



Guidelines for a Virtual LWML Group

A virtual LWML group is an assembly of women who, as communicant members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations, conduct their regular Bible study and business via electronic means rather than in face-to-face meetings.

The main benefits of a virtual group are convenience and flexibility. Women who work outside the home, have major family responsibilities, or have limited transportation or mobility issues are able to be a part of LWML without committing to attendance at regular meetings. In addition, “attending” a meeting via an electronic device (e.g., computer, iPad, etc.) allows immediate access to the LWML website for resources and information.

The purpose of a virtual group is the same as a traditional LWML group — to serve the Lord with gladness. Properly structured, there are opportunities for spiritual growth, mission service and outreach, gathering mite offerings, and fellowship with sisters in Christ.

Virtual groups are new entities and are still evolving. As with traditional groups, they can organize, structure, and govern themselves in a manner that meets their needs. The guiding principle in forming your virtual LWML is to be flexible and do what works for the participants. There is no right or wrong way to conduct your virtual LWML activities.

As you consider how you want to proceed with your virtual LWML group, the following questions will help you determine what is best for the women involved:

Members

- Will you collect offerings for groups activities or events?
- How will you collect mite offerings?

Leaders (leadership positions can vary, depending on the needs of the group)

- Who will coordinate meetings?
- Who will secure and lead Bible studies?
- Who will coordinate activities or events?
- Will you need a person to collect mite offerings?
- Who will receive and respond to information from district and zone?
- What will be included in your virtual meeting?
- How will these positions, and women to fill them, be determined?

Meetings

- What platform will you use for your meetings (for example, Facebook private group, Facetime, Zoom)?
- How often will you meet?
- Will you ever gather face-to-face?
- Will you include time for fellowship?

Projects/Activities

- How will you determine the projects/activities your group will accomplish, and how they will be funded?

Affiliating with LWML

A virtual group would become affiliated with the LWML in the same way a traditional group would, by submitting an application to the LWML district.

Working with Other LWML Groups

The virtual group may wish to coordinate activities, participate in joint projects (such as LWML Sunday), or hold an annual gathering with other LWML groups.

An Example of a Virtual LWML Group

Members

- Each member of the virtual group is asked to serve on a planning committee for at least one activity or project during the year, to donate money to cover expenses, and to give mite offerings.

Leaders

- Facilitator (serves one year) — sends meeting email and leads the group on a video conference
- Assistant Facilitator — (serves one year, then moves to Facilitator position)
- Treasurer — collects mite offerings and other funds and disperses them appropriately
- Secretary/Archivist — keeps files of group emails and minutes (or recordings) of virtual meetings
- Public Relations Coordinator — keeps congregation informed of the group's activities
- Spiritual Coordinator — secures Bible study material

Planning Committee and Activities

- The committee determines group activities, including how to raise funds. (They can do it themselves or involve the entire group and/or the congregation.)
- The committee meets to work on projects and activities, giving them opportunity for fellowship as well as for service.

Meetings

- On a regular basis (usually monthly), the facilitator sends an email with meeting information.
- The virtual meeting can consist of a Bible study and/or devotion, prayer requests, activity reports, treasurer's report, any business, and a list of upcoming activities with an announcement of the committee members who will lead the activity.

Structure Committee

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