



I am the *Heart* of LWML

Bible Study

By Rev. Brian Noack



I am the Heart of LWML

Bible Study Study Guide

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21).

Opening Prayer:

Blessed Lord, in Your love You have sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save and redeem us and to give us a new heart and a new life. Grant us Your Spirit that we may live confidently as Your children, serving those whom You have placed in our lives by sharing Your heart of love with them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Watch *I am the Heart of LWML* PowerPoint Presentation
([2021-01-20-I-am-the-Heart-of-LWML.pptx \(live.com\)](#)).

Introduction

Consider for a moment the human heart. It is a vital organ within our bodies, so important in fact, that God gave us a cage around it to help protect it. The heart helps deliver blood and oxygen throughout the body so that our other organs can work together to keep us living each day.

For many years, heart health has been a high priority, and for good reason. Without a heart the body does not function. We've all seen movies or television shows where a patient dies in the hospital. The "blip, blip" of the EKG machine slows and slows until it "flatlines" – the heart has stopped, and life has ceased. Thus, care of the heart is important. We're encouraged to eat right, exercise, have regular checkups with our doctor – all of that is good heart care. Nowadays, even our smart watches let us know if something is "off" with our heart. The heart is very important to our life!

As it is with the human body, so it is with any organization. What is at the heart of the organization is what makes it "run," and if the heart is compromised in any way, then the organization suffers. For an organization to lose its heart is to put its health and its very life in danger.

Christ, the Heart of LWML

In the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, our heart has always been, and always will be, Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world. All that we do as an organization focuses our attention on Christ and seeks to live faithfully out of the gifts and opportunities He provides for us. Through regular participation in Bible studies and worship, we remain grounded upon His Word as our faith is strengthened

by His Spirit. Encouraged in that Word, we look for ways to support mission work here and abroad. And, through the talents that each woman is uniquely blessed with, we seek ways to serve others by sharing the love and mercy of Christ. All this is done is for His sake. For He is our heart, our health, and our life, here and eternally.

Baptized into Christ, we belong to Christ. As St. Paul says in Galatians 2:20, I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Thus, when we consider this new concept, *I am the Heart of the LWML*, we are not seeking to replace Christ with ourselves. Instead, we are living out of the reality that as Christ is in our heart and life, and as it is He who lives in and through us, we are called to demonstrate the heart of Christ in word and deed. That is why you can also say, “I am the heart of LWML.”

My heart?

Here is where you might raise your hand and say, “I am the heart of LWML? Really? I know my heart, and it is not worthy of being the heart of anything!” And in a way, you would be right. Our hearts are sinful and imperfect.

1. Read Matthew 15:19–20a.

What does Jesus say comes out of our hearts? Summarize what Jesus is saying here.

2. Read Jeremiah 17:9.

What does the prophet say about our hearts? How might we see this condition in our lives?

These and many other passages reveal that our hearts are not what we would like them to be. Our hearts are deceitful and filled with all manner of sin. If we’re honest about this, we might think it hard to say, “I am the heart of LWML.”

A heart transplant

The good news is that our hearts are never too sinful for our Savior. Time and again in Scripture, we see God taking those hearts inclined to sinful ways and changing them so that His righteous plans are accomplished. Sin has sought to make our hearts stop — it has brought chaos and death into our lives. Yet from the moment of Adam and Eve’s fateful bite, God has promised to make His people new again.

3. Read Ezekiel 36:25–27.

What does God promise He is going to do for us?

Even though we have been sprinkled clean in Baptism and given a new heart and spirit, sin still fills our heart. It is a life-long struggle between the saint Christ has made us to be, and the sinner that still fights back. This is a battle that is waged in our heart.

4. Read Psalm 51:10–12.

What is David's prayer, and how does the Lord answer it?

When we worry that our sinful hearts might make us unqualified to be the heart of LWML, or of anything else, we look to the cross of Christ and find our hope and salvation. From the cross, Christ is forgiving our sin, He is pouring out His life for us, and through the means of grace, Christ delivers his righteousness to us so that by His Spirit we may live in Him.

5. Read 1 John 3:19–22.

What does forgiveness and a new heart give us, according to St. John?

What do I do with this new heart?

Let's take a look at the goals for the *I am the Heart of LWML* campaign. How do the Bible verses listed by each one help us embrace this new identity we have in Christ within the LWML, the Church, and the world?

Goal #1: That each woman recognizes she is the Heart of LWML, created to praise His name, reflect His glory, and share His love.

See Romans 10:9–10 and Colossians 3:16–17.

Goal #2: That our church understands that the Heart of LWML lies within each woman as she engages in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support.

See Matthew 9:37–38 and 2 Corinthians 9:6–7.

Goal #3: That each woman of the LCMS embraces her role as a Lutheran Woman in Mission.

See 1 Timothy 1:5 and 1 Peter 3:15.

I am the Heart of LWML!

So you see, you can say, “I am the heart of LWML.” It is not because you have a perfect life or a certain intelligence or an engaging personality, or even the cleanest of hearts (at least, not on your own). It is because you are a child of God, baptized into Christ, cleansed and forgiven so that your heart is clean and united to Jesus. Christ has given you His heart and His Spirit so that you may live confidently in your faith and joyfully before others. In all things, it is Christ who lives in you and it is in Him that we *live and move and have our being* (Acts 17:28a). In Christ, you are the heart of LWML.

Christ is the heart of all we say and do in the LWML. Christ has called you into the LWML as, together, we “joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.” Christ has given you a new heart for this task. When doubt creeps in because of sin, look to the cross and remember what Jesus has said: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid* (John 14:27). So be bold and declare, “I am the heart of LWML for I am in Christ and Christ is in me.” *And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:7).

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for sending Your Son to cleanse my sinful heart and to grant eternal life to me and all who call upon Your name. In Your wisdom, give me opportunities to proclaim Christ in word and deed. Pour out Your Spirit on me that my faith may be steadfast so I do not lose heart. Allow me to be Your hands and feet to serve Your children in mercy and love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

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