

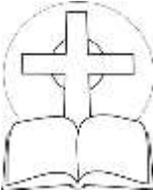
Sharing Jesus' Love through Action - A Year's Worth of Mission Service Activities — Year 1

LWML Gospel Outreach Committee

LWML Primary Focus Areas:

- Nurturing Faith in Christ. By God's grace we offer each woman opportunities to be in the Word and to use her unique gifts in God's service.
- Making Our Faith Meaningful. We equip each woman to make a significant difference in the lives of all people.
- Sharing Encouragement. We value each other in Christ and we accept and encourage each woman to grow in her relationship with others.

Month	Nurturing Faith in Christ	Making Our Faith Meaningful	Sharing Encouragement
January 	Start off the year in a positive way so you can be a blessing to others. Wake up 15 minutes earlier and spend it alone reading inspirational material and praying. Set a goal to increase by 5 minutes every 3 months.	At church, collect canned soup and boxed crackers in a large soup kettle. Then give the "Souper Bowl of Caring" to a local food pantry or soup kitchen. EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer at the food pantry or soup kitchen!	Start a "secret pal" prayer partner program for the ladies in your congregation. Ask ladies to commit to praying daily for their partner and suggest small acts of kindness to do throughout the year.
February 	Take the time to work through a difficult situation by writing down your blessings. Turn the situation over to the Lord in prayer. Chances are He will help you see something positive and uplifting through the whole process.	Pack Valentine care packages for college students and military personnel away from home. Include notes of encouragement and Christian literature such as small devotion books or pocket New Testaments. You may also wish to donate to " Faith Comes by Hearing " to send Military BibleSticks to our service members. EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer at the local USO or campus ministry.	Send Valentine's Day cards to your pastor's wife, the church organist, shut-ins from your congregation, and anyone else you know who could use a little extra encouragement.
March 	Rather than "giving up" something for Lent, "take up" something. Perhaps you've gotten lax when it comes to daily devotions or Bible reading. Now is the time to get back to it!	Fill the long days of winter by hosting a quilting bee at church. Invite youth and anyone else who has never made a quilt to come and learn how. EXTRA CREDIT: Take a field trip to deliver quilts or blankets in person to a hospice organization, mission, nursing home, pregnancy center, etc.	Check in on new members of your congregation. Be sure they know about any extra Lenten activities such as mid-week meals, special devotions, the Holy Week schedule, etc. Try to pair each new church member with a mentor in the church to be their cheerleader.

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April 	Add to your Lenten devotional time throughout the Easter season by reading through one of the Gospels chapter by chapter.	Focus your efforts this month on helping those who have been victims of domestic violence or child abuse. Contact a local shelter to discern specific needs and involve your family in helping to satisfy those needs. EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer at a shelter, become a mentor to a child, or train to be a hotline volunteer.	Encourage parents with young children by providing Easter storybooks and devotions that can be used as a family.
May 	Prepare for attending the next LWML or district convention by spending time meditating on the theme verse. Uplift the officers in prayer as they prepare to lead the convention. And, pray for the delegates as they contemplate their voting choices.	Collect children's Bible storybooks and donate them to the local library, homeless shelter, or community center. EXTRA CREDIT: Adopt a school – meet with school administrators to plan activities for the next school year. Volunteer as a mentor or tutor to a student.	Organize an intergenerational Friendship Tea. Invite moms, sisters, daughters, aunts, and friends. Encourage everyone to wear a hat. Provide some extra hats for those who don't have one. Take pictures of the guests that came together with new friends they met. Have a meaningful devotion at each table. Provide additional activities such as a fashion show, a Maypole dance, or card-making for loved ones who couldn't attend. Solicit guests in advance for "then and now" photos and use them to put together a slide show.
June 	Surround your congregation's Vacation Bible School with prayer. Remember to uplift directors and teachers as they prepare. Also pray for the children attending that their hearts might be opened to God's leading.	Have a baby shower for a crisis pregnancy center. Collect items from their needs list such as diapers, clothing, food, and bath products. Don't forget Christian parenting books and Bible storybooks for children. (Check out the LWML Store for Mustard Seed Devotions for young mothers and other items.) EXTRA CREDIT: Have the shower at the center instead of your church and invite the community to participate.	Deliver a pampering basket to a new mother. Include tea or cocoa, bubble bath, lotion, chocolates, and a Christian parenting book. Include a few coupons for free babysitting.

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July 	Use the time you spend in your vehicle commuting to work or running errands to listen to a spiritually uplifting audio CD.	Collect restaurant gift cards for caregivers in your church family. Or, collect donations toward a massage or spa day for them. EXTRA CREDIT: Provide respite help for a caregiver. Call to set up a time you could stay with their loved one so they can get a break.	Spend some time with someone newly widowed. Take her out to lunch, volunteer to help clean out her loved one's closet, or ask if there is any other thing that she's having trouble facing alone.
August 	Choose one Christian music CD to reflect on during the month. Read the cover notes and focus your devotion time on the scripture texts on which each song is based.	Collect school supplies and personal care items for homeless children or those going into foster care. EXTRA CREDIT: Host a back to school party for children in a homeless shelter.	Organize a ladies night (or day) out and be sure to invite friends from outside your congregation as well. Activities could include a meal, a concert or play, or anything else that fosters fellowship.
September 	Make a point to pray for specific missionaries and missions this month. Use the mission grant recipients from LWML and your district as a starting list. Add any missionaries supported by your congregation.	Make a dinner for your child's teacher and family, or for any teacher who belongs to your church. Include a greeting card acknowledging their special ministry to children. EXTRA CREDIT: Bring and serve lunch or snacks for all the teachers at the school you adopted in May!	Invite friends over for coffee and prayer. Use LWML resources like Mustard Seed Devotions or other devotionals as the basis of your prayer time together. You can also ask everyone to bring a can of coffee as a donation to a shelter.
October 	Write down your earliest memories of being a Christian. Who mentored you? How has God worked in your life? What Scripture passages have special meaning for you? Share your thoughts with your spouse, children, or parents as you feel led.	Host a family movie night at your church as an alternative to traditional Halloween activities. EXTRA CREDIT: Distribute invitations to the children at your adopted school. Be sure to indicate that their families are invited as well.	Visit with an elderly member or neighbor. Perhaps spend time reading to them or arrange to help with any chores around the house or yard. October is also Pastor Appreciation Month – don't forget to send your pastor a card.
November 	Use the whole month of November to keep a "Thankfulness Journal". Each day write down one item for which you are thankful and don't forget to express your gratitude to those near you. Say a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.	Communicate your upcoming Advent and Christmas activities to your community by mailing flyers or postcards. EXTRA CREDIT: Organize a prayer walk where you walk through your church's neighborhood and pray for your neighbors as you walk.	Single out the hard-working yet rarely recognized ladies in your congregation and send them thank-you cards for their service. You know who they are – the ones who tend the garden, wash and iron the altar cloths and organize the kitchen cabinets!

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<p data-bbox="132 155 289 180">December</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 155 779 318">Use an Advent wreath as more than a decoration. As you do your daily Advent devotion, light the candles and remember their significance.</p>	<p data-bbox="789 155 1455 285">Sponsor a parents' night out so that parents are able to do some Christmas shopping or decorating without little ones underfoot. Be sure to have licensed/certified babysitters on hand.</p> <p data-bbox="789 289 1455 354">EXTRA CREDIT: Involve the youth from the congregation in caring for the children.</p>	<p data-bbox="1465 155 1963 285">Organize a workshop for families to talk about what the Advent wreath means and help them create one for their home.</p> <p data-bbox="1465 321 1963 412">Reveal yourself to your "secret pal" prayer partner by inviting her to lunch or dinner.</p>