

LWML 103 – The Heart of LWML

The Third Course in the Women in Mission University Materials

SCRIPT

Slide 1



(Click mouse)

Slide 2



Welcome to **LWML 103: The Heart of LWML**. This presentation is the third in a series of four presentations to share the LWML story and to encourage participation.

(Click mouse)

Slide 3



However, **LWML 103** is personal – it is truly from the heart. *(Click mouse)* It answers the *(Click mouse)* question of why we do what we do in the LWML.

Deuteronomy 6, verse 5 helps us to focus on our purpose: ... *love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.* (RSV)

(Click mouse)

Slide 4



What is the heart? *(Click mouse)*

The Bible says in Proverbs 4:20-23 (NIV 1986): ... *pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the* *(Click mouse)* *wellspring of life.*

(Click mouse)

Slide 5



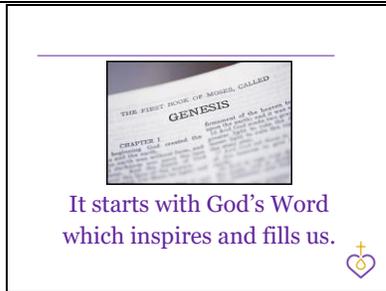
What is the heart of the LWML?

In other words, what is the *(Click mouse)* “wellspring of life” for the LWML?

Looking to the future of this organization, we continually turn to God for direction. As the Lord leads the LWML, we remember the “heart” of our organization: *(Click mouse)* Word, *(Click mouse)* mission, *(Click mouse)* service, and *(Click mouse)* fellowship.

(Click mouse)

Slide 6



The heart begins with God. Life begins with God. It's all about Him.

That's why we start with *(Click mouse)* God's Word which inspires and fills us with His joy.

(Click mouse)

Slide 7



Bible studies and devotions are where we, with guidance of the Holy Spirit, begin our search for the heart of LWML. *(Click mouse)* Beginning with the Word when we gather for any occasion is essential. This is where we are nourished. This is where we grow in our relationship with Christ and with each other. Bible study and prayer provide support, insight, and encouragement as we live our lives for Jesus.

In your table groups share how you spend time daily with God. If you have a specific story to share about how you felt especially blessed after starting your day with God, take time to share that, too.

*(Leader, pause presentation and give the table groups 5-8 minutes to share with each other their responses to **Table Discussion 1** on the “Participant Handout.” When time is up, gather everyone back together and ask for feedback from the groups using **Feedback 1**: what new ideas did you hear, was there anything that was shared that you'd like to implement in your own devotional time?*

After you've received feedback, continue the presentation.)

(Click mouse)

Slide 8

What is Bible study?



Reading and reflecting on God's Word



So, what is Bible study?

Simply put Bible study is *(Click mouse)* reading and reflecting on God's Word, the Scriptures. When we do this, we grow in the Lord through the Holy Spirit.

Some may be intimidated when asked to lead a Bible study. You may have thoughts like, "I can't do that" or "I don't know enough about the Bible to lead a study group." However, God promises to guide you, so you're really not doing it alone. Begin in prayer, asking Him to work through you. Think of yourself as a "facilitator" instead of a "leader" or "teacher".

(Click mouse)

Slide 9

What is Bible study?

1. What is the context?
2. What is happening here in this text?
3. What does this say?
4. How does this apply to me?



In our table groups, let's try a simple exercise in reading and studying God's Word. Open your Bible to any passage of Scripture and read it out loud to your table group. Then together answer these questions: *(Click mouse)*

- What is the context? *(Click mouse)*
- What is happening here in this text? *(Click mouse)*
- What does this say? *(Click mouse)*
- How does this apply to me?

You will have 8-10 minutes to do this together in your table groups.

*(Leader, serve as a timekeeper for the group as they participate in **Table Discussion 2**. If a group is having a difficult time choosing a Bible passage to reflect on, you might want to suggest some of your favorite verses or psalms. When the time is up, gather the groups back together use **Feedback 2** from the "Participant's Handout" and ask them the following:*

How did it feel to do this exercise in Bible study?

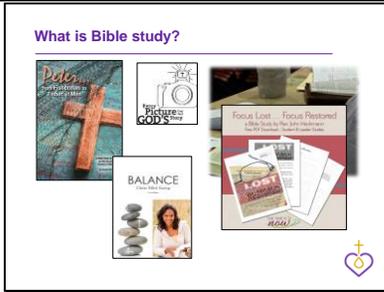
Did anything stand out for you in the process?

Was this a simple or difficult process to use?

Do you think you'd feel comfortable doing this on a daily basis?)

(Click mouse)

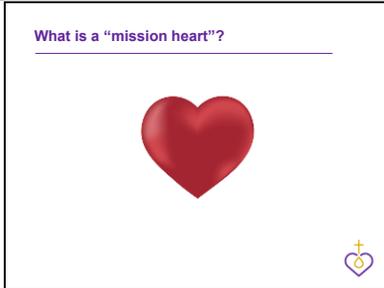
Slide 10



LWML offers many Bible study resources for you to use. They are all doctrinally reviewed by pastors of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod who sit on the Synodical Doctrinal Review Board, insuring conformance with our church doctrine. The studies are designed to guide a group of women through the topic. Some Bible studies like those from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* have online helps for facilitators.

(Click mouse)

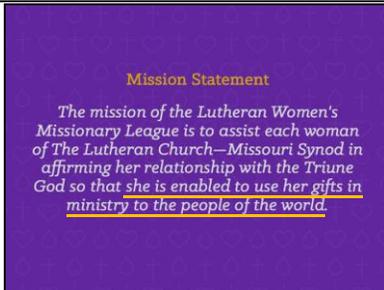
Slide 11



The second part of living the joy of the Lord comes from the LWML Mission Statement.

(Click mouse)

Slide 12



It says that the LWML wants to assist each woman in affirming her relationship with Christ so *(Click mouse)* "... she is enabled to use her gifts in *(Click mouse)* ministry to the people of the world."

(Click mouse)

Slide 13



This "mission heart" comes when her relationship with Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is strengthened. It leads her to live a *(Click mouse)* life filled with joy as she *(Click mouse)* loves those around her and *(Click mouse)* shares God's love through word and deed.

In your table groups, discuss how you can share God's love with those around you.

*(Leader, give participants 5-6 minutes for **Table Discussion 3**. When time is up bring the groups back together using **Feedback 3** and ask them to share the "best" or "most unique" idea raised in their discussion.)*

(Click mouse)

Slide 14

We are women in mission!

We can actively share our mission heart by:

- ♥ Praying for mission grant recipients
- ♥ Giving financially toward Mite Box offerings
- ♥ Serving on a mission team
- ♥ Praying for others who serve on mission teams



There is no single way to have a mission heart. *(Click mouse)* We can actively share our mission heart by: *(Click mouse)*

- Praying for mission grant recipients *(Click mouse)*
- Giving financially toward Mite Box offerings *(Click mouse)*
- Serving on a mission team *(Click mouse)*
- Praying for others who serve on mission teams

Note the word “praying” used here. There are many women who may never be able to actually go on a mission trip. Yet LWML women are prayer warriors and pray not only for those going on mission trips, but also for all the recipients of our mission grant monies.

We can also be in mission as we set a good example and share Christ individually.

(Click mouse)

Slide 15

Mission – What does this mean?

- ✓ Assigned task
- ✓ Calling
- ✓ Group of church workers
- ✓ Church outreach in a community
- ✓ Place that helps the needy



The word “mission” has multiple meanings: *(Click mouse)*

It can mean -

- Assigned task – Remember the phrase from the old TV show “Mission: Impossible”: “Your “mission,” should you decide to accept it ...” *(Click mouse)*

It can mean -

- Calling – Your “mission” in life is your calling, or your purpose. *(Click mouse)*

It’s used to describe a -

- Group of church workers – A team of workers is often called a “mission” team. *(Click mouse)*

It can also mean a -

- Church outreach in a community – The “mission” of a church can be a specific program of outreach to respond to a community need. *(Click mouse)*

And it can mean a -

- Place that helps the needy – The Mission can be a place of sanctuary and aid for those in need.

Each of these definitions speak to what LWML does in mission. It is worth noting that none of these definitions include the word “foreign” or “international”. You see, it does not matter where a person goes. A mission heart can be displayed wherever one lives.

(Click mouse)

Slide 16

Our mission as LWML women is to love others!



We love because he first loved us.
(1 John 4:19 NIV)



1 John 4:19 (NIV) states, *(Click mouse)* We love because he first loved us. God’s Word tells us that. This love for others shines through in our desire to share the Gospel.

This love is found when women from across the country, around the world, or in our own local areas gather together to celebrate the mission of the LWML. We gather to celebrate in our homes, communities, and churches.

(Leader, if you have a special LWML friendship story of your own, now would be a great time to share it. If you don’t personally have a special story to share, you might ask someone from the group to share. If you know of someone’s specific story – ask them ahead of time if they would be willing to tell their story. That way they can be prepared to speak when you call on them.)

(Click mouse)

Slide 17

Lutheran women use all they have to share the Gospel

- Mites
- Hearts
- Hands
- Voices



As Lutheran women in mission, *(Click mouse)*

- We share the Gospel with our *(Click mouse)* **money** and our prayers.
- We share with our *(Click mouse)* **hearts** when we study His Word and grow with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- We share with our *(Click mouse)* **hands** when we serve in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities.
- We share with our *(Click mouse)* **voices** by proclaiming the Word of God to be the truth and sharing it in our own communities or places “foreign” to us – wherever people need to hear the truth!

(Click mouse)

Slide 18

The Great Commission

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).



We do this because Jesus gave the Great Commission telling us to teach others about Him, to share the Gospel. Please read this verse with me:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).

We first talked about being in the Word, which led to our second point of telling others about Jesus’ love, and now we come to the third point: serving others.

(Click mouse)

Slide 19



How do LWML women live in the *(Click mouse)* joy of the Lord? Besides being in the Word and in mission, God would also have us serve Him.

St. Paul writes in Romans 12, *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality* (Romans 12:9-13 NIV 1986).

(Click mouse)

Slide 20

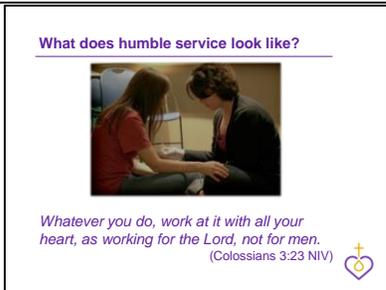


Psalm 100:1-3 says, *Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture* (NASB).

As Lutheran Women in Mission we are blessed to *(Click mouse)* serve the Lord with *(Click mouse)* gladness.

(Click mouse)

Slide 21



This service will look different for every single woman. *(Click mouse)* My gifts and talents are not the same as yours. God created each of us as individuals. What are your gifts and talents? How will you humbly serve Him?

(Click mouse)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men ... (Colossians 3:23 NIV 1986).

We are going to take about 8 minutes to join together in our table groups once again. This time we will be brainstorming and coming up with a list of examples of humble service. Remember, when you’re brainstorming every idea is a great idea. No need to refine or edit your list. Just put down everything your group comes up with. Write your list on large newsprint and be ready to post it for the rest of the group to see.

*(Leader, direct the table groups to **Table Discussion 4** as you pass out the newsprint and markers so each table group can record their list to share when you bring them back together to report to the whole group. Call the group back together after about 8 minutes.)*

(Click mouse)

Slide 22

Where can humble service happen?

It may be ...

- ♥ At home
- ♥ At church
- ♥ In your community
- ♥ In America
- ♥ In another country



(Leader, one way of asking for the responses from your table groups would be to ask them to share ideas from their lists that fall under each of the categories on this slide. Another simpler way would be to ask for each table to give 1-3 of their best ideas. Either way, allowing the table groups to respond will help each of them hear new and innovative ideas about service that might spark involvement at a later date.)

Where can humble service happen? It may be ... *(Click mouse)*

- At home *(Click mouse)*
- At church *(Click mouse)*
- In your community *(Click mouse)*
- In America *(Click mouse)*
- In another country

(Leader, if you are asking for ideas after each category, just announce the category and ask for the table groups to respond. If you are gathering responses in a more general way, after hearing the responses you can just read through the categories and move on.)

(Click mouse)

Slide 23

Where can humble service happen?

It may be ...

- ♥ with money
- ♥ with time
- ♥ with gifts and talents
- ♥ with specific skills
- ♥ with people



LWML provides women with opportunities *(Click mouse)* to serve as the Lord calls them and through the gifts with which He has blessed them. The Holy Spirit leads LWML women to recognize and act on service opportunities He puts in their paths. *(Click mouse)*

It may be *(Click mouse)* with money, *(Click mouse)* with your time, *(Click mouse)* with your gifts and talents, *(Click mouse)* with specific skills, *(Click mouse)* or with people.

(Click mouse)

Slide 24

Where can humble service happen?

We have different gifts, ... prophesying, ... serving, ... teaching, ... to encourage, ... giving, ... lead, ... show mercy, (Romans 12:6-8 NIV).



Take some time to consider what this looks like for you: *(Click mouse)*

How and where is He calling you to serve?
How can you serve Him?
What gifts has He given you?

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully (Romans 12:6-8 NIV).

*(Leader, direct the participants to **Table Discussion 5** and give them a few minutes to quietly reflect on where God is calling them. After the quiet reflection time, ask the groups to share at their tables – as they feel comfortable – what ideas came to mind. After a few minutes of table discussion continue the presentation.)*

(Click mouse)

Slide 25

Service in the LWML is about relationships



Our relationship *(Click mouse)* with Christ brings us joy. We share that joy in our relationships with *(Click mouse)* one another. LWML women have fun together! Our serving together is also a time of fellowship. We make great friends when we study the Word, serve, and just plain have fun with the women in our lives.

(Click mouse)

Slide 26

Our relationship with Christ ...



... we need to be in the Word!



The Holy Spirit calls us to be *(Click mouse)* in the Word which is key to building a relationship with Christ. *(Click mouse)* When we spend time in the Word, we make an investment in our faith. We grow in our relationship with Christ through the Holy Spirit working in our hearts as we study His Word.

(Click mouse)

Slide 27

Our relationship with other women ...



... we connect with other women and make an investment in friendship!



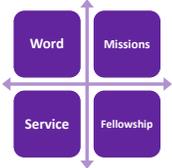
In the same way, we really need to spend time with *(Click mouse)* other women to get to know them. When we make those *(Click mouse)* connections, we grow together. It is about relationships, not memberships.

LWML is not a country club – it is women who desire to grow in the Lord. It is women who value each other and our unique God-given gifts. And it is women who are living the mission every day, impacting the world for Christ.

(Click mouse)

Slide 28

LWML is ...




LWML is a sisterhood of believers who are in the *(Click mouse)* Word, supporting *(Click mouse)* missions, *(Click mouse)* serving others, and building one another up in love through the *(Click mouse)* fellowship of believers.

(Click mouse)

Slide 29

Take My Life, and Let It Be

Please join in singing "Take My Life, and Let It Be", Hymn #783 (or 784) in *Lutheran Service Book*.
The words are printed on your Participant Handout.




There is one special hymn that speaks to the Heart of LWML. Leader, pause presentation now as your group joins in singing.

(Leader, if you are not comfortable leading the singing of this hymn, ask one of your church musicians to either play it on the piano or help to lead the singing.)

The text for this hymn, #783 in the Lutheran Service Book, is printed on the Participant Handout. The hymn is also available in The Lutheran Hymnal and Lutheran Worship (the words are slightly different in the LW) should those be your hymnal of choice.)

(Click mouse)

Slide 30

The HEART of LWML ...

- ♥ Take my life and let it be ...
- ♥ Take my hands and let them move ...
- ♥ Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee ...
- ♥ Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold ...




The words of this beautiful hymn really share the HEART of LWML. *(Click mouse)* The hymn speaks of using our voices, our time, our hands and feet, our silver and gold – each a part of the HEART of LWML.

(Click mouse)

Slide 31

Vision Statement

The LWML, the leading group for LCMS women, is the place where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

Our heart grows from our Vision Statement where LWML is the place for each woman to be *(Click mouse)* **welcomed** and *(Click mouse)* **encouraged** to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

(Click mouse)

Slide 32

The treasure of the LWML ...

... is the opportunity to share Christ's love.



"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
(Luke 12:34 NIV)



Thank you for joining us as we reflected on the HEART of the LWML. The treasure of the LWML is – and always will be – *(Click mouse)* the opportunity to share Christ's love.

(Click mouse) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34 NIV)

(Click mouse)

Slide 33

LWML 103 – The Heart of LWML



Lutheran Women in Mission

www.lwml.org

Written by 2013 LWML Hope Committee
Revised by 2018 LWML Growth and Development Committee
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2018



(Click mouse to end presentation)