

Identifying Leaders

What does an LWML leader look like? How are we able to identify a leader? If we look at the qualities of leadership, we can get a good picture of what a leader looks like:

Connected to Jesus

It is impossible to be a good LWML leader without being connected to The Leader. A good leader needs to be in constant communication with Jesus, praying for wisdom. *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him* (James 1:5). It is essential to be grounded in the Word of God.

Vision

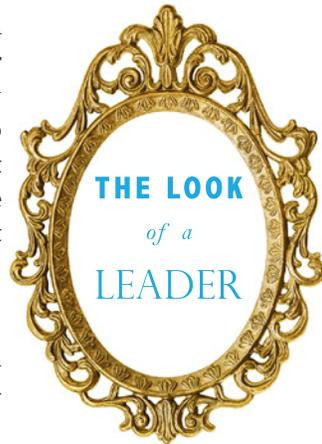
Having vision is all about looking to the future and seeing the possibilities of what your organization could accomplish. It is using a proactive approach to motivate all the group members to take action to accomplish the dream.

Passion

When one is passionate about something, one cares enough to get something done. Having a vision without passion will accomplish nothing. *May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!* (Psalm 20:4).

Integrity

It is essential that the leader have the followers' respect. All leaders are carefully watched. It is important that a Christian leader gives no grounds for accusation. The Christian leader should not do things that will reflect in the wrong way on Jesus Christ. The Christian leader will not be perfect, but it is necessary that she live as a forgiven child of God. As a child of God, the leader will care for her followers, be honest with them, and listen to them. Respect enables the leader to influence the group. Leadership is influence.



Humility

We can look to the greatest servant leader, Jesus, for the way to lead with humility. *Have this mind among yourselves, yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men* (Philippians 2:5-7). Followers will not be loyal to someone who is puffed up with pride and egocentric. Jesus showed compassion to others and even washed the disciples' feet. It is important to spend time with the group members and listen to what they have to say. A good leader will learn from them. She will also learn from her mistakes.

Courage

Trying to do something in a new or different way is frightening. What if it doesn't work? But we can be certain that if we do not try it, it will not work. Leaders ought to have the courage to try new things without being paralyzed by the fear of failure. *It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed* (Deuteronomy 31:8).



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Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith
(Hebrews 12:1b - 2a).

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Problem Solver

The ability to find new and innovative solutions to problems is an important quality for a leader to possess. She sees problems as challenges that are opportunities for growth.

Personal Commitment

A leader may have all the essential qualities for leadership, but if she is lacking time and commitment, she will be unable to lead. Personal involvement is necessary.

Ten Commandments for LWML Leaders

1. **Thou shalt know the facts.** Keep current with what is happening on the society, zone, district, and national levels. Connect with national and district websites, read the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, check Facebook pages, and attend LWML events. Then, pass it along. Thou shalt not keep this information to thyself.
2. **Thou shalt distribute materials promptly.** Make sure each member receives national and district publications on time. Make additional copies (or send via email) for those women in your church who have not yet participated in LWML.
3. **Thou shalt not procrastinate.** Give thyself enough time to handle all matters in an orderly fashion. Do not assume anything: double-check each step of the way to ensure a successful completion.
4. **Thou shalt not dominate thy meetings.** Though thou be a leader, do not become overly proud of thyself and bore others with lengthy speeches.
5. **Thou shalt read and respond to all thy mail promptly.** Do not store unopened mail on the shelf or in your inbox, expecting to take care of it at a later date. If thou cannot answer promptly, let the sender know thou received it and will respond by a certain date.
6. **Thou shalt keep harmony within the organization.** Do not allow jealousy or hurt feelings to grow. Remind others, and set a good example, of Christian sisterhood and encourage showing love and kindness to all.
7. **Thou shalt constantly look for ways to improve thyself and the organization.** Use resources offered by LWML. Attend leader development seminars, read books, and purchase or borrow DVDs from the library on leadership topics. Evaluate thy group's activities to see if they are helping to meet the group's goals. Retain that which is good. Discard that which is ineffective.
8. **Thou shalt start and end thy meetings on time.** Be punctual thyself and set a good example for others. Show thy enthusiasm and joy in working for the Lord so that others will be begging to participate and perhaps take thy office next year.
9. **Thou shalt remember to say "thank you."** Give sincere compliments to those who have served on committees and projects. Do not miss an opportunity to recognize service or contributions of any kind.
10. **Thou shalt remember to thank the Lord.** Thank Him for His assistance and for uncovering all those hidden, God-given talents thou never realized thou had until thou became a leader in the LWML.

LWML Resources

To find, read, save, and print FREE downloadable LWML resources from the Leader Development Committee, go to <http://www.lwml.org/developing-leaders> or order them for a small fee from the *LWML Catalog*.