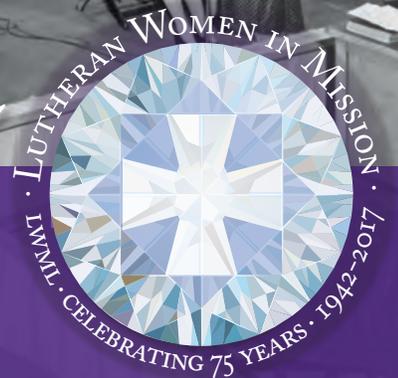




Then and Now



LWML will celebrate our 75th Anniversary with a dazzling celebration at the 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It's fascinating to look back at previous conventions where attendees were inspired, selected mission grants, and renewed friendships. Today the LWML's basic purpose (MISSIONS!) remains the same, and our conventions continue to be amazing experiences!

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Then

The LWML was a year old when the first convention was held in 1943 at Concordia College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with 300 in attendance [photo above]. Mission grant selection and other mission-related activities set a precedent for future conventions.

LWML conventions have been held every two years, with two exceptions:

- **1945:** Cancelled due to World War II;
- **1955:** When it was discovered that the LWML delegates from "colored congregations" would not be allowed to stay at the convention hotel, efforts to find other hotels and venues failed. In the end, the New Orleans LWML representatives withdrew their invitation, and LWML President Lillian Preisinger cancelled the convention.

Several conventions stand out:

- **1969, Houston, Texas:** A business meeting was interrupted to announce that men were walking on the moon;
- **1985, Ames, Iowa:** The largest LWML convention with 8,023 registrants;
- **1987, Fort Worth, Texas:** First million dollar mission goal set; and
- **1993, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada:** First (and only) convention held outside the U.S.

Now

LWML conventions have become less formal and have grown in scope. Women (and men) come to serve others and celebrate missions through Bible studies, mission speakers, and giving praise to God with **thousands** of their best friends.

From Marguerite Christman, LWML Convention Manager:

"LWML conventions constantly improve! In recent years there have been "WOW moments"... listening to Mites in Action missionaries from around the world who bring lively stories of real people whose lives have been impacted by the prayers and mite offerings that each attendee has given."



The cross that has been present at every convention since 1991 was commissioned through a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of LWML.

What memories will YOU bring home from Albuquerque?

Make plans now to attend today! Find information and registration materials at www.lwml.org/2017-convention or in the Winter 2016 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly.

Come and celebrate 75 years of proclaiming Jesus Christ above all!