



*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and
do not lean on your own understanding.*

*In all your ways acknowledge him, and
he will make straight your paths*

(Proverbs 3:5-6).



UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

- **June 11, 2026** -- BOD Meeting, 7pm, at The Graduate
- **June 12-13, 2026** -- LWML IED Convention at The Graduate in Iowa City, IA
- **July 17-18, 2026** -- LWML IED Annual Retreat at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca in Solon, IA
- **Please note:** The place and time of the next EC (Executive Committee) and BOD (Board of Directors) meetings will be determined by the newly elected IED President.
- **August 15, 2026**-- Article Submission Deadline for *Alive's* **FALL** issue. Submit articles to Editor at editor@lwml-ied.org



Orphan Grain Train +

Central Iowa Branch

Website: www.ogt.org/branches/central-iowa

Mailing Address: PO Box 120, Clemons, IA 50051

Warehouse Location: 302 Bevin Street, Clemons, IA

Hours of Operation: Tuesdays from 8:00-Noon

Donations are always accepted. Please feel free to join them to bring a donation, see the facilities, help in some way, or have coffee (and a treat from 10-10:30am) every Tuesday morning.



LWML IED President ~ Martha Hartwig

I once heard an illustration of trust. A tightrope walker accepted a challenge to walk a rope between two tall buildings. After watching him complete the walk, he asked onlookers if they trusted he could do it again. Everyone raised their hand. He then asked for a volunteer to make the return trip riding on his shoulders. Not one hand went up. Trust is a tricky thing. When we trust, there are visible signs. When a little one trusts, they hold out their arms. That's the kind of trust God talks about in the Bible. I found 70 Bible passages containing "Trust in the Lord". Wow! Trusting in God is important! *The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him* (Psalm 28:7). The Bible not only uses the exact words, "Trust in the Lord", it also shows examples illustrating trust. The book of Psalms has many examples. *Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary* (Psalm 28:2). Trust is a powerful thing. Trust enables us to give our concerns, confessions, pleas, and thanks to our loving, powerful, Triune God. Trust in the Lord! As I complete my term as LWML IED President, I am thankful for so many things. You were gracious, kind, and understanding when I needed compassion. You were quick to volunteer when I was overwhelmed. You stood beside me in prayer, Bible study, and worship. You supported me during my long struggle with my shoulder. You were right there with smiles and hugs. Thank you, LWML sisters and brothers.

LWML IED Convention 2026 Ballot of Officers

The IED Board of Directors approved the following Officer Ballot for the 2026 Convention:

President - Angie Banko -and- Cheryl Killham
Vice President Gospel Outreach - Connie McQuiston
Vice President Christian Life - Sheryl Dermody
Recording Secretary - Bonnie Thompson
Financial Secretary - Jo Johnson

The LWML Iowa East District By-Laws state in Article IX NOMINATIONS, Section 4: Nominations for elected officers may be made from the floor of the convention provided written consent of the nominee has been secured and she meets the stipulated qualifications for office.



Sr Counselor ~ Rev. Matthew Vesey

The text for this issue from Proverbs 3:5-6 sounds like a transaction. If you trust in the Lord with all your heart and acknowledge Him in all your ways God will make sure everything that you think, say, do, or attempt will turn out all right. All of us have lived far too long, and have had far too much evil happen to us to believe this is what Solomon meant when He wrote the text. You see, due to your sinful nature you cannot do what Proverbs 3:5-6 commands. Nor do you get brownie points for trying. Because you're sinners you cannot trust in the Lord with all your heart. You never stop leaning on your own understanding. And you cannot acknowledge the LORD in all your ways. Yet, despite your sin, the LORD still makes your paths straight. That's the promise in these verses. Trust in God, and He will make your paths straight; that is, everything will turn out all right for you no matter what happens to you in this life. How? It helps to understand that the first nine chapters of Proverbs are written as advice that a father gives to his son. In these first nine chapters the words "my son" are used ten times. The mistake we often make is to think that the Bible is about us. It's not. It's about Jesus! So, the Father giving advice is God the Father, and He is giving it to God the Son; He's giving it to Jesus. But wait a minute. Didn't Jesus already know everything? Well, yes and no. Yes, Jesus' divine nature did know all things, but, no His human nature didn't. It had to grow and develop just like yours did. In Luke 2:52, St. Luke wrote: *And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.* The difference between you and Jesus in carrying out Proverbs 3:5-6 is that Jesus was the only one who actually did it! Not only did Jesus do it, He did it for you! On your behalf Jesus trusted in God with all His heart. He never leaned on His own understanding and He acknowledged the LORD in all His ways. God the Father directed Jesus' path through the suffering and death of this world into resurrection and eternal life! You have been baptized into Christ Jesus. You are one with Him so all His accomplishments are now your accomplishments. And you know what? This means your sin is forgiven, so that your path through this world, no matter what may happen to you, will always lead straight to eternal life in the new heaven and earth. So, in other words, trust in the LORD and He'll take care of everything else!

TRUST
IN THE
LORD
WITH
ALL
YOUR
HEART



VP of Christian Life ~ Liz Roberts

This issue's verse is a true guide in all things but especially if you work with preschool children. Have you ever wondered how you were going to accomplish something when you didn't have all the resources needed for the planned project? Many times this has happened at Wednesday School (preschool ministry at St. John's, Victor). I know the number of students but my materials are short, either from a miss count, things packaged wrong, or just plain not enough because you are trying to use up what you have on hand. The kiddos show up and hmmm we have just enough. I've told my helpers that God knows what we need. When this first happened they were like, What? So now when it happens we just giggle and point up and give God the praise and thanks! This is also true for my office as VP of Christian Life. I start with, well LORD what are we to do? Please guide my thoughts and plans and make it all work out. And He straightens my path. The words come or the skit is just right for the time. So to those of you who have said yes to a position on the board, a committee or an office in your local zone or group, this verse is a very good one to say when you start out. God knows the best path for you to take, follow His lead. You will have all the support you need, the encouragement for the tasks, and the best huggers and friends you will ever want. Closer than sisters in some cases. Thank you for supporting me in this position and for the help from my committee! You all are amazing! I know you will be as gracious with the new VP of Christian Life! She will be amazing! Offer your written devotions or skits to be submitted for our use. God Bless you all!



VP of Communications ~ Becky Gluesing

The emphasis today is on trusting God and seeking His guidance. It seems like a no brainer, trusting in the Lord should be everyone's Plan A. But unfortunately, the big ol' ugly 'old man', our human nature, raises its nasty head and gets in the way. We want to view things and do things as we want and what we think is best. We want to be in charge. I had the perfect example on our recent vacation. As we were getting ready to leave the Great Sand Dunes National Park, we noticed how dark the skies were and decided we should hang out to see what the weather was going to do.

VP of Communications continued...

Over 2 hours later, after having pea sized hail and a couple of inches of snow, we were able to leave. My initial reaction, thanks to that 'old man' was a poor me response. We were not going to have as much time at our next stop as we wanted. How dare the weather interrupt our plans. But it didn't take long to realize God had our best interests at heart. We could have been stuck on dangerous, curvy mountain roads instead of inside a warm visitor's center. He had kept us safe. He did have our best interests in mind. Trusting in the Lord and not my own understanding is always the best option.



VP of Human Care ~ Kay Berry

Summer is almost here and guess what? It isn't my best season. Don't get me wrong, I'm out there weeding and mulching and planting and making my dreary yard look beautiful. My own little paradise. At least I think so, but I don't like, really, really don't like weeds and bugs. They make me itch, sneeze, itch, tear, itch....you get the idea. However, looking at my cleaned up yard and all of those flowers and all of the work I put into it, I'm amazed at the beauty of God's creation, even with weeds and bugs. Things happen and lots of "bad" stuff happens that we don't understand, BUT not trusting in the Lord and not trying to understand that we can't do it all alone is not what the Lord wants us to do. So, I'll keep working in my little paradise and appreciate what the Lord has done for me.



VP of Gospel Outreach ~ Jeanette Kreutner

The theme verse has been a constant reminder of Who is in charge (God) and who is not (me)! This is the last article that I will be writing as VP of Gospel Outreach. I have served in this position for 5 years, since I was appointed to finish out the last year of Elizabeth Gehle's term (2021-2022). As of this date, we have now met 95% of our Mission Grant goal. We have one grant left to pay in the amount of \$5,000. My prayer is that by the time you are reading this, that grant will have

VP of Gospel Outreach continued...

been paid. When I started this position we were just coming out of Covid and working to get back on track for contributions after the shutdown. That seems like another lifetime ago. We have voted since then to make our scholarships a priority and we have been able to fulfill that commitment. Our mission grant recipients have been beyond grateful for the partnership with us to extend the kingdom of God. This position has been one of the greatest privileges of my life and I thank you for the trust you showed in me by allowing me to serve. Now we will all trust the Lord for the work He has for all in the coming biennium. Thank you all!



Secretary ~ Sheryl Zinda

My 4 years of serving as your LWML IED Recording Secretary are coming to an end after the June convention. The Bible verse for this issue has guided me these past years as I trusted in Him that I could do the job I was elected to, and how much easier it was when I did NOT lean on my own understanding. It has been

a privilege to be on the Board of Directors and really see how LWML works - from each congregation to zone to district and to national. So many women are serving the Lord with gladness and doing great things across the globe to spread the Good News. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone when asked to serve. It will be rewarding, fun, inspirational, and a blessing. To God be the Glory!



Treasurer ~ Marna Mohr

Trust in the Lord with all your heart!! When we started our IED 2024-2026 biennium on April 1, 2024, we trusted in the Lord to help us fund 14 grants and that includes our Concordia Scholarships. I am pleased to report that all but 1 grant is fully funded!! As of May 2,

2026, we only have the \$5,000 LCMS Office of Pastoral Education Grant left to pay and we have until June 30th to do that. We did have an extra quarter this biennium. Our 2026-2028 biennium will be July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028. Thank you for making this last biennium a successful one! I am happy to share with you a current accounting of our IED 2024-2026 biennium.

Continued on next page....

BUDGET FOR BIENNIUM 04.01.24—06.30.26

IED Budget

Mites-Outreach \$145,350

Mites-Inreach \$ 11,500

Mites-Budget \$156,850

Reimbursable Items \$ 38,150

IED Total Budget \$195,000

Student Aid Budget

Approved \$30,000

Dispersed \$30,000

Balance Remaining \$ 0

Mission Grant Budget

Approved \$73,500

Dispersed (2024-2026) \$68,500

Balance Remaining \$ 5,000

IED Budget Actual

01.01.26 Begin. Bal. \$3,114.70

Mite Budget Actual:

Income \$26,597.87

Expenses-Outreach \$23,089.38

Expenses-Inreach \$ 991.27

Total Mite Expenses \$24,080.65

Reimbursable Items Actual:

Income \$ 3,678.50

Expenses \$ 1,886.68

Total Income Actual: \$33,391.07

Total Expense Actual: \$25,967.33

End. Bal. 05.02.26 \$ 7,423.74

Serve the Lord with your mites!



Financial Secretary ~ Jennifer Determan

This Financial Secretary's Report shows all money deposited from October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026. This includes mites, *Quarterly* payments, memorials, and other miscellaneous receipts. Some checks may not have arrived in time to be included in the March deposit. If there are any unexplained discrepancies with your records, please let me know at financialsecretary@lwml-ied.org.

You may send your checks and remittance slips to:

Jennifer L. Determan
LWML IED Financial Secretary
5314 Fjord Drive
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Thank you for sending in your mites!



LWML Iowa East District – October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

<u>SOCIETY MEMBERS & CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
ALDEN, ST PAUL'S LADIES AID	\$187.04
ATKINS, ST STEPHEN'S LADIES SOCIETY	\$939.00
BELLE PLAINE, FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION	\$220.42
BLAIRSTOWN, GRACE LUTHERAN LADIES AID	\$297.50
BURLINGTON, CONCORDIA MARY/MARTHA GUILD	\$76.19
CEDAR FALLS, COLLEGE HILL EVENING GUILD	\$64.05
CEDAR FALLS, IMMANUEL DORCAS SOCIETY	\$668.43
CEDAR FALLS, OUR REDEEMER MARY MARTHA GUILD	\$65.00
CEDAR RAPIDS, BETHANY WOMEN'S GUILD	\$526.31
CEDAR RAPIDS, KING OF KINGS LWML	\$1,342.81
CEDAR RAPIDS, TRINITY HOME MISSION SOCIETY	\$1,122.48
CHARITON, TRINITY LADIES AID/LWML	\$209.26
CHARLOTTE, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LADIES CIRCLES	\$695.80
CLINTON, ST JOHN'S MARY/MARTHA SOCIETY	\$841.01
CLINTON, TRINITY EVENTIDE GUILD	\$207.97
CLINTON, TRINITY LADIES AID	\$112.00
DAVENPORT, HOLY CROSS ALTRUISTIC GUILD	\$38.00
DAVENPORT, IMMANUEL MISSION CLUB	\$397.48
DAVENPORT, RISEN CHRIST WOMEN IN MISSION	\$140.62
DAVENPORT, TRINITY LWML	\$889.88
DENVER, ST JOHN LWML	\$650.86
DE WITT, GRACE LUTHERAN LWML MISSION GUILD	\$457.89
DUBUQUE, OUR REDEEMER CHARITY GUILD	\$491.53
DUBUQUE, WOMEN OF ST PAUL	\$231.88
ELDORA, ST PAUL LADIES AID	\$796.11
ELMA, ST PETER LWML	\$317.52
FAIRBANK, ST JOHN DORCAS CIRCLE	\$112.06
FAIRFIELD, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LADIES CIRCLE	\$283.30
GRAND MOUND, IMMANUEL MARY MARTHA CIRCLE	\$191.03
GRINNELL, IMMANUEL WOMEN'S SOCIETY	\$430.19
GUTTENBERG, TRINITY LADIES AID	\$65.00
HIAWATHA, ZION LWML (HOSANNA & HAPPINESS CIRCLES)	\$1,036.27
HOMESTEAD, ST JOHN'S LADIES AID	\$783.54
HUBBARD, ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN MISSION CIRCLE	\$468.56
INDEPENDENCE, OUR REDEEMER LWML	\$75.83
IOWA CITY, OUR REDEEMER LWML MISSION GUILD	\$552.14
IOWA FALLS, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN LADIES AID	\$104.20
JESUP, GRACE CONCORDIA LADIES AID	\$564.64
KNOXVILLE, TRINITY LWML	\$895.09
LACONA, ST PAUL LADIES AID	\$279.00
LATIMER, ST PAUL'S LWML	\$565.50
LUZERNE, LUZERNE LADIES AID/ST PAUL'S LWML	\$173.94
MANCHESTER, WOMEN OF OUR SAVIOR	\$1,234.91
MARENGO, ST JOHN'S LADIES AID	\$99.00

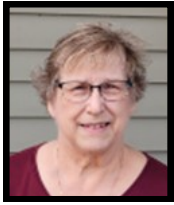
MARION, ST PAUL'S LWML	\$777.58
MARSHALLTOWN, REDEEMER LWML	\$1,139.37
MASON CITY, BETHLEHEM LWML	\$298.60
MELCHER-DALLAS, ST JOHN LWML	\$120.00
MONTICELLO, ST JOHN'S FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	\$494.85
MT PLEASANT, FAITH LWML	\$1,080.58
MT VERNON, ST PAUL PRISCILLA GUILD	\$463.73
MUSCATINE, OUR SAVIOR LWML	\$279.00
NEWHALL, ST JOHN TABITHA SOCIETY	\$816.93
NEWTON, OUR SAVIOR FAITH SOCIETY	\$614.07
NORTH LIBERTY, ST. SILAS LWML	\$204.22
OELWEIN, PEACE SONSHINE MISSION CIRCLE	\$309.20
OSAGE, TRINITY LWML	\$445.00
OSKALOOSA, ST JOHN WOMEN'S GUILD	\$377.37
READLYN, ST PAUL'S MARY MARTHA CIRCLE	\$215.14
REINBECK, ST JOHN'S DORCAS	\$293.95
RICEVILLE, ST PETER LWML	\$455.91
ST ANSGAR, IMMANUEL LWML	\$168.60
STATE CENTER, TRINITY LADIES AID	\$188.56
SUMNER, ST JOHN'S/ST PAUL'S LADIES SOCIETY	\$106.85
VENTURA, REDEEMER DORCAS	\$48.00
VICTOR, ST JAMES LWML LADIES	\$344.92
VICTOR, ST JOHN'S LADIES AID	\$1,108.63
WATERLOO, FAITH, WOMEN OF FAITH	\$433.95
WATERLOO, GRACE HANNAH SOCIETY	\$800.00
WAVERLY, ST JOHN DORCAS SOCIETY	\$1,340.00
WELLSBURG, ST JOHN'S LWML	\$234.84
WESTGATE, ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN	\$129.00
WILLIAMSBURG, ST PAUL WOMEN'S GUILD	\$75.31
WILTON, ZION EVENTIDE SOCIETY	\$702.86
Total of Society Contributions October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026	<u>\$33,968.26</u>

ZONE RECEIPTS

	<u>TOTAL</u>
BENTON	\$285.00
CEDAR RAPIDS	\$0.00
CLINTON	\$105.50
DAVENPORT	\$0.00
DUBUQUE	\$0.00
ELDORA	\$0.00
MARSHALLTOWN	\$0.00
MT PLEASANT	\$179.00
ST ANSGAR	\$0.00
WATERLOO	\$185.28
WESTGATE	\$131.00
WILLIAMSBURG	\$325.00
Total of Zone Contributions October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026	<u>\$1,210.78</u>

MISC DONORS RECEIPTS (includes Memorials)

	<u>\$850.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS - October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026	<u>\$36,029.04</u>



Member Development ~ Karen Boehme

There is exciting news to share with you! At the LWML IED Convention 2026, there will be 7 (SEVEN) young women attending as Young Woman Representatives (YWR's) representing four zones.

Cedar Rapids Zone—Kim R and Mihoby R

Davenport Zone—Vanessa F and Katie F

Waterloo Zone—Lacey M

Westgate Zone—Rachel G and Madison P

When you see the IED Convention 2026 YWR's, be sure to greet, welcome, and thank them for serving and then remember them in your prayers. They may even be wearing the YWR pin.

The YWR Pin: The double links represent LWML, women of all ages who are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents and strengths.



PRAY.
wait
TRUST.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for bringing these young women to us as they represent their zone at our district convention. May it strengthen each woman's bond with Jesus and other LWML sisters. Guide their time and use it to make a positive impact to remain rooted in Christ through

God's Word. Allow this enriching experience to be encouraging to them to be witnesses of God's love as they see how you have used this organization to spread the good news of the gospel around the world. May they desire to be active in local LWML societies and congregations as together we "Serve the Lord with gladness." In Jesus's name we pray. Amen

A Note to the YWR's: The YWR Reunion at the IED Convention 2026 will be held on Friday, June 12, at 11:30 AM. Please RSVP if you are attending to Member Development Chair, Karen Boehme, at memberdev@lwml-ied.org or call 319-239-3463. Thanks! When signing in at the convention table on Friday morning, watch or ask for details where to find us. Pickup your noon box lunch and join in the fellowship!

ZONE & SOCIETY NEWS

CEDAR RAPIDS ZONE -- The Spring Event of the Cedar Rapids Zone was held on April 11th at Our Redeemer, Iowa City. "Rejoice in the Lord" was the theme verse based on Philippians 4:4-9. Lydia, a seller of purple fabric, was a first convert in the city of Philippi. Purple fabric was very expensive, a small amount took hundreds of sea shells to make. It became the color of royalty; and LWML. Pastor Hartwig spoke on FORO (meaning a forum or meeting). His theme "Joy in Working Together in Christ" concerns world missions in FORO groups. In-gathering Recipient: Domestic Violence Intervention Program.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Marion hosted an event for women. Mothers, daughters, and friends gathered together to share lunch, music, and fellowship on Saturday, April 18.



The theme was "Daughters of the Most High God." Andrea Happel, a member of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and daughter of Rev. Timothy and Julia



Bickel, shared a meditation on Proverbs 31, "A Woman Who Fears the Lord." She explored the ancient teachings from a mother to her son, for an encouraging message on our role as women in our culture today.

No matter our role--as mothers, mentors, friends--we can be inspired by the woman described in Proverbs 31. We have influence through our thinking, our actions, and most of all, our faith in God through Jesus. Andrea finished by leading a prayer based on Proverbs 31. We



made a pressed flower bookmark as a craft to share with someone or keep as a memento of the very fun day. We had 55 in attendance, with half of those attending not being members of St. Paul's.

CLINTON ZONE -- The Clinton Zone Rally was held on April 25th at St. John, Clinton, with 26 in attendance. Bible study on Psalm 16 was led by Pastor Pool. Becky Ernst was the guest speaker sharing her experiences from the MOST Ministries mission trip to Belize. Fifty-five pairs of used eyeglasses were collected along with over one hundred cases which were sent to MOST along with \$190 in monetary donations.

DAVENPORT ZONE -- Spring Rally was held March 28 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf. We had breakfast, a devotion, and a short talk about making sanitary napkins. We then split up, cut out the pieces needed, and sewed some together. There were 39 in attendance and the offering was for purchasing underwear for the girls.

DUBUQUE ZONE -- The Spring rally was held April 18th at Our Savior, Manchester. The speaker, Tricia Collier, presented on her recent mission trip with Most Ministries to Belize. Her presentation was about vision screening and providing eye glasses to individuals in need. The fall rally will be held in McGregor, date to be determined.

ELDORA ZONE -- The Eldora Zone held its Spring Rally at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Eldora on April 18. The theme was from Psalm 40:3: *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.* The speaker was Rev. Nathan Grewe from Lutheran Family Service. His topic was Anxiety -- good anxiety and bad anxiety. The Ingathering was monetary donations for Lutheran Family Service.

MARSHALLTOWN ZONE -- Our Spring rally was held April 11th at St. Paul Lutheran Church, rural Lacona. There were 41 members present along with 2 Pastors and 2 children. The theme was on hope. The theme verse was from Romans 12:12, *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* Rev. Samuel Beltz led Responsive Prayer 2 to begin the rally.

Continued on next page

MARSHALLTOWN ZONE continued -- Rev. Nathan Knaus led the Bible Study on Hope. Judy Ernschaw spoke via Zoom about Phil's Friends: their mission, their vision, and details about the care packages they send to those who are diagnosed with cancer. The love offering for Phil's Friends totaled \$392. The Zone offering totaled \$283. After a short business meeting, Pastor Beltz led a closing prayer and the event concluded with a delicious lunch. The Fall rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, State Center at a date yet to be determined.

MT. PLEASANT ZONE -- The Mt. Pleasant Zone rally was held Saturday, April 18, at Faith Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant. The day began with opening worship led by Rev. Michael Scudder who also led the closing worship and Bible Study. After worship, brunch was served followed by a presentation on the mission trip to Belize by Jan Lange, Becky Ernst, and Gretchen Rasmussen. The business meeting was held and all were encouraged to attend the district convention in June. We closed with worship and were sent home with a goodie bag filled with water and snacks. The ingathering was an offering for MOST ministries. There were 18 ladies and 2 pastors in attendance. We are finalizing plans for the retreat. Please plan on attending July 17-18. The Mt. Pleasant Zone will not be having a fall rally.

Ladies from **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairfield**, collected items for Orphan Grain Train's Hygiene Kits. We were able to put together 19 kits that will be delivered in the near future.



Lord, help me serve You with gladness, Amen!

ST. ANSGAR ZONE -- St. Ansgar Zone Spring Event was held at Trinity, Osage on April 11th. The theme was “Jesus Opens Eyes” based on Mark 8:25. The speakers were Past LWML President, Patti Ross, and Michelle Heimer. Ross, who is also a board member of MOST Ministries, spoke, via Zoom, about the Most Ministries organization, followed by Michelle speaking about the LWML Short Mission Trip to Belize last November. An IED grant partially funded this eyeglass clinic trip that involved twelve LCMS members from around the district. Additionally, the agenda comprised of Opening Devotions, Bible Study, a Christian Life skit and business meeting. There were 31 members and 2 pastors attending. A “Love Offering” of \$167 plus used prescription glasses were collected for MOST Ministries. A trailer was loaded with quilts, pillowcase dresses, kits for teachers, school, and hygiene, and boxes of clothing and other miscellaneous items to be delivered to the Orphan Grain Train site in Clemons.

WATERLOO ZONE -- The Waterloo Zone Prayer Service and Spring Gathering took place on February 21 at Grace Lutheran Church, just two days after Iowa’s second major snowstorm of the season left nearly a foot of snow across the region. Despite the wintry challenge, seventeen members and three pastors gathered in fellowship, prayer, and service. Rev. Justin Kane and Rev. Kevin Richter led the group through the interactive LWML Prayer Service, guiding participants in a meaningful time of reflection and worship. Members learned to praise God for His goodness and blessings, remember that we are sinners and have a Savior, ask for all things that are on our minds, yield these concerns to God’s wisdom, experience excitement as the result of surrendering concerns to God and rejoice in our trust that God is in control. The service emphasized the joy and peace that come from trusting God’s control in all things. It was a beautiful and spiritually refreshing experience for all who attended.

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WATERLOO ZONE continued--

Following the prayer service, the group held a brief zone meeting that included updates on the upcoming IED Convention. Laughter filled the room during the presentation of the convention skit, which brought smiles to many faces. The morning concluded with a hands-on service project: personalizing storage totes for eleven graduating seniors from Valley Lutheran School. Under the unexpected expertise of Pastor Richter—quickly dubbed the “resident Cricut master”—the group crafted customized totes that will soon be filled with practical items to support the students as they begin the next chapter of their lives. Despite the snow and cold, the event was filled with warmth, fellowship, and purpose. You might even say that the women who braved the weather to attend truly are *snow angels*.

On April 23rd, ladies from the Waterloo Zone gathered at Grace Lutheran to pack eleven “survival totes” for the graduating seniors from Valley Lutheran. Pastor Richter was also helping us. The purple totes held everything from laundry soap and command hooks to sweet treats, a first aid kit, and a fuzzy blanket! The ladies pray that the tote contents will help ease the graduates into the next chapters of their lives!



WILLIAMSBURG ZONE -- Our spring rally was April 28th at St. John’s Lutheran of Victor. Our speaker was Becky Ernst who shared her trip to Belize with MOST Ministries. We enjoyed hearing about this mission trip.

WESTGATE ZONE -- The Westgate Zone held their Spring Rally on April 11 at St Paul, Readlyn. Co-hostesses were women of St Paul, Readlyn and Immanuel, Klinger. A continental breakfast was served. A worship service was held in the church at the start of the rally. The rally theme



was “Art and Faith: the Praise of God” with Madison Post of Sumner, IA presenting on liturgical art and sharing the works and paintings she has created.

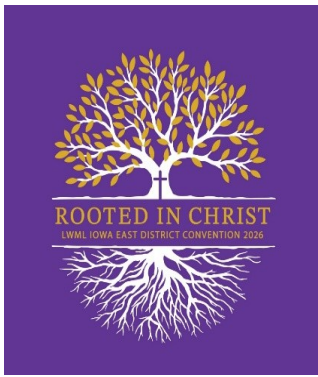


The Westgate Zone bylaws were updated and approved. Janet Huebner spoke about the MOST mission trip to Belize with the LWML IED last November. Ingathering monetary collections were distributed to Fun in the Sun preschool - St Paul, Fredericksburg and Community Lutheran School Preschool in Readlyn. Attendance: 37 members, 1 guest, 3 pastors and 11 children. Collections were taken for Westgate Zone and mites. Fall Rally 2026 is tentatively scheduled to be held on September 26 at St Peter’s, Westgate with the women of St John, Sumner, St Paul, Sumner, St Peter, Westgate and Grace, Fayette as hostesses.



On April 18, a grief workshop, led by the LWML Westgate Zone Grief Committee, was held at St Peter, Westgate. The featured speaker was Rev. Dr. Kristain Kincaid of Dubuque titled “My Trouble - His Treasure - Comfort in Christ.”

The Westgate women served a continental breakfast and a noon lunch. Men, women, & pastors attended.



LWML Iowa East District Convention 2026

June 12-13, 2026

ROOTED IN CHRIST

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving (Colossian 2:6-7).

What you need to know before you go to the convention...

- Parking is free in the neighboring city ramp for all convention guests. Validate at hotel front desk.
- Hotel provides a holding room for your luggage while parking or until check-in.
- Look for Convention Hostesses wearing a bright **Gold Bandana** if you need directions or help of any kind.
- Pick up your Shirt Order in the hotel lobby near our Registration Table.
- Gifts From The Heart includes diapers, children's Christian books, and gift cards/checks.
- Choir Rehearsal – Friday Morning, June 12th – 9 am – Watch your email for music.
- Delegate Orientation – Friday Morning, June 12th – 10 am
- YWR Orientation – Friday Morning, June 12th – 10 am
- There is no Breakfast provided by the hotel and there are no microwaves in hotel rooms. All rooms have refrigerators. There ARE multiple nearby coffee shops and restaurants.
- Contact Convention Co-Chair, Sheryl Dermody, for help at:
smayderm@gmail.com or call 319-330-3721.
- Outstanding Registration Fees may be paid by check to LWML-IED and mailed to:
Hilary Brech – Convention Registration
5001 McGowan Dr, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
- Servant Event - Friday Morning, June 12th - 9-12 am only - **Blood Drive** - The mobile blood drive unit will be parked right outside the front door of the Graduate Hotel. Additional servant events will also start and continue throughout the convention.
- Help Fill the Watering Can – Convention Mites Challenge
Challenge: Your “Mites” can help to “Fill the Watering Can” while at the LWML IED 2026 Convention. Let us raise additional donations towards IED Mite Offerings!

Grant Recipient Letter received from Lutherans For Life Volunteer Relations:

We are so appreciative of the LWML Iowa East District Mission Grant of \$7,500. The grant provided a means to equip congregants to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life through the development of the *Frontline Playbook* series. The Frontline Playbooks contain comprehensive strategies and proven resources for pastors and life ministry groups to share the sanctity of human life and how God's Word applies. Each *Frontline Playbook* contains four topical presentations and associated life-affirming resources to include a video presentation, devotion, fact sheet, and activity sheet for each of the four topical resources. These playbooks can be used to plan or implement an event, a Bible study, or another creative way to use the material provided. All items are usable in group settings or one-on-one activities. Each life topic has multiple elements. The resources may be used as a complete program or as a stand-alone resource.

The first *Frontline Playbook - Belonging*, developed contains the following life topics: Blessed as a Gift, God Chose You to Belong, Those with Disabilities are Indispensable, and Blessed in Longing. All the resources are available on the Lutherans For Life website at <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontline-playbook-belonging/>. Attached is the *Frontline Playbook- Belonging* printed copy as well as one of the ads used to promote the Playbook. Two copies of the *Frontline Playbook - Belonging* were mailed to all our life ministry groups to include Life Advocates, Life Teams, Life Chapter, and State Federations across the United States.

We are in the final development of the second *Frontline Playbook – Hopeful*. *Hopeful* includes the life topics: Just As...I Am Surviving and Thriving, Blessed with Hope – Joy and Death: The Blessing of Falling Asleep with Jesus, Life Shines at Church, and Just As...I Am Male or Female. All the resources are available on the Lutherans For Life website at <https://lutheransforlife.org/frontline-playbook-hopeful/>. We are finalizing the printed booklet for production; and once printed, we will again mail to all our life ministry groups. In addition, we have developed a promotional plan to market the Frontline Playbook Series.

God's blessings to all the ladies of Iowa East. Please let me know if you have questions or if you would like more details.

Serving the Lord of Life,
Michele Hartshorn

mhartshorn@lutheransforlife.org

LWML - IOWA EAST DISTRICT NEWS ~ *Alive* is published for the Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) - Iowa East District (IED), through Publisher and available by email, Facebook, or the IED Website. To receive the *Alive* by email, contact the District Registrar at registrar@lwml-ied.org.

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*** If no email is provided, please contact the VP of Communications, Becky Gluesing, for further assistance at vpcommunications@lwml-ied.org.