Newly-elected president Patti Ross shared the following words. “I hope I can fulfill God’s will for our organization and lead you as your president. I want to thank all the women who put their names up for elections. That can be a very scary thing. We must always be willing. Like I tell my girls in my group at home, don’t ever tell me that something is out of your comfort zone because I do not believe in that! The LWML is the best women’s auxiliary of any church in the United States. It is the total package. It includes mission inspiration from the Bible, mission service, and support of missions. We need to continue to get that word out that they can find what they need to help serve the Lord in our organization. Our motto is Serve the Lord with Gladness, but I think we can all say that the verse we really live by is Matthew 28:19. That’s what we are about!”

Opening his keynote with grace-filled laughter, the Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of National Lutherans for Life, shared a powerful message about the value of all life as we are created, redeemed, and called by God. Visually sharing new life in the womb, he explained that humans are a result of one in 70 trillion chromosomal possibilities. Sadly, for each of the 2,800 abortions every day, ten other lives are affected. “This is why Satan loves abortion. He can ruin so many lives.” “Life issues are more than political issues. They are spiritual issues! They provide fields of opportunity for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Newly Elected Officers

President: Patti Ross
Vice President of Organizational Resources: Debbie Larson
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries: Kaye Wolff
Treasurer: Marilyn Schroeder
Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Robert Mundahl
Nominating Committee: Katy Gifford, Chairman, Margo Dupre, Deaconess Betty Knapp, Melissa Salomon, Deb Poese

Float in the Bountiful Grace of God

$2 million mission goal adopted!

Greetings from LCMS

President Harrison

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison greeted the assembly and gave thanks for the continued mission work of the LWML.

He opened by sharing the challenges ahead for all Christians in light of the morning’s U.S. Supreme Court ruling that same-sex couples have the right to marry in any state in America, reminding everyone of Christ’s sacrifice for all sinners.

“We must not become bitter,” he proclaimed.

“We are people of joy!” He encouraged the women of the LWML “to be who you were called to be.”

“It’s a challenging moment, but don’t lose heart. Be who you are — Christian women at this point in world history. You are called to a sacred vocation. To your family, to those around you, in your neighborhood and community — to serve and love them, to speak the saving love of Jesus Christ to each one of them in your daily life. And as you do that, the Lord will bless, the Lord will bless, the Lord will bless.”

President Harrison shared news about The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s work internationally and domestically, sharing the Gospel through the growing missionary work. “We need your help to do it!”

He also reflected on the LWML’s mite goal of the past biennium and the next one.

“Thank you, my friends. The $1.8 million in mites that you have provided, giving a wonderful priority to international missions in the Missouri Synod, has been an absolute constant encouragement and breath of fresh air.”

The assembly roared after he announced, “Some of you have asked me where the banjo is. Some of you have thanked me for not bringing it! If you’ll allow me, I’ll bring a whole bluegrass band here next time if you raise $2 million!”

Recordings of Presentations

Don’t forget that Manna Recording & Duplication Inc. is recording and producing CDs of major presenters. Look for their booth in Pre-Function B near the Info Tables area to order and take home your favorite speakers on CD.

Highlights from Saturday Luncheons

Carly Hatcher

Nearly 500 gathered for lunch with MOST ministries director Carly Hatcher. Carly was introduced to the mission field at a young age by her mother, who taught her that loving others can be shown by serving others. She is thankful for the bountiful grace — God’s unmerited favor — that has allowed her to share and serve all around the world.

Rev. Gregory Seltz

Rev. Seltz said, “Faith says it is time to speak of Jesus Christ in our specific vocation.” We need to think of our mission as a GPS ... find where people are and bring them home to Jesus. By God’s grace, we can proclaim to be 100 percent sinner and 100 percent saint at the same time! He encouraged us to watch for Luthern Hour LIVE and a revitalization of the TV show “This Is the Life.”

Rev. Dr. James Lamb

Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, explained how we live in a culture that is turning to death as solutions for life. With encouraging words from Ecclesiastes 3:7b, “[there is] a time to be silent and a time to speak.” Dr. Lamb shared, “The gospel of Jesus Christ is tailor-made for matters of the heart.”

LCMS Mission and Missionaries

Two missionaries shared stories of how they serve as a bridge between church and world in Latin America and Africa. “May God continue to bless the efforts of the LWML at home and across the world for Christ’s mission.”

Rev. Dr. Tilahun Mendedo

Ashma! (Oromo for “How are you? Are you ready?”) Dr. Mendedo introduced via photos three women who planted a seed in spite of difficulties. “We are weak and ordinary, as if made of clay, earthen, frail, vulnerable, inadequate, insufficient. He who called us is mighty ... still in charge, still in control, still leading us, still guiding!” He adds, “Gelatooma!” (“Thank you!”)

Jan Struck and Dina Vendetti

Jan and Dina entertained at their luncheon with stories of their LWML friendship. They reenacted the hilarious off-script chewing gum scene from the Portland convention and the room roared with laughter. They volleyed one-liners back and forth like true comedians.

Gary Thies

Inspired by Betty and John Duda, Gary Thies began Mission Central. “I had to be NOT Normal. I had to take Jesus personally” to maintain the LCMS’s largest mission support agency. “I believe we don’t need fund-raisers; we need faith-raisers ... I couldn’t have continued all these years without the LWML ... The mission is simple: tell people about Jesus.”

Des Moines by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTENDANCE</th>
<th>GIFTS FROM THE HEART</th>
<th>MISSION IN MOTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voting: 576</td>
<td>For Luther Care: 11,280 items in 40 boxes</td>
<td>Walkers: 1,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Voting: 4,060</td>
<td>For Lutherans for Life: 557 items in 29 boxes</td>
<td>CAMP INSTA FRIENDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total: 4,636</td>
<td>Quilts: 1,393</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIVE STREAMING</th>
<th>VISITORS (Opening Worship Service)</th>
<th>YWRs: 72</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VISITORS</td>
<td>Visits: 5,734</td>
<td>FIRST TIMERS: 1,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>States: 46</td>
<td>States: 46</td>
<td>HEART TO HEART</td>
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<tr>
<td>Countries: 9</td>
<td>Countries: 9</td>
<td>PARTICIPANTS</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONVENTION OFFERINGS</th>
<th>FIRST REGISTRANTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offering #1: $60,478.87</td>
<td>Anna Gerber, Wayzata, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offering #2: $37,075.29</td>
<td>Ion Wright, Lincoln, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offerings #3 and #4: see LWML website</td>
<td>H2H Sisters: 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Offerings #2: $37,075.29

CONVENTION OFFERINGS

Offering #1: $60,478.87

Offered:

- Monetary donations: $1,107

FIRST REGISTRANTS

Anna Gerber, Wayzata, MN

Ion Wright, Lincoln, NE

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST TIMES
Servant Connections

Blood Drive
Eighty-five units of blood were donated for LifeServe Blood Center. These donations will save 170 lives. LifeServe provides blood to 108 hospitals in three states. The summer months often see a shortage of blood products, so generous donors are greatly appreciated. “LifeServe has been great to work with,” said Elaine Haren, Blood Drive coordinator.

Braille and Large-Print Materials
Guided by Lutheran Braille Workers, volunteers assembled materials for those with visual disabilities, including large-print Scripture calendars with the theme “Animals of the Bible.” They also helped with one of the many Mustard Seeds being produced, “The Joy of Being,” and the Book of Mark in English.

Cards of Encouragement
Women gathered to write notes of encouragement on handmade cards to be distributed with the Cancer Care Packages for Phil’s disabilities, including large-print Scripture calendars with the theme “Animals of the Bible.” They also helped with one of the many Mustard Seeds being produced, “The Joy of Being,” and the Book of Mark in English.

Gospel Bracelets
Approximately 2,000 bracelets were assembled and packaged. In August, 1,500 will be distributed at the Iowa State Fair by the Lutheran Laymen’s League. The remaining bracelets will be shared by missionaries with Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries all around the world.

Fleece Blankets and Lap Robes
Simple knot tying of two layers of fleece or fabric produced many colorful lap robes and close to 400 blankets to be donated to several care groups. Servant Marie Monk said, “The smiles, in photos, on the faces of people receiving these make me feel like I’ve contributed something.”

Package Meals for Kids Against Hunger
A scoop of this — a dash of that and (TaDah!) the rice casserole in a bag is ready. Garbed in hairnets and plastic aprons, servants bagged the ingredients to be sent to feed a family of six in Africa. Teacher Kris from Grand Rapids, Michigan, served here because “it involves children.”

Pillow Case Dresses
Cut! Iron! Sew! Children in Haiti and Orphan Grain Train recipients will receive a harvest of pillowcase dresses. In 15–30 minutes, each servant added to the bouquet of dresses of many colors and patterns. Smiling, Kris, Panora, Iowa, shared, “I love making them! I like to give back!”

Plastic Bag Mats
What to do with those plastic grocery bags? The LWML attendees cut, tie, make them into yarn balls and crochet them into mats for the homeless. They make the mats to be 3’x5’, taking about 100 hours from start to finish. One of the volunteer coordinators said that the P crochet hook works the best and makes for a softer mat.

Prison Ministry of Marking Bibles
Four hundred seventy-three Bibles were marked with “Free on the Inside”. More than 250 New Testaments with Psalms and Proverbs were also marked. Colleen Spahr said, “The Word of God, when it goes out, achieves its purpose. I really believe this will help someone to know Christ and guide them to study the Bible.”

Quilts
Tables were teeming with women busily tying quilts for a variety of ministries in Iowa. One quilter is following in her mother’s footsteps, creating quilts to share Christ’s love. Another shared, “Quilting is all about fellowship. You sit down with women you’ve never met before and soon feel like best friends.”

Mark your calendar now for the 2017 LWML convention in Salt Lake City, Utah!
June 22–25, 2017
The words “God is able to make all things abound to you” were repeated often at Thursday night’s Opening Worship. Wearing the “mission colors of Pentecost,” the Rev. Gregory Seltz, the Lutheran Hour Speaker, urged us to reach out and bless others with joy because we are “appointed, anointed, and sent. So muscle up! Let Christ live in you so they can see God in all you do. There will be people in heaven who get to know Jesus because they got to know you.”

Laughter, singing, kazoo music, and lively conversation filled the exhibit hall Friday night at the Bountiful Bash.
The Heart to Heart Sisters collected $327.07 for their own mite offering.

Bible Study leader, the Rev. Michael Mattil, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Denison, Texas, began with a question: Sow what? “The seed is God’s Word as it has been revealed to us. That is what will produce a crop. It is Law and Gospel and Word made flesh.” Sow who? “Every single follower of Jesus Christ.” Sow how? “…using your words. You sow that seed by pointing people to the cross and what it means to them so that they say, ‘What a great Savior!’” Sow why? “To this he called you (2 Thessalonians 2:14).” Sow when? “The time to sow and nourish (“to feed, sustain, nurture, supply and grow”) is NOW — and always.

Returning to the stage again, Jan Struck and Dina Vendetti kept things hopping during the convention. Jan entertained as Elfrieda, a German frau, learning all about Lutheran women in mission. “I knew you could polka to most Lutheran hymns. It’s a doctrinal truth. Last night I found out you can also play them on the kazoo.”

The Mission in Motion walk attracted 1,337 participants and raised more than $80,000 in pledges.
News from the Mission Field

Carly Hatcher

Carly greeted the LWML with thanks for the grant that has enabled 24 students to receive scholarships to go on short-term mission trips. She took us on a trip highlighting how work has been done in countries like Tanzania and Nicaragua. We were shown mission work through eyeglass clinics and water filtration systems. A vicar on a recent trip said, “God opened my eyes to see the potential of serving outside of the U.S.”

Tim Hetzner

President of Lutheran Church Charities, Tim Hetzner, thanked the LWML for the grant that helped to expand the K-9 ministry but, most important, he thanked us for the partnership in ministry. He impressed upon us that nothing is done with the dogs where they can’t proclaim Jesus. “These are Christian dogs, Lutheran dogs,” Tim said with a smile, “but in times of crisis and need, people never refuse us.” This ministry is expanding to Kare-9, which is an outreach to military veterans.

Rev. Dr. Tilahun Mekonnen Mendedo

“The Lord has blessed the church through the hardworking LWML women and their passion for the Great Commission. God uses women to accomplish His purpose and make a difference in the history of Christendom, not only with their mites but also with their LEADERSHIP, WITNESS, and the SEEDS of the GOSPEL they sowed. We are thankful the LWML grant given to Concordia College Alabama has served as a seed and is already producing a bountiful harvest in Alabama and the Deep South.” Rev. Dr. Tilahun Mekonnen Mendedo serves as President of Concordia College Alabama.

Rev. Jeffery D. Nehrt

Rev. Jeffery Nehrt brought a sincere “Thank You” from the people involved in prison ministry. Their work in distributing devotional booklets to the men and women in prisons and jails has been so desperately needed. The people entering the dark times in prisons and jails are open to hearing about Jesus’ love for them and the saving message of the Gospel. Thanks to the LWML for their love to this vital ministry.

Kathyn Ziegler

The bridge between LWML mite givers and Dominican Republic women is Christ. “Their story is our story ... We all have difficulties ... We are bound together by the blood of Christ.”

Rev. Frederick Reinhardt

The Reverend Frederick Reinhardt, Kenya, closed his report: “These are a few glimpses of how God is working in the Lutheran Church in Togo. “Ladies, keep up your missionary zeal always!”

John Fale

On behalf of the Office of International Mission (OIM) and International National Mission (INM), the LWML was thanked for our mites coupled with prayer. John Fale called the LWML, “Mighty women in mission and mercy. We are part of a team of missionaries to equip those going into the mission field to do the Lord’s work and bring about His results.”

Dorothy Krans

For over 100 years some of the LCMS’s 175 Recognized Service Organizations have been dedicated to serving those who need the love and compassion of Christ with their mercy work.
2015-2017 Mission Grants Selected

The following mission grants were chosen for the 2015-2017 biennium:

1. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry..........................................................$50,000
2. Disaster Response Trailers.............................................................................$80,000
3. Cancer Care Packages — Phil’s Friends.......................................................$50,000
4. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings....................................................$120,000
5. Redeeming Life Maternity Home...............................................................$100,000
6. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People.......................................................$75,000
7. Outreach in Refugee Camps — Lebanon.....................................................$72,000
8. Healthy Families............................................................................................$60,000
9. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative.................................................................$100,000
10. Training Teachers and Leaders.................................................................$100,000
11. Opportunities in Uganda............................................................................$100,000
12. “In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts”..................................................$50,000
13. “We Are God’s Workmanship”....................................................................$32,500
14. Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel..........................................$100,000
15. Helping Hands Initiative............................................................................$100,000
16. Deaconess Training.....................................................................................$90,000
17. Lutheran Youth Corps..................................................................................$25,000
18. Providing Hope for Detroit ..........................................................................$100,000
19. Rosa Young Academies (Partial).................................................................$14,063.94

Total....................................................................................................................$1,418,563.94

Highlights of the Noon Information Gatherings

The First Rosa movie
Convention attendees had a rare chance to preview the LCMS production The First Rosa, a short documentary of the life, work, and legacy of Dr. Rosa Young. Dr. Young’s struggles to bring education to the poorest regions of Alabama in the 20’s led to a massive theological shift in the south and serves as an inspiration to many who have gone into professional church work. The movie will be released to all LCMS churches in September 2015.

First Timers
President Kay Kreklau welcomed about 180 first-time attendees by saying, “I am hopeful you’ve been bit by the bug of the LWML.” She spent time answering questions provided by the attendees. President Kay shared her personal story and told attendees that if God calls them to serve in the LWML, don’t question and give excuses. He works out all the details.

YWR Luncheon
In an LWML and Me forum with standing-room only, YWR’s and Alums shared these ideas: compromise with older LWMLers; don’t give up when ideas don’t work; create a new society; involve new people; and study God’s Word!

Heart to Heart Sisters
Heart to Heart Sisters from the first through the current class gathered for lunch, fellowship and reminiscing, led by committee chair Margo Dupre. Speakers included Janis McDaniels, Marilyn McClure, and Melissa Salomón, members of the Gospel Outreach Committee at the time H2H was created, who provided early history. Marilyn assured the group, “Ethnic ministries are really the part of our church that is growing ... because of each of you and the work you are doing. You enrich the LWML.”

A Gift to Thank You for Feedback!
We value your opinion! The Convention Programming Committee often refers to evaluation comments as they plan for future conventions. Your thoughts do count! Please fill out the online evaluation, found online at www.lwml.org/convention, as soon as possible. Those who complete the evaluation by July 31, will be given a one-year subscription to the eQuarterly. (Your name and email must be included for the subscription to be delivered.) Thank you for your feedback!

Expanded Convention eNews
A Convention News Release is available on the back page in this newsletter. Please take time to share this important and exciting information with your local newspapers and your LWML groups. An eNews with expanded articles will be emailed and posted on the website in the next few days. It will cover the speakers and events of this weekend, a list of newly elected officers, and a list of the 2015–2017 mission grants.

Video Message from President Kay
President Kay Kreklau shares her heart, thanks, and hope in Christ with her LWML family in a video of farewell. Please take time, when you arrive back home, to view this video and thank our Lord for her service and commitment. It is found at www.lwml.org/media and www.youtube.com/TheLWML

Convention Videos Available Online
A Convention Highlights video and a video of the newly selected 2015–2017 Mission Grants will be available via a link on the LWML website approximately two weeks after the convention. Share the convention experience with your church family and community. It’s the next best thing to being there.

Post-Convention Devotion
For another copy of the post-convention devotion, download a print-ready copy online at www.lwml.org.

Online Convention Coverage
Check out our online coverage at www.lwml.org/convention by scanning this QR code to access photos, highlights, and video archives from the convention. Share this link with your friends back home so they also can “Sow • Nourish • Reap.”

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST TIMES
June 28, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LWML Sets 2015—2017 Mission Goal at $2 Million

Over 4,600 people attended the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Convention, Des Moines, Iowa, June 25-28, 2015, under the theme “Bountiful! Sow • Nourish • Reap.” The convention theme was based on 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Delegates to the 36th Biennial Convention of the LWML adopted a $2 million mission goal for the 2015-2017 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 19 mission grants as men and women respond in prayer and offerings during the next two years. LWML chose to support the following mission grants, pledging their support with prayers and mites (offerings) given over the next biennium:

1. Clean Water and Evangelism Ministry, $50,000
2. Disaster Response Trailers, $80,000
3. Cancer Care Packages – Phil’s Friends, $50,000
4. Renovation of JEM Seminary Buildings, $120,000
5. Redeeming Life Maternity Home, $100,000
6. Hope and Healing to the Navajo People, $75,000
7. Outreach in Refugee Camps – Lebanon, $72,000
8. Healthy Families, $60,000
9. LCMS Global Seminary Initiative, $100,000
10. Training Teachers and Leaders, $100,000
11. Opportunities in Uganda, $100,000
12. “In Their Hands and Upon Their Hearts,” $50,000
13. “We Are God’s Workmanship,” $32,500
14. Bringing the Gospel to the Lost Sheep of Israel, $100,000
15. Helping Hands Initiative, $100,000
16. Deaconess Training, $90,000
17. Lutheran Youth Corps, $25,000
18. Providing Hope for Detroit, $100,000
19. Rosa Young Academies, $14,063.94

The voting body elected new LWML President Patti Ross from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Patti has served the LWML on all levels of the organization, most recently as Vice President of Christian Life from 2009-2013. President Ross shares her personal vision for the LWML. “As LWML women we are serving God, our church, and our communities with heartfelt Christian joy while carrying out the LWML mission statement. Inspired by God’s Word and recalling His promises we promote mission awareness, mission support, and mission work to reach out with the saving Word of Jesus Christ to all God’s people, wherever and whenever He calls us, all the while serving with love and gladness.”

For more information on the LWML visit the website at www.lwml.org.

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries, and to support global missions.

Contact: Debbie Larson, Public Relations Director, pr@lwml.org
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