



# THE CELEBRATION CHRONICLES

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE CONVENTION NEWSPAPER

Celebrate the  
*Lord of the Nations*  
Psalm 33:12-13

► 40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION ▼▲ MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN ◄

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023



## Fabulous Friday Fest COME! CELEBRATE!

In the spirit of Milwaukee's moniker as the "City of Festivals," LWML is hosting a "Friday Fest" in the exhibit hall from 7-9 p.m. There will be something for everyone — even free popcorn sponsored by Concordia Publishing House. Fun and prizes galore!

**B4!** Stop by the Gospel Outreach booth for a special BINGO card, and play as you go throughout the exhibit hall.

**Play On!** Gather a group from your district, and get ready to play. The Committee on Young Women will have ladderball set up in their "backyard," and you can try out your golf skills on the putting green at the Structure Committee booth. Do you have a need for speed? Group and Leader Development will have racing mascot skateboards. Winners will receive a gift bag! National LWML and LWML host committee members have chair volleyball and cornhole ready for you.

**Carnival Fun** can be found at the Special Ministries Task Force Ring Toss, and the "Up for Grabs" claw will let you grab for candy and prizes at the Gifts of Love booth.

**Feeling Crafty?** Stop by the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations booth, and learn to make "Mexican Flowers" using tissue paper, or try your hand at Origami at the Information Technology Committee (ITC) booth where you can choose from three designs: starfish, butterfly, and fish.

**Photo Ops** are always fun and make great memories. The Public Relations booth will have the Past LWML Presidents available, and the Church Workers in Mission encourage you to bring your church worker for a photo op and to play pong ball.

**Hear That?** Do you remember teapot karaoke from the Peoria convention? The Official Publication Staff will be putting together kazoo choirs. Stop by and make a joyful noise! The musical fun does not stop there. Three stages will host different entertainment: singing karaoke on the "Belting Ballads with Brad" karaoke stage; Wendysue Fluegge singing on the "Amazing Acts with Arlene" stage; Luchee Thao and her husband, Dou Moua, singing on the "Marvelous Machinations on Michelle's Stage."

**Bump It Up!** Then, to cap off the evening, return to the chair volleyball area to cheer on the Past LWML Presidents as they challenge the Past Pastoral Counselors!

## FEST HAPPENINGS

- Come and "throw your ring" into the missions of the **Special Ministries Task Force**! Meet Kalli (our *Quarterly Summer 2023* cover-girl), Jennifer, and Marilyn who share the love of Christ to ALL!
- **Christian Life Department** actresses will present the sketch "Women of the Bible." Stop by the Amazing Acts on Arlene's Stage and guess which character is being portrayed!
- Play Wanda's Mission Flag Bingo at the **Gospel Outreach Department** booth! Look for the 10-inch Wandas throughout the Exhibit Hall, each holding a flag of where she has served, to complete your bingo card!
- A Fest at **Heart to Heart!** Make sure to stop at our booth to play a "brain" game and make a Mexican flower. Surprises await!
- **The Lutheran Ladies' Lounge** hosts Sarah, Erin, Bri, and Rachel will all be at their booth during the Friday Fest tonight. Come! Say "Hi," and record your voice for an upcoming podcast!  
  
Answer the question, "What does it mean to you to be a Lutheran Lady?" and we'll include you in our LWML followup podcast. Make sure to pick up a souvenir autographed bookmark.

## Saturday Night ENTERTAINMENT

You won't want to miss it! We welcome Sarah, Erin, Bri, and Rachel to the convention stage for a **Lutheran Ladies' Lounge Variety Show!** There will be plenty of laughter with sketches based on the episode themes from the podcast. Get ready for a little trivia, some stories, singing hymns, radio theater, recipes, and other surprises — all with their usual blend of relatable warmth and lively comedy.



Showtime begins Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall on Level 3.

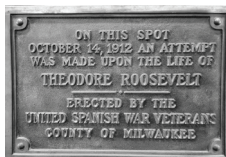


## Chapel Dedicated at PRAYER SERVICE

A Prayer Service and Chapel Dedication was held at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, June 22. Rev. Kris Whitby and Rev. Matthew Gehrke planned a service that set the stage for a joyful, meaningful convention where we can "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations."

## Trivia!

Which downtown Milwaukee hotel has this plaque commemorating the attempted assassination of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912?



**Crisis Assistance Convention Team**  
**Emergency Number: 463-766-2318.**

## CAMP CELEBRATE!

It has been very exciting to welcome campers to Camp Celebrate! They are in for two days of fun and adventure. The infants and toddlers will stay on site making crafts, singing songs, and hearing Bible stories.

The primary and intermediate groups will be filling their camp days with Bible stories, songs, crafts, and a Friday field trip to the Betty Brinn Children's Museum (primary) or Discovery World (intermediate). On Saturday, they will all go to the zoo where they will get to discover how awesome God's creation is!

The teen group will be participating in devotions, games, and a servant event on Friday. What a great way to serve the Lord. They will also be joining the younger campers at the zoo on Saturday.

You will be able to spot campers in their gray camp tee shirts. If you see them around the convention center, be sure to say, "Hi," and ask them about the fun they are having at camp!



## MILES FOR MITES TO MILWAUKEE

At the LWML Michigan District Convention in 2022, Carla Elenz, Sandy Newport, and Kathryn Sowers made a commitment to ride their bikes together to the LWML Convention in Milwaukee. They achieved their goal by the grace of God. All monies given for the trip are to be used to support LWML mission grants.

Carla, who completed a solo biking trip to the LWML Convention in Lexington in 2021, inspired both Sandy and Kathryn, fellow LWML Michigan zone and district officers, to take on the challenge. Carla, Sandy, and Kathryn have vigorously trained for their rides, including swimming, snowshoeing, stretching, yoga, strength building, and indoor and outdoor stationary bike training.

The riders biked from their homes and met at the SS Badger Ferry to take the 4-hour, 60 mile, cruise across Lake Michigan. They then biked the rest of the way to Milwaukee, with Carla doing the most riding miles – about 350.

While biking approximately 50 miles a day, they carried minimal clothing, personal items, and food for the road. The bikers stayed with LWML women on the way, and each has a friend to transport them back home.

To date, these Lutheran Women in Mission have raised more than \$7,000 for mites and missions.





Aspen Zsiray, a fiber arts camper, with her fiber picture of the Camp Perkins logo

## CELEBRATING CREATIVE REPURPOSING



To share the love of Christ with young people, Caryn Elliott, Vice President of Communication for the LWML Utah-Idaho District, repurposes LWML convention bags.

An artisan at heart and a passionate facilitator of learning for all ages, Caryn loves engaging with students interested in learning fiber art techniques. She shows them how to take raw materials and transform them into beautiful, functional pieces. Under her guidance, students have created many projects, including felted scarves, needle felting postcards, repurposing wool sweaters into mittens, and crocheting or loom knitting prayer shawls. She has led classes at women's retreats and is currently in her third year of leading a class for campers ages 10-15 at Camp Perkins in the Sawtooth Mountains.

A Thrivent Action Team grant helps provide supplies to assemble a fiber arts kit within the spacious convention bags. While leading the students through their craft, she then explains the mission of LWML, what it means to be a missionary, and how to spread the love of Christ to others.

Caryn shared, "Gifting the students these bags help them to know that someone values and treasures them – especially in this day and age, when young people are receiving their identity from so many outside sources around them. I want them to know that others care for them."

For a donation, extra convention bags will be available on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the registration desk. Donations must be cash or check made out to LWML NWD Host Committee.

If you use the convention bags in a creative way, share your story with the *Quarterly* news editor at [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org).

## DECORATION SALE

Convention centerpieces will be available in the registration area for sale after supper on Saturday night and on Sunday morning for \$10 each.

Live plants (\$40-\$50) and silk planters (\$35) will be available after closing worship at the stage.

Extra totes, favors, and purple cross-shaped carabiners will be available, for a donation, at the registration desk on Saturday from noon to 2 p.m.

All sales must be cash or check made out to LWML NWD Host Committee.



## CONVENTION BY THE NUMBERS

**1,200** Servant Event Participants

**79** Units of blood donated to American Red Cross

**566** Backpack school kits assembled for Orphan Grain Train

**162** Fleece blankets made for Phil's Friends and A Place of Refuge

**1,167** Braille books and calendars assembled for Lutheran Braille Workers

**50,000+** Meals packed for Orphan Grain Train

**4,751** Witness bracelets made for MOST Ministries

**443** Cards of encouragement written for Refuge for Women

**254** Cards and bookmarks of encouragement written for mission workers and military

**457** Cards of hope for Phil's Friends





Pam Kercher, LWML Montana District President;  
Christina Henry, Montana H2H Sister; Nila Rodriguez,  
LWML Pacific Southwest District (PSW) President;  
Maria Espinoza, PSW H2H Sister

## CELEBRATE HEART TO HEART HISTORY

We, in the Heart to Heart (H2H) family, are celebrating our 20th anniversary! Throughout the twenty years, the program has changed, but the intent and purpose remain the same — to motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for women to serve others, participate in LWML, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

- ▶ In 2003, the Gospel Outreach Committee facilitated the first Heart to Heart Sisters Pre-Convention Gathering, inviting 22 Hispanic and African American women who had already been identified as church leaders. They were paired with a mentor and, together, they became known as Heart to Heart Sisters.
- ▶ From 2005–2009, ethnic women leaders from Hispanic, African American, Hmong, Native American, and African immigrant groups were invited to participate in the Heart to Heart Sisters Pre-Convention Gatherings.
- ▶ In 2011, the Heart to Heart Sisters Task Force hosted the first Heart to Heart Sisters District Leaders Training for women leaders selected by their districts to begin and/or develop a Heart to Heart Sisters Program in their own districts.
- ▶ In 2021, the name of this program and committee was changed to Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations to better reflect the purpose and scope.



## SHUTTERBUG

Text your photo and caption to  
314.754.9299.

Morning set up crew for the backpack stuffing servant event. Teens and adults from St. Paul's Bourbonnais, Illinois



TRIVIA ANSWER: THE HYATT REGENCY. Thank You Marilyn Hess, Northern Illinois District



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The Celebration Chronicles are published during the convention by the LWML Communication Department. Vice President of Communication: Kathy Pavelock; Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Editor-in-Chief: Sheila Lutz; Newspaper Editor: Amy Gill; Graphic Designers: Nichelle Dykema, Cheryl Rackov; Reporters: Carolyn Blum, Linda Guteres, Eden Keefe, Sheila Lutz, Shari Miller, Becky Wehrspann; Reviewers Carolyn Blum, Sheila Lutz, Shari Miller, Rev. Kenton Wendorf.



## WHAT'S YOUR 80?

1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

## VIDEO MONTAGE

Make sure to stop and view the "What's Your 80?" video montage being shown in the LWML Archivist-Historian Exhibit. From 80 fleece blankets to 80 pillowcase dresses and from 80 cards written to Ukrainian refugees to 80 coins to be used in a school's book vending machine, the project has been a tremendous success!

Set forth in celebration of LWML's 80-year anniversary, "What's Your 80?" has challenged members, groups, zones, and districts to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 things reflecting our gratitude for what God has done for and through us. All thanks be to God for the thousands of people who have been richly blessed by the God-given gifts, talents, and dedicated service of the members of LWML!

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Sponsor of the 2023 LWML Convention daily newspaper, *The Celebration Chronicles*. Thanks be to God for the continued faithfulness of the LWML.