



LWML MAILBOX MEMBER PROGRAM

Guidelines for Welcoming Women To Participate in Non-Traditional Ways



The Mailbox Member Program is an intentional way to reach out to women of your congregation who may not be currently participating in the established LWML activities. This program promotes the value of LWML and encourages participation in ways that fit into their lives and various vocations..

The resources of Mailbox Members enables women to:

- Identify and grow as baptized children of God,
- Understand and support mission giving,
- Participate in short term servant events, and
- Find support in Christian fellowship in this secular world.

The Mailbox Member Program allows women of the LCMS to discover how God can work in their lives through the LWML. It is designed to help women stay connected even as they may not participate in every scheduled activity at their church. You, as a *Lutheran Woman in Mission*, have the exciting opportunity to reach out and encourage these sisters to participate in God's work through LWML now, right where God has placed them. This program may benefit a young mother who will find the Bible studies in the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* relevant as she relaxes at the end of her day and a housebound woman who will enjoy helping with a service activity if she is given the supplies. These women may not join your monthly gathering but, if we make them aware of opportunities and share our joy, they may participate in their own way.

We all have different places where we receive mail — the mailbox at home and work, email, a post office box, and maybe a family mail box at church. Each of these mailboxes have one thing in common – they provide a convenient way to receive communications from others.

Communicating the mission focus of LWML and encouraging time in God's Word is especially important for women who may not regularly participate in LWML gatherings or activities. Busy schedules, family commitments, failing health, or difficulty traveling are some of the reasons staying in touch through a "mailbox" can keep everyone informed about what's happening with your LWML group.

The Mailbox Member Program was designed to be used in churches which provide church mailboxes for their members. However, if your church does not include mailboxes for its members, you can still utilize this program and adapt it to your setting. Consider these options:

- "Snail" mail — mail a monthly note, card, or postcard to women who wish to receive the Mailbox Member information and encouragement;
- Email — send a monthly email to women who desire to receive LWML information and encouragement via the internet. You can easily add attachments such as devotions, etc.;
- Facebook — set up a Facebook group and regularly send out messages of encouragement and local activities to those who have chosen to join. Links to resources can easily be included;
- Church Social Media Outlets — submit regular Facebook posts to your church's social media coordinator so they can be posted to all of the church's social media outlets; and

- Church website — work with your church’s webmaster to establish an LWML tab on the church website with links to various resources on the LWML webpage.

One of the joys of serving as the coordinator of the Mailbox Member Program is sharing LWML information and resources with individual women. This permits the women to explore and use these resources on their own as a way to strengthen them in their daily walk of faith. What a joy for you to share these inspirational ideas with your sisters in Christ!

The Mailbox Member Program provides:

- Invitations
 - Postcard invitations are available for you to download and give out.
- Blessing Cards
 - Note cards, sharing a thoughtful message and Scripture are available for you to download and print out or email.
- Crafts Activities
 - Download, print, cut out, and fold these resources to make actual mailboxes.
- Resources for 24 months of activities
 - As you communicate with your participants, use the provided resources and activities either by physically putting them in the church mailbox or sending them through the communication method of your choice.

The goal of this program is to connect and communicate with the women of your congregation by providing inspirational resources and thoughtful messages focusing on the mission and ministry of the LWML.