



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission  
MICHIGAN DISTRICT

# LWML IN MICHIGAN

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS!  
COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING!  
PSALM 100:2

## Thanksgiving / Christmas Season

### Students Delighted with School Supplies



Students of Trinity Lutheran School, Sturgis, were delighted, as was school staff, to receive a quantity - three full boxes! - of school supplies delivered to Trinity School by Mary Craaybeek, president of Gateway Zone, in which Trinity is located. These supplies represented an ingathering received at September Retreat and Board meeting by Ann Barz, Service Projects Coordinator on committee of Laura Boeberitz, Vice President of Christian Outreach, LWML Michigan. Thank you, all generous ladies of LWML Michigan!

### Mission Spotlight

**#1 Filling pulpits by  
Providing Scholarships  
for Michigan men in  
Synodical Seminaries for  
the amount of \$25,000.**

The number of pastoral vacancies continues to increase due to the addition of new congregations, coupled with retirement of clergy, and escalated by the number of second-career pastors reaching retirement age, as well as men simply leaving the ministry.

For men studying to become Pastors, cost of tuition, books, housing, and food can cause financial burdens.

This Grant of \$25,000 will assist a number of men from Michigan with their tuition costs at either of our Synodical seminaries as they study to become Pastors.

## News from the Christian Outreach Committee

My name is Ann Barz and I am serving on the Christian Outreach Committee as the Service Projects Coordinator. I will be writing articles on service project ideas for each issue of the newsletter and sharing where you may find these ideas to use in your own congregations and zones.

This month I would like to share with you a project that the St. Joseph Zone worked on 2 years ago. We wanted to bless a missionary, Caitlin de Ramirez, and her family who are serving in Peru. Caitlin is from Southwest Michigan and has spoken at several churches when back on

furlough. We asked her for a wish list of items that we could send to them. Each society provided one of the items on the wish list (Goldfish Crackers, stuffed pretzels, etc.) along with banner making books and Arch books. We included cards from the Coloring Scripture Spanish section of the National website under the tab "The Word."

A Thrivent Action Grant was also used to purchase a stole for her husband, Pastor JeanCarlos de Ramirez. This service project, Caring for Missionaries, was for September 2019 under the "Service" tab on the lwml.org website.

A district president and professor and students from Concordia, Nebraska delivered our gifts. We discovered mailing overseas is exorbitant and Caitlin put us in touch with these individuals who were traveling to Peru. It was so much fun to bring a little touch of home to this family!

I encourage individual congregations or zones to explore the possibility of supporting missionaries in the field. The LCMS has a list of missionaries and their families on the website and you may discover the joy of encouraging and supporting these church workers "from home."



### LWML Michigan District 2024-2026

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6



# Grand Rapids Zone Fall Servant Event, “Leap for Joy”

“Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold your reward is great in heaven”, Luke 6:23a, was the theme of our LWML Grand Rapids Zone Servant Event, held on September 21st at Immanuel Lutheran Church (Grand Rapids). After enjoying a delicious breakfast, an inspirational Bible Study led



by Pastor Gustafson from Immanuel, and a short business meeting, the ladies worked together to make 38 jump ropes for Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes. The jump ropes were given to the LWML women at St. Mark Lutheran Church (Kentwood) who are filling shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Growing IN GOD'S grace**  
2 PETER 3:18

**National Convention**  
June 26–29, 2025  
Omaha, Nebraska

**District Convention**  
June 26–28, 2026  
East Lansing, Michigan

**Hellogg Hotel & Conference Center**  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**Lutheran Women in Mission**  
MICHIGAN DISTRICT

# Not The Only One

## Thoughts and Impressions of a Young Woman Representative (YWR)

By Holly Yusko

On June 28-30, the LWML held their 40th Biennial convention at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The theme was "Taste and See That the Lord is Good!" An appropriate theme because the Lord's goodness was evident throughout my entire time spent there. I attended this, my first convention, as a Young Women Representative, representing the Suburban Lights Zone. I did not realize before this the magnitude of all the LWML had to offer. I knew they did missions, but never expected that those mites and other fundraising and support could add up to make such a huge global impact. I also did not realize and appreciate the extent of the LWML's desire to encourage and support all the women of the church.

My first day was actually on Thursday, as I went up a day early with my zone president. After battling construction all the way, it was a relief to get to the hotel. Being there a day early really put into perspective all that goes into a convention. All the things that each exhibitor needed to bring, a plan on how best to showcase their mission, even details of how many tables and chairs you would potentially need. Let me tell you it

was fun helping, but also a lot of work. The delegates and officials had a special dinner that night. They got dressed up in all their purple and sparkly outfits. Everyone put in so much effort and looked amazing. They sure know how to have fun. While they were at their dinner, I was able to meet up with some other YWRs and explore the hotel, as well as go out to eat at a local grill and explore Grand Rapids. This was just the starting stage of building bonds with one another.

Friday was when all the rest of the YWRs met for the first time. There were 16 of us. We got some beautiful welcome gifts, and we saw throughout the weekend how much our fellow sisters in Christ cared for and supported us. We had lots of activities throughout the day. We had some servant events where we made braille books and non-slip socks. We walked through and visited all the exhibit tables and shopped at the LWML store. The exhibits were a place to immerse ourselves in all the LWML ministries and learn what they were all about. The best part of Friday was the worship service. It started out with us processing into the service carrying our zone banners. The service was a traditional Lutheran service, with

## Not The Only One (cont.)

traditional music, which has always been my favorite. We even were accompanied by some trumpet players. It was great to have so many Christian women (and some men) singing and worshipping together. We were all able to have communion together. Later, we had an afterglow where all the YWRs got to know one another.

Saturday's breakfast started at 6:30 a.m., and we had an interesting Bible study. For our lunch hour, we learned about Camp Restore in Detroit. On both days of the convention, we had long meetings where voting took place. There were updates to the by-laws and new incoming officials. At one of these meetings, I met my older and wiser twin. (You know who you are!) We joked, shared snacks, and she explained what was going on. Saturday night, we went to Taste Fest. We saw exhibits, played games, and witnessed the infamous Penny Wars. People were very competitive and brought in boxes of pennies to beat the others. I would have hated to count all those pennies!

Sunday's closing worship included installing new officers, followed by a traditional service. It was extra special for me because my retired pastor participated.

Going to the convention was an eye-opening experience, and really gave me a renewed hope. The sheer number of dedicated women attending was kind of thrilling to witness. Also, I come from an area where there are very few involved younger Christian adults. It can feel lonely sometimes, and just like Elijah, it is easy to sometimes feel like the only one left in our society and in churches that have dwindling people of my age group. Just as God showed Elijah that He had reserved a remnant for Himself of people that had not bowed to Baal, going to the convention showed me that there are still plenty of Christian people my age around that love the Lord and want to honor and serve Him. I am not the only one by far! I loved meeting so many wonderful Christian sisters (and brothers) of all ages that attested to that. Thank you for allowing me to attend and have this great experience.

For the most up to date information on Upcoming Events, go here: [In The Zone](#)



**Current Mites:**

\$91,587.58

**Lydia's Legacy:**

\$3,482.00

**Send Your Mites To:**

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Ubly, MI 48475

**For Information Call:**

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