



# Then and Now

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2017, honoring our past and imagining our future. Our basic purpose ... **missions** ... is changeless! **Mission work is enhanced through raising up leaders and providing leader training at all levels of the organization.**

## Then

Early LWML leaders often had no formal educational background for the organizational positions in which they served. Less than twenty percent of LCMS women worked outside the home, so few gained leadership skills in the workplace, either. However, many developed leadership abilities in their roles as homemakers. God saw to it that those skills were put to good use as they started the LWML.

In the early 1950s, leader training was implemented in many districts. At the 1957 LWML Convention in Minneapolis, women came early to participate in training sessions. By the 1970s and 1980s, LWML-specific training was provided to enhance women's skills and confidence, setting standards of excellence in leadership.



Ida Mall (LWML President 1991–1995) trained leaders in the late 1980s. She will be the keynote speaker at the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque.

## Now

In early 2000, LWML recognized the need for a long-term plan for intentional training opportunities and, in 2001, received a matching grant from a charitable foundation, enabling the establishment of the LWML Endowment Fund. From its initial funding with the 60th Anniversary Thank Offering at the 2001 LWML San Jose Convention, the following blessings have resulted:

- Generous and ongoing gifts have been designated to the Endowment from bequests, trusts, special district offerings, and other gifts; and,
- Earnings from the Fund have been used to train and equip leaders and provide programming, enabling the LWML to more fully carry out its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**From Carol Von Soosten, LWML PR Director** "After beginning my LWML service as a Young Woman Representative, I had the privilege of attending LWML leader training. I give thanks and praise to God for the wonderful on-going financial assistance of the LWML Endowment Fund, which supports, trains, and equips leaders for service to our Lord so that His work may be accomplished around the world. To God be the glory!"



LWML leader training in the 21st century includes computer proficiency and electronic communication.

**Continued support of the Endowment is necessary to provide a legacy for the future. The LWML 75th Anniversary Thank Offering will be gathered at the 2017 Albuquerque Convention to support the Endowment. Districts are encouraged to continue this special offering at their 2018 conventions. Donations may be given online at [www.lwml.org/donate-endowment-fund](http://www.lwml.org/donate-endowment-fund) or mailed to 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118.**

Historical information has been taken from the book *Wherever God Sends Us* by Marlys Taege. Copyright© 2013 Lutheran Women's Missionary League. All rights reserved.