**

**Historian/Archivist-Vacant**

**ALIVE Newsletter Editor Annette Raebel**

**Webmaster- Jeanette Kreutner** Turning more and more over to Kim Davis and the website is looking better

**Registrar-Betty Borchardt**

**V.P. GOSPEL OUTREACH: - Jeanette Kreutner**

We have paid 49% of our grants and scholarships which is where we should be. We also have the privilege of having two of our scholarship students returning to Iowa East as pastors. Rev Zach Johnson will be serving St. Mark's in Garrison (Benton Zone) and Rev Noah Russell will be serving as the associate pastor at King of Kings Hiawatha (Cedar Rapids zone). Owen Dawson will be serving as a vicar at St. Paul's Lutheran in Austin, TX in the upcoming year.

Our investment in these students is coming back to benefit us directly.

**V.P. HUMAN CARE: - Kay Berry -**

**RECORDING SECRETARY: - Sheryl Zinda -** I have attended and taken minutes for all BOD and EC minutes and posted as appropriate.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY: - Jennifer Determan**

**DEPOSITS:** (Mites, Memorials, Periodicals, Convention Offerings, Misc.)

Since the February 8, 2025, board meeting I have been receiving the societies' mites, memorials, etc., and have made the following deposits:

**DEPOSITS:** (Mites, Memorials, Periodicals, Convention Offerings, Misc.)

March 12, 2025	\$ 50.00	(LWML Store sales)
March 17, 2025	\$ 4,719.86	
April 9, 2025	\$ 7,892.63	
May 3, 2025	\$ 5,634.43	
May 3, 2025	<u>\$ 2,218.37</u>	(additional deposit)

**TOTAL - \$20,515.29**

Thank you for all of your mites and offerings - To God be the Glory!

**TREASURER: - Marna Mohr**

LWML - Iowa East District financials as of March 31, 2025 are summarized below. The full financial report and the 2024-2026 Biennium Financial Report are available in the password-protected section of the LWML IED website.

The 2024-2026 mission grants approved came to a total of \$103,500. This includes \$30,000 for student scholarships in which \$15,000 has been sent towards that goal. We have fully funded 5 of our mission grants. They are \$3000 to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, \$7500 to Eastside Mission, \$7500 to Mission Central, \$2000 to College Hill Conservatory, \$7500 to MOST Ministries (Belize trip). We have partially funded Lutherans for Life \$4000 and King of Kings \$4500. So \$51,000 of our 2024-2026 mission grants have been paid. We are at about 48% of our goal. Please keep those mites coming in!!

Current financial report stand as follows:

Balance on hand as of 01/01/2025	\$ 1,953.04
Income received since 01/01/2025	\$ 15,483.89
Less expenses since 01/01/2025	<u>\$ 16,282.08</u>
Balance on hand as of 03/31/2025	\$ 1,154.85

The LWML IED Student Aid Endowment Fund balance at the LCMS Foundation stood at \$107,098.95 as of 03/31/2025 (most recent statement).

The LWML IED Joyful Response Steward Account balance at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund stood at \$2,157.92 as of 03/31/2025 (most recent statement).

**COUNSELOR (JR.): - Rev. Mathew Vesey**

**COUNSELOR (SR.): - Rev. Jon Ellingworth**

### **ZONE PRESIDENTS**

**BENTON:** - Connie McQuiston Attended 2 in person 2026 LWML IED Convention Committee meetings, attended 2 Zoom Convention Committee meetings. Visited 2 potential locations for 2026 LWML IED Convention. Prepared for and Presided over LWML IED Benton Zone Spring Rally held at Grace Lutheran in Blirstown. Theme was

**CEDAR RAPIDS:** Ginny Boyer

**CLINTON:** - Patti Christiansen

The Spring Clinton Zone Rally was held on April 26th at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lowden. Pastor Redhage led the opening devotion based on Matthew 25:40. The speaker was Duane Dierschow, Director of the Central Iowa Branch of the Orphan Grain Train in Clemons, Iowa. Mr. Dierschow shared the mission of the organization and how we can support them with donations and by volunteering. The fall rally will be held at Immanuel, Charlotte.

**DAVENPORT:** - Lois Kundel -

**DUBUQUE:** - Diane Torrey-

The Dubuque Zone rally was held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church on April 26, 2025. The theme was Our Trouble, His Treasure. Our speaker was Rev. Dr. Kristian Kincaid. Lunch of croissant chicken sandwich, chips, strawberry jello salad and cake was served. The service project was assembling health kits. 58 kits were assembled and will be sent to Lutheran World Relief

**ELDORA:** - Joy Reinert

**MARSHALLTOWN:** - Tammi Christensen The Marshalltown Zone Spring Rally was April 5th at Redeemer Lutheran, Marshalltown. There were 54 in attendance: 4 clergy, 4 children, and 46 ladies. The theme was Lift High the Cross. Pastor Ricard led Responsive Prayer II.

Pastor Post led the Bible Study about the women mentioned in Luke and Acts. The Rev. Matthew Montgomery, Advancement Officer CTSFW gave a presentation which explained why the LCMS has its own seminaries. Pastor Ricard installed Pastor Samuel Beltz as new Pastoral Counselor. The *Book Sale for Mites* raised \$72. The offering for the zone treasury was \$150. The love offering for scholarships for IED students was \$310. The Fall Rally will be hosted by Trinity, Knoxville on September 20, 2025. The speaker will be from Orphan Grain Train. We will assemble personal care kits for OGT at the rally.

**MT. PLEASANT:** - **Becky Ernst** .

**ST. ANSGAR:** - **Betty Borchardt** - The St. Ansgar Zone held its Spring Event on April 26th at St. Peter, Elma. Pastor Bruce Miller led opening devotions. The Theme was "Great is Thy Faithfulness" based on Galatians 5:22. Our Zone Counselor, Pastor Matthew Wollberg, led a bible study on three hymns that emphasis faithfulness. Ronda Anderson, Parish Nurse at Bethany, Cedar Rapids spoke about her calling as a parish nurse. Christian Life Committee shared "BREAKING NEWS" from Downtown Omaha. Attendance included 27 LWML members, 10 guests and 2 Pastors. Our offering totaled \$372.00. Gifts from the heart consisted of underwear and socks to send to the Orphan Grain Train. In addition, a trailer loaded with 534 quilts, 99 school kits, 70 health kits, 60 teacher kits, 19 boxes of clothing and 10 boxes of miscellaneous items from the zone societies will be delivered to Orphan Grain Train.

**WATERLOO:** - **Nancy McHone**. The ladies of the Waterloo Zone have been busy making fleece blankets as graduation gifts for all 14 of the Valley Lutheran graduates. Graduation is May 10th at Valley. The Fall Gathering will be hosted by Faith Lutheran in Waterloo. Theme, date and time are yet to be determined.

**WESTGATE:** - **Barbara Forsyth** - The Westgate Zone Spring Rally was hosted by the women from St. John's, Fairbank and Grace, Jesup on Saturday, March 29th. The theme they chose was "Let's Grow". Principal, Shari Ambrose, and Preschool teacher, Teresa Imbrognio, presented an informative powerpoint presentation about Community Lutheran School- Readlyn & Klinger. They shared their gratitude for the support the LWML IED has given the school over the past several years.

On April 26th the Westgate Zone Grief Committee hosted a Grief workshop at St. John, Waverly. Speaker for the event was Rev. Nathan Grewe from Lutheran Family Service. It is with sad hearts the Westgate Zone said goodbye to our sister in Christ and VPresident, Carol Lau, who passed away suddenly and was found in her home on Easter Sunday.

At her service, Pastor Koch shared her Portals of Prayer was close by when she was found and he chose the Bible verse for her funeral sermon from that date. She will be missed and we will always remember her passion and dedication for the LWML and her Lord. Many Westgate Zone LWML members attended her memorial service to celebrate with her family. Our Fall Rally date is Saturday, October 18 at Our Redeemer, Independence. Hostesses will be SONshine Circle, Oelwein and Our Redeemer LWML, Independence.

**WILLIAMSBURG- Jo Johnson**-The Williamsburg Spring Rally will be held Tuesday, April 29th at Hope Lutheran, Sigourney, Iowa. Registration starts at 8:30 and brunch at 9:00am. The theme is Rock using the Bible verse from Matthew 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Speaker will be Pastor Gary Sears who will talk about his missionary trip to Africa. We will be voting on changes to our Bylaws as presented by the committee.

### **APPOINTED PERSONNEL**

**MEETING MANAGER:** - Bonnie Thompson

IED BOD Meetings & Refreshment Rotation Cards will be distributed at the May meeting.

**ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN :** -

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** - Judy Westergren.

Bylaws and parliamentarian questions were discussed and answered by phone and/or email.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU COORDINATOR:** - Linda Allan -

**WORLD RELIEF COORDINATOR:** - Dori Stanek

**LWML CONVENTION BUS COORDINATOR:** Misty Lutz

**SHORT-TERM MISSION COORDINATOR: - Gretchen Rasmussen -**

The IED Mission Grant for our Belize Eyeglass Trip with MOST Ministries has been fully funded! Praise God and **thank you** to the women of the IED for the support! Please continue promoting this mission trip during meetings and events. There are many ways to contribute and support the team. Prayers are always welcome! Visit the IED website for details and a full-color flyer that may be printed or shared via email.

<https://lwml-ied.org/event-items/you-can-help-the-most-ministries-eyeglasses-mission-to-belize-from-home/>

**HEART TO HEART COORDINATOR: -**

**YOUNG WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES 2025-2027: -**

**Anna Davis**

**Mary Dubke**

**2025 RETREAT CO-CHAIRS: - Tammi Christensen and Tammy Van Haften**

We are working on getting retreat details to Annette Raebel for the Retreat Invitation Issue of the *Alive*. **Watch for it in June! Save the date now: July 18-19, 2025** Our Retreat Theme is Mission: Compassion. Our theme verse is: 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”*

Pastor Ellingworth and Pastor Vesey, our District Pastoral Counselors, along with Pastor Samuel Beltz, Marshalltown Zone Pastoral Counselor, will lead our worship services and Bible Studies. Our Mites in Action speakers will be: Deaconess Dr. Chrissie Gillet who is the Director of Word of Hope ministry with Lutherans for Life; Kolleen Hosford of the College Hill Music Conservatory and 2 teachers from Community Lutheran School, Readlyn. There will be an ingathering for Camp IoDisECa and we will collect new sunglasses for MOST Ministries along with homemade eyeglass/sunglasses cases, (see website for directions.) If your group would like to collect gently used eyeglasses, please send them directly to MOST Ministries: **www.mostministries.org** (They are needed for the upcoming short term mission trip to Belize, but the retreat committee isn't able to handle shipping a large number.) We will have two Servant Events: cutting plastic bags to create a plastic yarn to be woven into sleeping mats for the homeless;

and creating cards for Phil's Friends for those going through cancer treatment. (We are encouraging the donation of postage stamps so the cards we make can be sent.) Of course there will be songs around the campfire, (led by Tammy Van Haaften), and s'mores; a prayer walk, delicious meals prepared by the camp staff and time for fellowship. There will be childcare on Saturday for ages 3 up to 6th grade. If you plan to eat breakfast at camp on Saturday, be there by 7:30 am. If you eat breakfast at home, you will want to be at camp by 8:15 am to join us for our Morning Prayer service at 8:30 am. Call Tammi C. with any questions you might have. (641-203-7522).

**IED CONVENTION CO-CHAIRS: Bonnie Thompson and Sheryl Dermody**

2026 Convention Theme and Logo will be revealed at the May meeting. Dates and location will be shared as well location

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR: - Annette Raebel** - The first of May I will be sending out an email to request articles for the summer issue of *Alive*. The theme verse is as follows: *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand* (Isaiah 41:10). Please note that the deadline for all articles to be submitted is May 10, 2025.

**ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR: - Loretta Wuerdeman**

**G SUITE ADMINISTRATOR: - Hannah Raebel**

**COMMITTEES:**

**CONVENTION COMMITTEE:** Martha Hartwig, Ginny Boyer, Bonnie Thompson, Connie McQuiston, Sheryl Dermody, Lois Bassett, Loretta Vogt, and Carolyn Zimmerman

**NEW CHURCH WORKERS WELCOMING COMMITTEE:** -Tammi Christensen  
Our district received 4 new church workers from CTSFW 4/29/25. I will be sending welcome packets soon to: Rev. Ethan Hartkemeyer Trinity-Hampton; Rev. Hunter Kinnison at St. Paul, Eldora; Matthew Baker at Our Redeemer, Cedar Falls; and Zachary Johnson called to Zion, Shellsburg and St. Mark, Garrison. Please contact me if a church in your zone has new church workers.

**MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** - Karen Boehme, Misty Lutz, Hilary Weiss-

There are two young women representing IED at the convention 2025– Anna Davis and Mary Dubke.

At the May 3 meeting we will be accepting any appreciation blessings for our 2 YWR'S from those ladies who are so inclined.

**STRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** -

**CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE:** -Keeping a tab on the store items. Looking for new devotions, skits, Bible studies to submit to LWML.

**HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE:**

**MISSION GRANTS COMMITTEE:** - Jeanette Kreutner

**STUDENT AID COMMITTEE:** -

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** -

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**