




# the Finish Post

LWML 39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION • LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2021

## LWML 2021-2023 BIENNIUM MISSION GRANTS SELECTED


 LWML Treasurer Karla Koehler announced Friday morning the new 2021–2023 mission goal of \$2,150,000. Selected through virtual voting, this new mission goal will allow more funding to be directed toward missions. In the next

biennium, mission grants will receive a 20% increase over the past. Following Karla's announcement, LWML Business Manager Vanessa Johnson announced that we exceeded the 2019–2021 mission goal, and that the amount over that goal will be

added to the current biennium. This means that the actual amount available for mission grants is \$2,221,176.15. What a blessing from God for the mission grants listed below!

### A VIEW FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP



 Past LWML President Linda Reiser was the Keynote Speaker on Friday. Sharing a view of the mountain top and endurance from the valley. Linda began by telling about an

annual 4th of July 5K run in Alaska that goes up a mountain and down the other side. With no set path, runners endure rocks, mud, and tundra; it is a dangerous run. So why do they do it? Because it is a mountaintop experience! Moses went to a mountain to talk to God, Elijah stood before God on a mountain top, and Jesus gave a sermon on a mountain. She stressed that it is the view from the mountain which makes all the difference in our lives. It is attending a convention, participating in a workshop, studying God's Word, and participating in mission pledge walks. It is the people we meet who mentor and inspire us. It is the new insightful view from the mountaintop which moves us to take action. But, "our hard work is in the valley." She reminded everyone that none of us is here by chance and that "God has a purpose for you."



Watch the 2021 convention via livestream. Scan the QR code for video streaming during convention. Share with friends at home. For more convention coverage online, go to [livestream.com/thelwml](https://www.lwml.org/livestream.com/thelwml)

### NEW MISSION GOAL FOR THE 2021-2023 BIENNIUM!

Delegates approved a mission goal of

**\$2,150,000!**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow!*



### 2021-2023 LWML MISSION GRANTS

The following mission grants were chosen for the 2021–2023 biennium.

1. Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, \$81,680
2. Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses — Spirit Warrior, Central Maine, \$95,000
3. Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$100,000
4. Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life — LCMS Life Ministry, \$92,000
5. Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach — Lutheran Deaf Outreach, \$50,000
6. Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients — Phil's Friends, \$70,000
7. Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia — Lutheran Theological Seminary, Novosibirsk, Siberia, \$100,000
8. Light of Christ in Eastern Europe — Mission Central, \$56,000
9. Propelling the Gospel — LAMP Ministry, Inc., \$65,000
10. Educating Pastors in Africa — Mission Central, \$100,000
11. Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, \$100,000
12. Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania — Mwadui Lutheran School and Community, \$68,182
13. Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia — Lutheran Hour Ministries, \$100,000
14. Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, \$100,000
15. The Littlest and Least of These, Dallas, Texas — St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, \$42,000
16. Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp — Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado, \$25,000
17. Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru — La Mision Luterana del Peru, \$56,750
18. "Ends of Earth" Scholarships — Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries, \$50,000
19. Sharing Jesus' Love in India — Lutheran Braille Workers, \$100,000
20. Mission & Outreach to the Least of These — Victory Lutheran Church, K. I. Sawyer Community, \$51,356
21. Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus — Belize Mission Society, \$100,000
22. Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone — Lutheran Bible Translators, \$70,000
23. Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico — God Cares About You Mission, \$98,000
24. Reaching the Homebound with God's Word — Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. (DBA Worship Anew), \$100,000
25. Missionaries to America Project — Mission Nation Publishing, \$88,000
26. Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho — Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, \$100,000
27. Expanding God's Love in Uganda — LCMS Office of International Mission, Africa Region, \$92,000
28. Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach — St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries, \$70,208

## BIBLE STUDY: RUNNING ON SOLID GROUND



With the convention theme in mind, Bible study leader Deaconess Heidi Goehmann chose “Running on Solid Ground” for the first part of her study on Friday morning. She asked, “How’s your race going?” She told everyone to turn to the next person and ask the same question. She illustrated her points

by putting on a backpack filled with bricks. She listed several suggestions of “bricks” which could be in our backpacks: sins, mistakes, hurtful words, divorce, unbelief in families, mental health issues, and all changes that occur in our lives. As we read in Hebrews 12:1, we are to set aside every weight.

She summed up the morning session saying that hope is our solid ground. As we read in Hebrews 11, we are made strong in weakness. Jesus is our solid ground. He is the bookends of life, the first and the last, the designer and the finisher of everything. She left us with the question, “What nutrients do we need today?” The study will resume Saturday morning.

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## START THE RACE, BE SURE TO FINISH

Thursday evening’s Opening Worship began with the presentation of the processional cross. Mr. Tim Larson, son of LWML President Debbie Larson, served as crucifer. Following was a great procession of pastors who would later serve Holy Communion to the attendees.

The Rev. Dr. David Maier, President of the LCMS Michigan District, served as proclaimer. He opened by sharing his excitement in our ability to meet in person and for being the first organization to hold a convention in Lexington since the beginning of the pandemic. “To preach to a congregation when there is no one there,” he said, “That’s tough. But to see all of you here, God be praised, and thank you so much for being here.”

His sermon called those in attendance, both in person and virtually, to go beyond starting the race — to finish the race, as well. When trials and tribulations stop our journey, we are called to continue to the finish line. He shared the story of the Olympic runner who was injured during his race, but who continued the run even though he finished an hour after the rest of the athletes. Asked why he struggled through the pain to finish, he replied, “My country did not send me to start the race. They sent me to finish the race.” Dr. Maier encouraged us to seek God’s help to finish our race.

Pastors and Holy Communion assistants were stationed throughout the arena to serve the Lord’s Supper. Special music was

provided by a pre-recorded virtual choir, a small group of women singers led by LWML Ohio District musicians: music director Shannon Meisner and accompanist Diane Rohrs on the piano. Joann Zieroth, from the LWML Indiana District, played the flute.

Following the service, convention organist Dr. Jon Eifert, from Michigan, expressed thanks to the convention attendees for the impromptu singing of the additional hymns he played during a pause in the service.

Those in attendance remarked that they felt the presence of our Lord and Savior, Who graced the group with His love and led us by His Spirit.

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## TEENS SHARE EXPERIENCES AS THEY SERVE IN LEXINGTON



Ten teens between the ages of 13 and 17 gathered on Friday morning to begin their servant activities. New acquaintances were made through a “Skittles” ice breaker. The teens came from around the country: Texas to North Dakota; Long Island to Missouri and Arkansas; the most came from Michigan.

All of the teens found they had shared the experience of virtual school in the past year. However, their interests and goals for the future were diverse. Among them were several hunters, a woman who enjoys

fishing, a Boy Scout working on his Eagle project, and a future nurse. Athletes among them played basketball and football; one teen was a state champion in archery. In their hometowns, they have actively helped with various community projects, including mowing lawns and serving as a dance teacher. All enjoyed movies and agreed that Marvel is top-notch!

Starting their day with Bible study, it was easy for them to pick out their biblical heroes. Choosing heroes in their lives today was more difficult, however. The

heroes mentioned most often were grandmothers!

By 9 a.m., the group had hiked the short distance from the convention center to the Salvation Army Store where they sorted bags of donated clothing, placing the garments on hangers for customers to purchase. After a busy two hours of work, they returned to the convention center for fun activities in the afternoon. Walking back, it was evident through their conversations that they were looking forward to Saturday’s servant activity!

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## LWML FRIENDS MEET AGAIN

June Wadley and Joyce VonDielingen, LWML Oklahoma District, renewed their friendship with Grace Harris, LWML Ohio District. June and Grace met as college freshmen at St. Paul’s (Junior) College in Concordia, Mo., in 1962. Upon graduation in 1964, both transferred to (then) Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb. June’s first teaching call was to Trinity Lutheran School, Guymon, Okla., while

Grace was called to Trinity Lutheran School, Jackson, Miss. Their friendship continued over the years with birthday and Christmas cards. Then they learned they would both attend the LWML National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. This convention in Lexington will be their fourth national convention together.

Joyce’s husband accepted a teaching call to Trinity, Jackson, Miss. in the 1970s. Joyce

and Grace became well acquainted as they both loved music and were active in their church’s kitchen band that performed at local churches. They both became active in Trinity’s women’s group. Joyce’s husband David, now deceased, accepted a call to St. Paul’s Lutheran, Enid, Okla. Now the Oklahoma and Ohio LWML friendship circle is complete.

## 100 YEARS YOUNG



At 100 years young, Irene (Weiss) Gottleber-Lange has been an active member of LWML since 1947, only five years after the LWML began. A lifetime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw, Mich., she began her service to the Lord as an active teenage member of the Walther League. In her early twenties, she joined Bethlehem's Ladies Guild, a group that later became part of the LWML. For the last 30 years of the group's existence, Irene has held the office of President. She reached out beyond her local group by serving as Vice President for the LWML Michigan District Saginaw Zone and as their Communication Secretary for over six years. She has co-chaired funeral dinners in her congregation for the past 34 years.

During her 74 years of service, Irene has attended many LWML Michigan District Conventions, but this is only her second national convention. In 1989, she traveled to the LWML 23rd Biennial Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Journeying to Alaska for nine mission trips, Irene also has offered her services at Luther Manor Nursing Home and Bethesda Thrift Store in Saginaw. Mother to five children, grandmother to nine, and great-grandmother to ten, Irene works each year on her bucket list. She ziplined in 2014 and parasailed in 2015. Her 2021 goal is to ride in a hot air balloon!

When asked what advice she would give to women, Irene said, "Get actively involved, and push mite giving." To affirm her life of service and love of mites, Irene was honored during the LWML Michigan District Caucus on Thursday. President MaryBeth Heikkinen presented her with a slotted pony bank and encouraged her fellow Michigan attendees to say happy birthday to Irene by feeding mites to her new bank!

## HEART TO HEART SISTERS REUNITE



Thirteen newly trained Heart to Heart (H2H) Sisters District Leaders joined other H2H Sisters in Christ for a reunion luncheon on Friday to hear a story which focused on new life in

Christ. Chikako Drawbaugh, wife of LWML New Jersey District Pastoral

Counselor Rev. Tim Drawbaugh, shared her story of coming to America to learn English and being introduced to Jesus through English conversation groups at Peace Lutheran Campus Center, Stevens Point, Wis. Chikako shared how God touched her life through these conversation groups and how the Holy Spirit led her to faith in Christ. She and Pastor Tim have served in Japan and the United States, witnessing to the wonderful love of God in Christ Jesus.

## BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS



The LWML and American Red Cross Blood Drive held on Thursday included blood donors representing many LWML districts. Seventy-seven donors of whole blood

and four donors of power red units gave a total of 85 units. Each blood donor received a gift bag containing water, snacks, and information on healthy habits following donation. As a thank you from LWML, each donor received a convention pin and the devotion *Stay Salty* by Cara Whitney.

LWML thanks donors, sponsors of the blood drive, and the 15 volunteer workers from the LWML Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio Districts for contributing to the success of the blood drive. LWML thanks Ryan Brown, account manager for the American Red Cross — Lexington, and the Red Cross staff for their work with our donors. The blood drive was made possible through a grant from Thrivent. Thank you to Albanese Candy Store, Merrillville, Ind., for donating packages of gummy bears.

## SATURDAY SPECIAL INTEREST LUNCHEONS

NOON-1:30 PM



Registered attendees have an extraordinary opportunity to hear about the lives and work of our featured convention speakers and special guests. Luncheon attendees must have purchased the Saturday lunch on your the Registration Form.

Consult the Activity Locator for locations.

- **Andy Bates — KFUO**
- **Rev. John Carrier — Camp Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families**
- **Rev. Dan McMiller — LCMS Office of International Mission**
- **Rev. Craig Muehler, Chaplain, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces; and Mrs. Susan Knowles, wife of Army Reserve Chaplain Alex Knowles**
- **Deaconess Amy Rast — The Deaconess Program**
- **Rev. Kevin Robson, LCMS Chief Mission Officer**
- **Jan Struck and Abby Goehring**
- **Gary Thies — Mission Central**
- **Lorene King — Bethesda Lutheran Communities**
- **Rev. Robert Zagore — LCMS Office of National Mission**
- **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler — Lutheran Hour Speaker**


## PURPLE ROSE LWML STORE



Run for the purple roses on Saturday! In the Purple Rose Store you'll find Comfort Cards, a set of 24 business cards, each with a Bible verse on one side and a short prayer on the other. *Devotions for All Seasons* is also available. Take your notes on We are HIS notepads. For the infant in your life, baby onesies are available, or for the older ones, a unisex baseball cap. Try a pair of post earrings with a cloisonné-style logo, or purchase one (or both) of the new LWML scarves. A new fitted purple blouse will complete your LWML outfit. Finally, find a new brochure and chocolate mint candy for your conversations with women new to the LWML.



## CELEBRATING YOUNG WOMEN IN MISSION

 Young Woman Representatives (YWRs), who have served since the program began, gathered for a luncheon reunion on Friday. An enthusiastic group, past YWRs shared their experiences and encouraged current YWRs to stay focused on God's Word, serve where their hearts are, and remember they are leaders who serve with kindness. LWML is an intergenerational group, and attendees discovered how much they were alike. Jamilyn Clausen, LWML Northern Illinois District; Lydia Raquepaw, LWML Michigan District; Nikki Holcomb, LWML Mid-South District; and Erin Diedrich, LWML Minnesota South District sat at a table together and discussed the convention.

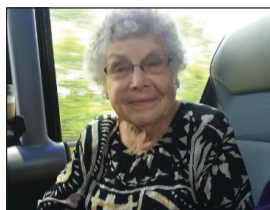
When asked their impressions on the Gifts from the Heart servant event, Lydia replied, "There was so much stuff. It was overwhelming to think people had packed and carried so much with them when they traveled." When asked their feelings on participating in the procession of banners, Jamilyn replied, "Didn't feel like I belonged because of all the women who went before us. Then I realized this was a Titus 2 moment: The importance of older women encouraging younger women." Asked about their favorite highlight so far, Nikki replied, "This might sound a little strange, but the captioning. It is so neat this is being done to help others." When asked why they decided to become a YWR, Erin responded, "I was an alternate last time. I knew I wanted to attend an LWML convention. This was to be my year."

## SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT BILLIE RENÉE & CUMBERLAND GAP



At 7:30 p.m. tonight, Billie Renée and Cumberland Gap will entertain in Rupp Arena. Coming from a musical family, Billie Renée started playing bluegrass, Gospel, and country music with her parents and sisters. When in college, she remained interested in performing and eventually went to Nashville. Her love and interest for bluegrass music moved her to start her band, Cumberland Gap, in 1997. She sings and plays upright bass. Tonight's entertainment is free and open to the public.

## CAMERA JOCKEYS



### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Phyllis Lentz, from Lindgerwood, N.D. (LWML North Dakota District), is attending her 20th LWML Convention. She has traveled by bus each time since 1975.



### SISTERS

Sisters, Janet Steinle (LWML Missouri District), Joyce Nardulli (LWML Central Illinois District), and Joan Tracy (LWML Missouri District), wanted to carry on a family tradition. Their mother and her three sisters attended LWML conventions together years ago. The Lexington convention marks these three sisters' first time together with, hopefully, many more to come.



### YWR — KAYLA MILLER

Kayla Miller, Dayton, Ohio, is a Young Woman Representative from the LWML Ohio District. She was honored and felt blessed to be asked to attend. A young woman with a passion for horses and serving others, her reaction to the convention so far has been, "Lexington is awesome!"

A member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Dayton, Kayla serves as church liaison for the Miami Valley Chapter of Lutherans for Life and on her church's altar guild. Kayla, an engineer by trade, works for the newly formed United States Space Force.



### COVID DIDN'T GET HER, BUT CONCRETE DID!

Volunteer Becky Kachanuk, LWML Indiana District, fell on concrete in early May. Her shoulder sustained injuries that required two operations. Two surgeries later, and true to her LWML spirit, Becky is serving in the convention information booth and at registration, willingly and with a cheerful spirit!

 Convention Wi-Fi Network: **Looking to Jesus**

## the Finish Post

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2019–2021 BIENNIAL

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