



LWML 103 – The Heart of LWML

PowerPoint Script

Slide 1 - Welcome to *LWML 103: The Heart of LWML*. This presentation is the third in a series of PowerPoint presentations the HOPE Committee has put together to share the LWML story and to encourage participation. However, *LWML 103* is personal – it is truly from the heart. Why do we do what we do?

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might
(Deuteronomy 6:5 RSV).

Slide 2 - What is the heart? The Bible says in Proverbs 4:20-23 (NIV): ... *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 wellspring of life.*

Slide 3 - What is the heart of LWML? In other words, what is the “wellspring of life” for the LWML? We are all concerned about the future of the LWML. Where is it going? What comes next? Whatever God has in mind for the LWML, we need to guard the “heart” of our organization: Word, mission and service.

Slide 4 - The heart begins with God. Life begins with God. It's all about Him.

That is why we start with God's Word which inspires and fills us with His joy.

Slide 5 - Bible studies and devotions are where we, with guidance from the Holy Spirit, begin our search for the heart of LWML. Beginning with the Word when we gather for any occasion is essential. This is where we are fed and grow in our relationship with Christ and with each other. Bible study and prayer provide support, insight, and encouragement as we live for Jesus.

At your table, take some time to 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.

Slide 6 - What is a Bible study? (*click*) A Bible study is simply 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 by the words "lead a Bible study." You may have thoughts like, "I can't do that" or "Only a pastor can lead it." However, God will guide you, so you're not really doing it alone. Stay in prayer, asking Him to work through you. You actually are "facilitating" it rather than "leading" it.

Bible studies can be facilitated anywhere ... in homes, restaurants, hospitals, or even in "cyber space." When women gather in a public place to study God's Word together, it becomes a witness to those around them.

(*click*) At our tables, let's try this: Open God's Word to a passage of Scripture and read it out loud. Then answer these questions: (*click*)

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

Slide 7 - LWML offers many 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 doctrinal purity. The studies are designed for women to guide a group of women through the topic. Some Bible studies from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* have online helps for facilitators.

Slide 8 - The second part of living the joy of the Lord comes from the LWML Mission Statement. It says that the LWML wants to assist each woman in affirming her relationship with Christ so "... she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world." This "mission heart" comes from that time spent strengthening her relationship with Christ, leading her to live a life filled with joy, loving those around her and sharing God's love through word and deed.

At your tables, discuss how you can share God's love with those around you.

Slide 9 - There is not just one way to have a mission heart. This list shows how women can actively share their mission hearts in their everyday lives. Note the word "praying" used here. There are many women who may never be able to actually go on a mission trip. LWML women are prayer warriors and lift up the grants we support as well as those who are physically part of mission trips.

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

Slide 10 - Look at the diverse meaning of the word "mission." These various definitions each speak to what LWML does in mission. It is worth noting that none of these definitions include the word "foreign" or "international." It does not matter where a person goes, that mission heart can be displayed wherever one lives.

Slide 11 - 1 John 4:19 (NIV) states, *We love because He first loved us.* God's Word tells us that. This love for others shines 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.

Share an LWML friendship story you may have.

Slide 12 - We share the Gospel with our money and our prayers. We share with our hearts when we study His Word and grow with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We share with our hands when we serve in our homes, our churches, and our communities. This service will be different for each and every one of us. We share with our voices by proclaiming the Word of God to be the truth and sharing it in our own communities or in places "foreign" to us – wherever people need to hear the truth!

Slide 13 - We do this because Jesus gave the Great Commission to 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.

Slide 14 - How do LWML women live in the joy of the Lord? Besides being in the Word and in mission, God would have us serve Him.

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).

Slide 15 - Psalm 100:2 (KJV) says, *Serve the Lord with gladness.*

Slide 16 - This service will look different for every woman. My gifts and talents are not the same as yours. God created each of us as individuals. How will you humbly serve Him?

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

Take time at your tables to create a list of examples of humble service. We will display them later for all to see.

Slide 17 - Where can humble service happen? It may be ...

- At home
- At church
- In her community
- In America
- In another country

(Share examples or your own story.)

Slide 18 - LWML provides women with opportunities 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. Take some time to consider what this looks like for you:

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).

Slide 19 - Our relationship with Christ brings us joy. We share that joy in our relationships with 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.

Slide 20 – Being in the Word is key. 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.

Slide 21 - In the same way, we really need to spend time with other women to get to know them. When we make those 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.

Slide 22 - I believe this hymn speaks to the Heart of LWML. Please join me in singing. (If you are not comfortable leading the singing of this hymn, then suggest you read it together.)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Slide 23

Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Slide 24

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Slide 25 - The words of this beautiful hymn really share the heart of LWML. 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.

Slide 26 - As you think about this presentation and what it means to you, my prayer is that you know the heart of the LWML.

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).