

LWML Provides Resources to Future Church Workers



One important mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is to engage pastors and church workers, building relationships as we partner in spreading the Gospel. LWML is working to provide resources support to involve and connect with all LCMS rostered workers. Reaching out to our seminary students is an important part of fulfilling this mission.

On January 29, Patti Miller, LWML Marketing and Development Coordinator, visited Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne. In her presentation to 30 deaconess students during their Saturday morning class — part of their winter intensive — the students were given a copy of *Faith Building Helps for Groups* as well as copies of the LWML writing guidelines. These valuable LWML resources will assist these deaconess students as they prepare to provide spiritual care to God's people.

"Providing this type of support serves the student and is key for continuing the great mission of the LWML. We need our church workers to not only be well equipped, as they are at both seminaries but to also assist and equip the LWML and our future missions as the Lord directs," says Patti.



Top left: Marketing and Development Coordinator, Patti Miller, presents resources to students at CTSFW.

Top right: Students and faculty of CTSFW march and sing hymns along the Fort Wayne March for Life route.

Below: Patti Miller marches alongside CTSFW deaconess students and faculty at the Fort Wayne March for Life.



While in Fort Wayne, Patti walked alongside current and future church workers during the Fort Wayne March for Life event.

Visit the LWML website to learn more about [Church Workers in Mission](#).

Mustard Seed Devotion Booklets

The LWML website has many devotional resources. A favorite is the booklet collection of Mustard Seed Devotions. These small devotional booklets have approximately twenty of your favorite Mustard Seed Devotions centered around a specific theme. The themes include *Devotions for All Seasons*, *In Praise to the Lord*, *Comfort and Hope*, *Joy in Our Daily Lives*, *God's Grace and Goodness*, *Dear Mother — Devotions for New Mothers*, and *Trust and Talents*. These little gems are perfect to insert into a birthday or anniversary card or leave one with your tip when you dine out. Carry them with you — you'll find more uses than you can imagine. Click [here](#) to find your favorites.

WHAT'S YOUR 80?

1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

This year, LWML is celebrating 80 years of service and giving. The LWML Board of Directors has encouraged all districts, zones, groups, and individual members to celebrate by giving or sharing “80 something” with others.

The women of Lydia Circle at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Houston, Missouri, took up the challenge. They made 80 personal care bags for a local women's shelter.

What ideas does your group have? Send them to depcom@lwml.org



Robbie Anderson, Teresa Clifford, Cyndi Flanagan, Brenda Clifford, Elizabeth Holdren, and Donna Christensen from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Houston, Missouri.

POBLO Sends Thanks

At the LWML 39th Biennial Convention in Lexington, Kentucky last June, offering #4 was given to POBLO International Ministries in Clinton Township, Michigan, for \$28,499.61. LWML received a thank you letter from POBLO detailing all the projects they were able to fund. Some of these activities were restarting the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, restocking their food pantry, hosting a 2-day vacation Bible school, and re-opening the sewing center where local women are taught sewing skills. They wrote “Funds from LWML offerings have been a remarkable blessing to POBLO International Ministries, especially in the COVID-19 period. We are thankful ... for the support of our ministry.”



**Have you included LWML
in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary
on your life insurance, retirement
plans, or IRA?**



Contact an LWML Gift Planning Counselor for help.
lwmlgiftplan.org

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis — Thank You for 2021–2023 Mission Grant #14

The LWML received this gracious thank you note from Tom Evans, Grant Writer at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.

“We at Concordia Seminary again express our deep thankfulness to the LWML for awarding us a generous \$100,000 mission grant for 2021–23. We are very grateful that this grant, “Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People,” is helping us to provide needed scholarships to our deaconess students and also helping to fund our costs to provide high-quality theological education to them. Once more, Concordia Seminary expresses its warmest appreciation to the LWML for this very important mission grant!”



**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS

Mission Grant Report — Concordia Seminary

Preparing Women for Dedicated Service to God’s People, Concordia Seminary’s mission is to prepare the church’s future leaders, including women who will become deaconesses. Deaconesses are called to embody the love of Christ in a hurting

world, exemplify living the Christian faith, and provide diaconal care encompassing the areas of teaching the Christian faith, spiritual care, outreach, evangelism, and works of mercy. The LWML's 2021–23 mission grant is providing vital diaconal formation program support and needed scholarships to deaconess students.

The Seminary offers five study paths toward deaconess certification with the newest being our Online Deaconess Studies (ODS) Program. All five paths prepare women to serve in congregational, institutional, or missional settings. Director of Deaconess Studies Dr. Gillian Bond says, "It is wonderful to see the deaconess students' different combinations of skill sets and life experience and how God uses these. It is fascinating how it works. Our deaconesses love the Lord, and they love people and care deeply about people."

Alyssa Lehenbauer is a first-year deaconess student from Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. After graduating from college, she served a congregation for several years, leading groups of teenage students, including some with histories of abuse, others with mental health problems, and still others who questioned their faith. "In that position, I enjoyed mercy work in general, and I began wanting to start caring for people of all age ranges," she says.

"The diaconal call is something God pulls you to — then you see how beautiful His plans are," Alyssa goes on to say. She has no preference about where God sends her to serve as a deaconess. "God put me here, and His ways are better than my ways," she says. "I'm content to serve wherever He wants me to use the gifts He's given me."

Rachel McCloskey, from Pittsburgh, also is a first-year deaconess student. During college, she spent a gap year in Costa Rica, taking Bible and Spanish classes and working with impoverished children at an orphanage and a juvenile boys' home. "The emphasis on helping people had always been with me, but I saw more of a need for it in Costa Rica," she says. "I absolutely loved the work I did there."

As to her Concordia Seminary formation, Rachel reports, "My coursework is very rewarding — I'm getting a fabulous education. I came here with an undergraduate degree in theology, and I'm learning so much more." She notes her exegetical coursework's high value. "The Bible is the foundation of everything, and you can't teach the faith correctly if you don't know it," she says. "As a deaconess, I'll be taking care of God's people, and I'll need to be faithful to God's Word as I'm teaching it." Concordia Seminary is deeply grateful to the LWML for this wonderful mission grant!



LWML President Debbie Larson, far right, presents Concordia Seminary its 2021–23 mission grant check at the LWML Office in St. Louis. Pictured from left: Deaconess students Rachel McCloskey and Alyssa Lehenbauer, Concordia Seminary's Director of Deaconess Studies Dr. Gillian Bond, President Dr. Thomas J. Egger, and Executive Vice President Michael Louis



Featured in February — LWML Committee on Young Women



Many will recognize this pin as the special item given to women who have been chosen to serve as a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at either a district or national Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) convention. The significance of the pin, as stated on the LWML website, is: The double links represent LWML women of all ages who are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents, and strengths.

The number one priority for this biennium's Committee on Young Women is to provide LWML leaders with resources to assist them as they make connections with young women. They encourage LWML leaders to share the joy they experience as they *serve the Lord with gladness!* By sharing their personal experiences, the committee hopes that young women will feel welcome in the LWML sisterhood — a sisterhood unlike any other.

The committee is updating and developing materials to aid in strengthening the connection between leaders and young women of their group, zone, and district. They have organized a Zoom Bible study with Lexington Convention Bible study leader, Heidi Goehmann, and the Lexington YWRs. The Committee on Young Women looks forward to equipping, encouraging, and joyfully uniting young women as, together, they grow as Lutheran Women in Mission.

The purpose of the Committee on Young Women (CYW) is to:

- Guide LWML leaders with resources to help make connections with young women.
- Produce and facilitate the Young Woman Representatives (YWR) program for the LWML Convention.
- Empower and mentor young women to connect and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.
- Equip and encourage young women to become more involved in their congregation and the mission of the LWML.



***Pictured left to right
Carla Church — Washington-Alaska District
Joy Anderson — Minnesota South District
Linda Fees, Chairman — Nebraska South District
DCE Kristina Parker — Utah-Idaho District***

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