



Irene (Weiss) Gottleber-Lange celebrates 100 years of life on June 5, 2021. Her Lord and Savior has blessed her throughout her life, and she has grown in her faith as a life-long member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw, Michigan (**LWML Michigan District**). Born in 1921, Irene is a Christ-like example to her five children, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Irene personifies the Heart of LWML. She joined her church's Ladies Society (LWML) in 1947, where she is the current president, having served in this capacity for more than 30 years. This BLEST group (Bethlehem Ladies Enjoying Service Together) invite all Lutheran Women in Mission to join them every month to participate in service projects that include arts and crafts, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, tying knots on quilts, and sewing strips of material together to make rugs. For the last 34 years, Irene has been the co-chairman of the church's funeral dinners committee. She served as the Vice President of the LWML Michigan District Saginaw Valley Zone and currently serves as the zone's Communication Secretary.

Irene's volunteer life is varied and includes: over 15 years of service at Luther Manor Nursing Home, more than 14 years of helping at the Bethesda Thrift Store in Saginaw, and participating in nine mission trips to rural Alaska (2008-2018) — trips sponsored by her church.

What does a 100-years-young Lutheran woman do in her spare time? She went zip lining in 2014, and parasailing in 2015. But that's not all! Her "bucket list" includes, the Lord-willing, a hot air balloon ride this year!



On October 10, 2020, the **LWML Minnesota South District** held "The Great Minnesota South Mission Get-Together" at Mayer Lutheran High School. A total of 174 masked women and men gathered while others joined virtually via live-stream, watching from the comfort of their homes or in small groups at churches. This event blended with their planned June district convention theme, "Tell Everyone What He Has Done." A worship service was held, new officers elected by electronic voting were installed, and a special mite offering was given. Mission grant recipients spoke about their ministries, and an LCMS missionary shared about her work in Spain. A "Silent Basket Auction" and spinning the "Wheel for Missions" gave attendees a chance to win LWML products. Jan Struck entertained attendees as the Humorous Interrupter and Keynote Speaker. District President Deb Vinkemeier declared, "It was a day filled with joy and encouragement in the Lord."

The LWML Lydia Circle (**LWML Nebraska North**) at Zion Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska, collected food and personal items for deployed servicemen. The heartfelt service project was opened to the congregation for contributions. Group member Lois Costar states, "Enough items were donated to send two very large boxes to the USS Nimitz, an aircraft carrier deployed to the Middle East. We also sent smaller boxes to four young men from our congregation — two who are stateside and two who are deployed overseas."

### Winter 2021 Theme – For the Joy

Please share stories and photos of joyful Lutheran Women in Mission who participate in family and holiday traditions or activities that demonstrate the Heart of LWML with News Editor Shari Miller: [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org) or 3827 Chokecherry, East Helena, Montana 59635 **Deadline: August 15, 2021. Include: name, address, phone, and email.**



**Q:** What do you get when you combine pumpkins, acrylic paint, craft supplies, love for their Savior, and creative Lutheran Women on a Mission?

**A:** An innovative, successful fundraiser for mites!

Prior to hosting the LWML Zone 8 Fall Rally on October 15, 2020, the Ladies Aid of St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Waldo, Wisconsin (**LWML South Wisconsin District**), turned a brainstorming idea into a money-making project. After purchasing pumpkins with a Thrivent Action Team grant, six ladies met to decorate pumpkins. A variety of materials were used to transform ordinary pumpkins into extraordinary works of art. As the ladies worked, the sharing of tips, ideas, and materials led to some truly unique creations. The result: these women and others who worked from home decorated a total of 40 pumpkins. Attendees at the Fall Rally could give a free-will offering to take home their favorites. The offering collected \$270 for mites. Unclaimed pumpkins were given to the congregation's shut-in members. One of the group exclaims, "We praise God for blessing this project to His glory!"



Thanks to a Thrivent grant, the women of the LWML at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cambridge, Nebraska (**LWML Nebraska South**), are participating in a fun, caring servant event. The local "Blooms" floral shop has "\$5 Fridays," where a small bouquet of flowers costs \$5. The group's plan is to meet to design floral arrangements four times during the year for 12 residents at an assisted living center in Cambridge. Deliveries were then scheduled for January 5, February 5, Easter, and July 4. One member, Joy Deterding, shares, "The pretty bouquets brought smiles to the residents who cannot yet leave the facility or have guests. It warmed our hearts, too!"



The LWML Quilters of Town and Country Lutheran Church, Sacramento, California (**LWML California-Nevada-Hawaii District**), is a small group of five women. They have lovingly been providing 250-300 quilts a year to Lutheran Social Services, St. John's Women's Shelter, Mercy Holistic Ministry, Crisis Nursery of Sacramento, and the homeless in downtown Sacramento. Londa Borer-Skov reports, "One of our quilters, Marge Mann, is 97 years old and continues to make between three to five quilts a week. Over the past 20 years, that means she has made more than 3,000 quilts! All glory be to God."

Since the year 2000, the group has embraced diversity and worked with 1,000 Generations (*Mil Generaciones*) of Tijuana, Mexico, headed by Tere and Sadoc Martinez and former LWML Heart to Heart Sister Committee Chairman, Melissa Salomón. This ministry serves poor families on the outskirts of Tijuana, Mexico. Medicines, quilts, and similar items, along with the Good News of salvation in Jesus, are distributed. One boy, upon receiving a quilt, said "Oh, I have been cold for so long. Now I won't be."



At 28 years old, Kristen O'Shea (**LWML Kansas District**) became the youngest woman elected to serve in the Kansas State Senate where she will represent District 18 (Topeka area). Kristen, a member of the LWML Committee on Young Women, daughter of LWML Vice President of Christian Life Susan Brunkow, and a Young Woman Representative to the 2019 Mobile Convention, personifies the Heart of LWML. She is also an active member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Topeka. Following her election on November 3, 2020, James Krotz, one of her advisors, posted on Facebook, "She will make an amazing state senator for Kansas because she possesses the integrity, honesty, and empathy needed for public service. Her strong Christian (yay Lutherans!) values are an inspiration to me, and she is more than qualified to take on Kansas' many challenges."

### Groups Serve in Tennessee!

Twelve quilts and one fleece blanket with crocheted edging were made by the Lutheran Women in Mission of Celebration Lutheran Church in Seymour, Tennessee (**LWML Mid-South District**). During the pandemic, the quilters stayed connected, yet apart! Thirteen willing workers made the quilts. Quilter Lyla Krieg says: "We set up tables in separate rooms so four ladies could work at a time at a safe distance and masked. One lady in each room kept the needles threaded. Talk about efficiency! All the quilts were made with love and the prayer that Lutheran World Relief could find needed homes for someone to keep warm and cozy." *Some of the women and their handiwork are pictured on the right.*



Seeking to find a service project to safely accomplish during the pandemic, the women of the LWML group at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Memphis, Tennessee (**LWML Mid-South District**), decided to donate items for 40 Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Ten women and three children (pictured bottom right) gathered on October 31, 2020, to assemble the kits. Group President Denise Doyle reports, "After assembling the kits, we went to the Memphis Botanical Gardens for lunch and explored the gardens, enjoying the beautiful day and surroundings. The Lord blessed us with a time of service and Christian fellowship in His name."



The Lutheran Women in Mission at Grace Lutheran Church, Molalla, Oregon (**LWML Oregon District**) share the Word of God with their congregational family, extended friends, and family. They assembled and mailed Lenten devotion packets which included a Lenten devotion, the LWML devotional template, and a Lutheran Hour Ministries booklet.

The group also assembled "Purses with a Purpose." Gently used purses are filled with personal items to be given to women's shelters. The heart-filled service of this group has filled over 40 purses in the last two months. A particular blessing of this project is that a local thrift store is donating the purses. Outreach abounds!



### LWML Mite “Round Up”

In order to boost mite offerings and involve LWML members sheltering in place, Lutheran Women in Mission at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas (**LWML Kansas District**), promoted a Mite Round Up. SignUp Genius was used to pledge donations for LWML mission grants and work programs. People could either bring their mite offering to church or schedule a mite offering “pick-up.” The pick-ups were contact-free; women and men left their donations in a bag on the front porch. LWML members rounded up all the pick-ups at Beautiful Savior.



Lutheran Women in Mission at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Arizona (**LWML Pacific Southwest District**), took to heart a drive-through mite collection idea from the Winter 2020 LWQ. Along with dropping off Mite Boxes, they requested donations of diapers, pantry items, and blankets to be distributed by members of the church to various ministries. Kay Siebert, Director of Christ Cares Ministries, one of the ministries supported, said, “I took all of the diapers to Christ Cares. They came at just the right time and will stock us up for next week. We are currently distributing 15,000 diapers a month to those in need!”



### An Evening of Zoom Chat

Once a month, the **LWML Utah-Idaho District** holds virtual events for all women, via Zoom. Using their biennium theme, TRUST-RENEW-GROW-SERVE, they are sharing the mission of LWML. Each event includes prayer, Bible study, a special guest, introduction of pastors within the district, sometimes a craft or icebreaker, and, of course, fellowship. Mission grants are updated and technology tidbits are provided to encourage and educate. Women can later access the recorded event, along with a prayer calendar, through the district’s website: [www.utahidaholwml.org](http://www.utahidaholwml.org).

### Purple Juice, Anyone?

Ginger Starrett, LWML Recording Secretary, shared this story which touched our hearts: “Our granddaughter, Kailee, spent some time with us one weekend. When I made her lunch, she kept asking me for purple juice. I kept telling her, ‘Nana does not have any purple juice — just apple juice.’ Kailee came into the kitchen and continued to tell me that she wanted the purple juice in the special cup. Then it dawned on me! She was talking about the LWML cup that changes color when it has cold liquid in it. She loves the cup because it’s magical! It turns her plain old apple juice purple.”

You too can wow the little ones in your life with these “magic” LWML **Mood Cups!** \$5.00 #LWML10132 (Set of 3)

