



Seventy-five (The Time is NOW) **BIG IDEAS!**

The Time is NOW is an initiative to help the LWML refocus on our basic common core values: being in God's Word, missions, service, and fellowship. It is imperative, even urgent, that women share with other women the contagious joy that results from participating in the LWML. The Time is NOW to look to the future of the LWML!

These BIG Ideas shared by members of the LWML Board of Directors, show how this initiative could be shared throughout our LWML. The challenge is to try to use these 75 BIG Ideas before the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, when the LWML will celebrate its 75th Anniversary!

Begin to think "outside the box" and be creative. Share at least one BIG Idea with a sister in Christ today!



Lutheran Women's Missionary League
www.lwml.org

Seventy-five **BIG** (The Time is NOW) **IDEAS!**

1. The Time is NOW to hold an "Advent by Candlelight" evening in December, and invite a new friend to attend with you. Sit at specially decorated festive tables and enjoy the fellowship!
2. The Time is NOW to learn how to access the great LWML resources for meetings, personal devotions, and Bible studies on the Internet. Share the excitement of www.lwml.org with a friend! Easy to Access! Easy to Share!
3. The Time is NOW to find out how LWML is involved in social media. See what's happening on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. Get involved! "Follow," "friend," "like," and most importantly, "share" with your sister in Christ.
4. The Time is NOW to encourage others to go on a mission trip! Perhaps you can't go, but you can identify and encourage . . . even support . . . a special woman in your life to tell the Good News about Jesus!
5. The Time is NOW to have more than one LWML group in your congregation! Perhaps groups might create quilts, assist the elderly, or work at a clothing bank or food pantry. Make Bible study a part of each activity. Serve the Lord with Gladness!
6. Women of all ages and cultures have gifts to share. The Time is NOW to use the talents of these women . . . involve them in your special projects . . . listen to them . . . encourage them!
7. The Time is NOW to be a local missionary – get your group involved in an eyeglass project! Help sort eyeglasses that can be used or recycled for distribution during mission trips. Think of other ways to be involved in missions. Ask a sister in Christ to join you.
8. The Time is NOW to make a joyful noise to the Lord! Make noise by encouraging everyone (young and old) to put their mites into a purple metal bucket . . . what a noise, perhaps heard around the world!
9. The Time is NOW to intentionally be in God's Word at every gathering with your sisters in Christ – read a devotion, use a Bible study, or share a Mustard Seed Devotion.
10. The Time is NOW to take a prayer walk around your neighborhood at your next gathering and pray for your community, local businesses, and first responders. Follow up these "prayer walking" activities with a "we're praying for you" letter.
11. The Time is NOW to set up a timeline and checklist for your next LWML gathering. Identify the gifts of your sisters in Christ, and give them responsibilities in those areas. Ready, set, go!
12. The Time is NOW to start a Book Club! Connect with sisters in Christ and take that opportunity to share Christ's love with them.
13. The Time is NOW to hold a "For Women Only" event in your church for all sisters in Christ! Spend time once or twice a year in Bible study, crafting, singing, and eating. Invite the women in your life to join you in the fellowship!
14. The Time is NOW to encourage a far-away friend or a homebound person in her faith by reading the Daily Mustard Seed Devotion together on the phone.
15. The Time is NOW for each LWML district to design a pocketbook-sized Missions Grants Booklet. Update it each year with either the new district mission grants or the new national mission grants.
16. The Time is NOW to challenge the YWRs from your district by asking them to invite and bring several young women to join in the celebration at the 2017 Convention in Albuquerque. What an impact this will be!
17. The Time is NOW to remember our LWML heritage, recall why you joined LWML, and find someone you can mentor as a future LWML sister-in-Christ.
18. The Time is NOW to visit or study a historical site/person in the history of the LCMS, and give recognition to their work by replicating their efforts in your community.
19. The Time is NOW to have a Monday Mighty Mite emphasis. Every Monday, or each month, learn more about where and how our mites at the national and district levels are being used.





20. The Time is NOW to be **inclusive** rather than **exclusive**!

Stress **participation** instead of **membership**! Invite those outside of your regular LWML circle to all events including Bible studies, leadership workshops, fellowship, and servant events.

21. The Time is NOW to use innovative games to get to know one another. Host a craft session before game night and make the pyramid-shaped LWML ornaments, available at www.lwml.org. Use them as prizes, with a note inside for either a door prize of chocolate candy or a certificate redeemable at the LWML store.

22. The Time is NOW to look for needs of people in your community and share the love of Jesus with them through servant events and Gifts from the Heart. Check with local agencies for specific needs... *that we (they) may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need!* (Hebrews 4:16b).

23. The Time is NOW to put God and His outreach example first in your life by showing kindness and love to a stranger. Move out of your comfort zone!

24. The Time is NOW to develop a relationship with a sister in the pew whom you don't know very well. Consider mentoring her, or being mentored by her!

25. The Time is NOW to connect technology to all, using tech-savvy women sharing their knowledge through mini-classes, starting in your local group.

26. The Time is NOW to bloom where you're planted! The Lord plants His people; prayerfully reflect how the Lord entrusted you with His gifts and talents to give Him glory, in every aspect of your life.

27. The Time is NOW to spur inactive societies to reactivate and to reach out to new congregation plants and encourage the formation of new LWML societies. Go to www.lwml.org and use the resources on the Service/Group Resources page.

28. The Time is NOW to make a big whoop! Celebrate ministries in creative ways that encourage involvement and identify faithful servants.

29. The Time is NOW to hold a District Servant Event Retreat! Contact a food pantry, a homeless shelter, a resale shop, or a youth center, and ask if there is a hands-on project your group could do. Include a Bible study, good food, and fellowship!

30. The Time is NOW to recognize that we are connected to God by the Holy Spirit — our "Power Source" — and that through Bible Study and leadership resources, the women of the LWML are enabled to identify and develop their own God-given gifts and talents to do His work whenever and wherever He has need of them.

31. The Time is NOW to connect with the younger generation in our church (ages 18-35) by developing a relationship with them, one-by-one. Get to know a young woman, invite her to events, and share the mission of the LWML. She is our future!

32. The Time is NOW to praise God that we live in a free country where we can still Serve the Lord with Gladness!

33. The Time is NOW to step out in faith and use your God-given gift of leadership! Go to www.lwml.org and use the resources on the Service/Group Resources page.

34. The Time is NOW to pray for, and plan to attend, your upcoming district LWML conventions, that God would continue to work in and through the LWML in a mighty way to show His bountiful love and blessings to all nations and generations as we reach out in His name.

35. The Time is NOW to prayerfully consider how God wants to use the talents of each member of the LWML to serve Him and reach others for Christ on the society, zone, district, and/or national level.

36. The Time is NOW to trade an old event for a fresh new idea! Let your leaders hear new ideas. Just because you've "always done it that way" doesn't mean you can't make some changes.

37. The Time is NOW to find great event ideas in the *Impressions* newsletter found on the Young Woman page at www.lwml.org!

38. The Time is NOW to create a journal to celebrate and observe the Reformation anniversary and/or LWML's 75th anniversary. It could include Bible studies, Lutheran history, and your LWML experience. Perhaps you can scrapbook "Why I am a Lutheran Woman."

39. The Time is NOW to be brave and embrace new technology. Implement online meetings. Invite district leaders to a workshop and teach them how to use various online meeting tools.

Seventy-five

BIG



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IDEAS!



40. The Time is NOW to sponsor a "Witness, Mercy, and Life" Saturday luncheon event to inform people about human trafficking and how to respond to victims. Use resources provided by the LCMS and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service team on the LCMS website.
41. The Time is NOW to give your sister-in-Christ a great big LWML hug! You may never know how much that hug might be needed.
42. The Time is NOW to stand for what you believe, without timidity, bravely confessing your belief in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord to your family, neighbors, and community.
43. The Time is NOW to speak! Reach out in love! Use your God-given strengths, talents, and abilities for HIS glory! "... *Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*" (Esther 4:14).
44. The Time is NOW to ask a church worker (pastor, teacher, etc.) what would really help them. Listen to them. Then go do it, or get it for them, regardless how big or small the request.
45. The Time is NOW to contact MOST Ministries and make plans to participate in a short-term mission trip. Join an existing team or set up a new one with MOST's help, to serve in one of the LCMS mission fields.
46. The Time is NOW to honor God by being in HIS Word. Keep a daily appointment with Him! Pray earnestly.
47. The Time is NOW to accept the challenge to serve when and where you see a need. God equips those whom He chooses to serve in His Kingdom.
48. The Time is NOW to live a blessed life. Look for the good that comes along with the trials in your life.
49. The Time is NOW to prayerfully remember the mission goal daily and to give Him thanks for His work done through us and these mites!
50. The Time is NOW to make an appointment with your pastor and share the partnership of LWML and the work of the LCMS. Equip him with resources like Pastor to Pastor so he can talk to other pastors about the work of LWML and how the women in their care can help them.
51. The Time is NOW to give someone a fresh flower and share how they, like the flower, are God's masterpiece and how much He loves them.
52. The Time is NOW to organize a "Spa Day" at a care center. Give foot massages and share the story in John 13:1-17, where Jesus washes the feet of the disciples.
53. The Time is NOW to show your faith by sharing God's love; even a simple smile can lift someone's outlook on life. Ask how they're feeling, and listen to their response. Consider praying with them.
54. The Time is NOW to start a service project, like marking Bibles for a prison ministry, crafting Gospel bracelets, or tying a quilt. Close the event with an LWML sketch, and of course, enjoy fellowship at lunch.
55. The Time is NOW to publicize LWML events or Bible studies in a new way. Take photos of these events and post them on social media to encourage women to come to your next event; use the photos in your church newsletter, too, or make a poster.
56. The Time is NOW to ask your pastor if you can do a Mission Moment at worship services one Sunday of each month, using the resources from the LWML website. Highlight a mission grant, including a brief summary of the project and a prayer.
57. The Time is NOW to purchase a new medium-sized Mite Box to display at church. Refresh LWML bulletin boards or LWML displays. Be sure publicity is eye-catching. Change out photos and mission grant posters monthly.
58. The Time is NOW to review district goals and expand them to include new ideas which will motivate women for service to the Lord.
59. The Time is NOW to support and pray for our missionaries abroad. Pray for world peace.
60. The Time is NOW to stop storing up treasures on earth. Donate those size 10 dresses that will never fit again and provide them for someone in need!
61. The Time is NOW to hide Bible passages and tracts in the pockets of clothing you give away so that people may find them and seek God and His righteousness!



62. The Time is NOW to decide if you should speak or to be silent, to keep or to cast away, in order to make your LWML group grow stronger. Celebrate diversity.
63. The Time is NOW to celebrate your Baptism and rejoice in our risen Savior. Host a "Baptism birthday party" for the whole church or a particular group, giving thanks for Christ's love and redemption.
64. The Time is NOW to share what LWML is about – Bible study, mission outreach, service to others, and fellowship. Invite at least one new friend to your next LWML activity; provide a ride; sit with her; and introduce her to others.
65. The Time is NOW to recognize that women lead very busy lives and struggle to have time with God. Point out that LWML has online daily Mustard Seed Devotions that take one minute to read, but will give her strength and joy all the hours of her day.
66. The Time is NOW for Jesus to return very soon! A joyful thought for those of us who are Christians, but what about our neighbors who are not? Share the Good News! Give them one of the new LWML Bibles!
67. The Time is NOW to sparkle like a jewel! Women of all ages love jewelry! Ask each woman to bring a piece of unwanted jewelry and a Bible verse which is especially meaningful to her, then hold a creative jewelry exchange and explain her Bible verse.
68. The Time is NOW to share with others the stories of real people impacted by LWML grants. People all over the world are hearing about Jesus Christ and experiencing acts of mercy done in His name. Get excited about what God is doing in and through our mites! Thank Him that He has allowed us to be a part of His story. Tell everyone you know. Be a mission advocate. www.lwml.org/mission-grant-resources

69. The Time is NOW to order an individual subscription to the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, which includes a complimentary digital eQuarterly. Then give away your paper copy, saying, "I think you will enjoy reading this."
70. The Time is NOW to intentionally and actively show God's love and encourage a woman who is seeking to be in God's service. Help her explore the challenge to become more involved in serving the Lord through the LWML. Let her know you will support her and answer her questions.
71. The Time is NOW to share Jesus with our family, friends, and neighbors. As gifted women of God, let's be BOLD in our witness for Him. Call someone you haven't talked to in a while and share what Jesus is doing in your life.
72. The Time is NOW to tell everybody about Jesus, true God, who became man, took on everyone's sins, died for them, conquered death in the resurrection, and gives salvation to all believers. Have a faith statement ready to incorporate into your daily interactions.
73. The Time is NOW to show love to a missionary or a mission church. Send emails or greeting cards of encouragement!
74. The Time is NOW to pray for God's guidance before each event as we make decisions and look for ways to serve Him.
75. The Time is NOW to make plans to attend the LWML's 75th anniversary celebration at the LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 22-25, 2017! Mark your calendar! Save the dates! Watch for registration materials in early 2017.