



LWML 102 – What to Do? What to Do! PowerPoint Script

Slide 1 - So you have finished LWML 101 and you are wondering what is next? Now it is time for our next class: *LWML 102 -- What to Do? What to Do!*

Slide 2 - First, think of the following questions. (*click*)

1. What are the shared values of the women in my church, zone, or district? (*click*)
2. In what kind of activities do these women want to participate? (*click*)
3. What can my group change to interest more women? (*click*)
4. What creative ideas can my LWML group implement to meet the needs of other women in my congregation? Take a moment to jot down some thoughts about these questions.

Slide 3 - There are phrases we all joke about, but we truly need to clean them out of our speech.

Slide 4 – “We’ve always done it this way!”

Have you heard the phrase: “If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got, and you'll always feel what you always felt”?

How can you expect to grow if there are no changes in your plans? Have you or others in your LWML groups said these words? (*click*)

“If we have meetings, they will come!”

This is going to surprise you, but not everyone enjoys meetings. Details like which kind of coffee to serve or which tablecloths to use are not what women want to discuss. We are all busy people. Use meeting planners and sub-committees; delegate those types of decisions to individuals or small groups. Encourage each woman to serve with her own special talents by utilizing group time for spiritual growth, service to God, and for furthering His kingdom. (*click*)

“Let the younger ones do it!”

It is always wonderful that women serve for many years, but it is also important that they mentor others. No one should **have** to do something just because of her age or your group’s tradition. Encourage sharing the work; ask for volunteers, give them the responsibility and tools to do the job; offer guidance, but let them do the job in their own way.

Slide 5 – “We don’t want to change!”

The HOPE Committee has heard several times that existing LWML groups will not listen to the younger women and are not open to new ideas nor will they change to accommodate new people.

In such cases, the group wants to keep its identity, and that’s okay, **but** give others the freedom to start additional groups. Let the women serve as God calls them, with the gifts God has given. Remember your elementary school science? Cell growth only occurs with division. The mother cell produces daughter cells and the entity grows. (*click*)

“Cut the devotion short because we have a lot to discuss;” and (*click*)

“We don’t have time for Bible study!”

Martha, Martha ... one thing is necessary (Luke 41b, 42a). **Encourage** Bible study and devotions. Get into God’s Word regularly. **Feed** the women first, then let His Word build.

Slide 6 – To whom does LWML belong? (*Wait for answers*) To whom do you belong? The LWML is not about you, it’s not about me; it’s not even about the LWML President or anyone else in this room. It is all about women of God serving Him.

Slide 7 - Let’s read the LWML Mission Statement together.

The mission of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

Notice that the LWML Mission Statement does not say anything about meetings, sizes of groups, or even how often to meet. LWML provides opportunities for women to grow in their walk with the Lord, to use their God-given gifts, and to share Christ with the people of the world. Is your LWML group providing these opportunities today?

Slide 8 - In the Spring 1968 issue of the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*, Alma Kern, author of devotions and books for the LWML, wrote “...women no longer need the women’s society of the church as a social outlet. But we’ve got something...We’ve got the good news! Jesus has given us the ‘pearl of great price.’ Let’s display it as a jeweler would – in the most attractive way possible. Let’s tell it with excitement, enthusiasm, and variety.”

Not only does the LWML have good news, we also have resources and talented women.

Slide 9 - Matthew 22:37 states ... *love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

1 Corinthians 10: 31 says ... *whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can put God first and share His Good News!

Slide 10 - How can we accomplish the work of the LWML? How do we keep God as the focus? What exactly do we “do”? How do we step out of our comfort zones and help the women of the LWML be together in the Word and service?

Slide 11 - Romans 12:6 says, *Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let each exercise them accordingly* (NAS).

In the real world, meetings still need to take place. The altar still needs care. Quilts still need to be made. People die, people marry, and meals need to be prepared. This is all a part of ministry, and there are people who have the gifts to accomplish this work. Women who want to serve in this way need to be encouraged; however, women who wish to serve in other ways need to be given the opportunity and the freedom to do so. Let’s build each other up.

Slide 12 - There are unique ways that LWML groups can be organized to allow for service by all women with various gifts and interests.

Some zones have “ministry teams” which are led by a few visionary women. These leaders plan events and activities to take place at different churches throughout the zone. The hosting churches ask women to help with the event on a one-time basis. They are more likely to accept a short-term role than a longer-term commitment. Many cannot commit to a traditional one-or two-year term of office. Be patient; perhaps at another time they will be able to serve more.

Non-geographic groups can be composed of women who may belong to various congregations or who are individual LWML members. They may have unique interests or talents and need the fellowship of those who share these passions.

Some churches use the “circle plan” where there are multiple groups in one congregation.

Encourage women with common interests, like quilting or parenting, to form their own groups. They will be fed and grow by being with each other and with their Lord.

Consider developing a cyber-group which has online Bible studies, devotions, encouragements, and fellowship over the Internet. This kind of group may appeal to many women who, for various reasons, cannot be away from home to attend meetings or events. There are also women who work outside the home all day, come home, prepare dinner, help with homework, and get the kids to bed. Finally, they have a chance to catch their breath. Send these women encouraging messages, chat on Facebook, and pray together online. Someday their schedules may allow them to serve through LWML, but again, be patient.

Slide 13 - Another revelation ... not all societies, circles, groups, or whatever you choose to call them, need standard officers or regimented bylaws. *Designed for You* is a resource from the *LWML Catalog* with ideas for creating different kinds of groups. *Clean Sweep; Is Your LWML Group “Brain-Friendly”?*; and *How to be a “Pillar” in Your Group* are Web articles written by the HOPE Committee that you can use to get started if your group needs a change.

Slide 14 – Think back to our questions from an earlier slide. Read them with me this time.

1. What are the shared values of the women in my church, zone, or district?
2. In what kind of activities do these women want to participate?
3. What can my group change to interest more women?
4. What creative ideas can my LWML group implement to meet the needs of other women in my congregation?

Reflect for a moment. Look at what you jotted down when we read these the first time. Do you have more thoughts to add?

Slide 15 - Find out what the women in your congregation value and then run with it. Two items should be at the top of the list: Being a valued child of God and being part of a church family. These are things on which we can all agree. Please remember that the LWML needs to provide a safe environment for women to share from their heart. LWML is a place where God’s Word is studied and shared, and it is a place to continue along life’s journey with sisters in Christ.

Slide 16 - Women **do** want to serve their Lord in a **meaningful** way. They **want** to make a difference.

Some may want to participate in family-type activities like picnics, “Happy Birthday Jesus” parties, or cook-outs to benefit a shelter. Facilitate a servant event for everyone in your church, not just the women. Remember the teens, too. Grow a garden for local food banks.

Invite a missionary and invite everyone in your congregation to hear his/her story.

Try some activities for couples. Plan a Valentine dinner and dance.

How about scheduling a mixer for single people?

Women also want to be in the Word. How can you help them do this? Is it time to start another Bible study group?

Slide 17 - Be open to including new women and new ideas. If your group meets during the day, you automatically exclude women who work outside the home. Hold a few evening gatherings or a weekend event. Consider forming a second group, perhaps for those who prefer to gather at a certain time or want to work together on a project. Mentor these new groups. Mature women have a wealth of wisdom to share with the younger women, and the younger women have so much to offer the mature women. Listen and learn from each other.

Be encouragers, not discouragers. Allow women to serve when they can, where they can, as the Lord leads them. Ask them to help with one-time events that pique their interests. Don’t get hung up on memberships; let the women come willingly rather than being dragged in, kicking and screaming!

Slide 18 - Retreats are a wonderful way for women to be nourished with the Word and enjoy the LWML sisterhood. Find a creative way to host a mission festival, with stories from the mission fields, or a ladies' tea with devotions, or a Bible brunch.

Go on a mystery trip to a surprise destination and have a Bible study somewhere unexpected. Have fun with progressive dinners or play cards with shut-ins. Encourage the women of your congregation to attend district gatherings and offer transportation if you're able.

Plan a servant event. Pack boxes for military men and women or college students. Help at local shelters. Gather items for women in need and for pregnancy shelters.

If you want to bring women together, go on a mission trip and serve others.

Supply all the ingredients for a "Saturday Fun Day" where you make cupcakes for Mite Box Sunday or LWML Sunday.

Some districts are very large, which in today's economy may make it difficult to travel long distances. Hold regional events, with several zones participating together. Find out about events in neighboring districts and publicize them.

The *LWML Catalog* has many resources for you. The website offers free downloadable devotions and articles. Use the Bible studies and stories in the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

Slide 19 - The LWML HOPE Committee has also developed downloadable PowerPoint presentations for you to use to encourage the women in your church. Check out www.lwml.org and download them to show and share with others in your local congregation, your zone, and your district.

Slide 20 - Girls need girlfriends. We need to support one another, and as women, we need to nurture; it's important to be honest with each other, cry together, and praise God together.

Slide 21 - God has called us. In 1 Peter 2:9, He says, *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light* (NAS).

You are chosen! You are God's possession! It doesn't get any better than that. Proclaim His excellency!

Slide 22 - What to do? Do what God has called you to do! What do people see when they look at you? What do they feel when you are working side-by-side? Do people see the light of Christ and the joy of the LWML? Do they know **why** you are a Lutheran Woman in Mission? Do you have your LWML story prepared? Share what God has done for you with excitement and joy. You are here because you are chosen; you are leaders in your districts. Be a servant leader.

Slide 23 – Society continues to change, churches continue to change, and the LWML can, and will, change, too, to meet the needs of women in the church. But the LWML mission will never change; we will always follow the Word of God and proclaim Him to the world.

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* (NAS).

As Lutheran Women in Mission we are blessed to serve the Lord with gladness. Thank you. (*click*)