

LWML-IOWA EAST DISTRICT CONVENTION

JUNE 12 -13, 2026

THE GRADUATE HOTEL. IOWA CITY, IOWA

“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.”

Colossians 2:6-7

OPENING WORSHIP - Liturgist: Rev. Nickalaus Palmer, Benton Zone Pastoral Counselor; Proclaimer: Rev. W. Max Mons, Iowa District East (IDE) First Vice President. The offering collected was designated to LWML-IED Mite Goal for 2026-2028.

SESSION I - Friday Afternoon, June 12, 2026

Processional of Zone Presidents along with Young Women Representatives (YWR's) and banners, convention co-chairs, Executive Committee (EC), LWML Representative Shari Miller, and Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor.

President Martha Hartwig called the 43rd Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Iowa East District (IED) to order at 2:10 p.m. in the name of the Triune God. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and the Pledge to the Cross was led by President Hartwig. A welcome was given by the convention co-chairs, Sheryl Dermody of the Cedar Rapids Zone and Bonnie Thompson of the Benton Zone.

Greetings were received from Rev. W. Max Mons, IDE First Vice President, Josh Remington, Lutheran Church Extension Fund District Vice President, and Allen Schmid, Iowa East Lutheran Laymen's League Treasurer.

Becky Ernst, Mt. Pleasant Zone President recognized convention participants and Pres. Hartwig recognized special guests. 2026 YWR's were welcomed and their zone presidents presented them with a YWR pin.

The LWML Pledge was led by past LWML-IED presidents Judy Westergren, Kathy Schweer, and Margaret Kistler.

Sheryl Zinda, Recording Secretary gave the credentials report. As of 1:00 p.m. on June 12, 2026 a quorum was present with all 12 zones of the IED represented. Out of a possible 180 delegates there were 57 voting delegates, 21 Board of Directors (BOD) voting members, and 2 Past Presidents as voting members for a total of 80 eligible to vote. Also attending were 5 non-voting appointed personnel/LWML-IED committee members and 107 other registrants for a total of 192 attendees. Sheryl Zinda moved to accept that the roll given be the official roll of the voting assembly of the convention. Motion seconded and carried.

Jennifer Determan, Financial Secretary moved to adopt the convention agenda as printed in the convention manual with necessary changes at the discretion of the Chair, as directed by the BOD. Motion carried.

Margaret Kistler, VP of Organizational Resources, presented the convention rules for adoption as directed by the BOD. A typographical error was noted on page 12 of the manual under LWML IED Bylaws Article VI - Section 3 - A. It should read - "A. Each unit (as defined by LWML bylaws in Article IV (not III) section 5 shall be entitled to two (2) delegates". Jeanette Kreutner moved to adopt the convention rules as printed with the typographical correction made as directed by the BOD. Motion carried.

Pres. Hartwig appointed 3 BOD members to review the 2026 convention minutes and appointed the convention tellers.

Jennifer Determan, Financial Secretary, presented the 2024-2026 Financial Secretary's Report as printed. Jennifer moved to adopt the Financial Secretary's report as directed by the BOD. Motion carried and the report will be filed for review.

Marna Mohr, Treasurer, gave the treasurer's review and report as printed. Marna moved to accept the treasurer's report as directed by the BOD. Motion carried and the report will be filed for review.

Marna Mohr presented the 2026-2028 Mite Goal. Marna moved as directed by the BOD to adopt the 2026-2028 mite budget of \$140,000 broken down into the categories of \$70,000 for mission grants, \$20,000 for scholarships, \$30,000 for mites to national and \$20,000 for Inreach as printed on page 34 of the manual. Motion carried.

Jeanette Kreutner, VP of Gospel Outreach presented the proposed mission grants for 2026-2028 as printed in the manual. Jeanette was informed by the East Side Mission shortly before the convention opened that they were removing their project - "East Side Mission - Increase Visibility through Social Media and Online Presence" from consideration. Voting delegates were instructed not to cast their ballot for that grant. The direction was given to vote for 6 of the remaining 16 projects. Ginny Boyer, Cedar Rapids Zone President led the prayer before voting. Ballots were distributed and collected.

A Mites in Action report was given by Cindy Goerdts and Joy, the Comfort Dog. They are based in Cedar Rapids.

Sheryl Zinda, Nominating Committee Chair, gave the nominating committee report and introduced the candidates, which were also listed in the convention manual. The nominees are as follows: President - Cheryl Killham and Angie Banko, Financial Secretary - Jo Johnson, Recording Secretary - Bonnie Thompson, VP of Gospel Outreach - Connie McQuiston, VP of Christian Life - Sheryl Dermody, and Junior Pastoral Counselor - Rev. Terry Quick. There were no nominations from the floor. Sheryl Zinda led the prayer before voting. Pres. Hartwig declared that uncontested candidates would be elected by acclamation. Ballots were distributed and collected.

A Mites in Action report was given by Dylan Lampe, director of Camp IoDisECa.

Pres. Hartwig declared Session I closed.

Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor, Bishop and President of the Atlantic District - LCMS and Pastor at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx, New York City, New York was the speaker at the evening banquet.

Session II - Saturday Morning - June 13, 2026

The morning session opened with devotions by the YWR's. An offering was collected for the LWML-IED Endowment Fund for scholarship funding of Iowa East future full-time church workers.

Sheryl Zinda, Recording Secretary gave the updated credentials report. As of 8:00 a.m. June 13, 2026 there are 21 BOD voting members, 58 voting delegates, 2 Past Presidents as voting members for a total of 81 eligible to vote. There are 5 non-voting appointed personnel, 95 other registrants for an updated total today of 181 total registrants. Sheryl moved to accept the adoption of the official roll of the voting assembly. Motion seconded and carried. Betty Borchardt, St. Ansgar Zone President led the reciting of the LWML Mission Statement.

A Mites in Action report was given by Rev. Solomona Rakotonirina of St. Silas Lutheran Church in North Liberty.

Margaret Kistler, VP of Organizational Resources presented the bylaws proposals as directed by the BOD. These were printed for the voting members. Margaret moved to "Change Article XVIII Finances, Section 2 Expenditures moving D., E., F., G. and H. to E., F., G., H. and I. and change current D. wording to read: IED shall allow past IED Presidents who are current members of LWML-IED a convention registration". Motion seconded and carried.

Margaret moved to replace the wording in Article V, Section 1 to "Zones shall be geographically aligned with the IDE Circuit lines, as much as possible. Changes to the alignment shall be approved by the LWML-IED Board of Directors." Motion seconded and carried.

Rev. Jon Ellingworth, Senior Pastoral Counselor led the first Bible study.

Jan Brown and Jeanette Kreutner gave the teller report of the Mission Grant voting. The following grants were selected:

1. Mission Central - Support of New LCMS Missionaries - \$5,000
2. Camp IoDisECa - Horse Program Expansion - \$7500
3. Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank - Purchase Fresh Food and Produce for Seminary Students - \$5000
4. St. Silas, North Liberty - Office Equipment Update - \$5000
5. Fort Wayne Seminary Coop - Renovate and Buy New Cooler/Freezer - \$5000
6. Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch - Physical and Mental Wellness for At-Risk Children - \$4000
7. Higher Things - Lutheran Curriculum Report - \$5000
8. Lutheran Heritage Foundation - God's Word for the Persecuted in China - \$6500
9. Lutheran Bible Translators - Changed Lives, Shared Word: Restoring the Bible Printing Fund - \$5000
10. Lutherans for Life - "For Life" Ministry Development - \$7500
11. Concordia, St. Louis - LOGOS Bible Software
12. Lutheran Home for the Aged Association East - Chapel Advancement - \$5000
13. MOST Ministries - Training Servant Leaders for Mission - \$1000

Grants 1-12 were fully funded and #13 is a partial funding equal to \$70,000. Grants 8-9 and 11-12 were both a tie.

Shari Miller, LWML Vice President of Christian Life and visiting Board of Directors representative gave a report from LWML.

A Mites in Action report was given by Cheryl Killham on the Iowa East MOST Ministries trip to Belize.

A video presentation was shown from Carol Von Soosten, the Iowa East Gift Planning representative.

A Mites in Action report was given by Deaconess Chrissie Gillet from Word of Hope.

Pres. Hartwig declared Session II closed.

Session III - Saturday Afternoon - June 13, 2026

Becky Gluesing, VP of Communications led an opening prayer.

A Mites in Action report was given by Rev. Steve Schulz of Mission Central.

Convention Registrar Carolyn Zimmerman shared the final attendance report:

Board of Directors Voting - 21

Delegates Voting - 58

Past District Presidents Voting - 2

Total Eligible to Vote - 81

Non-voting Appointed Personnel/LWML Committees - 5

Other Registrants - 107

Total of All Registrants - 193

Jan Brown, Election Teller Chair gave the officer election report:
President - Angie Banko - 58
Cheryl Killham - 22 for a total of 80 votes cast.

The Christian Life committee performed a skit written by Liz Roberts.

The second Bible study was led by Rev. Matthew Vesey, Junior Pastoral Counselor.

Kay Berry, VP of Human Care gave the Gifts from the Heart report - items collected went to the United Way of Johnson County; Swaddling Cloths, St. John, Keystone; and Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center. The totals of the donations were as follows: 930 diapers, 2 wipes, 1 shampoo, 1 quilt, 389 books and a total of \$1200 to be divided between the 3 organizations. Rev. Ellingworth led the Gifts from the Heart Dedication.

Marna Mohr, Treasurer, gave the offerings report: Offering #1 for LWML-IED Mission Grants - \$3181.35
Offering #2 - LWML-IED Endowment Fund - \$3105.61
Total of both offerings - \$6286.96
Memorial Wall donations totaled \$430 and Watering Can mites totaled \$955.94.
Total amount collected - \$7672.90.

Becky Gluesing moved to destroy the mission grant and election ballots - seconded and carried.

Pres. Hartwig acknowledged the Benton and Cedar Rapids zones along with Sheryl Dermody and Bonnie Thompson, co-chairs for all their work on the 2026 convention. Ginny Boyer, Cedar Rapids Zone President and Connie McQuiston, Benton Zone President gave the closing resolutions. The outgoing LWML-IED officers gave reflections on their service. The following were installed in their new positions by Rev. Jon Ellingworth:
President: Angie Banko, Recording Secretary: Bonnie Thompson, Financial Secretary: Jo Johnson, VP of Gospel Outreach: Connie McQuiston, VP of Christian Life: Sheryl Dermody, Junior Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Terry Quick. Martha Hartwig presented the President's Pin to Pres. Angie Banko, who declared the 43rd Biennial Convention of the LWML-IED to be adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Rev. Nickalaus Palmer led the closing devotion.

Sheryl Zinda
LWML-IED Recording Secretary

