Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
40th Biennial Convention

The Baird Center
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

June 22–25, 2023

Minutes

The 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League was held at The Baird Center, (formerly The Wisconsin Center), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 22–25, 2023.

CONVENTION THEME and THEME VERSE:
“Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” based on Psalm 33:12–13:
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.

CONVENTION GOAL STATEMENT:
As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.

CONVENTION OBJECTIVES:
Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will:
- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES, Wednesday, June 21, 2023

The Seventh Biennial Tee Up 4 Mites Charity Golf Scramble
The LWML Tee Up 4 Mites was held at the Western Lakes Golf Club at Pewaukee, Wisconsin.
Registration and breakfast began at 6:30 a.m., and the shotgun start began at 7:30 a.m. Lutheran Hour Ministries was the Grand Sponsor; other sponsors included three Platinum Sponsors ($750/each), four Gold Sponsors ($650/each), three Silver Sponsors ($550/each), and 39 Bronze Sponsors ($150/each). In addition, there was one beverage sponsor ($750), one driving range sponsor ($250), and one putting green sponsor ($250). One hundred twenty-five golfers (31 women) participated in the event which raised $35,000 for the 2023–2025 mission goal. The event was organized by the Golf Outing Manager Marguerite Christman and the Host Committee Golf Outing Committee.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES, Thursday, June 22, 2023:

Pre-Convention Seminars, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Districts were invited to register one district representative with comparable responsibilities to attend pre-convention seminars for the opportunity to receive training, gain knowledge of the resources available, ask questions, and interact with those from other districts who hold the same position.
Seminars included:

- Archivist-Historian Seminar, led by Archivist-Historian Caroline Honeycutt; 20 attendees.
- Church Workers in Mission Seminar, led by the Church Workers in Mission Committee, Nancy Heredia, Chairman; 26 attendees.
- Groups: LWML F.O.C.U.S. on Jesus Seminar, led by the Group and Leader Development Committee, Brianne Stahlecker, Chairman; 26 attendees.
- Mission Grants Seminar, led by the Mission Grants Committee, Sharon von Qualen, Chairman; 32 attendees.
- “More Than Meeting Minutes” Seminar, led by Recording Secretary Brenda Piester; 27 attendees.
- Structure/Bylaws Seminar, led by the Structure Committee, LaDonna Stanosheck, Chairman; 26 attendees.
- Technology Assistance Seminar, led by the Information Technology Committee, Leslie Koenck, Member; 29 attendees.
- Writer’s Workshop, led by Vice President of Christian Life Susan Brunkow; 24 attendees.

Servant Connections were conducted 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at The Baird Center, where 1,200 participants:

- American Red Cross Blood Drive — donated 79 units of blood.
- A Place of Refuge — completed 162 fleece blankets to be divided with Phil’s Friends.
- Refuge for Women — wrote 443 cards of encouragement.
- LCMS Missionaries — created and wrote 254 cards and bookmarks for mission workers and military personnel.
- Lutheran Braille Workers — assembled 1,167 braille books and calendars.
- MOST Ministries — crocheted puppets and made 4,751 witness bracelets.
- Orphan Grain Train — packed 50,000+ meal kits for “Feed My Kidz” and assembled 566 school backpacks.
- Phil’s Friends — made no-sew fleece blankets and wrote 457 cards of hope.

Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) were collected for:

- Phil’s Friends — Provides Christ-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer.
  - Puzzle books — 2,293
  - Journals — 1,268
  - Playing cards — 1,576
  - Fuzzy socks — 1,097
  - Hats (knit, crochet, or baseball) — 2,545
  - Hygiene items — 95
  - Note cards — 1,240
  - Items dropped off at Phil’s Friends Booth — 919
  - Finished Cards of Hope — 227
  - Gift cards/checks/cash — $16,296
- MOST Ministries — Provides short term mission opportunities for individuals to support Christian ministries around the world through witness and service.
  - Recycled “new and like-new” eyeglasses — 10,510
  - Eye glass cases — 7,051
  - Gift cards/checks/cash — $75
• Orphan Grain Train — A volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical, and other needs to people in 69 different countries including the USA.
  o Quilts, blankets, and comforters — 1,449
  o Hygiene Kits — 1,317
  o School Kits — 24
  o Layette Kits — 7
  o Gift cards/checks/cash — $25

• A Place of Refuge — A Recovery Program for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
  o Cases of hygiene and children’s items — 90
  o Gift cards/checks/cash — $26,793

Heart to Heart District Leaders Lunch and Sending Service:
The Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations Committee (H2H) hosted a training prior to the 2023 Milwaukee convention for district H2H leaders. The training program equipped women to support, encourage, and develop the H2H program in their districts. Twenty-seven participants from 20 different districts participated in the training, which was held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 21–22, 2023. On Thursday at the conclusion of the training a luncheon was held with the trainees and their district presidents where the pair discussed the ideas the trainee had developed to implement the program on the district level. During the concluding “Sending Service” led by Rev. Gary Piepkorn, district presidents pinned their trainees with a special H2H pin indicating the completion of their training and the beginning of their service as district Heart to Heart leaders.

Convention Choir and Organist:
The convention choir rehearsed on Thursday, June 22, 2023, from 12–2 p.m. Allison Mackee was the choir director, leading 309 vocalists in worship and praise. Marilyn Seefeld was the convention organist, with this being her third national convention.

Delegate Orientation:
President Debbie Larson greeted the convention delegates at their orientation on Thursday, June 22, 2023 from 2:30–3:30 p.m. Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack led the opening prayer. President Larson introduced the 2021–2023 Board of Directors, and the Nominating Committee Chairman Kaye Wolff introduced the candidates for office for the 2023–2027 term as well as the candidates for the Nominating Committee for the 2023–2025 biennium. Parliamentarian Barbara Volk reviewed the Convention Rules. Audio-Visual Director Rev. William Engfehr gave instructions and practice on using the voting keypads. Proposed amendments to the LWML Bylaws were presented by the Structure Committee Chairman LaDonna Stanosheck, Vice President of Organizational Resources Marie Chow, and Parliamentarian Barbara Volk. President Larson made concluding comments, and Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn led the prayer to conclude the orientation.

District Caucuses:
LWML Districts gathered in caucus in three sessions on Thursday afternoon between 3:45 p.m. and 6:20 p.m. During this time, districts were encouraged to have a pinning ceremony for their Young Woman Representative(s). Districts were responsible for taking their own group pictures.
THROUGHOUT THE CONVENTION

REGISTRATION
Onsite registration opened on Wednesday evening, June 21, 2023, from 5–8 p.m. in The Baird Center. Registration continued Thursday, June 22, from 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; Friday, June 23, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.; and Saturday, June 24, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Credentials Report #3 stated that 3,550 people attended the convention.

THE EXHIBIT HALL
The Exhibit Hall was open Thursday, June 22, 2023, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; Friday, June 23, 11:30 a.m.–1:45 p.m. and 5–9 p.m.; and Saturday, June 24, 12–2 p.m. Convention Exhibits Coordinator Vivian Ernst reported a record number of 84 exhibitors. Eighteen were new exhibitors, and several were on the mission grants ballot. LWML committees had interest and interactive exhibits. In addition, Concordia Publishing House and LWML had books and other resources available for purchase.

PRESIDENT’S PAGES
Serving as President Debbie Larson’s pages and assistants throughout the convention were her daughter, Mandy Redfield, Berthoud, Colorado — serving Friday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning — and her daughter-in-law, Eileen Larson, Lidgerwood, North Dakota — lighting the convention candle prior to Thursday worship and serving Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

PRAYER CHAPEL
A special Prayer Service and Chapel Dedication — led by Rev. Kris Whitby and Rev. Matthew Gehrke — was held on Thursday morning, June 22, 2023, 7:30–8 a.m. The special room designed as a chapel for those wishing to have quiet moments of prayer was always open during the convention, except during worship services and evening programs. Personal prayer requests could be left, and pastors were available for comfort and consultation as needed. The room also included an “In Memory” book where the names of LWML members who had passed away in the past biennium could be written.

CAMP CELEBRATE CHILD CARE AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24, 2023 — 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Children whose parent(s) attended the 2023 Convention were eligible to register for Camp Celebrate in one of four age groups: Nursery and Child Care (6 months–4 years), Primary Program (ages 5–8), Intermediate Program (ages 9–12), and High School Program (ages 13–17). Four nursery children were registered, 24 youth attended, and 20 teens were registered. In addition, 15 teens were registered for the convention and attended with their parent(s).

CONVENTION CRISIS ASSISTANCE TEAM (C-CAT):
The Convention Crisis Assistance Team was appointed by Convention Manager (CM) Shelley Moeller:
Chairman: Sonja Baumeister
Host Committee Member: Dr. Mike Hartman
Host Committee Counselors: Rev. Matthew Gehrke and Rev. Kris Whitby
LWML Office Registration Liaison: Deaconess Patti Miller
Auxiliary members:
LWML Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz
Convention Manager Shelley Moeller
LWML Pastoral Counselors: Rev. Brian Noack and Rev. Gary Piepkorn
COMIC RELIEF
Throughout the convention, the duo of Jan Struck and Abby Goehring provided comic relief. They took on the characters of Laverne and Lil’ Shirley who entertained with antics and commentary. They were assisted by other characters throughout the convention. Their bios are found on page six of the Convention Manual.

SONG LEADER
Dr. Dina Vendetti led the convention assembly in song before the convention sessions and at various times during the meetings. Dr. Vendetti was introduced to the convention body on Friday morning by Recording Secretary Brenda Piester. Dr. Vendetti’s bio is on page six of the Convention Manual.

LIVESTREAM and EVENT APP
The convention was livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. The Whova app was the official event app where 3,439 attendees could view convention information and network with other attendees. The official event hashtag was #LWMLConvention2023.

OFFERINGS and GIVING METER
For the first time, convention participants were able to donate to convention offerings using a QR code, published in the Convention Manual. Online giving was available prior to and during the convention for those unable to be present in person. Attendees were able to watch a real-time giving meter (not including cash or checks) during various times in the convention. Online donations were open through June 30, 2023.

“What’s Your 80?” VIDEO MONTAGE
In celebration of 80 years of blessings upon the LWML, districts were invited to submit pictures of events held where 80 “something” was done. The video montage was played at the Archivist-Historian Exhibit.

CLOSED CAPTIONING AND SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS
Closed captioning for the convention was provided by Caption First, Denver, Colorado, with Heidi Thomas serving as the caption writer.

Sign language interpreters provided signing during convention sessions, luncheons, registration, and exhibit booths. Assisting were Lynda Nix, Jodie Nigro, and Rev. Tom Dunseth. Sight Saving (large print) Convention Manuals and large print copies of the Opening Divine Service and the Closing Sending Service were provided by Lutheran Braille Workers.

CONVENTION OPENING AND FIRST MEETING
Thursday, June 22, 2023 | 7 p.m.

OPENING OF THE CONVENTION
President Debbie Larson called the 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League to order in the name of the Triune God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Lighting the convention candle as a reminder of the love of God in Christ Jesus and His presence with the convention was President Larson’s daughter-in-law, Eileen Larson.
CELEBRATION SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION
Tim Larson, son of President Larson, carried the LWML processional cross, followed by the ecclesiastical procession of the LCMS clergy participating in the service. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Milwaukee was the host congregation, and their pastor, Rev. M. Douglas Peters served as the celebrant. In addition, special guests were the pastors of the three hosting LWML districts: North Wisconsin District, President Rev. Dwayne Lueck; South Wisconsin District, President Rev. Dr. John C. Wille; and the Northern Illinois District, President Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss. Assisting in the communion distribution were LWML district pastoral counselors and the pastors of the three host LWML districts.

Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, LCMS President of the North Wisconsin District, was the proclaimer for the worship service. His inspiring message — “Chosen to Proclaim the Good News!” — was based on the convention theme Bible verse from Psalm 33:12–13. He reminisced about growing up in a home with a Mite Box above the kitchen sink and has always encouraged LWML groups through his leadership. In his sermon, Dr. Lueck stated, “We are God’s heritage, His inheritance. This is all good, but we cannot 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.”

Opening Service hymns included, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (LSB 790), “The Church’s One Foundation” (LSB 644), “We Praise and Acknowledge You, O God” (LSB 941), “From All That Dwell Below the Skies” (LSB 816), “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord” (LSB 930), “Before You, Lord, We Bow” (LSB 966), “Eat This Bread” (LSB 638), and “Rise, Shine, You People” (LSB 825). The choir anthem was “Clap Your Hands Together.” Scripture readings were from Isaiah 42:5–12 (read in Hebrew), Revelation 7:9–17, and Matthew 28:16–20.

CONVENTION OFFERING # 1 — 2023–2025 LMWL MISSION GOAL
The Standing Rules of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League state that the offering received at the convention communion service shall be designated as a contribution to the mission goal of the LWML. The offering totaled $54,922 (preliminary) and $60,717.42 final.

Friday, June 23, 2023

WAKE UP WITH THE WORD BIBLE STUDIES — 6:45–7:45 a.m.
Morning Bible study options were available to all convention attendees:

- Option 1: Promised Rest led by Michelle Diercks
  Based on Psalm 91, Michelle Diercks led attendees to discover the promised rest God gives.

- Option 2: Sharing the Gospel with Our Muslim Neighbors, led by Cynthia Khan
  Cynthia Khan told of her work of sharing Christ’s love with immigrant and refugee populations.

- Option 3: God’s Provision in a Wilderness World, led by Lindsay Hausch
  Lindsay Hausch taught of the Israelites’ journey in Exodus to “turn our hearts to sing His praise.”
SECOND MEETING
Friday, June 23, 2023 | 8:15 a.m.

BANNER PROCESSION
Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack and Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn announced the procession and introduced the LWML Executive Director and the members of the Board of Directors (BOD).

President Debbie Larson led the procession and carried the LWML banner. She was followed by:
- Executive Director Vanessa Johnson
- Strategic Plan Facilitator Michelle Jenks
- Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz
- Public Relations Director Susan Donnelly
- Recording Secretary Brenda Piester
- Treasurer Karla Koehler
- Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Deaconess Betty Knapp
- Vice President of Organizational Resources Marie Chow
- Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison
- Vice President of Communication Kathy Pavelock
- Vice President of Christian Life Susan Brunkow

Banners of the LWML Host Districts were carried by the District Presidents (DP): North Wisconsin DP Joan Berquist, Northern Illinois DP Gayle Thanepohn, and South Wisconsin DP Cinda Poppe. They were accompanied by their district’s Young Woman Representative(s) (YWR). Following them were the remaining district presidents who carried their district banners and were accompanied by their district YWR(s).

CONVENTION SESSION RECONVENES
President Larson reconvened the convention at 8:28 a.m. and brought greetings and welcome to the assembly. She thanked Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck for the uplifting worship service and thanked all pastors who assisted with Holy Communion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) ROLES and PARLIAMENTARIAN
Throughout the convention, President Larson was joined on stage by Recording Secretary Brenda Piester and Parliamentarian Barbara Volk. Other BOD members joined the team on stage and/or assisted behind the scenes:
- Vice President (VP) on stage: VP of Christian Life Susan Brunkow
- Vice President of the day: VP of Organizational Resources Marie Chow
- Assistant Vice President of the day: VP of Communication Kathy Pavelock
- Pastoral Counselor of the day: Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and NATIONAL ANTHEM
LWML District Presidents serving 2020–2024 led the assembly in saying the Pledge of Allegiance and singing “The Star Spangled Banner”:
- Laura Strattman, Central Illinois
- Kim Burdett, Kansas
- MaryBeth Heikkinen, Michigan
- Gayle Caruso, Florida-Georgia
- Michelle Zollinger, Louisiana-Mississippi
- Candy Habich, Mid-South
Kathy Brandt, Minnesota North  
Sherry Burger, Nebraska South  
LaurieAnn Totenhagen, North Dakota  
Pam Wiederkehr, Oklahoma  
Nila Rodriguez, Pacific Southwest  
Cinda Poppe, South Wisconsin

Pam Kercher, Montana  
Sharon Dever, New England (absent)  
Vivian Nelson, Ohio  
Carol Reis, Oregon  
Dr. Patty Peters, South Dakota  
Frances Molitor, Texas

OPENING PRAYER  
Convention Manager Shelley Moeller led the prayer for the opening of the second meeting.

WELCOME TO MILWAUKEE  
Host District Presidents Joan Berquist, North Wisconsin District; Gayle Thanepohn, Northern Illinois District; and Cinda Poppe, South Wisconsin District — using a dairy cow, lumberjack, and “Land of Lincoln” props representing their states — welcomed everyone to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. President Larson thanked their districts for hosting the convention.

WELCOME TO LCMS DISTRICT PRESIDENTS  
President Larson introduced the LCMS district presidents of these host districts: LCMS North Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck and his wife Cheryl; LCMS Northern Illinois District President Rev. Dr. Allan Buss and his wife Marie; and LCMS South Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. John Wille (present for Thursday evening worship but unable to attend Friday).

Other LCMS district presidents in attendance were LCMS Atlantic District President Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor; LCMS Michigan District President Bishop Jamison Hardy and his wife Wendy; LCMS Minnesota North District President Rev. Brady Finnern; and LCMS Texas District President Rev. Michael Newman and his wife Cindy. Past LCMS President Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick and his wife Terry, from the Texas District, arrived on Saturday.

President Larson introduced and welcomed LWML counterparts: LWML Canada President Linda Long and her husband Bill; and Loci Gobetti, President of Liga de Servas Luteranas do Brasil (Women of the Evangelical Church of Brasil). President Gobetti was accompanied by interpreter, Aline Koller Albrecht, from Servants of the Lord Magazine; both women were from Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

BIBLE STUDY DAY ONE: “ISRAEL, THE CHOSEN NATION”  
Treasurer Karla Koehler introduced Kaye Wolff who led the Bible study focused on the convention theme and scripture verse. Convention attendees could take notes to answer these questions: What do you think God is looking for when He looks down on the children of man?; What does God look for?; What did God see in Israel when He looked down at the children of man?; and, If no one seeks after God, where then can salvation be found?

CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION  
Vice President of Christian Life (VPCL) Susan Brunkow gave a brief overview of the Christian Life Department, introduced the members of the Christian Life Committee and the Christian Resources Editors Committee, and thanked them for their service.
Christian Life Committee:
• Rebecca Bessell, Chairman; Eastern District
• Molly Dixon, Nebraska South District
• Cheryl Mattil, Texas District

Christian Resources Editors Committee:
• Mary Smith, Chairman; Utah-Idaho District
• Ruth Badciong, Minnesota South District
• Tiffany Harks, Missouri District

VPCL Brunkow’s report is on page 55 of the Convention Manual, and the committee reports are on pages 71–72.

MINUTES REVIEW COMMITTEE and TELLERS COMMITTEE
President Larson announced her appointment of the district presidents (DP) to the following committees:

Minutes Review Committee:
New Jersey DP Arlene Price, Chairman
South Dakota DP Dr. Patty Peters
Wyoming DP Terri Denniston

Tellers Committee (if needed):
Florida-Georgia DP Gayle Caruso, Chairman
Texas DP, Frances Molitor

ELECTRONIC VOTING REVIEW
Parliamentarian Barbara Volk reviewed the use of the wireless keypads for voting. Convention representation and voter eligibility can be found on page 12 of the Convention Manual.

CREDENTIALS REPORT # 1
Recording Secretary Brenda Piester gave the first report of the Credentials Committee, found on page 14 of the Convention Manual:

VOTING BODY
Board of Directors: 11
District Presidents: 40
Committee Chairmen: 10
Past LWML Presidents: 7
Delegates: 474

TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTERS: 542

NONVOTING BODY
Appointed Personnel and Committee Members: 43
Other Registrants: 2,895

TOTAL CONVENTION ATTENDANCE: 3,480

ADOPTED: The Credentials Report # 1 was adopted by a vote of 503 Yes and 6 No as of 9:58 a.m. on Friday, June 23, 2023, as the official roll of voting members of the convention.
CONVENTION RULES
Parliamentarian Barbara Volk referred to the Convention Rules on page 12 of the convention manual. With there being no objection, the reading of the rules was omitted.

ADOPTED: The Convention Rules were adopted by a vote of 509 Yes and 3 No.

CONVENTION AGENDA
Recording Secretary (RS) Brenda Piester presented the Convention Agenda as printed on page 13–18 of the Convention Manual.

MOTION: RS Piester moved to adopt the agenda as printed in the Convention Manual with necessary changes at the discretion of the chair. The motion was seconded and adopted by a vote of 511 Yes and 1 No.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LWML BYLAWS
LaDonna Stanosheck, Chairman of the Structure Committee and the president of the LWML Nebraska North District, presented the proposed amendments to the LWML Bylaws. Assisting her was the Vice President of Organizational Resources Marie Chow.

Chairman Stanosheck referred the convention assembly to pages 23–25 of the Convention Manual. The recommendation to approve the proposed amendments to the LWML Bylaws comes from the LWML Board of Directors and the LWML Presidents Assembly as approved at their January 2023 meetings.

PRE-VOTING PRAYER
Structure Committee Chairman Stanosheck led the convention assembly in prayer prior to voting on amendments to the LWML Bylaws.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:
Chairman Stanosheck also noted page 23 of the Convention Manual which states: “If the proposed amendment is adopted, then the LWML Structure Committee requests permission to renumber or reletter sections to account for deletions and insertions and make any necessary spelling and typographical corrections.”

ARTICLE VII—NOMINATIONS

Proposed amendment: In Section 1, insert new “d. If a member of the Nominating Committee agrees to have her name submitted for an office under consideration, she shall resign from the Nominating Committee.”

Rationale: To avoid a perceived conflict of interest by the member and the remaining members of the committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current bylaw</th>
<th>If adopted will read</th>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>d. If a member of the Nominating Committee agrees to have her name submitted for an office under consideration, she shall resign from the Nominating Committee.</td>
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ARTICLE IX—APPOINTED PERSONNEL

Proposed amendment: Add new “Section 5 There may be additional appointed personnel as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the LWML. The Board of Directors authorizing the appointed personnel shall determine the authority and responsibility of the appointed personnel.”

Rationale: To allow for additional appointed personnel as needed.

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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Section 5</td>
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There may be additional appointed personnel as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the LWML. The Board of Directors authorizing the appointed personnel shall determine the authority and responsibility of the appointed personnel.

ARTICLE XV—OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Proposed amendment: In Section 1, strike “Official Publication Staff, a departmental committee” and insert “Publications Committee.”

Rationale: To provide consistency with the committee names.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current bylaw</th>
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<tr>
<td>The official publication of the LWML shall be edited and produced by the Official Publication Staff, a departmental committee.</td>
<td>The official publication of the LWML shall be edited and produced by the Publications Committee.</td>
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Proposed amendment: In Section 3, strike “Official Publication Staff” and insert “Publications Committee”

Rationale: Conforming amendment.

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<th>Current bylaw</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Official Publication Staff shall have editorial privileges.</td>
<td>The Publications Committee shall have editorial privileges.</td>
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Proposed amendment: Strike Sections 5 and 6.

Rationale: Details should be moved to the LWML Procedures Manual since these sections are procedures.

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<th>Current bylaw</th>
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<tr>
<td>Section 5</td>
<td>None</td>
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Districts shall order the desired number of copies of the official publication from the LWML Office. Payment for same shall be remitted to the LWML Office.
Section 6
Individual subscriptions shall be ordered directly from the LWML Office.

ARTICLE XVII—MISSION GRANTS

Proposed amendment: In Section 1, strike “b. The required number of copies of proposals must be submitted.”

Rationale: Mission grant proposals are submitted via online form submission. Multiple hard copies of the proposal or supporting documentation are no longer mailed, so this is no longer current practice.

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<tr>
<td>b. The required number of copies of proposals must be submitted.</td>
<td>None</td>
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Proposed amendment: In Section 1 c., strike “September 30” and insert “September 1”

Rationale: The date change allows more time for the Mission Grants Selection Committee to review the mission grant proposals submitted prior to the busy Advent season. Moving the date back 30 days does not hinder the mission grant submitter since the application is available on the LWML website by April 1 in even-numbered years.

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<tr>
<th>Current bylaw</th>
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<tr>
<td>c. Proposals for all mission grants shall be submitted to the Vice President of Gospel Outreach by September 30 in the even-numbered years.</td>
<td>c. Proposals for all mission grants shall be submitted to the Vice President of Gospel Outreach by September 1 in the even-numbered years.</td>
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VOTING RESULTS:

- Number of votes cast: 511
- Number necessary for adoption (2/3): 341
- Number of votes in favor: 500
- Number of votes opposed: 11

ADOPTED: The amendments to the LWML Bylaws Articles VII, IX, XV, and XVII were adopted.

ARTICLE XX—FISCAL YEAR

Proposed amendment: In article name, strike “YEAR” and insert “BIENNIUM”

Rationale: To reflect current practice.

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<tr>
<th>Current bylaw</th>
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<td>ARTICLE XX—FISCAL YEAR</td>
<td>ARTICLE XX—FISCAL BIENNIUM</td>
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Proposed amendment: Strike “year” and insert “biennium;” and strike “April 1 to March 31” and insert “July 1 to June 30”
**Rationale:** Conforming amendment; and to provide a financial report with the same timeframe as the LWML biennium. With the current fiscal period, any income and expenditures after March 31 go into the next fiscal period, and yet the LWML biennium ends with the convention held in June. This amendment allows the fiscal period and the biennium to coincide.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The fiscal year of the LWML shall be from April 1 to March 31 inclusive. The LWML shall adhere to these dates in closing its books.</td>
<td>The fiscal biennium of the LWML shall be from July 1 to June 30 inclusive. The LWML shall adhere to these dates in closing its books.</td>
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**VOTING RESULTS:**
- Number of votes cast: 520
- Number necessary for adoption (2/3): 347
- Number of votes in favor: 487
- Number of votes opposed: 33

**ADOPTED:** The amendment to the LWML Bylaws Article XX was adopted.

**RESCIND STANDING RULE # 8**

**MOTION:** Vice President of Organizational Resources Marie Chow moved that the LWML Bylaws Standing Rule # 8 “The list of certified delegates and alternates shall be submitted to the LWML Recording Secretary by March 1 of the convention year (see Article IV, section 4c),” be rescinded. The motion was seconded.

**VOTING RESULTS:**
- Number of votes cast: 510
- Number necessary for adoption (2/3): 340
- Number of votes in favor: 502
- Number of votes opposed: 8

**ADOPTED:** The motion was adopted.

**TREASURER’S REPORT — KARLA KOEHLER**
Treasurer Koehler reported on the responsibilities and tasks of her position. Her report is on page 61 of the Convention Manual.

**2023–2025 MISSION GOAL ANNOUNCED**
Treasurer Karla Koehler reported the results of voting on the Mission Goal. Electronic voting took place May 21–27, 2023. Invitations to vote were sent out to 562 voting members, and 96 percent returned votes: 503 voted Yes, and 6 voted No; 29 voters did not respond.

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison explained the process and announced the Mission Grants voting results during Meeting Three on Friday afternoon.

The new Mission Goal, approved by the voting delegation, is $2,350,000 for the 2023–2025 biennium.
TIE VOTE FOR FINAL MISSION GRANT
Per Standing Rule #5, if there is a tie vote for the last chosen grant at a convention, the tie shall be broken by the voting assembly of the convention. Voters were asked to vote for one grant:

- Mission Grant Proposal #11 — New Life Children's Center Spiritual Care Program — Lutheran Social Services of South, TX, for $30,000
- Mission Grant Proposal #35 — Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit — Camp Restore Detroit, MI, for $90,000

Total number of votes cast 494
Number of votes cast for MG #11 235
Number of votes cast for MG #35 259

The results were incorporated into the overall results of the mission grants selected and announced later in the convention.

LWML FINANCIAL REPORT
LWML Executive Director Vanessa Johnson presented the final financial report for the 2021–2023 biennium that was audited by Anders CPAs + Advisors of St. Louis, Missouri. She announced that the audited report was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. All voting members of the convention received a full copy of the report.

LWML OFFICE STAFF INTRODUCTION
LWML Executive Director Vanessa Johnson introduced the LWML office staff through a photograph on the video screen and thanked them for their years of service.

- Administrative Coordinator Karen Andersen — 24 years
- Bookkeeper Jayne Klein — 6 years
- Communication Coordinator Eva Koeller — 13 years
- Development Assistant Carol Iannelli — 24 years
- Graphic and Digital Design Coordinator Nichelle Dykema — started January 2023
- Marketing and Development Coordinator Deaconess Patti Miller — 2 years
- Social Media Coordinator Jill Wilson — 1 year

Executive Director Johnson’s report is on page 97 of the Convention Manual.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION
INVESTMENT COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION
Treasurer Karla Koehler gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of these two committees, introduced the members, and thanked them for their service. Treasurer Koehler’s report is on page 61 of the Convention Manual, and the committee reports are on pages 89 and 92.

Finance and Operations Committee:
- Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison
- Treasurer Karla Koehler
- Executive Director Vanessa Johnson
- Anita Werner, Rocky Mountain District
MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER — REV. DR. STEVEN SCHAVE, LAMP MINISTRY, INC.
Public Relations Director Susan Donnelly introduced the first Mites in Action Speaker, Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, Executive Director of LAMP Ministry (Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots). He reported on the impact of 2021–2023 Mission Grant #9: Propelling the Gospel ($65,000). Rev. Dr. Schave shared how integral LWML was in the beginning of LAMP Ministry and how the vital work continues by taking the light and hope of God’s Word to remote areas: “Make disciples of all nation” and “You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.” He told of the 55 for 55 Initiative goal of reaching 55 communities by their 55th Anniversary in 2025 and recruiting volunteers to either join an existing team or form a new one to share Jesus Christ with God’s people in the North.

Rev. Dr. Schave’s bio is on page seven of the Convention Manual.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATION TO THE LWML CONVENTION
President Debbie Larson told the history of intentional programming for young women in LWML, started by International LWML President Florence Montz with eight young women invited to participate in the 1973 convention. The Young Woman Representative Program officially started in 1975.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE HEART TO HEART — SISTERS OF ALL NATIONS PROGRAM (H2H)
President Debbie Larson shared the history of the H2H program which was established in 2003 when 22 Hispanic and African American women church leaders were invited to a seminar before the LWML Convention in Oklahoma City.

President Larson invited all who had participated in either program to stand as Dr. Dina Vendetti led the convention body in singing of “We Are the Body of Christ.” More information about these special anniversary celebrations can be found on page 11 of the Convention Manual.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman gave announcements of convention details.
PRAYER TO CLOSE THE SECOND MEETING

_Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly_ Editor-in-Chief Sheila Lutz from the Central Illinois District and the author of “Praying the Psalms” found in each issue of the _LWQ_ led the prayer to close the morning session.

CONVENTION IN RECESS

President Larson recessed the convention at 11:39 a.m.

Lunch Recess

Convention attendees could pre-register to attend Info-Gathering Luncheons. Speakers included:

- President Debbie Larson met with First-Time Convention Participants
- Jan Struck, Abby Goehring, and Dr. Dina Vendetti
- Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, Executive Director of Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP);
- Rev. Craig Muehler, Chaplain, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces
- Phil Zielke, President of Phil’s Friends
- Linda Gage and Carol von Soosten (absent), LWML Gift Planning Counselors
- Lunch with My Friends — no speaker, but an informal sharing of the impact of LWML

THIRD MEETING

_Friday, June 23, 2023 | 2 p.m._

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) ROLES

Board of Directors members joined the team on stage and/or assisted behind the scenes:

- **Vice President (VP) on stage:** VP of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison
- **Vice President of the day:** VP of Special Focus Ministries Deaconess Betty Knapp
- **Assistant Vice President of the day:** VP of Christian Life Susan Brunkow
- **Pastoral Counselor of the day:** Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn

CONVENTION SESSION RECONVENES

President Larson reconvened the convention at 2 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER

Special Focus Ministries Task Force Chairman Carmen Nagel led the prayer for the opening of the third meeting.

GOSPEL OUTREACH DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION

Vice President of Gospel Outreach (VPGO) Karen Morrison gave a brief overview of the Gospel Outreach department, introduced the members of the Gospel Outreach Committee and the Mission Grants Committee, and thanked them for their service.

Gospel Outreach Committee:

- Leslie Colligan, Chairman; New England District
- Desiree Davis, Chesapeake District
- Dianna Just, Oklahoma District
- Christie Steffens, Missouri District
Mission Grants Committee:
- Sharon von Qualen, Chairman; Iowa West District
- Beth Nagy, Rocky Mountain District
- Sherri Rose, Kansas District
- Barbara Schaer, Wyoming District
- Margie Wickert, Indiana District

VPGO Morrison’s report is on page 57 of the Convention Manual, and the committee reports are on pages 76–77.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES (LHM) — KURT BUCHHOLZ
President Larson introduced the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Lutheran Hour Ministries, Kurt Buchholz. She also thanked LHM for sponsoring the communion ware sets used in the opening worship service. Mr. Buchholz brought greetings from LHM and reported that 160 million people are being reached each week with the Gospel message. He recognized and thanked LWML for the mission partnership with LHM.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — REV. DR. GREGORY SELTZ
Vice President of Christian Life Susan Brunkow introduced Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz as the Keynote Speaker. Rev. Dr. Seltz emphasized that it is time for us to rise to the occasion, to be salt and light, and to be like Esther “for such a time of this, for the sake of Christ.” Be an “influencer” for Christ. Let us honor the Father who created us and the Son who saved us. “LWML-Esther, rise to action! Your culture, Your church, Your family needs you to be faithful to Christ, now more than ever!”

Following the address, President Larson presented Dr. Seltz with an LWML cap. Dr. Seltz’s bio is on page five of the Convention Manual.

THE LCMS FOUNDATION — DAVE FIEDLER
President Larson gave a brief overview of the planned giving ministry called Gifts of Love, in partnership with the LCMS Foundation. The ministry is designed to help LWML supporters create charitable gift and estate plans that will bless their heirs, as well as Gospel outreach efforts of LWML and the LCMS. President Larson introduced Tina Clasquin, Senior Vice President for Trust Service and Customer Support. She thanked LWML for the 1991 grant which has helped many seminary students and thanked LWML for the continued partnership. Following a brief humorous video clip, Dave Fiedler, President of the LCMS Foundation, came on stage and thanked LWML for their partnership.

GIFTS OF LOVE (GOL) MINISTRY REPORT
President Larson introduced the LWML Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage and acknowledged Gift Planning Counselor Carol von Soosten who was unable to attend the convention. GOL Counselor Gage compared the services GOL offers to a Legacy Tour. The Gifts of Love report was on page 98 of the Convention Manual.

PRAYER FOR THE 2023–2025 MISSION GOAL AND MISSION GRANTS
Mission Grants Committee Chairman Sharon von Qualen led the prayer for the LWML Mission Goal and the Mission Grants selected for the 2023–2025 biennium.
LWML 2023–2025 MISSION GRANTS VOTING
President Larson introduced Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison. She thanked VPGO Morrison and the Mission Grants Selection Committee for their work in reviewing 67 grant proposals to choose the 45 which appeared on the Mission Grants Ballot. VPGO Morrison thanked the committee for their prayerful work. More information about the Mission Grants Selection Process is found on page 50 of the Convention Manual.

VOTING RESULTS REVIEW TEAM
Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison summarized that the Mission Grants voting was completed online from May 21–27, 2023. Each registered voter could vote on the total Mission Goal and could vote for up to eight mission grants from the list of 45 grant proposals.

She reported that the Voting Results Review Team met via Zoom on May 30, 2023, to confirm the online voting results. VPGO Morrison thanked the Team for their work.

**Voting Results Review Team:**
- Recording Secretary Brenda Piester, Chairman
- Treasurer Karla Koehler
- Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison
- Atlantic District President Deaconess Raquel Rojas
- Pacific Southwest District President Nila Rodriguez
- Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack
- Audio-Visual Director Rev. William Engfehr, Advisory
- President Debbie Larson, Advisory

Mission Grant Proposals are on pages 36–46 in the Convention Manual, and the voting results could be recorded on pages 48–49.

LWML 2023–2025 MISSION GRANTS GOAL
VPGO Morrison announced that the votes were verified. Of the 538 ballots recorded, 503 voted yes, six voted no, and 29 were returned not answered, and a Mission Goal of $2,350,000 was approved. The total funds available for the 2023–2025 biennium are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission Goal</th>
<th>$2,350,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less: 10% Allocated to Administrative</td>
<td>($235,000.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Grant Total</td>
<td>$2,115,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mite Offerings Available for Distribution 3/31/23</td>
<td>316,870.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reallocation from MG#20 from 2021–2023 Biennium</td>
<td>9,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Available for 2021–2023 Biennium</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,441,070.62</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LWML MISSION GRANTS TOTAL VOTES
VPGO Morrison reported that there were 538 ballots recorded. The total number of votes cast was 4,291 out of a possible 4,304 votes. President Debbie Larson read the results of the voting:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MG #</th>
<th>Title and Amount</th>
<th># of Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan — Lutheran Hour Ministries, $100,000</td>
<td>99</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Disaster Response Team — Trinity Lutheran Church, Tyler, TX, $50,000</td>
<td>143</td>
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<td>Expanding Gospel Outreach to Hispanics in the U.S. — Lutheran Hour Ministries, $100,000</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment — Lutheran Braille Workers, $100,000</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Care for Street Children of Western Kenya — Capstone Ministries, $50,000</td>
<td>106</td>
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<td>Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, $100,000</td>
<td>134</td>
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<td>Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry — Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE, $50,000</td>
<td>85</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Lutheran Women in Mission Finish the Job — Ministry in Mission, Haiti, $85,000</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth — Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, $35,000</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Mobile Kitchen — Forged by Fire Services, Gulf States Region, U.S., $85,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>New Life Children’s Center Spiritual Care Program — Lutheran Social Services of the South, TX, $30,000 (This is the original vote.)</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Feeding Haitian Children through Gospel and Meals — Trinity HOPE, $58,082</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>A Healing Space for At-Risk Children — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, ND, $100,000</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Afterschool Program, Talca, Chile — Lutheran Church of Chile, $25,000</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>A Deeper Reach with Jesus into the Unreached — Salam Ministries, U.S., $100,000</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Showering Love on the Least of These — Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA, $100,000</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>God’s Word for Central &amp; South American Missions — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, $100,000</td>
<td>92</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Nurture Faith for the Aging — Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew), $100,000</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Serving God’s Children with Special Needs — Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI, $100,000</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Theological Libraries and Resources, Africa — LCMS Office of International Mission, $28,500</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Bread of Life in Truth and Action — Martin Luther School, Queens, NY, $40,000</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Enhancement of Deaf Ministry and Outreach — Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, U.S., $47,000</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Growing Our Place: Care for Special Needs Students — Our Place After School Care, Inc., NE, $20,000</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Equipping Young Leaders — LCMS Youth Ministry $50,000</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Upheld by God’s Hand, Mental Health Outreach — LCMS Life Ministry, $96,500</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Foundations for Life: an LCMS Micro School — Messiah Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC, $84,064</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>A Legacy of Love for Special Needs Children — Lutheran Special Education Ministries, $100,000</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Bringing God’s Word to India — India Bible Translation Project, $100,000</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Water and the Word – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya, $80,000</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Set to Serve: Respite Care Training — Voice of Care, U.S., $100,000</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Walking with Youth Transitioning to Adulthood — Fairmount Ministries, Wichita, KS, $60,000</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Orphan Grain Train Servant Center — Orphan Grain Train, U.S., $100,000</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Zoe’s Home Support — Zoe’s Home, Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, MO, $75,000</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit— Camp Restore Detroit, Detroit, MI, $90,000 (This is the original vote.)</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>New Location for Transitional Housing — Welcome Home Collaborative, Cincinnati, OH, $100,000</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Repairs for St. Paul’s Lutheran School — St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Cullman, AL, $50,000</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Mercy Ministry in Motion — Faith Lutheran Church, Shreveport, LA, $48,875</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Christ’s Care for Children: Kenya — LCMS Office of International Mission–Africa Region, $80,000</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Life Connection Events and Kits — Lutherans for Life, $70,000</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Camp Dixie Outdoor Ministries Flooring — Elberta, AL, $50,000</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Proclaim the Gospel, Serve in Mercy — LCMS Office of National Mission, $41,000</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Tanzania Children’s Homes — Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa, $74,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Set Apart to Serve — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, $100,000</td>
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LWML MISSION GRANTS PLURALITY RANKING
President Debbie Larson announced the plurality ranking of the Mission Grants:

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<td>102</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Tanzania Children’s Homes — Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa, $74,500</td>
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### Grant Proposals

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<td>98</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church — Lutheran Family Services, U.S., $106,000</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Repairs for St. Paul’s Lutheran School — St. Paul’s Lutheran School, Cullman, AL, $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Showering Love on the Least of These — Mercy Holistic Ministry, CA, $100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The next two grants which were tied were voted on in the Second Meeting, June 23, 2023:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MG #</th>
<th># of Votes</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title and Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>66 original votes; 259 votes in the tie breaker vote</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Breaking Generational Poverty in Detroit — Camp Restore Detroit, Detroit, MI, $58,988.62 (partial of $90,000).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Grant Proposals

- President Larson continued by announcing the grant proposals which were not selected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MG #</th>
<th># of Votes</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title and Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>66 original votes; 235 votes in the tie breaker vote</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>New Life Children’s Center Spiritual Care Program — Lutheran Social Services of the South, TX, $30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Bread of Life in Truth and Action — Martin Luther School, Queens, NY, $40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Mission Grant Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>60 34</td>
<td>Theological Libraries and Resources, Africa — LCMS Office of International Mission</td>
<td>$28,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>56 35</td>
<td>Walking with Youth Transitioning to Adulthood — Fairmount Ministries, Wichita, KS</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>54 36</td>
<td>A Deeper Reach with Jesus into the Unreached — Salam Ministries, U.S.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>53 37</td>
<td>Walking Together in the Mission Field — LCMS Office of International Mission</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>48 38</td>
<td>Christ's Care for Children: Kenya — LCMS Office of International Mission–Africa Region</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>42 39</td>
<td>Mercy Ministry in Motion — Faith Lutheran Church, Shreveport, LA</td>
<td>$48,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>40 40</td>
<td>Set to Serve: Respite Care Training — Voice of Care, U.S.</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>37 41</td>
<td>Foundations for Life: an LCMS Micro School — Messiah Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC</td>
<td>$84,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>36 42</td>
<td>Afterschool Program, Talca, Chile — Lutheran Church of Chile</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>30 43</td>
<td>Camp Dixie Outdoor Ministries Flooring — Elberta, AL</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>26 44</td>
<td>Proclaim the Gospel, Serve in Mercy — LCMS Office of National Mission</td>
<td>$41,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>25 45</td>
<td>New Location for Transitional Housing — Welcome Home Collaborative, Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VPGO Morrison reviewed that 31 mission grants were selected with a total of $2,441,070.62 designated to fund the grants in the 2023–2025 biennium. She concluded by showing the video presentation of the 31 grants selected; that video will be available for download on the LWML website.

President Larson thanked VPGO Morrison for her work and thanked Audio-Visual Director Rev. William Engfehr and his team for the fantastic mission grants video.

Following singing “Lift High the Cross,” President Larson addressed the convention participants, encouraging them to educate members and pastors about the grants and to promote the funding of them through various avenues in their home congregations, zones, and districts. “By your vote, you have pledged your support to these grant recipients.”

**Mites in Action Speaker — Phil’s Friends, Phil Zielke**

Vice President of Organizational Resources Marie Chow introduced the second Mites in Action Speaker, Phil Zielke, Founder and President of Phil’s Friends. Mr. Zielke reported on the impact of 2021–2023 Mission Grant #6: Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients ($70,000). Mr. Zielke shared a video, “Cancer is strong, HOPE is stronger.” Our true hope is truth and what we believe in through Jesus Christ. He announced that the 50,000th care package will be delivered in 2023.

Mr. Zielke’s bio is on page seven of the Convention Manual.
CONVENTION OFFERING # 2 — WE ARE CALLED TO CARE, PLANO, ILLINOIS
Offering Two supported “We Are Called to Care” which reaches out to children placed in foster care, offering therapy and Jesus’ unconditional love. The offering totaled $31,037 (preliminary) and $38,108.20 final.

CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE (CPH) — JONATHAN SCHULTZ
President Debbie Larson introduced the President and Chief Executive Officer of Concordia Publishing House, Jonathan Schultz. She thanked Concordia Publishing House for their store at the convention and their partnership with LWML resources. She also thanked CPH for sponsoring the popcorn that was served to attendees of the Friday Fest. Mr. Schultz expressed personal thanks to President Larson for her partnership and leadership. He brought greetings and talked about resources developed through CPH. He recognized authors who serve in partnership between LWML and CPH.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF) — REV. BART DAY
President Debbie Larson introduced the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Rev. Bart Day. She thanked LCEF for their service and partnership with LWML, and also thanked them for providing the convention bags for each attendee. Rev. Day brought greetings from LCEF and thanked LWML for their supportive partnership to help the LCMS survive and thrive. He emphasized the focus of LCEF is to provide church workers and congregations the opportunity to impact mission by using the financial gifts God has given them to serve the Gospel with others.

YOUNG WOMAN REPRESENTATIVES “CLASS OF 2023” RECOGNIZED
President Debbie Larson welcomed the 75 Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) to the lower stage of the convention and thanked them for being Lutheran Women in Mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman gave announcements of convention details.

PRAYER TO CLOSE THE THIRD MEETING
The Committee on Young Women Chairman Linda Fees from the Nebraska South District led the prayer to close the afternoon session.

CONVENTION IN RECESS
President Larson recessed the convention at 5:12 p.m.

Dinner Recess

Invitation-Only Dinners
- Past LWML District Presidents
- Young Woman Representatives with LWML President Debbie Larson
- Teens and Parents

Friday Fest — Exhibit Hall | 7–9 p.m.
- Games: seated volleyball, cornhole, ladder ball, bingo, golf putting, skateboard races
- Activities: guessing games, fun sketch, origami creations, kazoo choir, pong ball, photo op
- Entertainment: karaoke, local musical acts, local Christian singer
- Fun and prizes galore!
Sponsored Receptions | 9 p.m.
- Heart to Heart Reunion Reception
- Young Woman Representative (YWR) Reunion Reception
- Lutheran Braille Workers “Wining in the Dark”

Saturday, June 24, 2023

WAKE UP WITH THE WORD BIBLE STUDIES — 6:45–7:45 a.m.
Morning Bible study options were available to all convention attendees:
- Option 1: *At Table with Jesus* led by Rev. Kris Whitby
  Attendees will take a seat and discover what happens as our Lord invites us to dine with him.
- Option 2: *Unshakable—Standing on the Rock When Life Quakes Hard*, led by Donna Snow
  Learn life lessons of biblical characters whose lives were shaken and how God worked through them to point people to the grace and love of Jesus Christ.
- Option 3: *Yesterday, Today, and Forever*, led by Rev. Robert L. Mundahl
  Explore how God has graced LWML for more than 80 years with His Word, love, and blessings.

FOURTH MEETING
Saturday, June 24, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) ROLES
Board of Directors members joined the team on stage and/or assisted behind the scenes:
- Vice President (VP) on stage: VP of Communication Kathy Pavelock
- Vice President of the day: VP of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison
- Assistant Vice President of the day: VP of Special Focus Ministries Dcs. Betty Knapp and VP of Christian Life Susan Brunkow
- Pastoral Counselor of the day: Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn

CONVENTION SESSION RECONVENCES
President Larson reconvened the convention at 8:30 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER
Church Workers in Mission Committee Chairman Nancy Heredia, Pacific Southwest District, led the prayer for the opening of the fourth meeting.

PAST LWML PRESIDENTS PROCESSION
The Saturday morning procession was led by the LWML banner carried by President Larson’s pages, her daughter, Mandy Redfield, and her daughter-in-law, Eileen Larson. Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn introduced the Past LWML Presidents as they processed into the convention and she welcomed them to the stage:
- Ida Mall, Louisiana-Mississippi District — LWML President from 1991–1995
- Gloria Edwards, California-Nevada-Hawaii District — LWML President from 1995–1999
- Virginia Von Seggern, Nebraska North District — LWML President from 1999–2003
- Linda Reiser, Nebraska South District — LWML President from 2003–2007
- Jan Wendorf, South Wisconsin District — LWML President from 2007–2011
- Kay Kreklau, North Dakota District — LWML President from 2011–2015
- Patti Ross, Oklahoma District — LWML President from 2015–2019
MISSION FLAGS and CAMP CELEBRATE PROCESSION
The mission flags were announced by Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn who was assisted by past LWML Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler.

Mission Flags from Afghanistan to Zambia — representing the 82 countries where LWML has provided mission grants in its 80-plus year history — were carried in by Young Woman Representatives, Heart to Heart Sisters, and other volunteers. The eighty-third and final country represented was the United States of America. The flag procession was followed by the procession of the child care workers and the children and youth attending Camp Celebrate.

PLEDGE TO THE CROSS and THE LEAGUE PLEDGE
The Past LWML Presidents led the convention assembly in the Pledge to the Cross and the League Pledge. This was followed by the convention attendees singing “Lutheran Women One and All” led by Song Leader Dr. Dina Vendetti.

HEART TO HEART DISTRICT LEADERS RECOGNIZED
President Debbie Larson thanked the Heart to Heart Sisters who participated in the mission flag procession. She welcomed the 21 Heart to Heart Sisters District Leaders who had been trained prior to this convention to the lower stage for recognition.

CREDENTIALS REPORT # 2
Recording Secretary Brenda Piester gave the second report of the Credentials Committee, found on page 14 of the Convention Manual:

VOTING BODY
- Board of Directors: 11
- District Presidents: 40
- Committee Chairmen: 10
- Past LWML Presidents: 7
- Delegates: 474

TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTERS: 542

NONVOTING BODY
- Appointed Personnel and Committee Members: 43
- Other Registrants: 2,941

TOTAL CONVENTION ATTENDANCE: 3,526

ADOPTED: The Credentials Report # 2 was adopted by a vote of 453 Yes and 1 No as of 9:07 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, 2023, as the official roll of voting members of the convention.

AUDIO-VISUAL DIRECTOR REV. WILLIAM ENGFEHR RECOGNIZED
President Debbie Larson introduced Pastor William Engfehr who has assisted the LWML in Audio-Visual needs since 1985. As Rev. Engfehr retires from his role as our Convention Audio-Visual Director, she said that LWML thanks God for his love and support and prays God’s blessings on him and his family as he continues to serve the Lord in so many other ways.
BIBLE STUDY DAY TWO: “THE NEW ISRAEL. LET ALL THE NATIONS PRAISE THE LORD!”
President Larson welcomed Bible Study Leader Kaye Wolff to lead the second session. Convention attendees could take notes to answer these questions: If the eye of God is on those who fear Him, should we be afraid of Him?; If God blesses you, then can anyone successfully curse you?; What did Jesus mean when He taught that “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”; and, What is the heritage that God has chosen to give His people?

LCMS CHIEF MISSION OFFICER AND MISSIONARIES INTRODUCED
Vice President of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison introduced Rev. Kevin Robson, Chief Mission Officer for the LCMS since 2015. Rev. Robson reported that an unprecedented mission moment is here at this time. He thanked LWML for their partnership in this mission. Rev. Robson introduced the missionaries and their families: Present with him were LCMS Office of International Mission missionaries Rev. Ted and Rebecca Krey — Latin America-Caribbean Region, serving in the Dominican Republic — and Asia Region Director Rev. Charles and Cheryl Ferry, working out of Taiwan. Both pastors gave examples and thanked the women of the LWML for mission grants they have evidenced the results of around the world. Mrs. Ferry and Mrs. Krey shared details of their day-to-day lives from the perspective of missionary wives. They shared opportunities to support their local churches and seminaries. Children of the missionaries led singing of “Christ Be My Leader” in Chinese and Spanish, and then led the assembly in singing the song in English.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR) DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION
Public Relations Director Susan Donnelly gave a brief overview of the PR Department and introduced the members of the Public Relations Department.

Public Relations Committee:
- Diane Frauendienst, Minnesota South District
- Crystal Miller, Nebraska North District

PR Director Donnelly’s report is on page 65 of the Convention Manual, and the Public Relations Committee report is on page 95.

MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER — LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES, KURT BUCHHOLZ
Vice President of Communication Kathy Pavelock introduced the third Mites in Action Speaker, Kurt Buchholz, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Mr. Buchholz reported on the impact of 2021–2023 Mission Grant #13: Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia, ($100,000). Mr. Buchholz related strategies of connecting people through Gospel Outreach, specifically to the country of Mongolia; he asked for our continued prayers for the people of Mongolia. Mr. Buchholz’s bio is on page six of the Convention Manual.

CONVENTION OFFERING # 3 — WOLF RIVER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, SHAWANO, WISCONSIN
Offering Three supported Wolf River Lutheran High School’s scholarship fund in their mission to share Christ’s saving grace by providing a Christian education to any student regardless of race or economic standing. The offering totaled $18,360 (preliminary) and $40,868.82 final.
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION
Vice President of Communication (VPCOM) Kathy Pavelock gave a brief overview of the Communication Department and introduced the members of the Graphics Team, Information Technology Committee, and the Official Publication Staff.

Graphics Team:
- Nichelle Dykema, Utah-Idaho District
- Cheryl Rackov, North Dakota District

Information Technology Committee:
- Erin Foster, Mid-South District
- Leslie Koenck, Louisiana-Mississippi District
- Marie McNary, Iowa East District

Official Publication Staff, Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly (LWO):
- Editor-in-Chief, Sheila Lutz, Chairman; Central Illinois District
- Bible Study Editor Katy Gifford, Minnesota North District
- Christian Living Editor Linda Guteres, Atlantic District
- Features Editor Becky Wehrspann, Iowa East District
- Graphics Editor Amy Gill, Pacific Southwest District
- Missions Editor Eden Keefe, Kansas District
- News Editor Shari Miller, Montana District

VPCOM Pavelock’s report is on page 56 of the Convention Manual, and the committee reports are on pages 73–75.

LWML CANADA PRESIDENT INTRODUCTION
President Debbie Larson introduced the LWML Canada President Linda Long and her husband, Bill. Presidents Larson and Long have met monthly via Zoom or phone call for conversation and prayers. President Long brought greetings from LWML Canada, their Board of Directors, and all sisters in Canada. She reminded attendees of the 1993 International Convention held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. LWML Canada will celebrate their 30th Anniversary this year.

More information about LWML Canada is found on page 96 of the Convention Manual.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
Nominating Committee Chairman Kaye Wolff from the Michigan District introduced the elected members of the Nominating Committee and thanked them for their faithful work and service.

Nominating Committee members:
Kaye Wolff, Chairman; Michigan District
Lisa Asmus, South Dakota District
Janis Daniels, Carolinas District
Melissa Salomon, Pacific Southwest District
Lois Teinert, Texas District
She also thanked all the qualified women and pastors nominated for each position and reviewed the work of the committee to select the final slate of candidates for office. The Committee Report is on page 93 of the Convention Manual.

Chairman Wolff then introduced the slate candidates for the election serving for the term of 2023–2027. Those elected to the Nominating Committee will serve for the 2023–2025 biennium.

For President:
- Eden Keefe — Overland Park, Kansas; Kansas District
- Char Kroemer — Newberg, Oregon; Oregon District

For Vice President of Organizational Resources:
- Rebecca Bessell — Hamlin, New York; Eastern District
- Arlene Naasz — Rapid City, South Dakota; South Dakota District

For Vice President of Special Focus Ministries:
- Karol Selle — Rosholt, Wisconsin; North Wisconsin District
- Deb Vinkemeier — Bigfork, Minnesota; Minnesota North District

For Treasurer:
- Linda Guteres — Medford, New York; Atlantic District
- Anita Werner — Santa Teresa, New Mexico; Rocky Mountain District

For Pastoral Counselor:
- Rev. Greg Lehr — Sioux Falls, South Dakota; South Dakota District
- Rev. Mark Maas — Cheyenne, Wyoming; Wyoming District

For the Nominating Committee:
- Nancy Beckcom — Giddings, Texas; Texas District
- Cheri Fish — Bay City, Michigan; Michigan District
- MaryLynn Huntwork — Ephrata, Washington; Washington-Alaska District
- Deaconess Betty Knapp — Marquette, Michigan; North Wisconsin District
- Linda Koch — San Diego, California; Pacific Southwest District
- Olajumoke Odedele — Peapack, New Jersey; New Jersey District
- Roxanne Pieper — Carver, Minnesota; Minnesota South District
- Laura Stratman — Chapin, Illinois; Central Illinois District
- Melissa Vance — Pierre, South Dakota; South Dakota District

The candidate bios are found on pages 26–34 of the Convention Manual.

NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR
President Larson asked for nominations from the floor and explained the process to do so. There were no nominations from the floor, and President Larson declared the nominations closed. Candidates were then invited to come to the lower stage to be introduced to the convention assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman gave announcements of convention details.
PRAYER TO CLOSE THE FOURTH MEETING
The Group and Leader Development Committee Chairman Brianne Stahlecker from the Texas District led the prayer to close the morning session.

CONVENTION IN RECESS
President Larson recessed the convention at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Recess
Convention attendees could pre-register to attend Mission Impact Luncheons. Speakers included:
- Rev. Kevin Robson — LCMS Chief Mission Officer
- Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri — Retired CEO of Mission Nation Publishing
- Kurt Buchholz — President and CEO of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)
- Rev. Ed DeWitt, President and Chairman of the Board, along with his wife Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries
- Rev. Doua Xiong — Pastor to the Hmong in the San Joaquin Valley of California
- Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz — Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL)

FIFTH MEETING
Saturday, June 24, 2023 | 2:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) ROLES
Board of Directors members joined the team on stage and/or assisted behind the scenes:
- Vice President (VP) on stage: VP of Organizational Resources Marie Chow
- Vice President of the day: VP of Communication Kathy Pavelock
- Assistant Vice President of the day: VP of Special Focus Ministries Des. Betty Knapp
- Pastoral Counselor of the day: Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn

CONVENTION SESSION RECONVENE
President Larson reconvened the convention at 2:30 p.m.

OPENING PRAYER
Christian Resources Editors Chairman Mary Smith from the Utah-Idaho District led the prayer for the opening of the fifth meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION
Vice President of Organizational Resources (VPOR) Marie Chow gave a brief overview of the Organizational Resources Department and introduced the members of the Church Workers in Mission Committee, Group and Leader Development Committee, and the Structure Committee.

Church Workers in Mission Committee:
- Nancy Heredia, Chairman; Pacific Southwest District
- Sylvia Bean, Rocky Mountain District
- Tami Ulland, North Dakota District
Group and Leader Development Committee:
- Brianne Stahlecker, Chairman; Texas District
- Christina Bean, Rocky Mountain District
- Elaine Engelman, Kansas District
- Jennifer Gierke, New England District

Structure Committee:
- LaDonna Stanosheck, Chairman; Nebraska North District
- Marilyn Kuehnast, Iowa West District
- Ruth Thomas, Indiana District
- LWML Parliamentarian Barbara Volk, Advisory, Carolina District

VPOR Chow’s report is on page 58 of the Convention Manual, and the committee reports are on pages 78–80.

MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER — LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES, CHAPLAIN CRAIG MUEHLER
Strategic Plan Facilitator Michelle Jenks introduced the fourth Mites in Action Speaker, Chaplain Craig Muehler, director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. Chaplain Muehler reported on the impact of 2017–2019 Mission Grant #3: Christ for Veterans and Their Families, ($27,750). He noted that Operation Barnabas — named after St. Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement — started with an LWML grant in 2007. He thanked LWML for both the initial 2007 and the 2017 grant to continue the program. Chaplain Muehler’s bio is on page six of the Convention Manual.

CONVENTION OFFERING # 4 — MILWAUKEE AREA CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS — CONCORDIA GOSPEL OUTREACH
Offering Four supported Concordia Publishing House and its charity — Concordia Gospel Outreach — provide Gospel-based materials including Bibles, the children’s book Alive Before You Were Born, and other devotional materials to up to 20 Milwaukee area crisis pregnancy centers. The offering totaled $2,872 (preliminary) and $30,794.46 final.

PRAYER CHAPEL PRAYERS and THE LORD’S PRAYER IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH
LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn led the assembly in prayers of remembrance for the saints who have gone to their rest, for the healing of our nation, and in thanksgiving for all those who serve the Lord. Following those prayers, Vice President of Organizational Resources Marie Chow prayed the Lord’s Prayer in Toisanese, a dialect of Chinese.

LCMS PRESIDENT — REV. DR. MATTHEW C. HARRISON
Gospel Outreach Chairman Leslie Colligan from the New England District introduced the LCMS President, The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison. President Harrison brought greetings and thanked the LWML for mission grants for LCMS Missions. A video of missionaries and their families from all around the world saying “thank you” in their native languages was shown. “It is our job to proclaim Christ…”

LWML PASTORAL COUNSELORS’ INTRODUCTION
President Debbie Larson introduced and thanked the elite group of men who have served as LWML Pastoral Counselors and who were present in Milwaukee. These pastors include:
• Rev. Mike Mattil, Texas District — Served from 2007–2011.
• Rev. Dr. Robert Roegner, Florida-Georgia District — Served from 2013–2017 (unable to be present).
• Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler, Iowa West District — Served from 2017–2021.
• Rev. Brian Noack, Atlantic District — Served from 2019–2023 (unable to be present).
• Rev. Gary Piepkorn, Rocky Mountain District — Will continue in service until 2025.
• Rev. Kenton Wendorf, South Wisconsin District — Volunteers his expertise as he doctrinally reviews the Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly.

The Pastoral Counselors and President Harrison led the men in the assembly in singing “The Church’s One Foundation.”

CREDENTIALS REPORT #3
Recording Secretary Brenda Piester gave the third report of the Credentials Committee, found on page 17 of the Convention Manual:

VOTING BODY
   Board of Directors: 11
   District Presidents: 40
   Committee Chairmen: 10
   Past LWML Presidents: 7
   Delegates: 474
   TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTERS: 542

NONVOTING BODY
   Appointed Personnel and Committee Members: 43
   Other Registrants 2,965

TOTAL CONVENTION ATTENDANCE: 3,550

As there was no change in the numbers of total eligible voters, there was no need for adoption of the voting body.

PRAYER BEFORE THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Nominating Committee Chairman Kaye Wolff led the assembly in prayer before the balloting for officers.

ELECTION OF LWML BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS FOR 2023–2027 and ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2023–2025
President Debbie Larson conducted the balloting by electronic keypads for the election of officers with the votes tallied and displayed immediately on the projection screen after the close of each vote. The assembly could record the votes on page 35 of the Convention Manual.
President Debbie Larson declared that the following were elected:

**OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

- **President:** Eden Keefe
- **Vice President of Organizational Resources:** Arlene Naasz
- **Vice President of Special Focus Ministries:** Karol Selle
- **Treasurer:** Anita Werner
- **Pastoral Counselor:** Rev. Mark Maas

**PRESIDENT**

- Votes Cast: 520
- Votes Necessary for Election: 261
  - **Eden Keefe**
    - Votes Received: 264
  - **Char Kroemer**
    - Votes Received: 256

**VICE PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES**

- Votes Cast: 531
- Votes Necessary for Election: 266
  - **Rebecca Bessell**
    - Votes Received: 195
  - **Arlene Naasz**
    - Votes Received: 336

**VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES**

- Votes Cast: 531
- Votes Necessary for Election: 266
  - **Deb Vinkemeier**
    - Votes Received: 184
  - **Karol Selle**
    - Votes Received: 347

**TREASURER**

- Votes Cast: 531
- Votes Necessary for Election: 266
  - **Linda Guteres**
    - Votes Received: 216
  - **Anita Werner**
    - Votes Received: 315

**PASTORAL COUNSELOR**

- Votes Cast: 532
- Votes Necessary for Election: 267
  - **Rev. Greg Lehr**
    - Votes Received: 238
  - **Rev. Mark Maas**
    - Votes Received: 294

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- Votes Cast (First Round): 538
- Necessary for Election: 267
- Plurality
  - **Nancy Beckcom**
    - Votes Received: 237
    - 7th
  - **Cheri Fish**
    - Votes Received: 177
    - 9th
  - **MaryLynn Huntwork**
    - Votes Received: 179
    - 8th
  - **Deaconess Betty Knapp**
    - Votes Received: 360
    - 2nd
  - **Linda Koch**
    - Votes Received: 243
    - 6th, Alternate
  - **Olajumoke Odedeke**
    - Votes Received: 377
    - Chairman
  - **Rozanne Pieper**
    - Votes Received: 270
    - 5th
  - **Laura Stratman**
    - Votes Received: 307
    - 3rd
  - **Melissa Vance**
    - Votes Received: 290
    - 4th

President Debbie Larson declared that the following were elected:
President Larson thanked all the nominees willing to submit their name for consideration and to the candidates whose names were on the ballot. She congratulated the newly elected officers and stated that God will bless their service to Him for the next four years as members of the Board of Directors and for two years on the Nominating Committee.

INSTALLATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Piepkorn led the installation of the 2023–2025 LWML Nominating Committee. President Larson thanked Pastor Piepkorn for the installation ceremony. She asked the convention body for support of the Nominating Committee by submitting names of women and pastors to be nominated for election at the 2025 Omaha Convention.

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT
President Larson welcomed President-elect Eden Keefe to the stage. President-elect Keefe thanked everyone, on behalf of presidential candidate Char Kroemer and herself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman gave announcements of convention details.

PRAYER TO CLOSE THE FIFTH MEETING
The Christian Life Committee Chairman Rebecca Bessell from the Eastern District led the prayer to close the afternoon session.

MISSION WALK PRAYER
Host Committee Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kris Whitby led the assembly in prayer for the Mission Walk.

SOUNDING OF THE SHOFAR
Rev. Steve Cohen, Founder and Missionary at Large of Apple of His Eye Mission Society, sounded the shofar (ram’s horn) to announce the start of the Mission Walk. It was sounded in the assembly hall and again outside at the beginning of the walk.

CONVENTION IN RECESS
President Larson recessed the convention at 4:20 p.m.

Mission Pledge Walk
The one-mile mission walk was on the Milwaukee Riverwalk from the Baird Center to Pere Marquette Park and back. Turquoise mission walk T-shirts featured a logo depicting God’s hands lifting and supporting the whole world, and the footsteps are His children sharing the Gospel to people of all nations. Apple of His Eye Mission Society provided the water for the walkers. AdventHealth Durand donated six emergency kits.
Dinner Recess
Invitation-Only Dinner
  • Legacy Circle Donors

Saturday Night Entertainment — The Lutheran Ladies’ Lounge
The Lutheran Ladies’ Lounge launched in 2019 by KFUO Radio, and the podcast rocketed in popularity. The Saturday night event included musings, reflections, perceptions, and indulgences of the four hosts:
  Erin Alter (LCMS International Mission),
  Rachel Bomberger (former editor of The Lutheran Witness),
  Brianne Gerzevske (Account Director at Meyer Partners, LLC), and
  Sarah Gulseth (KFUO Digital Media Specialist).

Evening Activities and Sponsored Receptions | 9 p.m.
  • H2H District Leader Trainees
  • Lutheran Hour Ministries Reception
  • Past National Executive Committee and Board of Directors Members Reception
  • Young Woman Representatives

SIXTH MEETING
Sunday, June 25, 2023 | 9 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) ROLES
Board of Directors members joined the team on stage and/or assisted behind the scenes:
  Vice President (VP) on stage: VP of Special Focus Ministries Deaconess Betty Knapp
  Vice President of the day: VP of Christian Life Susan Brunkow
  Assistant Vice President of the day: VP of Gospel Outreach Karen Morrison
  Pastoral Counselor of the day: Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack

CONVENTION SESSION RECONVENES
President Larson reconvened the convention at 9 a.m.

OPENING PRAYER
Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations Committee Chairman Karol Selle from the North Wisconsin District led the prayer for the opening of the sixth meeting.

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries (VPSFM) Deaconess Betty Knapp gave a brief overview of the Special Focus Ministries Department and introduced the members of the Committee on Young Women, the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations Committee, and the Special Focus Ministries Task Force.

  Committee on Young Women:
  • Linda Fees, Chairman; Nebraska South District
  • Joy Anderson, Minnesota South District
  • Carla Church, Washington-Alaska District
  • DCE Kristina Parker, Utah-Idaho District
Heart to Heart Sisters Committee:
- Karol Selle, Chairman; North Wisconsin District
- Giovanne Turnincio, Texas District
- Linda Patel, California-Nevada-Hawaii District
- Deb Vinkemeier, Minnesota South District

Special Ministries Task Force:
- Carmen Nagel, Chairman; Oregon District
- Jennifer Ceyanes, Texas District — Deaf or Hearing Impaired Liaison
- Linda Koehler, Missouri District — Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled Liaison
- Marilyn Schroeder, Iowa West District — Blind or Visually Impaired Liaison


CONVENTION PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE (CPC) INTRODUCTION
President Debbie Larson introduced the Convention Programming Committee:
Convention Programming Committee:
- Chairman/Vice President of Special Focus Ministries (VPSFM) Deaconess Betty Knapp
- VP of Communication Kathy Pavelock
- PR Director Susan Donnelly
- VP of Christian Life Susan Brunkow
- Convention Manager Shelley Moeller
- A-V Director Rev. William Engfehr
- Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack
- President Debbie Larson.

The CPC Report is on page 87 of the Convention Manual.

CONVENTION MANAGEMENT TEAM INTRODUCTION
Convention Manager/Chairman Shelley Moeller invited the Convention Management Team to the lower stage and introduced them:
- Maureen Consiglio, Atlantic District — Assistant to the Convention Manager
- Vivian Ernst, Indiana District — Convention Exhibits Coordinator
- Vickie Ozburn, Iowa East District — Food Services Manager
- Ruth Weckwerth, South Wisconsin District, now the Texas District — Housing Manager and Transportation and Tours Manager
- Marguerite Christman, Oklahoma District — Golf Outing Manager.

In addition, President Larson recognized Claire Carlson (Chesapeake District), now with Jesus, who served on the Convention Management Team until her death.


APPOINTED OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTRODUCTION
President Debbie Larson thanked and introduced the Appointed Officers of the BOD:
- Arlene Naasz, South Dakota District — Meeting Manager

Report on page 64 of the Convention Manual
APPOINTED PERSONNEL INTRODUCTION
President Debbie Larson thanked and introduced the Appointed Personnel:

- Caroline Honeycutt, Oklahoma District — Archivist-Historian
- Barbara Volk, Carolinas District — Parliamentarian
- Nancy Bogenhagen, South Dakota District — Dropbox Coordinator
- JoNette Brogaard, Minnesota North District — Resource Editor
- Judy Carlson, Central Illinois District — Resource Editor
- Debbie Curry, Texas District — Resource Editor
- Dianna Just, Oklahoma District — Resource Editor
- Char Kroemer, Oregon District — Resource Editor
- Diane Reimold, Mid-South District — Resource Editor
- Carol Schmidt, Missouri District — Resource Editor

TEE UP 4 MITES CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE RESULTS
President Debbie Larson introduced the Host Activities Chairman Carol Fuys and thanked her for her work and service. Golf Outing Director Wendy Johnson announced that there were 125 golfers. The gross proceeds received through Tee Up 4 Mites Golf Outing for mission grants was greater than $35,000 (preliminary) and $49,254.00 (final).

MISSION PLEDGE WALK RESULTS
Mission Pledge Walk Director Tricia Minturn announced that there were 1,296 people registered and it was estimated there were more than 1,300 participants. The net total received through the Mission Walk for mission grants was greater than $100,000 (preliminary) and $121,333.02 (final). She recognized Steve Cohen, Apple of His Eye Ministries, for sounding the shofar to begin the walk.

MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER — REV. DOUA AND SUE XIONG, HMONG MINISTRIES
Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz introduced the fifth and final Mites in Action Speaker, Rev. Doua Xiong and his wife Sue from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Merced, California. Mrs. Xiong spoke “Thank you, LWML” in both English and Hmong. Rev. Xiong reported on the impact of 2021–2023 Mission Grant #28: Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach ($70,208.15 plus $8,156 from reallocation of Mission Grant #20). Rev Xiong — reverently known as the “Pastor in Chains” — brings the Good News of Jesus so the Hmong people and others in central California can break their chains and know the love of Jesus, feel His peace, and have the hope of eternal life. He closed by leading the assembly in singing “Amazing Grace” in English and then sang a solo in Hmong, ending with the chorus of “My Chains are Gone, I’ve Been Set Free.”

Rev. Xiong’s bio is on page seven of the Convention Manual.
CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS VIDEO
President Debbie Larson shared an inspirational video of God’s people around the world as they worshipped and sang in their native languages. Video clips included “Canticle of the Great Commission” and the “Nunc Dimittis” in French at Togolese Seminary in Dapaong, Togo, Africa; “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” and “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” in Paroisse (Parish) Wittenberg in Pointe-Noire, Republic of Congo, Africa; “Magnificat” at Vespers in Dalwak, Togo, Africa; “The Name of the Lord Jesus is Great” during Saturday Hmong Language School Chapel in San Joaquin Valley, California; students in Sri Lanka, South Asia; and Palm Sunday music at Trinity Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Santa Ana, California.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Deaconess Betty Knapp assumed the chair, and she introduced President Debbie Larson, the nineteenth president, serving from 2019–2023. She referred to President Larson’s thoughts and prayer, “I pray about the opportunities and the challenges we have as women serving Jesus in the United States and across the world. There is a lot going on out there. It can be a frightening place…or it can be viewed as one more opportunity to trust in God.” (LWQ, Winter 2019, p.29).

President Larson was guided by “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” from Proverbs 3 and used the challenges of COVID-19 and turned them into opportunities. She praised God for allowing Lutheran Women in Mission to gather both in Lexington in 2021 and again in Milwaukee in 2023.

She noted that a tiny mustard seed of faith gives us the strength to trust in Him, the Lord of the nations.

Adding staff to a predominately volunteer organization to provide guidance, consistency, and support is vital to assist women serving in leadership roles. Assembly of Leaders (AOL) 2022 provided training to women in all 40 districts. Faith is an investment that never loses interest. Grants have been funded at a rate never before seen.

The Lord of the Nations has brought the nations right to our doorstep; opportunities abound to share Jesus’ love. In response to Christ’s sacrifice, we proclaim, give, and serve to bless others as we have been blessed.

The BOD has affirmed the determination to use the name Lutheran Women in Mission as often as possible and consistently in the future.

She thanked God for His guidance, strength, and encouragement during her term. Lutheran Women in Mission continue to “Serve the Lord with Gladness!” She concluded with parts from her theme during her term: “Thanks be to God! We are HIS! We are: Held by God’s Word, Inspired to share HIS Gospel, and Surrounded by HIS Grace.”

The President’s report is on page 52–54 of the Convention Manual.

President Larson resumed the chair.

COMIC RELIEF TEAM INTRODUCTION
President Debbie Larson introduced the Comic Relief Team of Jan Struck, who played the part of Laverne, and Abby Goehring, who played Lil’ Shirley. She thanked them for making the attendees laugh and reflect.
INVITATION TO 2025 CONVENTION, OMAHA, NEBRASKA
President Larson introduced The 2025 Host Committee (HC) Chairman Crystal Miller. Chairman Miller welcomed Nebraska North and Nebraska South representatives to the lower stage. Sporting “Head to the Heartland 2025 Omaha” T-shirts, they gave facts and information about Omaha and Nebraska. Chairman Miller then issued the official invitation to the 2025 convention in Omaha, Nebraska, at the CHI Convention Center, June 26–29, 2025.

RECOGNITION OF MILWAUKEE HOST COMMITTEE
The 2023 Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman thanked the host committee members and the more than 400 volunteers from the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois Districts. The committee members and workers were greeted with standing applause as they entered and circled the assembly hall.

SONG LEADER RECOGNITION
President Larson recognized Dr. Dina Vendetti for serving as the Convention Song Leader. She was thanked with applause from the convention assembly.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
President Larson introduced outgoing Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack who conducted the installation of the new 2023–2027 officers and continuing officers to serve as the 2023–2025 LWML Board of Directors. Scripture verses were from Philippians 2:4, Colossians 1:11, and Colossians 3:14.

PINNING OF THE NEW PRESIDENT and NEW PRESIDENT’S REMARKS
In her final duty as LWML President, President Debbie Larson pinned the president’s pin on the 20th woman to serve as President of the LWML, Eden Keefe. President Larson joined the Past LWML Presidents in the convention assembly.

PRESIDENT EDEN KEEFE ADDRESSES THE ASSEMBLY
President Eden Keefe addressed the convention body and included gratitude for attending the convention either in Milwaukee or by Livestream to “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” and more importantly, what that means for each person in their daily lives. She referenced Rev. Dr. Leucke’s opening worship message where he stated, “we are all proclaimers” and Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz’s keynote address called all “LWML-Esthers” to “rise to action.” She repeated a convention quote, “Missionaries are not just the ones who cross the sea, but the ones who see the cross.”

She thanked the assembly for their support, especially noting the presence and support of her family including husband, daughter, father, sister, and aunt. President Keefe especially acknowledged and thanked Char Kroemer, also a candidate for the office of president, for their collaboration as Lutheran Women in Mission, noting Char’s prayer, “that all we do be to Your glory, because that’s where we begin and that’s how we continue.”

President Keefe led the audience in the LWML pledge. As Lutheran Women in Mission begin the new biennium, we pledge to celebrate and proclaim Him as Savior, fund mission grants, support mission partners, provide resources, networking, and training opportunities, and to serve and encourage one another through Christ. She stated that we are “PurposeFULL,” — “to do”: to work and serve with focus, prayers, deliberation, and planning. We are also “PurposeFILLED” — “to be”: to be clear, evaluate, set goals, and communicate. The time is now to Celebrate the Lord of the Nations so that all we are and do will be to the glory of God.
In closing, President Keefe quoted the Apostle Paul, *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen* (Ephesians 3:20–21).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Host Committee Chairman Anne Hartman gave final announcements to close the convention.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Keefe adjourned the 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit at 10:48 a.m. on Sunday, June 25, 2023.

**SENDING SERVICE**

The Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr. was unable to serve as the proclaimer for the Sunday morning sending service, due to health reasons.

The liturgists were Rev. Gary Piepkorn and Rev. Mark Maas, LWML Pastoral Counselors. Worship hymns included “Jesus Shall Reign” (*LSB* 823), “O Christ, Our True and Only Light” (*LSB* 839), “Spread the Reign of God the Lord” (*LSB* 830), and “For All the Faithful Women” (*LSB* 855). The choir anthem was “Esto Les Digo” (This I Tell You). Scripture readings were from Psalm 82:5–8, 1 Kings 8:37–43, and Romans 15:8–13.

Outgoing Senior Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Brian Noack, preached “Jesus Christ, Hope for the Nations” on the Gospel text, Matthew 12:21. Our true hope is grounded in the hope of Jesus Christ, granting to us life everlasting. This hope meets us right in the places where many in the world would say their hopes have been dashed. In Christ, we have the promise that our hope is not in vain, and our place is to be with Him eternally in His Kingdom. This promise is certainty, it is joy. God created us to be in fellowship with Him, and came to us in the visible sign of hope, something better yet to come in God’s Son, Jesus. Jesus is the Lord of the Nations, and He desires that all people — Israelites and the Gentiles, and all nations of the World — will have hope and know His name. Through Christ’s death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to come again, we have a living hope. Even in difficulties and suffering, hope comes; He redeems, restores, and renews. The Holy Spirit dwells within us through the waters of Baptism. Rev. Noack emphasized that we are Lutheran Women and Men in Mission, we are bearers of the Word of God, and are called to proclaim the hope we have in Christ as we are called to a celebration in His Kingdom, a celebration which will know no end. “Continue the celebration. Continue sharing the hope that you have. Continue sharing the joy that our Lord is Lord of the nations, and He desires for all people to be saved. … He is the one who has given us cause for the celebration, His Son assures us that we are His eternally.”

The service included the Dedication of the Gifts from the Heart.

The Sending Service closed with “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” (*LSB* 917) and a sending blessing: “Go forth to serve with joy as you ‘Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.’ Amen.”
Debbie Larson, President

/s/ Debbie Larson

Brenda Piester, Recording Secretary

/s/ Brenda Piester

Minutes Review Team:
Arlene Price, Chairman; New Jersey District President
Patty Peters, South Dakota District President
Terri Denninston, Wyoming District President

Initials /s/ AP

Initials /s/ PP

Initials /s/ TD

09/26/2023 BJP
Date Approved RS Initials

01/19/2024 BJP
Date Offering RS Initials
Totals Updated
and Approved