



## Seventy-Five Years Serving Our Lord

LWML Diamond Jubilee (1942-2017)

Bible Study

[Please provide: musical accompaniment; Bibles and copies of the Bible study for attendees.]

*Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2 NIV)

### Introduction

The LWML celebrates 75 years of faithful service in 2017. The LWML was officially founded at a meeting July 7-8, 1942, held at St. Stephen Church in Chicago, Illinois, with delegates from 15 districts attending. The first convention followed the next year in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Seventy-seven delegates from 19 districts attended the convention. The theme of that first convention was Psalm 100:2 *Serve the Lord with gladness!* According to the LWML publication *Women IN Gods' Service - WINGS*, the Psalm verse was prominently featured at the convention. "It met the eye at once on the printed convention program and booklet. It was blazoned in gold and lavender on a large white banner above the stage in the convention hall." The delegates quickly approved this verse as the official motto of the LWML. It was also the theme of a poem written by Professor E.C. Lewerenz of Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, that he dedicated to the LWML. You are probably familiar with the words since they are set to music in the hymn "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

### Getting into the Word

Assisting those in need has always been part of the LWML. Service has been our motto and our mission.

Read the following verses. How are we to serve?

1. Deuteronomy 10:12 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Matthew 20:27-28 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3.1 Peter 4:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Colossians 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We are to serve with our whole hearts, acting in love and sharing the gifts God has given us with each other.

In Acts 6:1-6, we read that the disciples were serving food to the poor and widows.

Read Matthew 25:31-46. Jesus talks about the final judgment and says when we care for the poor, sick, hungry, and imprisoned we care for Him.

5. Whom are we to serve? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Application**

6. What are some of the ways LWML women serve the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. How has that changed over the last 75 years? What has remained the same?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The mission grants, and the projects they support, have changed but the need for our mites has not. Millions of dollars have been gathered and distributed over the last 75 years. Each coin placed in a Mite Box with prayer has an impact. We also serve in our local congregations and communities by providing quilts for patients and food baskets and food pantries for the needy and by gathering “Gifts of the Heart” at our rallies and conventions.

8. Do we serve sometimes from a sense of duty or obligation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Share some practical ways you keep a joyful heart while you serve. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. How can we serve with gladness at all times? Read the rest of Psalm 100. Record your thoughts about the Psalm. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We serve in response to God’s blessings to us.

Read Psalm 116:12 and Psalm 118:14. Write words or phrases to remember.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We respond to God with joyful song. If we serve with our whole heart, trusting God will supply all the strength and wisdom we need, we can do anything with a joyful heart.

Read Philippians 4:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Re-read Colossians 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Any work that we do can be in service to God. We not only serve God in the LWML or in our congregations, but in caring for our families and in the work we do both inside and outside the home.

God has called us to serve and equipped us with the gifts and talents we need. He gives us the strength and purpose. To God be the Glory!

### **Closing**

Let us close our time together by singing “Serve the Lord with Gladness.”

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” It is He alone  
Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own  
To enjoy the blessings Of His love and grace  
Will at last in glory Meet us face to face.  
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:  
“Serve the Lord With Gladness!” Glorify His name!

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” He gave us command  
To proclaim His Gospel Now in every land  
So that fellow sinners May, like us, be blest;  
Leading them to Jesus, We can serve Him best.  
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:  
“Serve the Lord With Gladness!” Glorify His name!

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” There’s no greater joy  
Than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.  
As we build His kingdom Angels, too, rejoice  
Over every sinner Brought to hear His voice.  
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:  
“Serve the Lord With Gladness!” Glorify His name!

Text: Prof. Ernest Lewerenz

Tune: LSB 662, TLH 658, LW 518 (Public Domain)

### **Prayer**

Dear Lord, the women of the LWML have been faithful servants in Your kingdom for 75 years. Thank You for the talents and gifts You have given each of us. Continue to bless the service of the LWML and help each of us to serve with gladness. Amen.

Seventy-Five Years Serving Our Lord  
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