

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

75 Ways to Serve the Lord with Gladness in YOUR Mission Field

*Engage, encourage, and equip the women of your congregation
to make a meaningful difference in the lives of
hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people
at home and throughout the world.*

Enjoy serving the Lord with gladness!

For 75 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live faithfully in active mission ministries and to support global missions. We want to share the joy of these missions and inspire mission service in your church, so that even you can reach out in love and through these opportunities to invite those you help to learn more about Jesus.

**Build your service on a good foundation.
Keep the focus on Christ!**

Be in the Word!

Maintain a Christ-centered life by immersing yourself daily with a devotional study or through Bible reading.

Pray!

While engaged in a conversation, pray that the Holy Spirit would give you the words to speak to them of your life in Christ.

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Mission Service and Gospel Outreach Project Ideas

In Your Church and Neighborhood...

1. Hold a Baby Shower for a Pro-Life Pregnancy Resource Center.

- Have an ingathering of baby shower items for a pro-life pregnancy resource center in your area.
- Alternate idea: Contact a pregnancy center and ask about their needs. Take a layette or box of diapers to the center.

2. Blessing Bags

- A Blessing Bag is a bag full of items to have in your car to give to somebody in need, a homeless person, or your local homeless shelter. Make them with your group, or with children to teach them about caring for those in need.
- These bags can be filled with items from your favorite dollar store, such as:

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| Hand warmers | Band Aids | Granola Bars | Socks |
| Toothbrush & Toothpaste | Travel-size mouthwash | Hotel-size Shampoo, Conditioner | Coins or a predetermined dollar amount, like \$5 |
| Deodorant | Gloves | Water | Hand Wipes |
| Lip balm | Soap | Comb | Hat |
| Trail Mix | Crackers | Gum | Pocket rain poncho |
| Razors | Tampons for women | Mustard Seed devotion | Invitation to your church |

3. Serve a Meal

- Serve at a community free dinner program.
- Or organize a community holiday meal involving your congregation and invite the needy in your area.

4. Hold a Servant Event Retreat

- Contact a food pantry, a homeless shelter, a resale shop, or a youth center, and ask if there is a hands-on project your group could do. Include a Bible study, good food, and fellowship!

5. Help with a Walk-a-thon

- Volunteer to help with a local walk-a-thon by providing and serving water or fruit for the participants. Attach your church name and service time to a label and place it on the water bottle.

6. Prison Ministry

- Pray for those in jail and prison and their families.
- Consider marking Bibles for a prison ministry.
- Write a letter to a prisoner to encourage him or her and to share your faith.

7. Read Aloud

- Volunteer at a local library or school to read to someone.
- Talk to a local nursing home or an extended care facility. Offer to read to the elderly.

8. Spend the Day Together

- Invite a widowed friend to spend the day with you. Go shopping, out to lunch, or to see a movie. Regularly send him or her words of encouragement.

9. Crafts for a Homeless Shelter

- Gather craft supplies and take them to a homeless shelter. Offer to teach a class and share a devotion.

10. Give a Birthday Cake to a College Student

- Bake and deliver a birthday cake to a college student. Include a spiritual message. Keep the student in your prayers.

11. Diana's Angels® Project

- Serve Christ and be faithful witnesses by offering Christian support and comfort to grieving families whose infants have died, by providing burial clothing for these infants. Deliver the clothing to area hospitals. Immediately after the birth, the nurse can dress the baby in the clothing, then wrap the baby in the blanket before taking the infant to the parents.
- Learn more at www.dianasangelsproject.com.
- Pattern is available through the LWML store: www.lwml.org/store.

12. Volunteer as a Tutor

- Volunteer to tutor low-income students at a local elementary school or during the summer.

13. Give a Ride

- Offer to give someone a ride to church, to the grocery store, or to an appointment.

14. Spring Nursing Home Projects

- Deliver bird feeders to nursing homes and hang them in outdoor common spaces so that residents can enjoy watching and feeding the birds.
- Start a raised garden in an outdoor common space at the nursing home to enable residents to grow vegetables and flowers. These beds are generally a wooden rectangular box about 24 to 30 inches tall, filled with dirt. Gardeners can easily plant and care for their gardens from a wheelchair or walker without needing to bend to the ground. These gardens encourage the residents to do some light physical activity and they will have pride in their beautiful garden.

15. Take “The Faith Talk Challenge”

- intentionally select five women in your life
- schedule coffee with them
- share your faith journeys & life story
- offer a prayer

16. Advent by Candlelight

- Hold an “Advent by Candlelight” evening in December, and invite a new friend to attend with you. Sit at specially decorated festive tables and enjoy the fellowship!

17. “Pack the Pantry 5K”

- Your group or church can establish a Pack the Pantry 5K race/walk for your community to assist the food pantry near you. The race/walk entry fee is either 25 cans of food or \$25.
- For more information on how to establish a “Pack the Pantry 5K” in your community you can contact St. Luke’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, who have held their race annually since 2010, at *office@stlukesdedham.org*.

18. Sponsor a No-Cost Garage Sale!

- This No-Cost Garage Sale isn’t really a sale at all. All the items are given to the people that come.
- Members of the congregation donate items, such as clothing, bedding, baby supplies, kitchen items, small furniture and bicycles. They may purchase packages of diapers, Arch books, etc. as a special gift for families that come, too. New and used Bibles could also be available. The items that are collected, are sorted and set up on tables.
- Members can publicize the “No-Sale Garage Sale” with food pantries and other organizations in the area who are supporting people in need.
- Items left at the end can be donated to a Goodwill or Salvation Army type of organization and then the items would be received by those in need there, too.

19. Make a Prayer Calendar

- Make a prayer calendar using the members of your group and pray for each other daily.

20. Invitation for Dinner

- Invite someone to your home for dinner. Offer to give him or her a ride. Send him/her words of encouragement.

21. Organize a Special Event at a Nursing Home

- Organize a visit of your group to a local nursing home. Play bingo or plan a birthday party for residents having a birthday that month.
- Don't forget the caregivers when you visit the hospital or nursing home. A "Thank you for the care you are giving these dear ones. May Jesus bless you." shows you care about them, too, and makes them feel appreciated as they go about their tasks!

22. Check with Local Agencies for Specific Needs

- Look for needs of people in your community and share the love of Jesus with them through servant events and gatherings. Check with local agencies for specific needs... *that we (they) may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need!* (Hebrews 4:16b).

23. Breast Cancer Survival Kit

- Create these Breast Cancer Survival Care Kits for someone you might know that has been impacted by breast cancer or for your local hospital and breast cancer support groups.
- Kits may include:

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| <i>Blessings and Prayers for Those with Cancer</i> | A pretty scarf | Knitted prayer shawl | Bottled water |
| <i>Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Cancer Book</i> | Homemade soup mixes | Large soup mug | Lip balm |
| Unscented travel-size hand sanitizer | <i>in a word</i> by Heidi Floyd | A woman's Bible | Cozy socks |
| Personal notes tied together with ribbon | A Mustard Seed devotion | A card with your church's name, address, and contact info | |

- Find Lutheran Hour Ministries Project Connect Booklets on cancer to include in your survival kits at www.lhm.org/projectconnect/booklets.asp.

24. Make the Reverse Advent Calendar

- Instead of the traditional Advent Calendar where you or a family member receives a small gift from the calendar box each day in preparation of Christmas, gift one item into your calendar basket or box each day. This could be an item of food, clothes, toys, or whatever you choose. Start on December 1, and on December 24th take it to your local food pantry or food bank.

25. Send Valentines to Your Church Members That Are "Shut-In"

- The internet has many free printable Christian valentines. Print some off and write a personal note before mailing them out.

26. Visit a Care Center

- Distribute and help plant seeds with the residents. Add your church information and a Bible verse to each packet.

27. Offer a Service to an Elderly Person

- Shovel snow, change their car oil, wash windows, weed the garden, rake leaves, or trim shrubs.
- In your neighborhood or congregation.
- Stop to visit with him or her and ask God to bless his/her day.

28. Make May Baskets

- Make May baskets with paper cups or paper you have folded into a cone shape. Add biblical bookmarks, flower seeds, tracts, and candy. Give them to a new neighbor, the mail carrier, or other people that you encounter.

29. Give a "Mom's Day Out"

- Offer to babysit or take children to the park so a busy mom can run errands or just have time for herself.

30. Making Clothing Protectors for Bethesda

- The Bethesda Auxiliary needs help in sewing clothing protectors for the people they serve. The protectors are used for meals and snacks. In one state alone, 750 are used each year.
- By sewing protectors, you will provide a durable, money saving, fun and dignified item to help support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Have fun and be creative in your choices of fabric!
- Download the pattern at www.lwml.org/mission-servants-activities/2012/03/october-2016

31. Encourage with a Meal

- Make a list of those who need encouragement either because of the loss of a spouse, illness, loss of job, or lack of activity. Prepare a meal and take it to them.
- If you don't know any, check with your pastor for families or individuals in your congregation.

32. Do a Random Act of Kindness

- Pay for someone's coffee, lunch, or part of their gas.

33. Organize a Quilting Day

- Experienced and novice learn to work together.
- Suggested use for quilts: give to high school graduates for a reminder of their congregation as they start the next step in their lives or donate the quilts to Lutheran World Relief. If you make baby quilts, give them to the new mothers in your congregation or to those children being baptized.

34. Help at a Food Pantry

- Help out at a local food pantry by collecting and taking food or working in the pantry.
- Take the extra vegetables from your garden to a local food bank or soup kitchen.
- Take the leftovers from a church dinner to a local soup kitchen.

35. Visit with a Special Treat

- Make a list of neighbors or people in your community who are not able to go out of the house. Make and take cookies to them. Stay and visit with them.

36. Sharing Rides

- "Busy-ness" is our business nowadays. Lend a hand to a busy family by transporting children and teens to and from school or summertime activities. This will build a relationship through which sharing rides can lead to sharing your Savior.

37. Be a Pen Pal with a Special Needs Person

- Become a pen pal or visit with a special needs person. Check with Bethesda Lutheran Home www.bethesdalutherancommunities.org or local sheltered workshop for that special pen pal.

38. Share the Gospel with Easter Eggs

- Buy plastic Easter eggs and fill them with a Scripture tract and candy. Put the basket on your desk at work to share a treat and the Gospel with your coworkers.

39. Invite to a Lenten Supper

- If you have mid-week Lenten suppers at your church, invite someone to attend supper and then the service with you.

40. Host a Bible study at a Nursing Home

- Host an LWML Bible study at a nursing home and invite your sisters in Christ to share their faith.
- Have "Sunday School" with the residents.

41. Give a Ride to Church

- Transportation is critical. Often nursing home residents, shut-ins, and mentally handicapped people just need a ride to be able to attend church. Maybe you can be their driver.

42. Volunteer in a Group Home

- Contact your local chapter of The Arc (people with intellectual and developmental disabilities) or NAMI (National Association for Mental Illness), and offer volunteer support to a group home.

43. Hold a Servant Project Event

- Hold an event focused on a service project, like marking Bibles for a prison ministry, crafting Gospel bracelets, or tying a quilt. Close the event with an LWML sketch, and of course, enjoy fellowship at lunch.

44. Volunteer at a Local Agency

- Check local agencies for volunteer needs. Volunteering at a local food pantry, Braille center, re-sale shop, or donating blood are just a few examples.

45. Cup of Coffee and Devotion

- Invite an unchurched friend or co-worker for a cup of coffee, or to your home or a local coffee shop. Share a Mustard Seed or other short devotion with them.

46. Christmas Nativity Tour

- Help organize a Christmas nativity tour at your church during Advent. Do not add Baby Jesus to your nativity set until Christmas and when asked where He is, share the Christmas story. Invite the community.

47. Plan a 9-Volt Battery Giveaway

- Help your group plan a 9-volt battery giveaway at a local business to remind people to change the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as we “spring forward” or “fall back,” along with an invitation to your church and worship times.

48. Knit a Stocking Cap for those in Need

- Donate to hospitals for newborns and cancer patients, homeless shelters, and mission organizations to reach others around the world.
- Don't know how to knit? There are inexpensive knitting loom kits available for purchase at many craft stores that offers looms in four different sizes, so caps could be made to fit everyone from newborns to adults! The looms are easy to use, caps are quick to complete and economical, too. A few brands, amongst others, that carry these looms are Boye, Darice and Knitter. Thrivent Action Team cards are a great financial resource for looms and yarn, too!

49. Prayer Walk

- Take a prayer walk around your neighborhood at your next gathering and pray for your community, local businesses, and first responders. Follow up these “prayer walking” activities with a “we’re praying for you” letter.

50. Have a Faith Statement Ready

- The time is now to tell everybody about Jesus, true God, who became man, took on everyone's sins, died for them, conquered death in the resurrection, and gives salvation to all believers. Have a faith statement ready to incorporate into your daily interactions.

51. Gather Stuffed Animals

- Gather new or gently-used stuffed animals. Donate them to your local domestic violence shelter.

52. Walk and Talk

- Go for a walk with a friend. Talk about God's creation, your favorite flower, or a favorite outdoor gathering place.

53. Invite a Friend to Celebrate Holy Week

- Reach out and invite a friend to celebrate Holy Week with you in worship of the resurrected Christ Jesus. Since 1919, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland, extends this invitation with handmade candy wrapped in prayer and labeled with their worship times.

54. Free Christmas Wrapping Service

- Offer a free Christmas wrapping service with your group or youth group during Advent at a local grocery store. Hand out information about your church and personally invite the customers.

55. Respond to an Award

- When you receive an award for excellent or outstanding work for a job well done, (e.g., report card, job performance review, sports, music) be proud of your accomplishment, as you should be, and:
 - *Sing praises to the Lord, O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!* (Psalm 8:1 KJV). Christ alone is excellent.
 - Tell people specifically how Jesus, your Lord and Savior, helped you to achieve the goal.
 - Share examples also of how Christ has brought you through difficult times in your life and how you enjoy the celebration of life through Him.

56. Share the Gospel on Halloween

- Share your faith with trick-or-treaters. Print stickers or address labels with a Bible verse, or an invite to your church for worship and Sunday school. Be sure to include the address of your church.

57. Hold a “Spa Day”

- Organize a “Spa Day” at a care center. Give foot massages and share the story in John 13:1-17, where Jesus washes the feet of the disciples.

58. Share Your Favorite Activity

- What is your favorite pastime? Going for a walk, reading a book, cooking a meal, baking bread, sharing a good cup of coffee; the list could go on and on and on. Can you do that favorite activity with a friend, a neighbor, maybe someone from your congregation that you know or would like to know?
- So here is the challenge: Take that activity and enlarge it enough to include others. Incorporate some time for spiritual sharing.

59. Give a Ride to Sunday School

- If a mother you know needs an occasional break, offer to pick up her children for Sunday School. Once you build a bond of trust, she might join you.

60. Shut-In Visit Kits

- Take a gift or kit on a visit to someone who is homebound, or send it along with your pastor when he visits.
- Suggestions to include in the kit:

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| Address book filled with family, friends, etc. | Large print calendar with family birthdays (etc.) entered | Stationery/notecards with stamps and return address labels |
| Personal hygiene items (shampoos, lotions, lip balms) | Crossword/Sudoku puzzle books | Light-up magnifier |
| CD of inspirational music/local church service | Homemade heating pads (made with rice) | Bible-themed bookmark/tract |

In the World...

61. Recycling Pill Bottles

- Help improve the quality of health care in hospitals and health clinics in developing countries by saving and donating medical supplies such as pill bottles.
- Matthew 25: Ministries in Cincinnati, Ohio accepts donations of clean, empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in developing nations. This ministry is requesting empty pill bottles, so that these safe storage containers can be sent to third world countries, like Africa, where they are needed to protect medications from the elements. People there have a shortage of containers, which will keep their medications clean, dry, and out of the reach of children.
- You can also check with your local free or low-income medical clinics or animal shelter to see if they accept used prescription bottles.

62. Share Bible Verses Online

- Share your favorite Bible verse on Facebook or by phone with a friend. Explain why it is your favorite verse.
- Put Bible verses in your e-mail signature.

63. Short-Term Mission Trip

- Consider a short-term mission trip and pray for God's guidance. Check www.lcms.org, your district LWML, or MOST Ministries (www.mostministries.org) for opportunities.
- If you can't serve, pray for those who are serving.

64. Mission Moment

- Ask your pastor if you can do a Mission Moment at worship services one Sunday of each month, using the resources from the LWML website. Highlight a mission grant, including a brief summary of the project and a prayer.
- Share with others the stories of real people impacted by LWML grants. People all over the world are hearing about Jesus Christ and experiencing acts of mercy done in His name. Get excited about what God is doing in and through our mites! Thank Him that He has allowed us to be a part of His story. Tell everyone you know. Be a mission advocate. Visit www.lwml.org/mission-grant-resources and www.lwml.org/thanks.

65. Eyeglass Project

- Get your group involved in an eyeglass project! Help sort eyeglasses that can be used or recycled for distribution during mission trips.

66. Encourage our Military Personnel

- Pray for our military personnel and send a card of encouragement. Learn more about Operation Barnabas which is a LCMS network of care to our nation's military members, families, and veterans. They reach out to all branches of the military, with a special emphasis on our Reserve members and their families.

67. Cancelled Stamps Program

- Nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations take donated used stamps – also known as charity or recycled stamps – and sell them individually or in bulk direct through auctions to stamp dealers or collectors to raise funds for various charitable programs. You may want to check with your local organizations if they have their own stamp program. Charities that collect cancelled stamps include Wycliffe Associates to fund Bible translation around the world and Sisters of the Holy Cross Ministry with the Poor.
- Save your stamps that have their perforations intact, are not too heavily cancelled, and are not torn, cut or stained. Leave at least ¼ inch on each side of the stamp when cutting it on each side of the stamp when cutting it from the envelope or postcard.

68. Donate Shoes

- Spring clean your closet of unused shoes. Put a Bible verse in each pair and send to Orphan Grain Train (www.ogt.org).

69. Take your Mite Box to Work

- Take your Mite Box to work and put it on your desk or someplace visible. Tell coworkers about the poor widow and then how we in LWML use our mites for mission grants. Ask them to contribute their loose change! Check out the LWML Mission Grants at www.lwml.org and then let your coworkers know how their mites are helping.

70. Kits for African Girls

- Did you know that there are many girls on our planet who are secluded from their communities when they menstruate every month? They have to stay away from school and other opportunities so they miss out on education and possibly income.
- Days for Girls is a program helping these girls in a special way, by providing feminine hygiene kits. The kit includes a drawstring bag (that is used as a backpack), panties, shields, washable pads, soap, washcloth and a couple of Ziploc bags. There is a detailed list of patterns and instructions available through Days for Girls at www.daysforgirls.org.

71. Encourage our Missionaries

- Pray for our missionaries and send a card of encouragement. Check out www.lcms.org/prayercards or call 1-888-843-5267 to find out about each missionary family and prayer requests.
- Show love to a missionary or a mission church. Send emails or greeting cards of encouragement!

72. Make Layettes

- Make layettes for Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org). Involve Sunday school or Day school children in collecting items.

73. Pray and Send a Letter to Government Leaders

- Pray for our government leaders for wisdom and courage to make the right decisions and implement them. Send a letter to your congressman, mayor, governor, president, or other leaders, letting them know you are praying for them and also how you feel they are doing.

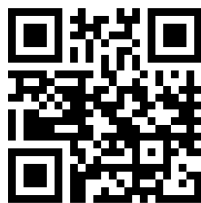
74. Share LWML Posts on Social Media

- Share your faith on social media. See what's happening on LWML's Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. Get involved! "Follow," "friend," "like," and most importantly, "share" with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

75. Encourage by Phone

- Encourage a far-away friend or a homebound person in her faith by reading the Daily Mustard Seed Devotion or Portals of Prayer together on the phone.

Remember that you can always support the Mission of Christ that is done throughout the world by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, LCMS partner churches, and Recognized Service Organizations of the LCMS with a donation to our LWML Mission Grants.



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