

LWML New Group Welcome Packet



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)
is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship
with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives
in active mission ministries, and supporting global missions.

How to Start a New LWML Group

A new LWML group begins when a group of women in a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), or in various other settings where groups of LCMS women live or work, wish to share their delight in serving the Lord through the LWML with others.

A good way to start a new group is with a Bible study, using material from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Free downloadable resources, including [devotions](#), [Bible studies](#), [leader helps](#), [PowerPoint presentations on LWML basics](#), and [ideas for programming](#) can be found on the website www.lwml.org. Additional Bible study workbooks and DVDs may be purchased through the online [LWML Store](#).

The mission and ministry of the LWML can be explained by relating the purpose of the LWML to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Both the LWML and district mission grants can be introduced, with a Mite Box (see description on the following pages) given to each participant, encouraging both prayer and financial support. Developing personal relationships among the women is also important to mentor and assist one another along life's path.

Steps to form a new group:

- The prospective new local group contacts their LWML district president and informs her that a new group wishes to be affiliated with the LWML.
- The district president sends the district's new LWML group form (if available; otherwise the form at the end of this document can be used) to the new local group leader; the leader of the new group fills it out and submits it to the district president.
- The district president completes the *LWML New Group Report Form*. She mails or scans/emails the form to the LWML President.
- The LWML President sends (through the LWML Office) the new group a letter of welcome.
- The new group can subscribe to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Learn more about that below.
- Membership certificates give identity and name recognition to new groups and relate them to the national organization. Presentations are often made by the district president at zone rallies; the new group is then announced and recognized at the next LWML district convention.
- To begin a bank account for your group, contact your district president for how to name the account and for the Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) for your district.

Welcome to the LWML!

You are Lutheran Women in Mission!

Who is the LWML?

You are the LWML! Every woman who is a communicant member of an LCMS congregation is eligible to become a member of the LWML. All you need is a love for others, a desire to share the Gospel message, and a heart to serve. "Lutheran Women in Mission" describes who we are and what we do.

Gatherings of Sisters in Christ

Lutheran Women in Mission groups frequently gather for events and activities to provide fellowship, work together on service projects in the church or community, pray, worship, sing, and study the Word as sisters in Christ.

Gatherings can be centered around local interests; business meetings can be held at separate times. Bible study, working on projects, listening to inspirational speakers, celebrating with luncheons, or going on day trips unite women in a common purpose and enable them to use their gifts and talents in the Lord's service. They also provide witnessing opportunities to reach out to sisters who may not yet know Christ as Savior or who are not involved in the life of the church or of the LWML. The time is now to reach out to our fellow sisters with God's love!

An LWML group will:

- support the work of the LWML;
- fulfill the LWML Mission Statement;
- promote the object of the LWML (Mission Education, Mission Inspiration, Mission Service, Financial Grants for Mission Needs);
- encourage use of the official LWML publication, the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*;
- distribute Mite Boxes and gather funds for support of district and LWML mission grants; and
- be an open, welcoming group that encourages participation and new ideas from all women of the congregation.

Motto

Serve the Lord with gladness! (Psalm 100:2).

Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Pledge

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

© 1955 LWML authored by Rev. Harry Fricke

Logo



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

Through this logo, the hope is to empower members through group identity, deeper connections, and the desire to serve God. The symbol was created with this in mind; one that represents the members of both the LWML and the church. The **heart** of God is behind all we are and do. It also represents the love and giving nature of the members. The **drop** symbolizes the cherished blood of Christ, His sacrifice for us, and the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, we lift high the **cross** of Christ — guiding our thanks, praise, and service. His heart is impressed upon our own and by the Spirit we are blessed with joy and peace.

View the video of the LWML logo through the years with the logo reveal video first shown at the 2017 LWML Convention.

Beliefs

As an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, our beliefs are in line with the statements found on the LCMS website at [lcms.org/about/beliefs](https://www.lcms.org/about/beliefs).

The Mite Box

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of “mites” — offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the Synod. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

Mite Boxes are available from the district, zone, or [online](#). They are distributed to every woman in a group, and often to each member of the congregation. Mite Boxes ideally will be located in a prominent place where all who see them will be reminded to contribute regularly and pray for the grant recipients. Some congregations display a large version of the Mite Box so those who do not attend LWML events may contribute their mites.



Mite Box offerings should be gathered at LWML functions, preferably with a prayer or a [Mite Box devotion](#). Some resources are available as free downloads at www.lwml.org. [Mission Grant Resources](#) — including a poster, prayer guide, devotion, and bulletin byte — are available for each grant, with a new one featured each month. Groups remit Mite Box contributions regularly to a designated district financial officer; individuals may send their mites to that same district financial officer. [Learn more](#) about the Mite Box and watch a video on how the look as changed over the years.

Organizational Structure

LWML groups usually form within their church congregation. These groups become part of the zone that is made up of several local groups. The district is usually the state in which you live, with some states having more than one district and some states combined to make one district. The national LWML has members serving from many different districts. This allows for the involvement and generation of ideas from a large group of women throughout the country, which makes the LWML a dynamic organization. The LWML is a blessing to the Church, producing Bible studies, outreach

resources, leadership training materials, and supporting the Lord's work through Mite Box offerings that accomplish the task of building for eternity.

Zones and districts vary in the types of gatherings they host. Many zones hold multi-congregational events once or twice a year. They go by various names such as "Spring (or Fall) Festivals," "Rallies," "Workshops," or "Retreats." Activities may include presenting the LWML Prayer Service, holding a "Gifts from the Heart" ingathering, working on servant events, or being inspired by speakers on topics of interest. Your LWML district website is a great resource for news of events happening in your district.

Conventions are an important part of the LWML. Bible studies, prayer, service projects, inspirational speakers, and mission grant selections are some of the activities that are enjoyed. In odd-numbered years, there is a national convention held in various parts of the country. District conventions are held in even-numbered years. Along with the necessary business of officer elections and bylaw changes, conventions are a joyous time of unity, fun, and fellowship. Learn more at www.lwml.org/district-conventions.

Thousands of volunteers at the national, district, zone, and local group levels serve the Lord with gladness in elective and appointed positions. Look for opportunities for the women of your group to serve at the zone, district, and national level.

Let's Make Connections!

Your zone president and district president are the key people with whom you want to be in contact. If you don't have their contact information, you can find it on your district webpage.

[Link to the District websites](#).

Check out the [LWML social media](#) on our website lwml.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). Contact your district president for all the ways your district is getting social.

Let's Subscribe to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*!

- The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* is published four times per year and is mailed to arrive around the first of March, June, September, and December.
- Group subscriptions are handled through your district. Each district handles *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* subscriptions differently. Please check with your district to find out where to send subscription orders and payments.
- eQuarterly subscriptions are only available when ordering an individual subscription at www.lwml.org/lutheran-womans-quarterly.

Let's Learn More!

Bylaws and Structure

Organizations differ and each local group should write basic bylaws that best describe its structure and method of transacting business. The person responsible for drafting the group's bylaws may contact the zone or district bylaws chairman for help and information as needed. Visit the link above for sample bylaws which groups may adapt to fit their situations. Articles on object, membership, and parliamentary authority should conform to national bylaws.

Church Workers in Mission

The purpose of Church Workers in Mission is to develop collaborative relationships with LCMS church workers.

Deaf Ministry

The purpose of the LWML's focus on the deaf community is to intentionally reach out to welcome sisters in the deaf community into fellowship and service with Lutheran Women in Mission, encourage and equip hearing, hard-of-hearing, and deaf women to participate equally as sisters in Christ, and encourage LWML women to invite and connect with women in the deaf community to grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Heart to Heart Sisters – Multicultural Group Resources

Check out the Heart to Heart Sisters page for resources on how to motivate, equip, challenge, and provide mentoring opportunities within the LWML for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships. Resources available on this page include a Heart to Heart Sisters brochure, Living and Learning Heart to Heart, Immigrants Among Us report, Bible studies and coloring sets in Spanish, Mentoring Heart to Heart video, and much, much more!

Leader Helps

Under the Leadership Development Committee page of the website, you will find support and encouragement to present and future leaders as they discover their unique God-given gifts and so participate in meaningful and encouraging servant leadership roles.

LWML Basics and the Mite Box

This resource will help you understand the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and provides tips for using your Mite Box.

LWML Handbook

Divided into nine sections, the handbook gives detailed explanations of all the components of the LWML organization.

Primary Focus of LWML

This is an eye-catching printable poster that displays Lutheran Women in Mission's primary focus: Nurturing Faith in Christ, Making our Faith Meaningful, and Sharing Encouragement; our Mission Statement; and our Vision Statement.

reSOURCES for Planning Programs

This "grab and go" resource provides two years of thematic monthly meeting plans. You can print as many copies as you need of any of the resources which include icebreakers, devotions, Bible studies, sketches and drama, mission service projects, and mission grant references.

Who We Are

Follow this link to learn more about the LWML, including [Symbols of the LWML](#), the [League Pledge and Songs](#), [Logos and Style Guide](#), the [History of LWML](#), and much more.

Who We Are YouTube Video

This one-minute video gives an overview of the purpose of LWML and can quickly be shown to invite guests to learn more about Lutheran Women in Mission.

Women in Mission University

This is **your** LWML so these courses were designed for you. Whether your group is a new start, or you are considering the redesign of a current group, it could benefit you to see what we have to offer. Courses do not need to be taken in order. But by looking at the overview, you can determine which resource to use as you begin.

LWML Invitation – Just a Cup of Coffee

LWML 101 – The Basics

LWML 102 – What to Do? What to Do!

LWML 103 – The Heart of LWML

LWML 104 – Your LWML Designed 4 U

Young Women in Mission

Find resources on how to equip and encourage young women to become more involved in their congregation and the mission of the LWML. Resources include how to engage Young Women and work with Youth in Mission.

YOUth in Mission

The objectives of YOUth in Mission are to suggest ideas as to how to make YOUth feel as though they are valued members of the body of Christ and the LWML, connect YOUth with the big picture of LWML and its mission, equip mentors with resources to engage youth in opportunities for spiritual growth, mission, and service, and provide ideas for YOUth in Mission activities that encompass multiple generations.

Questions?

If you have questions, please feel free to email your district president.
You can find your district president's contact information at www.lwml.org/districts.
Look at the map to find your district and then click on the district website link,
or contact the LWML Growth and Development Committee at depor@lwml.org.

Revised by the LWML Growth and Development Committee 2021
Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League
www.lwml.org



APPLICATION TO FORM A NEW GROUP
of the
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Date: _____ District: _____

The Lutheran Women in Mission of _____ Lutheran Church
have joined together to form an LWML group named _____
with (number) _____ members.

Signature of Pastor _____

Church Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Group Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone and Email _____

Officers (optional):

President Name _____

Phone, Email _____

Vice President Name _____

Phone, Email _____

Secretary Name _____

Phone, Email _____

Treasurer Name _____

Phone, Email _____

Send this completed form to your LWML district president.
You may find her contact information here: <http://www.lwml.org/districts>