



The Time is NOW to get your suitcase out, pack your walking shoes (for the Mission in Motion/Mission Pledge Walk), your LWML purple clothing, and to make sure you have room to bring some Gifts From the Heart ingathering items (see the Des Moines Convention insert in the Winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for a detailed list).

Once you arrive, whether by plane, bus, or auto, you can look forward to enjoying:

- The worship proclaimers: Rev. Gregory Seltz, of The Lutheran Hour Ministry on Thursday evening and on Sunday morning, Rev. Keith Piotter, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bettendorf, Iowa;
- Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Lutherans For Life;
- The Mites in Action Speakers: Carly Hatcher, Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries; Tim Hetzner, Lutheran Church Charities; Rev. Dr. Tilahun Mekonnen Menedo, Concordia

College, Alabama; and Rev. Jim Rivett, Southern Illinois District Prison Ministry Coordinator;

- Singing led by Dr. Dina Vendetti; and
- The wit and humor of Jan Struck.

There are 33 mission grants on the ballot. All are very exciting ministries. Our delegates and officers will prayerfully select and by the time we leave Des Moines, we will have new mission grants to prayerfully support.

It has been 30 years since LWML gathered in convention in Iowa. The world has seen many changes – dress, hair styles, communication, and technology – but the warm smiles and hospitality of the women of the Iowa Districts remains the same! They are preparing the way for each convention attendee to be fed by God's Word and Sacrament, nurtured through worship and fellowship, and equipped to sow, nourish, and reap in the Lord's harvest field long after the convention adjourns.