

Sharing Jesus' Love through Action - A Year's Worth of Mission Service Activities — Year 2

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 	<p>This is the month of resolutions – review what's lacking in your spiritual life and resolve to improve it by spending more time in God's word and in prayer.</p>	<p>January is when we recognize Right to Life Sunday, January twentieth this year. Host a baby shower for a local crisis pregnancy center. You might also assemble New Mom and New Baby Toolkits to keep on hand when someone you know is expecting. Read more about the LCMS Life Ministry here.</p> <p>EXTRA CREDIT: Have the shower at the center instead of your church and invite the community to participate.</p>	<p>Identify single mothers (or fathers!) who may need a helping hand. Ask them what they need most – babysitting, daycare, meals, etc. and then find a way to satisfy some of those needs.</p>
February 	<p>Make a list of the elderly people in your life – parents, grandparents, neighbors, shut-ins, etc. Pray daily for them regarding both physical and mental health concerns.</p>	<p>Collect warm pajamas to be distributed to a local low-income retirement or nursing home. Review the LWML Shut-In and Nursing Home Kit for more ideas.</p> <p>EXTRA CREDIT: Arrange a Valentine's Day party for the residents and personally deliver the items you've collected.</p>	<p>Send Valentine's Day cards to the people on your prayer list. Visit with an elderly church member or neighbor. Perhaps spend time reading to them or arrange to help with any chores around the house or yard.</p>
March 	<p>Ponder how you might "love the unlovable". These might be people at work or in your own family. Or, perhaps groups such as the homeless or incarcerated. Pray daily for anyone with whom you have a strained relationship.</p>	<p>Learn about a prison ministry or alternative sentencing facility in your area. Mark Bibles and collect allowable items to be distributed to the residents. You will find other LCMS Prison Ministry resources here.</p> <p>EXTRA CREDIT: If possible, deliver the items to the facility in person.</p>	<p>Reach out to anyone who might have an incarcerated family member, particularly a parent of young children. Ask how you can help and promise to pray for them and their loved one.</p>

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<p data-bbox="113 175 184 207">April</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 175 762 370">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!</p>	<p data-bbox="783 175 1434 475">Focus your efforts this month on aiding those with developmental disabilities. Perhaps there is a group home or facility in your area which can provide a list of needed items. Check out the resources available at Bethesda Lutheran Communities. EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer to lead an activity at a group home such as gardening, artwork, or some other type of craft.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 175 1980 378">There may be families at church or in your community who care for a developmentally disabled family member at home. Make a special effort to love and support them and, especially, to pray for them.</p>
<p data-bbox="113 505 184 537">May</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 505 762 773">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="783 505 1434 805">This is the time of year for tornados and floods. Consider collecting items needed in emergency response situations such as quilts and blankets. Review the LCMS Disaster Response page for other ways to help. EXTRA CREDIT: Invite an emergency response representative to speak at your church to educate members on how to prepare and/or serve.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 505 1980 602">Sign up for a short term mission trip to a domestic natural disaster site. Or, become a Red Cross volunteer.</p>
<p data-bbox="113 834 184 867">June</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 834 762 1065">We often think of June as the month for weddings and “June brides”. But, some marriages falter. Pray for anyone you know who is in a troubled relationship or may be a victim of domestic violence.</p>	<p data-bbox="783 834 1434 1135">Work with a local women’s shelter to find out what they need the most. Deliver what you’ve collected and host a tea party or lunch for the residents. You might also invite someone to speak about identifying the signs of abuse. Additional resources may be found at the LCMS Social Issues page on domestic violence. EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer to lead a weekly Bible study at a shelter for abused women.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 834 1980 1029">Minister to divorced and widowed women in your congregation and community by inviting them to a ladies Bible study, having coffee or lunch with them, and sending cards on special occasions.</p>
<p data-bbox="113 1164 184 1196">July</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 1164 762 1359">Pray for anyone you might know who is suffering from addiction in some way. If you don’t know someone personally, then pray for those who serve as counselors to those in the grip of addiction.</p>	<p data-bbox="783 1164 1434 1359">Learn about substance abuse resources in your area. Perhaps invite a representative to speak to your local LWML group or congregation. Ask what you can do to serve in some way. EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer to serve at a substance abuse facility.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 1164 1980 1294">Consider starting a Celebrate Recovery program at your church. Or, learn about an existing program in your area and how you can support it.</p>

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<p data-bbox="111 172 218 204">August</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 172 762 370">Take some time to reflect on what it would be like to be in a country where you didn't know the language at all. Pray for all the immigrants who find themselves in exactly that situation.</p>	<p data-bbox="783 172 1434 505">Research English as a Second Language (ESL) programs in your area. Find out how to get involved by providing supplies or by raising funds for the program. You can help spread the gospel message by supporting the Lutheran Heritage Foundation which provides books of the Lutheran faith around the world in native languages. You may also want to take advantage of free Bible downloads in many languages from Faith Comes by Hearing.</p> <p data-bbox="783 505 1388 537">EXTRA CREDIT: Volunteer as an ESL tutor.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 172 1978 505">If there are non-English speakers or people who can't read in your congregation, form a team to act as liaisons and advocates when someone has an appointment, meeting, or other activity where they might not fully understand what is being communicated. Consider working with Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services in this effort.</p>
<p data-bbox="111 570 268 602">September</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 570 741 805">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="783 570 1413 732">Make a care package for a missionary family. You can find ideas at the LWML Caring for Missionaries page. Whenever possible, invite missionaries who are home on furlough to come and speak at your church.</p> <p data-bbox="783 732 1413 870">EXTRA CREDIT: Organize a meal at your church where the menu includes dishes from countries where our missionaries serve. Be sure to invite the community!</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 570 1978 732">Regularly correspond with missionaries and subscribe to their newsletters or social media outlets. Make use of LCMS prayer cards to learn about missionaries in the field.</p>
<p data-bbox="111 899 226 932">October</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 899 741 1102">Consider what it would be like to be a first responder – facing danger every day. Say a prayer each morning thanking God for these selfless servants and ask for God's protection for them.</p>	<p data-bbox="783 899 1413 1102">October is fire safety month. Invite your local fire department to hold a community safety awareness day at your church. Hold sessions on home safety and planning escape routes. Distribute smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, and Bibles to anyone who doesn't have one.</p> <p data-bbox="783 1102 1413 1200">EXTRA CREDIT: Distribute invitations to the children at your local school. Be sure to indicate that their families are invited as well.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 899 1978 1005">Partner with local firefighters to assess home safety for the elderly members of your congregation.</p> <p data-bbox="1455 1037 1978 1200">October is also Pastor Appreciation Month – don't forget to send your pastor a card! And, take advantage of the LWML Pastor Support and Involvement Toolkit</p>

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<p data-bbox="111 175 260 201">November</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 175 764 440">Use the 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.</p>	<p data-bbox="785 175 1428 537">Work with your local Veterans' Administration (VA) hospital to see what the patients need in the way of clothing or other items. Organize a collection and then spend a day visiting with the recipients. Learn more about ministering to veterans at the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces page. You may also wish to provide audio Military BibleSticks to active service members. EXTRA CREDIT: Find out what your local VA needs in the way of volunteers and then sign up!</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 175 1969 370">Identify the veterans and active military in your congregation and post their photos on a "wall of honor". Have a Veteran's Day lunch after church one Sunday in November to honor these heroes.</p>
<p data-bbox="111 570 260 596">December</p> 	<p data-bbox="310 570 764 699">Be sure to use an advent devotion throughout the season. Involve your family and discuss each day's reading together.</p>	<p data-bbox="785 570 1428 764">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. EXTRA CREDIT: Involve the youth from the congregation in entertaining the children.</p>	<p data-bbox="1455 570 1969 764">Provide guidance to families on how to keep "CHRIST" in "CHRISTmas", to slow down, and focus on what's important for children to learn. One idea is to make an Advent Wreath and use it as the focal point for Advent devotions.</p>