



Surrounded

BY CHRISTIE STEFFENS, LWML CHURCH WORKERS IN MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR

When first looking at the title, did you get a bad or a good feeling? It depends on the context.

David wrote many times about being surrounded by his enemies. That was a bad feeling. In Hebrews 12:1 we read, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.* Now, are you feeling better about being surrounded? Continuing to verse two, it says, *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.* Ah, being surrounded by Jesus and His witnesses — we're feeling much better, right?

When pastors are ordained, the practice of “laying on of hands” is used. Visiting pastors surround and quote Bible verses and/or pronounce blessings on the newly ordained pastor. New church workers are surrounded by prayer as they are installed. This reminds us of Christ’s promise to always be with us, surrounding us with His love. His “hands-on” blessing gives us comfort and peace. Please continue to “surround” all church workers with your prayers and support. To God be all glory and praise!



YWR Connections

The Young Women in Mission Facebook page is a place to connect with other women involved in LWML. The LWML Committee on Young Women updates the posts regularly with

links to resources that educate, inform, and motivate all women of the church, not just young women.

One such post of a picture of the Young Woman Representative (YWR) pin generated lots of discussion by those who have served as YWRs at past national conventions. The post asked women to think about the meaning of the pin. Two of the many replies summarized the discussion: “While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another’s gifts, talents and strengths.” “I have so many sisters in Christ that I have been linked to through the LWML. I am blessed by each and every one of them.”

While the pin is an identifier for those who have been in the YWR program, it is not the pin that causes these connections to be precious. It is because of our incredible Savior and our desire to be in His Word, surrounded by His grace!

Heart to Heart Sisters on a Mission

Your Heart to Heart (H2H) Committee is on a mission to:

- Encourage H2H District Leaders as they connect with sisters of all ethnic backgrounds.
- Assist H2H District Leaders to identify specialized LCMS ethnic ministries within their district.
- Prepare for the Lexington convention H2H training for district leaders.
- Coordinate new resources for our H2H counterparts.

New H2H Pin Designed

The newest identifying pin for LWML Heart to Heart District Leaders will be unveiled at the Lexington convention. This pin uses the H2H logo in beautiful golden tones with a glittery purple heart embedded with a white cross. The pin will be presented to the newly trained H2H District Leaders.

Creating Common Ground in the Lord

LWML Atlantic District President Linda Guterres shared her district’s version of the H2H initiative in the article “Heart to Heart Sisters in the Kingdom of God.” She wrote, “Over and over again we have been pleasantly surprised by what we have in common with other women. Being able to share our experiences with diverse people of many cultures, people who do not judge or criticize, creates a common ground on which we stand together in the Lord.” Read more about H2H at lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters.