



District Ideas for Appreciating and Nurturing Called Workers for Districts, Zones, and Groups

- ♥ Distribute "LWML Welcome Bags" which contains LWML information and LWML district president contact information to all newly installed and/or appointed called church workers.
- ♥ Invite called workers to LWML activities. Include them in the planning, and ask them to participate in the program especially when the event is located at their church.
- ♥ Support your pastor and his wife with special acknowledgement several times during the year. Some ideas include sending cards with a *Mustard Seed Devotion*; sharing a special gift such as a food basket; delivering home baked cookies; making a quilt; giving a monetary gift; or offering a day of childcare.
- ♥ Pay pastors' and/or called workers' registration fees for zone and/or district LWML events or give them a discount. Raffle a free LWML district retreat or LWML district convention registration at pastor/church worker conferences.
- ♥ Have a shower of some type for new called workers to help them get settled. Send cards of encouragement to new church workers. Send written personal invitations for retreats to pastors' wives. Host a welcome potluck and introduce pastors or called workers to their church families.
- ♥ Invite called workers to join in family celebrations during the holiday as most called workers are away from their own families during the holidays.
- ♥ Acknowledge called workers during Lutheran Schools Week in appreciation for all they do. In many cases, they are on the front line for evangelizing to the local community.
- ♥ The district president or district representative attends the district or area church worker meeting in the fall to talk about LWML.
- ♥ District presidents can present at pastors' retreats to establish and maintain an LWML presence.
- ♥ District officers at Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings can share with each other prayer concerns and requests for their congregation's pastor and his family and all church workers.
- ♥ Encourage district Board of Directors to write a personal note and give a small gift to their pastors and/or other church workers for Church Workers Appreciation Month.
- ♥ Appoint a district Executive Committee member to review and prepare materials for each of the zone presidents to undertake the responsibility for acquainting new called workers with LWML and its mission as well as suggesting opportunities for groups to support church workers. Also share in the district, zones, and groups ideas for care and support of church workers.

- ♥ Insert reminders regarding church worker appreciation into LWML district mass email distribution and social media.
- ♥ In October, post information regarding Church Workers Appreciation Month on the LWML district website and/or Facebook page. Include a link to the LWML Gospel Outreach toolkit for pastor support and pastor appreciation ideas at www.lwml.org/church-workers-in-mission.
- ♥ Maintain a district wide congregation/pastor list and their contact information.
- ♥ Develop a follow-up system with church workers to continue communicating with them. Send pastors e-newsletters and/or newsletters from the LWML district and/or zones.
- ♥ Establish a Church Workers in Mission Committee under the direction of a district vice president, with zone and group presidents keeping the committee aware of new church workers. The committee would communicate with zones and groups to equip them with ideas for church worker appreciation and how to welcome new called church workers to their church or zone.
- ♥ Zone Presidents or other zone Executive Committee members attend installation services of called church workers. The zone president could present a welcome packet to new pastors in her zone.
- ♥ Give church workers time during Zoom Chat gatherings or other meetings to introduce themselves.
- ♥ Designate Lutheran schools in the district as the recipients of a LWML district convention ingathering or scholarships to a LWML district retreat.
- ♥ Encourage submission of district mission grant proposals for financial support of church workers (e.g., school debts).
- ♥ Write a grant that will provide gift cards as a care program of appreciation for pastoral counselors and other pastors.
- ♥ Establish a fund that financially supports full-time church workers.