

Assembly of Leaders — A Huge Success!

An LWML Leadership Adventure!

The Assembly of Leaders (AOL), designed and planned by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Board of Directors, is held every four years. "Adventures in Equipping Leaders" was the theme for 2022. About 235 women and pastoral counselors from districts all across the United States traveled to St. Louis to increase their leadership skills, learn new methods, and find out what they didn't know.

The sessions were varied and numerous and included titles such as "Adventures in Public Speaking," "Mission Adventure — Sharing God's Love," "You Are a Risk-Taker!" and "What's Your Why?" There were general sessions on doctrinal review and breakout sessions on eight different topics.



LWML President Debbie Larson and LWML Vice President of Organizational Resources and Assembly of Leaders Chairman, Marie Chow

Attendees included the district presidents, their pastoral counselors, and two to three additional leaders or potential leaders. When asked what she thought about the experience, LWML Oregon District President Carol Reis said "exciting and exceptional."

Attendees brought kits filled with "spa" items to give to the wives of the seminarians and deaconess students at both Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, Indiana. Over 300 bags filled with toiletries were collected to be divided between the two institutions.

The breakout sessions provided opportunities to explain leadership concepts and how to put them into action. The leaders of each district were asked to document how and which of the programs they planned to share in their districts and this was shared with the group. God is working through the women and men of the LWML.



LWML Past President Janice Wendorf

LWML Past President Janice Wendorf — AOL Guest Speaker

“Ready; Set; Grow” was the message from LWML Past President Janice Wendorf. First and foremost, Jan wants everyone to be in God’s Word. Then we will be ready to grow.

Jan encouraged the attendees to continue mentoring and supporting each other. She encouraged all to focus on the message of the LWML Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations Committee under the Special Focus Ministries Department of encouragement and support for each other.



LWML Pastoral Counselors Mite Donation Challenge at AOL

Traditionally, at large LWML meetings or training sessions, there is a mite donation friendly competition. During AOL the LWML Pastoral Counselors each led a team of districts. The districts were divided alphabetically with LWML Senior Counselor Rev. Noack leading the LWML Atlantic through Michigan Districts and LWML Junior Counselor Rev. Piepkorn heading up the LWML Nebraska North through Wyoming Districts. The competition was intense but in the end, Rev. Piepkorn’s team came through and the LWML Mission Goal was the winner with a total of \$6,086 donated to the mission goal. All praise and glory to God!



AOL Pastoral Sessions

An important part of the programming for AOL was the sessions led by the LWML Pastoral Counselors Rev. Brian Noack and Rev. Gary Piepkorn for the district pastoral counselors. Rev. Noack and Rev. Piepkorn emphasized the importance of the LWML



resources they doctrinally review to be biblical, Christ-centered, with Law and Gospel, and Lutheran in substance and thrust. The responses to these sessions were enthusiastic and encouraging. The pastors began making plans to take what they learned and experienced back to the pastors in their zones and congregations and will also participate in plans to share the information.

AOL Break-out Sessions

“Venturing Out of Our Comfort Zone” — Attendees learned ways to accommodate women of all backgrounds and provide opportunities to make “welcoming” a central feature of all LWML groups, zones, and district events.



LWML Special Ministries Task Force Chairman Carmen Nagel and LWML Committee on Young Women Chairman Linda Fees

“Me a Leader? Yes! Equip Yourself and Others to be Leaders” — Participants found out what their leadership style was and how they could use those strengths. They also learned how to identify future leaders and the strategies to engage, encourage, and equip both current and future leaders.



LWML Group and Leader Development Committee Chairman Brianne Stahlecker

The AOL Adventure Continues

During the LWML Public Relations plenary session, the group was asked to write a 50–75 word article about AOL that they might use in their district. This article below was written by LWML Ohio District member Tomeka Shum, pictured at right.



What has God been doing? God is in the blessing business, and business was booming at the LWML Assembly of Leaders. In mid-October, district leaders from across the country ventured to St. Louis, Missouri, to garner knowledge and encouragement about fostering leadership. Plenary (whole group) and interest sessions took attendees on adventures to discover personal strengths, techniques for sharing personal faith stories, and a brief survey of the book of Hebrews. An engaging and entertaining mite challenge raised over \$6000 to support mission grants — what a beautiful display of Christian camaraderie.

The love of Jesus shone brightly through every prayer, presentation, and hug. Participants went home equipped to share the lessons learned with their home districts and renewed zeal for God's blessing through Christ Jesus. LWML members and friends, get ready to be galvanized in your walk with Christ as the assembly brings exhilaration for the people of the nations home to you. Stay tuned for upcoming events from coast to coast that will reignite your love for God's people and His Word.

Young Woman Representatives Abound at AOL



Nine Young Woman Representatives from the LWML Convention in Lexington were in attendance at AOL. Many are already active leaders in their districts and the training at AOL gave them opportunities to explore the facets of the ministry of the LWML and their roles in it.

Standing are Hannah Schauer, Shelby Von Busch, Maddie Elliott, Sarah Grillot, Katie Davis, Megan Hollrah, and Amelia Waugh.

Kneeling are Janelle La Frenz and Jackie Parmer.

AOL Builds Teamwork

LWML Vice President of Christian Life Susan Brunkow led the entire group in a team-building activity from the LWML Leadership

Development Committee that included balloons and tape. The learning objectives were planning, teamwork, creativity, encouragement, and flexibility.

The attendees at each table had to tape the balloons together to make the tallest balloon stack in the room. Laughter and popping could be heard out in the hall. The LWML Oregon District had the tallest stack and celebrated by popping all the balloons.



LWML Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Editor Sheila Lutz laughed until she almost fell over at the stack on her table.

More Photos from AOL





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on your life insurance, retirement
plans, or IRA?**



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lwmlgiftplan.org

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