



# 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 ◀

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023



## Opening Worship Service: A CALL TO PROCLAIM

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, proclaimer for Thursday's Opening Worship Service, was the LCMS North Wisconsin District President. His inspiring message entitled "Chosen to Proclaim the Good News!" was based around the convention theme Bible verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12-13).

Rev. Lueck grew up with an LWML mother — a delegate to an LWML Convention in the 60's — and has fond memories of the Mite Box always visible above the kitchen sink. He carried this history with LWML into his ministry and encouraged the LWML groups in the congregations in which he served. He says, "Now, as District President, it has been a pleasure to support our local LWML groups around the District."

In his sermon, Rev. Lueck told the convention body, "We are God's heritage, His inheritance. This is all good, but we can't be satisfied with just that — that we are blessed. We cannot just sit here. We need to proclaim to the world that our Lord is the Lord of the Nations!"

...:  
"I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE  
HERE TO PROCLAIM. WE  
ARE HERE TOGETHER ...  
TO PROCLAIM CHRIST  
CRUCIFIED."

:  
-Rev. Dr. Dwane Lueck  
:...

## LEADERS OF THREE NATIONS



President Debbie officially welcomed LWML Canada President Linda Long (left) and President of *Liga de Servas Luteranas do Brasil*\* Loci Gobetti (center) to the convention body on Friday morning. Lutheran Women from the USA, Brazil, and Canada enjoyed meeting for lunch on Thursday where they compared the structures of their organizations and insights on effective mission outreach. We welcome our sisters from other countries and thank God for their participation.

\*Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brasil

## CONVENTION BY THE NUMBERS

**3** People Riding  
Bicycles to  
Convention



**14**

District Charter  
Motorcoaches

**775**

people who attended the  
morning Bible studies

**1,400+**

hotel rooms booked

**49**

states or districts  
attending convention

**3**

Bible studies available  
each morning

**3,439**

people using Whova

**Countless**

people wearing purple

# MISSION RIVERWALK TODAY!

The LWML Convention Mission Riverwalk will take place this afternoon from 4:30–5:30 p.m. At the end of the afternoon convention session, Stephen Cohen, from Apple of His Eye Mission Society, will sound the Shofar, and Rev. Kris Whitby will pray for the event.

Registered walkers are to meet outside the Wisconsin Center front door on the corner of Wisconsin and Vel R. Phillips Avenues, and, at 4:30 p.m., Stephen Cohen will once again sound the Shofar to kick off the walk.

Volunteers will have a truck with water bottles parked outside on W. Wisconsin Ave. Walkers are encouraged to pick up a water before beginning

the walk. Host committee volunteers will provide directions along the route to guide participants.

Keep an eye out for a guest appearance from “Fonzie,” who will accompany walkers to the Bronze Fonzie statue located along the Milwaukee Riverwalk on E. Wells Street! He will stay around the statue for the duration of the walk and will be available for photo ops.

Heartfelt thanks go out to Stephen Cohen and Apple of His Eye Mission Society for providing all the water for our walkers as well as to AdventHealth Durand for donating six emergency kits.



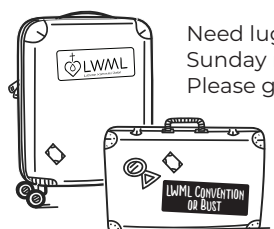
## CELEBRATE THE DAWN WITH THE LORD

Gathering around the Word was an early morning blessing on Friday. Those who attended one of the studies were fed by God’s Word of grace and hope.

**Promised Rest:** Through Psalm 19, Michelle Diercks reminded women to see God’s comfort in a broken world. During the times that life leaves you shaken, you can receive real rest in God’s unshakable faithfulness toward you.

**Sharing the Gospel with Our Muslim Neighbors:** Cynthia Khan helped participants to understand how the Christian church is fulfilling the Great Commission in today’s multi-ethnic and multi-generational society.

**God’s Provision in a Wilderness World:** Lindsay Hausch shared that life can have many blessings, but it can also have many trials. God is with us in all things, even in a wilderness world.



Need luggage storage Sunday morning? Please go to room 103B.

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



## CALLING ALL LWML ESTHERS

When asked for information for an introduction, our keynote speaker, Rev. Greg Seltz’ first statement was, “I love my family. I really do enjoy just being home with them.” This love of his wife, Marie Yvette, and daughter, Devin, is just one of reasons for his obvious passion for speaking out in defense of Christ’s church and against the intent of the harmful voices of today’s destructive culture.

As the first executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, Pr. Seltz’ works diligently in calling all people, especially “modern-day Esthers in the LWML” to courageously reflect God’s preserving and saving voice in all aspects of their lives.

Working to shine God’s light on the “influencers” — those who choose to wreak havoc on relationships, degrade family life, devalue and disregard children, steering many away from God and His Church — Rev. Seltz reminds us that it is our privilege to participate in God’s mission and to use our influential voices in preserving God’s saving work and living out the truth that “Blessed is the nation (and its people) whose God is Yahweh, the Lord.”

“LWML-ESTHER’S, RISE TO ACTION! YOUR CULTURE, YOUR CHURCH, YOUR FAMILY NEEDS YOU TO BE FAITHFUL TO CHRIST, NOW MORE THAN EVER!”  
—Rev. Greg Seltz





## Celebrate Fifty Years of YOUNG WOMEN'S PROGRAMING

When 46-year-old Florence Montz was elected LWML President in 1971, she recognized that the future of LWML relied on the involvement of young Lutheran women. Eight young women were invited to attend her first convention in Mobile (1973.) So it began!

During President Florence's second biennium, a "Youth to St. Paul" initiative was developed. Forty-five youth delegates from 26 districts participated. Today, highlights of the Young Woman Representative (YWR) convention experience include a dinner with the LWML President, walking with their district president (DP) in the opening banner procession, and sitting with their DP and district delegation throughout the convention. Attending a national convention and special YWR events ignites these young women! Celebrating mission projects, seeing shared joy and sisterhood of members, and meeting young women from around the nation lead many to become a part of the what, the why, and the who of LWML.

Success is often difficult to measure, but, in its first 50 years, many YWRs have become LWML leaders.

Attending this convention in 2023 are 76 YWRs from 35 districts. Pray that each of them will also desire to be an active part of Lutheran Women in Mission and continue to pray for our Lord's guidance as more young women are introduced to LWML!

### HOW A YW CELEBRATED at the 1993 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Convention

The 1993 International LWML Convention, "One in Spirit, One in Purpose," was an exhilarating experience for me, a young mother and growing woman of faith. I'd never been away from my three children, but I trusted my husband to parent them while I joined other young mothers in this new experience. As YWRs we felt a freedom to talk with women our own age, to eat a meal uninterrupted, and to focus on our faith. We shopped, laughed, and, most importantly, wondered at this organization — this LWML whose work is awe-inspiring, focused on serving the Lord, and has the ability to enable women to develop their gifts to further His Kingdom!

Joining LWML brought me out of my shell in a way I had never anticipated. I went from cowering at the microphone to being comfortable when speaking. I grew from YWR to Bible study leader, LWML leader, a "Mission Woman," and active in my congregation and zone. I never forgot the wonderful work of LWML.

LWML women supported me on my way to becoming a mature woman of faith. Had I not had their enthusiastic support, it is unlikely I would have ever found my leadership capabilities. I owe LWML not just my allegiance, but a huge debt of gratitude. The YWR experience was a life changer for me.

*Kathy Kirchoefer, currently in the Carolinas District, but served as a YWR for the Chesapeake District.*



*Can you identify these women from the 1993 LWML Convention? Kathy would love to reconnect with these friends. If you can identify either of these ladies, please email the editor of the Quarterly and we will share that information with Kathy: [editor@lwml.org](mailto:editor@lwml.org).*

# CLOSED CAPTIONING HELPS US ALL

The LWML Special Ministries Task Force was created for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are visually, hearing, or intellectually challenged. In order to welcome all God's children, we reach out in love. Part of that love includes making sure all people are welcome and able to enjoy convention!

Throughout the convention, we all watch the large screens and can follow along with the speakers — even if we can't hear them or catch all their words — thanks to the captioning lines scrolling across the bottom. Open Captioning is provided by Caption First, a company based in Denver, CO. LWML has been blessed to have the same caption writer – Heidi Thomas — for many of our conventions.

Rev. Bill Engfehr, the LWML Audio Visual Director, explains, "Captioning is typed as people speak, which is why they are often a half-sentence behind the spoken words," he says. "We prepare the lyrics of songs ahead, and scripts from the presenters are used to assist in preparation of names and unusual terms. The keys on the pad represent sounds and words, not individual letters, which is why scripts are examined in advance to make new key presses for the names and less-common words. It's also why there might be a misspelling in the captions."

Something we can all appreciate about our caption writer at convention is that she doesn't get to take any breaks during the sessions, since she's working alone and has to keep up with each speaker. Thank you, Heidi, for your dedication to serving the LWML!

Another area of assistance is our sign language interpreters. We have three of them at our convention this year: Lynda Nix (pictured below), Jodie Nigro, and Rev. Tom Dunseth. Prior to convention, several women met via Zoom to discuss the logistics of manning multiple exhibit booths, assigned luncheons, and being available during registration. Since they must take turns every 20–30 minutes to give their hands and arms a break, the interpreters worked ahead on assigning times to sign during the sessions. We are grateful for the interpreters' willingness to serve for those in attendance who need it!

Our convention participants who registered as visually impaired received a Sight Saving (Large Print) Manual, furnished by Lutheran Braille Workers, and large print copies of the Opening Divine Service and Closing Sending Service in their registration.



Sisters Caryl Galler, 89, of Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, AR (LWML Mid-South District), and Elaine Kovatch, 91, of Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, MN (LWML Minnesota South District), are attending their eighth national convention together (Elaine has attended another eight conventions herself). Both ladies have served their local groups and zones in various capacities. Their husbands used to accompany them to the convention sites, before transferring to the Church Triumphant. We pray God grants them more conventions together according to His good and gracious will!

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

(LSB, Page 306)

O Lord, almighty God, as You have always granted special gifts of the Holy Spirit to Your Church on earth, grant Your continual blessing to all who minister in Your name in the armed forces, that by Your gracious working they may honor Christ and advance the good of those committed to their care; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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



## THE CELEBRATION CHRONICLES

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE CONVENTION NEWSPAPER ► 40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION ▼▲ MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN ◀

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.

