Lutheran Women in Mission
MICHIGAN DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2026

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

THE MISSION

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm." Ephesians 6:13

LET US COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH **THANKSGIVING!**



DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS! **GIVING & GROUND BREAKING**



COVERED IN GRACE PLATES WITH A PURPOSE



Mission Statement:
As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

A Note from President Ruth

On September 28, 1863, Sarah J. Hale wrote to President Abraham Lincoln requesting that "our day of our annual Thanksgiving [be] made a National and fixed Union Festival." While Thanksgiving was being celebrated, it was not celebrated on the same day throughout the country. She reasoned that "a proclamation from the President of the United States would be the best, surest and most fitting method of National appointment."[1] Which led her to appeal to President Lincoln.

Perhaps President Lincoln was considering this already, and Ms. Hale's letter tipped the balance, because just a few days later on October 3, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Thanksgiving Proclamation which states in part:

I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.[2]

Of course, thanksgiving is not limited to our American tradition.

There are many verses in Scripture about thanksgiving, including this one:

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods. Psalm 95: 1-3

In the Lutheran Divine Service, we pray:
It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally.[3]

May you enjoy this Thanksgiving knowing that on this fourth Thursday of November you are joining with countless others around America to thank the Triune God for His countless blessings!

In Christ,
Ruth Steele
LWML MI District President

[1] *Lincoln, Abraham. Abraham Lincoln papers: Series 1. General Correspondence. 1833 to 1916: Sarah J. Hale to Abraham Lincoln, Monday,Thanksgiving. 1863. Manuscript/Mixed Material. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/mal2669900/>.*
[2] *Abraham Lincoln, Proclamation 106—Thanksgiving Day, 1863 Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, The American Presidency Project https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/203180*
[3] *Lutheran Service Book. Concordia Publishing House, 2006, page 208.*

NOVEMBER 2026 VOLUME 01, ISSUE 02

Michigan District Highlights



WOMEN EQUIPPING WOMEN

The Centreville, MI, Food Bank is recipient of a generous ingathering of feminine hygiene products through an innovative initiative of Lutheran Women in Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Centreville. Members of the church supported the project. Judy Gross (left), liaison to the Food Bank, and Mary Craaybeek, ACTION/LWML president, are ready for the group's next outreach initiative.

PROCLAIMING CHRIST, JESUS IS THE LIGHT!

Women of the LWML Grand Rapids and Rapid Waters Zones joined together for a fall retreat at Messiah Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, under the theme "Jesus is the Light." The day's Bible study, "Jars of Clay - Christ's Light Shines Through our Weaknesses," was led by Pastor Andrew Bartholomew and was based on 2 Cor. 4: 7 - 12. As a servant event women packed 200 Sonshine Bags to distribute to those they meet who need Christ's light in their day. They also made a craft to use during daily devotions reminding them of Christ's light given in His Word. The closing devotion, by Pastor Eric Black, contained Bible texts and hymns about light which included Harriet Warnick's hymn, "Light Eternal Pierced the Darkness," written for this past summer's LWML MI District Convention.

SUPPORTING MISSIONS - HELPING PEOPLE

Inspired by an article in an LWML Michigan District Newsletter, The Girls of Grace (Grace, Coopersville/Lakeshore Zone) began collecting used pill bottles from church members and friends. Following Matthew 25 Ministries instructions, 10 ladies worked many hours to remove labels, wash, sort and package the bottles. So far they've processed 525 bottles! Collection continues with final washing scheduled for late October. They plan to deliver the bottles to M25M in Blue Ash, OH in November. Matthew 25 Ministries uses the pill bottles to dispense medication on mission trips abroad. Thanks to the Servant Projects Coordinator for the inspirational article!



Michigan District Highlights

GIVING & GROUND BREAKING

On October 13, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne held its annual Donation Day. While there, LWML MI District President Ruth Steele brought greetings from the district and presented Seminary President Rev. Dr. Bruss with a check for $6,250 for Michigan men studying for the ministry. These funds were a grant from our Lydia's Legacy funds.

Immediately following chapel that day, everyone gathered near the gymnasium and the athletic fields for the groundbreaking ceremony of the future Food and Clothing Co-op. This exciting new venture will provide a 13,000 square foot facility designed to serve as the clothing and food banks which distributes donated food, clothing, and household items to students preparing to serve as pastors, deaconesses, and missionaries. For most of the students and their families, the Co-op meets 70-95% of their needs.

For further information about the Food & Clothing Co-op and ways that you can contribute to the building of the new facility, go to ctsfw.edu/new-co-op or call (877) 287-4338.





Christian Growth

Christmas is coming ... and the reality is that you may see more individuals and families coming to your food pantries around the holidays. The Concordia Gospel Outreach through Concordia Publishing House sends out more than 10,000 Bible story books a week to churches with food pantries to share with those who visit. These books have great artwork and share stories from the Bible, often written in rhyme. Sharing spiritual nourishment along with physical necessities is a double blessing!

Find out more at cph.org/cgoarchbooks.

SPOTLIGHT

Keturah (Kay) Haab



We have an amazing opportunity thanks to the Oscar and Keturah Haab Foundation. They are donating boxes of beautiful plates to LWML groups through a project called "Covered in Grace: Plates with a Purpose." In today's spotlight interview Casey Salminen shares the project and talks about her lifelong friend Kay Haab.

Can you tell me a little about who Kay was and what was important to her?

Kay was the most interesting, well-read, faith-filled person I ever met. She truly had a heart of gold, and she would help anyone in need. **She loved Jesus and wanted everyone to love him, everywhere she went she would tell people about Jesus.** Kay was always taking carloads of people to the next Lutheran thing! She was the president of our LWML society, and she made it look effortless. She taught at St Paul Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor for 27 years. While Kay was operating the foundation she was doing the work of 3 to 4 people. It was a blessing to follow her, meet with charities she funded, develop great relationships and get to be on the side as a cheerleader.



Can you tell me about the Oscar and Kay Haab Foundation?

Oscar Haab had a vision for a family style restaurant where families could eat together. Oscar ran Haab's Restaurant with his brother Otto, and the Lord blessed them and they in turn gave back to the community they loved. After losing his first wife Ethel and his brother Otto the previous fall, Oscar wanted to buy the new blue hymnal and Kay was the name in the bulletin taking orders. When the hymnal arrived, Kay delivered it personally and the rest is history. **Oscar and Kay could have funded anything, but they chose to fund Jesus!** They focused on faith, education and mission projects. Over the past 30 years we have funded over $1 million from the foundation and are on track for $5 million in the next 30 years. We not only provide grants for charities in need but also accept donations. The Oscar and Kay Haab foundation helped fund a portion of the LWML Convention costs this year, and we were thrilled to do so.





How did Plates with a Purpose come to be?

Kay collected many things, silver, gold, Precious Moments and these beautiful plates. This is truly a giant project, we have a storage unit 15' x 15' in size storing these plates currently. For three years people would tell me to unload them, I kept thinking it makes sense to honor this, Kay and Oscar would have wanted to reach out into the community and raise money for Ministry Minded causes. **I am excited to see what God is going to do with these plates!** Whether the groups use them as a display, fundraiser or auction, if the plates could help get more women to convention that would be great!



What advice would Kay offer to Lutheran Women today?

Stay in the Word! Tell everyone you know about Jesus. Kay would meet someone and she would invite them to go to church with her. She was very old school this way. She would also gather people, I called us the island of misfit toys. If she knew anyone who didn't have somewhere particular to be on a holiday or Sunday dinner she would invite them to her table. The last five to seven years of her life she had some health issues but she never complained, **she would share all the things that Jesus did in her life and all the things Jesus was doing in her friend's lives.**



COVERED IN GRACE
PLATES WITH A PURPOSE

Covered in Grace: Plates with a Purpose is a unique fundraising and stewardship initiative created through the generosity of the Oscar & Keturah Haab Foundation. Since 1996, the Foundation has supported efforts centered on faith, education, and mission outreach. Through this special program, a valuable collection of decorative and collectible plates is being shared with LWML zones and groups as a creative way to raise funds for ministry opportunities.

The collection includes approximately 1,809 collectible plates organized in more than 200 boxes, with an estimated value ranging from $20 to $500 per plate. Themes include children, religious artwork, historical events, international collections, and nature-inspired designs.

The Foundation offers the plate collection to LWML zones, which then make them available to their LWML groups. Each congregational group is encouraged to determine the most effective and creative way to use the plates as a fundraising resource.

Funds raised may be directed toward: LWML convention expenses, local mission outreach projects, community service initiatives, educational ministries, and special congregational programs.

This approach allows each faith community flexibility while honoring the original intent of the donation: using treasured assets to support God's work and serve others.

1. Plate Collection Requested: An LWML group requests a gift box of collectible plates from the Haab Foundation at the address below. Foundation representatives will pick a box number randomly and make arrangements for delivery to the LWML society.
2. Inventory and Evaluation: Foundation representatives will include full inventory of the box, and with approximate values included at delivery. A LWML group officer will sign for the delivery.
3. Fundraising Strategy Selected: Churches may choose to sell, auction, display, or package plates as part of any LWML events. Remember, the story or mission is key.
4. Community Engagement: Members, collectors, and supporters are invited to participate through purchases or donations.
5. Mission Impact: Proceeds are designated for ministry, mission outreach, convention attendance, or other charitable purposes approved by the group/congregation.

Covered in Grace is more than a plate collection, it's a ministry minded fundraising program that transforms treasured collectibles into resources for faith, education, and mission outreach.

If you are interested in a Plates with a Purpose Box – Please reach out to Casey Salminen at (231) 878-0052.

For more information about Kay and Oscar's Legacy – Please visit: www.thehaabfoundation.com

Mail

CONCORDIA COUNSELING

A Lutheran Outreach Ministry
504 N Walnut St • Seymour, IN 47274 • (812)671-8704
ConcordiaCounseling.org

September 9, 2026

LWML Michigan District

Dear Carol,

On behalf of Concordia Counseling, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of our *Increasing Access to Christ-Centered Counseling* mission grant. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the partial grant payment of $12,500 and deeply appreciate your timely response and partnership.

The LWML Michigan District's investment in our mission will have a lasting impact on our ability to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through counseling services that are Biblically sound, clinically effective, and financially affordable. Through your support, we are not only helping individuals and families experience hope and healing but also equipping new Lutheran counseling ministries across the country and assisting pastors and church workers in connecting their members with trusted mental health resources.

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

September 11, 2026

Dear Kingdom Builders,

It is with great joy that I write to you about the growth of our Monroe Public Schools LifeWise program! Over the summer, we were able to add more students, and Lord willing, 60 students who are currently registered will begin classes next week! We serve a mighty God who has opened doors and paved the way for the gospel to be proclaimed to public school students right here in our own community.

I want to say thank you for being a part of this story. We could not do this without you. As a donor, you play a vital role in helping us bring the hope of the gospel to students throughout Monroe.

Because of your support, this past year we were able to:

- Teach weekly gospel-centered lessons to 45 children.
- Provide every student with a Bible, T-shirt, worksheets to take home, and resources connecting families with local Vacation Bible Schools and church services.
- Expand from one elementary school location to two, adding Custer Elementary alongside Cantrick.

- Secure our own shuttle bus, pay for drivers, fuel, licenses, and insurance, and lease an additional vehicle from a local church to accommodate our growing classes.
- Host a Back-to-School Carnival where we gave away more than 70 backpacks to children in our community.
- Donate additional backpacks filled with school supplies to Custer, Waterloo, Hollywood, and Cantrick.

Thank You



Current Mites

$143,955.48

Send Your Mites to:
Allison Schulz
3550 Cumber Rd.
Ubly, MI 48475

For Information Call:
810-705-9581

Give Online!

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

Transformed in CHRIST
Romans 12:2

Scripture Verse:

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

42ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 8–11, 2027

Convention Goal Statement:

God's renewing Spirit transforms us to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve Him and Him alone.

For more information, visit *lwml.org/convention*

Do you know a Young Women with a deep love and devotion for Jesus?

YWR National 2027 applications are due 12/31/26, which includes a letter of recommendation and a head shot. YWR costs for National convention are covered by the Michigan District. Applications are available on the website in the Hot Items section as well as under the Events – Convention – National tab.

We want all of our Michigan Zones Represented!

Form completion due date for delegates and alternates are due 12/31/2026.

LWML MI DISTRICT

2028 CONVENTION LOGO CONTEST

Create the logo used on all convention items!

Design Requirements

- Based on Ephesians 6:13
- Limited to 2 or 3 colors
- File type: PNG and JPG
- Restrictions: No use of "competitor" logos, no trademarked elements

The winning design will be selected by the LWML MI District Executive Committee and revealed at the March 2027 Board of Directors meeting

The winner receives a $50 gift card

Submission Deadline:
December 31, 2026

SEND YOUR ENTRY TO:

resteele1445@gmail.com



Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
Ephesians 6:13