



2018 Church Workers in Mission Session Outline

Compiled for the LWML Assembly of Leaders training, St. Louis, MO
November 7-10, 2018

Collaborating with Church Workers

- Together, church workers and the LWML may support and collaborate with each other to accomplish the mission of the LWML.
 - Women of LWML are able to keep church workers informed of:
 - The mission service LWML is accomplishing locally, and throughout the district;
 - Quilting: have you invited your pastor to give it a try? Have you asked him to bless the quilts before they are sent to mission organizations?
 - Working in local food pantries/donation warehouses: have you invited your pastor?
 - District and national mission grants and share their stories in church bulletins and newsletters, and at circuit and district events; and
 - Mission grant opportunities through LWML and the process to send in grant applications for deserving organizations. Deaconesses and pastors may have additional insight into local agencies.
 - Church workers of the LCMS:
 - Could offer LWML the opportunity to share current information at Circuit Pastors' Conferences, etc.; and
 - Could consider joining a local LWML group. Pray together, laugh together. Value and encourage each other and the God-given ability to share Christ's mercy.
- How the LWML can support church workers and the mission of the Church:
 - Caring for Pastors/Deaconesses:
 - Pray continually for the spiritual and physical well-being of pastors and deaconesses. There is a document of prepared prayers, as a guideline, on the Church Workers in Mission section of the LWML website.
 - You've each been given an index card and we'd like you to share your ideas for caring for your church workers. Please put them in the container at the back table as you leave the ballroom. We will compile these into one document and put them on the website for you under the Church Workers in Mission tab. Here are just a few ideas to get you going:
 - Cover the cost of any district retreats for church workers and their spouses;
 - Offer babysitting;
 - Send handwritten notes of encouragement;

- Remember their Ordination and Installation dates, remember October is Church Worker Appreciation month, remember their birthday;
- Go to their Bible studies, offer to help with Advent or Lenten preparations;
- Add to their library;
- Consider giving gift cards at random; and
- Take their whole family out for a meal or invite them to your home.
- You've also each been given a note card. Address it right now to your pastor, deaconess, or pastor's wife and, when you arrive home, write them a note of encouragement and appreciation.
- Caring for your Pastor's Wife:
 - Pray for her and her family. Ask her if she has specific prayer requests and tell her it is your privilege to pray for her.
 - On the back side of the index card, please write, "Pastor's Wife". Then please share an idea for caring for her, if your pastor is married. Many of the suggestions listed above also pertain to a pastor's wife and family, but here are a few more ideas to get you going:
 - Annual retreats should be on every district's agenda. If they are not, talk to your LCMS President about organizing one;
 - Does she need help with the children during worship? Sit by her and offer assistance;
 - Invite her to coffee, to your Bible study, to your book club, to a movie, etc. Make her feel welcome;
 - Offer to watch the children while she grocery shops, or shops for Christmas;
 - Invite her to zone, district, and national LWML events. Consider having the local group pay her way;
 - Recognize the challenges she has as a pastor's wife:
 - Far from family; solo parenting while her husband is at church functions; expectations placed on her simply because of who she married;
 - Give her your contact information. Let her know you are available for coffee, an emergency, a girl's night out, etc.;
 - Encourage her; and
 - Be her friend.

There are resources specifically for District Presidents for communication with all church workers in their districts.

- How to obtain a list of church workers: Contact your LCMS District President.
 - <https://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=455> – link to every district office
- Letter template for contacting new church workers and also continuing church workers in the district (we have these but they'll need to be updated - could be made available on the website); and
- Let us know if you want additional resources. We value our church workers and we know you do too.