



Women in Mission

U N I V E R S I T Y



PO Box 411993
St. Louis, MO 63141-1993
www.lwml.org
lwml@lwml.org
800-252-LWML
Fax: 314-268-1532

June 2013
Design provided by Kristy Knapp

WMU – Women in Mission University

Women in Mission University (WMU) is a tool to educate all people about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, written and prepared by the LWML HOPE (Helping Organizations Participate Effectively) Committee. It consists of four sections that can be used individually in separate events, or all or some of the sections may be used together as a one-day event.

Using *WMU* is an ideal way to introduce LWML to LCMS women in your congregation, zone, or district who are not yet participating in the mission of the LWML. It's also useful as a refresher for women who are already involved.

This guide is designed to assist with:

1. accessing and using the various components of *WMU*;
2. planning an event designed around the sections you wish to use;
3. setting an agenda for your event; and
4. using suggested ice breakers, mixers, and servant projects to enhance your program.

The HOPE Committee prays that *WMU* will bless those who use it and those who view it.

Accessing and Using the Components of *WMU*

All four parts of *WMU* are available at <http://www.lwml.org/resources/hope-committee/wmu/> as free, downloadable PowerPoint presentations; also available are accompanying scripts (notes) for presenters to read as each slide appears, plus additional documents to enrich your event. (You also may like to share your own stories throughout the program.)

Included are:

1. ***Just a Cup of Coffee***, a PowerPoint presentation on building forever friendships over a cup of coffee; it includes a script and a devotion.
2. ***LWML 101 – The Basics***, another PowerPoint presentation sharing what LWML is and who LWML women are. A PowerPoint script is included.
3. ***LWML 102 – What to Do? What to Do!*** PowerPoint is the third part of *WMU*. It tells what the LWML does, putting God first; it includes a script and an activity which attendees can do at their tables. A list of suggested programming activities that may be used in LWML groups is also available.

4. *LWML 103 – The Heart of LWML* PowerPoint is the fourth part of *Women in Mission University*. It shares why the women of LWML do what they do; a PowerPoint script is included.

Using the resources:

1. PowerPoint presentations: Click on the link on the Web page for the presentation you wish to view. Click on the “view” tab, then on “slide show,” and finally on “from the beginning.” The slide show will begin. If you are showing the presentation to a large group, you will need a projector, which hooks up to your laptop via a cable, plus a screen or a white wall on which to show it. The presentation will be easier to see if the room can be darkened.
2. Scripts (or notes): Click on the links on the Web page for a script of the text you can read as each of the slides appears on the screen. You may like to print the scripts (notes) for ease of reading during the presentation; you may also open them on your tablet or another laptop and read from that.
3. *Just a Cup of Coffee*, *LWML 102*, and *LWML 103* are interactive presentations with questions and activities. If you use the table activity in *LWML 102*, you will need paper, pens, and Post-it[®] Notes at each table.
4. It is helpful to become familiar with the scripts and to practice giving the presentation before the event. Plan to ask someone to be at the event who is familiar with using the equipment, hooking up the cables, etc. if you are not “tech savvy.”

Planning an Event

1. Gather a committee; if possible, include a pastor as an advisor. Committee members shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred, which should be included in the event’s budget. Receipts should be submitted whether reimbursement is requested or not. It helps to budget for future events.
2. Location – Find a comfortable location that will hold your estimated attendance. Consider the facilities needed to host the sessions, meals, and overnight arrangements if necessary. If you include babysitting, check with the host congregation and your district LWML president for certificates of insurance and policies related to child care.
3. Publicity – Information and registration forms should be sent to area churches two to three months prior to the event so they can publicize the event in their newsletters and on their websites.
4. Registration/information forms – This form should ask for the registrant’s name, address, phone, email, special dietary needs, roommate/s preference (if overnight stays are needed), and other necessary information. Include on the form the event

- theme, location, and contact for questions, directions, date, starting and ending times, cost, and anything they need to bring.
5. Fees – Set a budget including meals, overnight accommodations (if needed), copying costs, activity supplies, and speaker fees/honorariums. Encourage registration by setting an early deadline and impose a late fee; or set an “early bird” discount fee before a certain date, with the “regular” (higher) fee after that. Consider having a one-day-only fee if the event is held on multiple days. A refund policy may be set; however, do not publicize it. It is suggested that the district counselors, guest speakers, and any special guests will be given complimentary registration.
 6. Speakers – If you have additional speakers, consider their religious affiliation and obtain the approval of your pastor. You may like to ask your congregation’s pastor, or zone/district counselors to participate in the program.
 7. Packets and equipment – Prepare a packet of materials to be handed out at registration. Arrange for microphones and podiums for speakers, plus laptop computers, screens, and projectors.
 8. Schedule – A mini schedule without specific times should be printed in the event packets.
 9. Items to include in all events are Bible study, devotions, prayer (meal prayers may be sung). Be sure to obtain permission to print music. There are many resources, such as Bible studies and devotions, in the *LWML Catalog* and the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*.
 10. Extra considerations (as time allows):
 - Ice breakers, mixers, sketches, games;
 - Singing;
 - Sharing time (in groups or with everyone);
 - Quiet time for individual prayer and reflection;
 - Campfire, hot dog roasts, smores;
 - Hayride;
 - Gifts from the Heart (ingathering);
 - Favors for each participant;
 - Bedtime prayers on their pillows for overnight events; or
 - Servant events.

Suggested agenda for using all four components of WMU

1. Registration and fellowship;
2. Opening, singing, and group icebreaker;
3. *LWML 101* (about 20 minutes);
4. Bible study;
5. Break with a “get up and talk to someone new” activity;
6. *Just a Cup of Coffee* (45 to 60 minutes if you use the activity as directed);
7. Meal;
8. *LWML 102* (45-60 minutes if the table activity is used);
9. Singing;
10. Servant project;
11. *LWML 103* (45-60 minutes);
12. Practice sharing with new friends; and
13. Closing devotion.

Depending on the time allowed for the event, you may move the various components around. If the event will go into the evening, you could schedule a dinner break. If the event is planned for more than one day, you could spread the agenda into a morning, an afternoon, or an evening. Keep the event moving along, but yet allow plenty of time so participants will not feel rushed.

Ice-breakers, Mixers, and Servant Projects

Icebreakers promote fellowship and encourage participants to interact with one another. Whether in the whole group, small groups, or paired off in twos or threes, ask a few questions and let the women share their answers:

- What is your favorite bumper sticker?
- What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
- What do you think is the greatest invention in your lifetime, and why?
- Name one of your hidden talents.
- Who would you call to be bailed out of jail?
- If you were stranded on a tropical island, what two things do you want with you?
- What's the first thing you notice about a person when meeting someone new?
- If you were running for office, what would be your campaign slogan?
- What was your favorite book as a child?
- What compliment do you frequently receive?
- What word would you add to the dictionary if you could, and what would it mean?
- Use one word to describe your computer ability.
- Which one of the seven dwarfs are you most like?
- What was your favorite vacation?
- What is your favorite game?
- What do you enjoy doing when you have time on your hands?
- What was the best gift you ever received?
- What crazy things do you dream of trying someday?
- What is your favorite midnight snack?
- If you had no limitations, what would you do?

What is the best carnival ride you've ever been on?
What was one of your most embarrassing moments?
If you were a pie, what kind would you be?
If you were to choose a vegetable most resembling your personality,
what would you pick?
If you could have an endless supply of any food, what would you choose?
If you were an animal, what would you be, and why?
What is your nickname? How did it originate?

Mixers allow for participants to build team spirit, thus making it easier to share from their hearts. Here's a suggested team-building scenario:

The situation is dire — following a shipwreck, everyone has been stranded on a deserted island! Each person is allowed to bring one object to the island — ideally something that represents them or something they enjoy. Each person is asked to describe what object they would bring and why. This need not be realistic; if someone loves music, he or she might choose to bring a guitar; an animal lover might choose to bring a dog; a food lover might choose to bring sirloin steaks. Encourage people to be creative.

After everyone has introduced their object and why they have chosen it, the teambuilding portion follows. Divide into smaller groups and ask everyone to work together to improve their chances of survival by combining the various objects that were introduced. If necessary, you can add more objects, but be sure to use all the objects that each person mentioned.

Servant projects encourage participants to think of others. It also allows for developing fellowship as the women work on a common project. Some examples include:

Assembling prayer rocks for nursing home favors;
Cutting box tops for a Lutheran school;
Marking Bibles for prison ministries; or
Writing notes and cards to missionaries or to those serving in the military.

For more information, please go to www.lwml.org and click on the “Resources” tab. The HOPE Committee has produced a series of thought-provoking articles to encourage out-of-the-box thinking as you work with others in your LWML groups. Check “Developing Leaders” for more information on ways to enhance your leadership gifts.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer (Romans 12:12 NIV).