



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LEAGUER

Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

Winter 2025, Volume 18, Issue 3

Together in Him - LaDonna Stanosheck

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I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

Happy Winter, dear LWML members! It seems like we just had our district convention and now it is only five months until we host a national convention! How exciting! We will share Nebraska love with all who attend. I will be attending a district presidents meeting in January and hope to get a lot of questions answered. So, yes, I can do all things, through him who strengthens me. And we as Nebraska North District can together do all things through God. But at times, it feels like the Lord is asking too much of me! But then I realize that it was simply the fact that I took on more than I should have. Or maybe my sinful self just doesn't want to do all things! And sometimes, I just don't feel adequate to do all those things I know I should. But I always know that with God's help, I can do them. And so, I get up off the couch and get them done! And how does this verse fit with our Seek and Serve theme of "Being God's hands and feet"? My pastor has always called the LWML organization the hands and feet of God because the members are always looking for servant projects or ingathering needs. We find a need and we try to help, in whatever ways we can, from our mite gatherings, to physical need items, to packaging food for Mercy Meals. And we will be "hands and feet" again in Grand Island on April 26, as we prepare welcoming items for those attending the LWML National Convention in Omaha this June. I hope that many of you will join us in making items for the convention. But if you can't make it to Grand Island, try to be the hands and feet of God in whatever you are able to do. I know you all use those hands folded in prayer for our mission grants, our pastors, our missionaries, and let's add...the convention planning committee. You can use those hands to make a phone call to a friend, a shut-in, or someone with medical problems. You can use those hands to sign a card for someone, or to place those coins in your mite box. Yep, God always has something we can do for Him, whatever our place in this life. We "serve the Lord with gladness" by taking care of the physical needs of our neighbors (meaning everyone!). We walk with our Savior and ask Him, what can I do today, Lord...to be your hands and feet here where you have placed me? May God bless every hand and foot that serves in His name.



FEBRUARY PRAYERS

Pray daily as you drop in your mites



HELPING UKRAINIANS

Bringing Christmas and love to new refugees



2025 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Plans are progressing and it's time to volunteer!



BUS TO OMAHA

It's time to sign up for the bus!

Joan Plummer - Financial Secretary

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Financial report for October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Mite offerings from Groups	\$11,725.00
From Donations	\$400.00
From Memorials	\$608.84
Special Offerings	\$592.00
Payments in Kind - to Mites	\$160.82
Thrivent	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total Mites	\$13,526.66

Memoria

From
Trinity LA, Ponca
Christ, Columbus
Immanuel, Columbus
Grace, Wayne
Grace, Wayne
Pilgrim, Bellevue
Pilgrim, Bellevue
Pilgrim, Bellevue
Grace, Wayne
Wisner Sisters
Wisner Sisters
Immanuel, Columbus
Beautiful Savior, LaVista

For
Barb Uehling
Arlene Wilke
Mary Egger
Melvy Meyer
Esther Braden
Judy Onken
Lauren Easey
Joyce Evaner
Esther Braden
Marian Brockmann
Rose Meyer
Brad Koch
Katerine Fuller

Financial Secretary Address:

Joan Plummer
3261 50th Ave
Columbus, NE 68601

Other Income

Bookstore Sales	47.75
Registration - Retreat	40.00
Name Badge	11.00
Interest/Miscellaneous	15.83
Transfer from other bank	1,543.12
Donations	<u>200.00</u>
Total Other Income	\$1,857.70



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

When I was a kid, my brothers and I would grab a bath towel and a diaper pin. (Okay, now I have just tipped my hand and you know I'm old!!) We made capes that turned us into Superman or Batman depending upon the day. We could fly, we could fight bad guys, we could do anything!

When we hear these words of Paul, many are tempted to think they can do anything with Christ's help: start a new business and find success; lose weight; do well in school, and other such goals. However, it might be helpful to recall Paul's situation. He did not write this verse as he sat on a patio drinking mimosas, while celebrating his record profits and new physique. He wrote this while in prison. And friends, their prisons were a lot less dainty than our current prisons.

In fact, the two verses preceding verse 13 cast additional light on its meaning: 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want (Philippians 4:11-12).

Paul speaks not only of good times but also bad! I like to remember this verse especially when I'm struggling. When I fall flat on my face, but also when trouble comes into my life. When you are struggling with health concerns, relationship issues, trials of any kind, these promises of God mean your Jesus is present with you! Have you felt at times like you were stuck in prison? Avenues that you wished to pursue have been closed for some reason? Is your body betraying you and you have lost physical abilities? You can do all things, which sometimes means enduring this difficult season. But you do not endure alone. You endure with Jesus.

You endure with Jesus who created the world. You endure with Jesus who was born in a smelly manger for you. You endure with Jesus who wept at his friend's death. You endure with Jesus who was unjustly sentenced to death. You endure with Jesus whose scalp was pieced by thorns and whose hands and feet were pierced with nails. You endure with Jesus who breathed His last breath on the cross. And you endure with the resurrected Jesus who now sits in heaven, and who is with you until the end of time and beyond. And on that last day all things that hindered us, that tried us, will fall away. We will live with Jesus forever! Indeed, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!

Pastor Moreno



Dates to Remember

January 27 EC Meeting via Zoom

March 1 BOD meeting at Gretna (March 8 is the snow date)

March 1 registration opens for LWML convention Omaha

March 15 Plainview Zone gathering at Immanuel, Osmond

April 5, Norfolk zone gathering at Christ, Norfolk

April 5 Fremont zone gathering at St Matthew's, Cedar Bluffs

April 26, 2025: Seek & Serve, Peace Lutheran, Grand Island

June 26-29, 2025: National LWML Convention - CHI, Omaha

All District Retreat in September



Robyn Vance- Fremont Zone President vance_robyn@yahoo.com

As I pondered what to write for the Winter Leaguer, many thoughts and ideas raced through my mind. As I write this, the weatherman is predicting snow for our area. So, do you want to build a snowman? Let's do this! Gather your supplies: you'll need two pieces of coal, a carrot, perhaps a few buttons, oh! and snow!! As you assemble the snow into three graduated round balls, you may notice some science occurring. Unless your home is the temperature of a walk-in freezer, you may find it difficult to keep your newly formed snowman from melting! About now, you're probably wondering why I would bring up such a child-like activity. How does this relate to the precious Christ child that God sent to that manger in Bethlehem? Even though the Twelve Days of Christmas are in the past, let's continue our child-like wonder of Christmas. Perhaps even keeping that feeling in our hearts all year long! The melting snow that you now have all over your kitchen floor is like our sin. Sin is pervasive, running into every aspect of our lives. Water will find a way to fill every crack and get to places unseen. So does sin. We can work and work ourselves with list after list as our masters, to-do lists that rival the Dead Sea scrolls with the parties and the scrumptious buffet dinners that were planned. Not to mention all those thoughtfully selected gifts that were wrapped with pristine precision, and tied up with the perfect bow and ribbon. All of that is past now. The wrapping paper is in the fireplace or the landfill by now, the boxes, ribbons, and specially selected gifts have all been admired and enjoyed.

Philippians 4:13 reminds us "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." When it comes to all the preparations that went into creating that perfect Christmas gathering (or perfect snowman) we can do all the things because of our Lord and Savior. We put so much pressure on ourselves to create the "perfect" Christmas decor, or sumptuous buffet, neatly wrapped packages tied up with handsome ribbons and bows. Perhaps we forget that we are made perfect in Christ. You are His beloved daughter, and He is well pleased with you. We can drive ourselves crazy doing all the things. The one thing that never changes and doesn't care about the size of your tree or the ham glaze, the very thing that Christmas is all about. . . is love. God's love all wrapped up in swaddling cloths. The baby born in a manger, came to rescue us from all our sins and imperfections. The love he sent to Earth as baby Jesus. Our Savior!

Meta Barnett - Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

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A Blessed New Year!

Our nation buried an honorable and humble Christian man in January. Regardless of your political leanings, he was a man who truly lived his life embracing Christ's teachings. President Jimmy Carter was the first president of my adult life, so I probably paid more attention during his term in office to the way politics affected what was happening, seeing often how his goals were aimed at making the world a better place. After he lost re-election he, with his wife Rosalynn, lived a full life being God's hands and feet. What a witness for the Lord that he lived out his faith without bowing to any political pressure to be less obvious in his beliefs.

Moving into 2025, with the National Convention looming large, may we all work toward our own versions of being God's feet and hands, witnessing to everyone we meet our love and commitment to making the world a better place. May God's peace be with you and His love surround you.

Carol Weber - Vice President of Communication

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Have you ever worked through the Gary Chapman book to discover your love language? It was an eye-opening experience when my husband and I worked through the questions almost thirty years ago, and I'm so thankful we did. It turns out, Mark's love language is acts of service, so our theme for this issue—Serve One Another: I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)—is natural to him. If acts of service aren't your natural love language, then it takes a little more thought to come up with ways to serve one another, but as women of faith, it's not a huge stretch, is it? And a great way to serve others is to put Seek & Serve on your calendar and attend. This year, the projects will be:

- Packing Prayer Pockets – Favors for National LWML Convention
- Create centerpieces for National Convention
- Measure and Cut cord – to be used for Servant Events at National Convention
- Iron transfers onto baby onesies to be decorated at Servant Events at National Convention

In addition, look on the registration form for information on the ingathering for supplies for a servant event at National Convention, where we'll be packing First Responder Care Kits for first responders in Nebraska.

What a wonderful thing to look for ways to serve one another, all in thanksgiving to our Lord for the salvation He won for us. He is always working in us to make His love and care always be the primary motivation behind all we say and do so that He is serving the world through us.

The opportunity to serve is truly a gift from God! Galatians 6:2 says "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." We are called to serve, to help others. But did you ever notice that as you serve, your faith grows? Each time you serve, God is at work in you and forming you as His child. God gives to all, both those who receive care and those who provide care in service!

Shelley Freudenburg- Vice President of Christian Life

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

This verse is one of the most popular verses I've seen on mugs, t-shirts, pens, etc. It is seen as a verse that is a reminder that you should have strength and resilience with Christ who will help you. While this verse is used for motivation, some people argue that it's being taken out of context, since we aren't understanding the situation in which Paul penned these words. In the previous verse, we read: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." So, when we read this verse, we need to focus on contentment, even when facing difficult situations, and find strength in God to get us through those challenges. If we just focus on verse 13, it is easy to see why so many people make this verse about personal achievements or empowerment. So, the next time you read this verse on a mug, remember: "I can be content in all situations and will rely on Christ's strength to get me through every situation." Praise God for providing us that strength every day.



Maggie Rutjens - Recording Secretary

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My New Year's Resolution

The one thing in 2024 that really stuck with me was from a visiting pastor. His sermon was on how we view ourselves. When we sin and carry that sin around with us instead of giving it to God and being forgiven, we look at ourselves as that sin. By the power of Christ's death and resurrection, I have a new identity! I am God's own child, and I gladly say it! (LSB 594) I am Jesus Little Lamb! (LSB 740) What other hymns or texts can you think of that declare your new identity in Christ? My New Years resolution is to give my sin to God and repent and be forgiven. I will not carry those sins with me any longer; they are not my identity. Praise God, for loving and forgiving us, and making that our identity!

Pam Williams - Vice President of Gospel Outreach

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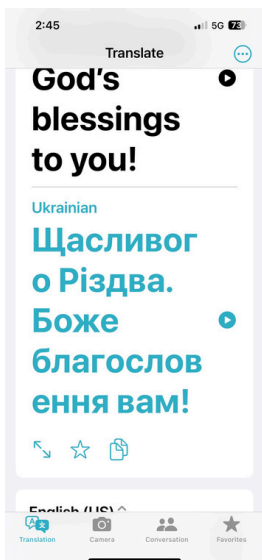
We love because He first loved us (1 John 4:19 ESV). God's love was shown when he sent his Son to earth in human flesh to be crucified on the cross as the sacrifice for our sins. Yet, Jesus did not stay dead. He rose in victory on that first Easter morning. We share that love with others in many different varieties of service.

My LWML group shared that love with immigrants from Ukraine who are beginning a new life in Norfolk. Lydia Circle holds a bake sale fundraiser annually and this year we used the proceeds to give Christmas gifts to the Ukrainian children.

With the help of Orphan Grain Train, we had a list of gift requests from the children. We had fun shopping in different stores to fulfill those wishes. Teens' requests were for clothing items and younger children had toy suggestions.

We wrapped each gift and then went to the yellow house and area that houses these refugees. Families were expecting us and greeted us with open arms. Some gifts were placed under the Christmas tree with instructions that presents would be opened on Christmas Day while others opened their gifts immediately. We even had enough money that we also were able to give a cash gift to the parents.

It was such a joyous time to share God's love with these families who came to the United States with only the personal possessions they could carry with them. Because God loved us first, we are able to reach out and love and serve others.



Pam Williams, continued

We have paid grants for student scholarships for the 2024-25 school year, Jesus our Savior Preschool, and the Ukrainian Mission and Ministry through Orphan Grain Train.

Continue saving and sending in your mites and we will be able to pay our next District grant. As of October 2024, \$194,300.29 is still needed to finish paying the national 2023-2025 mission grants; our district grants need \$56,000 to pay all grants.

Here is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use during the month of February; it is adapted from the National LWML February 2024 calendar, listing current mission grants to be paid. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of District and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!

February Prayer Guide in Support of Mites

- For your LWML sisters.
- For LWML Mission Grant #7, Upheld by God's Hand, Mental Health Outreach – LCMS Life Ministry (\$48,250 still needed.)
- For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
- For your church organist.
- For those fighting cancer.
- For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
- For the country of Botswana.
- Pray the LWML Pledge.
- For the needs of those on the mission field.
- For the country of Brazil.
- For those in the Armed Forces.
- For the President of the United States.
- For District grant #5 – The Payne Family in Tanzania-Mission Central – \$10,000
- For Christ's sacrifice for us.
- For the country of Cambodia.
- For the LWML Kansas District.
- For those who are caregivers.
- For an opportunity to share your faith.
- For the country of Cameroon.
- For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
- For LWML Mission Grant #17, Nurturing Faith for the Aged –Lutheran Ministries Media (Worship Anew), (\$100,000 needed.)
- For those facing the loss of a loved one.
- For the country of Canada.
- For the LWML Missouri District.
- For your LWML district officers.
- For the country of Chile.
- For your LWML group members.
- For the lonely to feel God's presence.



His Mercies New Every Morning

Watch the sun's rays light up as mites are collected and grants are paid.

#1 Ukrainian Mission and Ministry -
OGT \$10,000

#2 Female Missionary to
Muslims in Nebraska \$10,000

#3 Siouland Lutheran Hispanic
Ministry \$10,000

2024-'25 Scholarships
\$16,000

2025-'26 Scholarships
\$16,000

#6 Acts 1:8 Students in Mission
CUNE \$10,000

#5 The Payne Family in Tanzania
Mission Central \$10,000

#4 Outreach Resources for Jesus Our Savior
Preschool, Winnebago \$2,163

YWR Grant - Briggs and Barrett SIDS Awareness
\$2,024



LWML Convention - Omaha
June 26-29, 2025
Host Committee Chair - Crystal Miller

hcc2025@lwml.org
(402) 290-0190

2025 Convention Host Committee News



Have you been holding off to register to help? Now is the time. Truly. You know how you invite a lot of people to dinner, but you don't know if you'll have 7 or 27 because no one will make a decision? Yup. We need to know the number of helpers now and plenty of volunteers are needed. Follow the red link below or use the QR code. These both will take you to an electronic form where you can sign up to help at convention. If you agree to work 8 hours at convention, then you will receive a significant reduction in your registration. The reduced fee will be \$90. So, if you have a smart phone, just pretend you're going to take a picture of this QR code, and a link--usually in red or white--will pop up as you're holding the camera over it. Touch that link and it will take you to the volunteer form to fill out. If you can't get there, contact one of your grandchildren and they'll help you out. Or, carefully type this link into a browser--like Chrome or Edge--and it

will take you to the volunteer form to fill out.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=BHWInPIB6kCg1yDbbJK5sInDoToFbNhNuta0qLtGKSBURFBBWEw1MTY2U0k5WFVFSklYRONIMFE2Uy4u>



But remember: assignments will not be made until this spring, so be patient, someone *will* contact you. And if you can get some fellow church members to sign up, that's even better. This is a great way to introduce your church, your young women, and those who have never been able to attend a national convention to see what God is doing through the LWML.



Convention Shirts - 3 Options

You can get your convention logo shirt and help us promote as well as fund the 2025 convention. The order form is available on facebook, the LWML website, or by request.

Prayer Requests

Donations of funds are needed to help fund things at the National Convention. Please prayerfully consider helping where you can. A current opportunity is for

- Common Threads, a ministry located at Messiah Lutheran in Lincoln, NE. Part of their mission is making "Days for Girls" feminine hygiene kits. One servant activity at the upcoming 2025 LWML National Convention will be making items for these kits. Special fabric needs to be ordered and donations are needed to purchase the fabric. Please prayerfully consider donating now. Donations should be sent to Norma Hansen, 2025 Host Committee Treasurer.

If you have questions, have information you want to share, want to volunteer, etc. please contact me at hcc2025@lwml.org I welcome your communication at any time.



SEEK AND SERVE DAY 2025

LWML Nebraska North and South Districts

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church, 1710 North Road, Grand Island, NE

Please use Entrance "C" center of west parking lot.

Serve One Another: *I can do all things through him who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13).

Schedule:

9:00-9:30 AM

- Coffee & Snacks
- Opening Devotion – Linda Reiser
- Announcements and Directions – Denise Hummel

10:00-Noon

- Servant Events
 - Packing Prayer Pockets – Favors for National LWML Convention
 - Create centerpieces for National Convention
 - Measure and Cut cord – to be used for Servant Events at National Convention
 - Iron transfers onto baby onesies to be decorated at Servant Events at National Convention

Noon

- Lunch
- Bible Study – Linda Reiser

1:30

- Resume Servant Events

3:30

- Closing Announcements -Denise Hummel
- Closing Devotion – Linda Reiser
- Sending Prayer and Thank You – Crystal Miller

In-Gathering is supplies for National Convention Servant Event: Packing of First Responder Care Kits. These first responder kits will be distributed in the Nebraska Districts for sharing with your local first responders.

Designations have been made for zones to purchase the needed items for this servant event. Purchases can be made at the Amazon Link below and will ship directly to those who are in charge of servant events. Quantities are listed in the link. If your designated area has been completed, please feel free to donate another item needed.

If you are unable to purchase items via Amazon, or if the amount of each item is outside of your budget, you can share your donation via Gift Cards from Amazon and Walmart which will be used to purchase additional items

If you would like to make a monetary donation – please send your donation to:

Norma Hansen
Host Committee Treasurer
725 N. Kansas Street
Superior, NE 68978

Monetary Donations will be used for the following:

- Packing Mercy Meals - \$10,000
- Common Threads/Days for Girls – flannel fabric; PUL fabric, ribbon - \$7,575
- First Responder Drawstring Bags - \$390

Note: please indicate where you would like your donation directed on the memo line

Please use this Amazon Link: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3IA7MI2TTTEWF>

Nebraska North Zones		Nebraska South Zones	
Zone	Item	Zone	Item
Ainsworth	Small Memo Pad	Beatrice	Pocket Tissues
Columbus	Hand Sanitizer	Deshler	Energy Bars
Fremont	Beef Jerky	Falls City	Band Aids
Norfolk	Energy Bars	Grand Island	Hand Sanitizer
Plainview	Mints	Hastings	Powdered Electrolyte Mix
Omaha	Trail Mix Packs	Holdrege	Small Memo Pad
Sarpy	Lip Balm	Lincoln	Trail Mix Packs
Wayne	Cough Drops	McCook	Lip Balm
West Point	Powdered Electrolyte Mix	Ogallala	Chewing Gum
		Seward	Beef Jerky
		York	Cough Drops



Seek & Serve



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REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE 2025 SEEK & SERVE DAY

Please, fill out this form and postmark it by April 12 to:
Peace Lutheran Church, 1710 North Rd., Grand Island, NE 68803

Please include your payment of \$18 with your registration form.

Make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church and include “**LWML “Seek and Serve”**” in the memo line.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

Dietary restrictions:

Ride the bus to LWML National Convention, June 26-29, 2025, Omaha

Make plans now to join other LWML women in Omaha for “Growing in God’s Grace!” Nebraska North District is planning to take a charter bus to convention. Arrive in time to enjoy servant events on Thursday afternoon, and participate in the choir! Cost will be about \$130 per person (this cost does not include Convention Motel & Convention Registration/meals); the price is based on 50 people riding the bus; if there are not enough signed up, you will be notified and the checks will be shredded.



Those riding the bus will have the convention hotel booked and reserved for them, which will then be paid when you register for and pay for convention. Rooms will be booked based on double occupancy. Any special requests (handicap accessible) should be noted below. [You will need to complete your own registration and meals online, starting March 1.](#)

Tentative Itinerary:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Thursday, June 26 | Depart from O’Neill, with stops at Norfolk and Columbus (exact locations to be determined). You have the option of buying a Hy-Vee box lunch for \$12; check the box below and include that in your payment. Early afternoon, arrive for registration check in at CHI, then to motel for check in; evening meal out on your own. |
| June 26-29 | Participate in Convention; bus will transport morning & evening from the motel to the CHI center and back |
| Sunday, June 29 | Depart at Noon – order convention box lunch to eat on bus if desired, as we will not stop for lunch. Arrive back at O’Neill about 6 PM |

Sign up through March 1, 2025.

Make checks payable to **LWML NE North District** and mail to our bus coordinator: Nadine Aufdembrink
124 E Sycamore Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701

Questions? fandnaufdembrink@gmail.com or 402-750-3943

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YES! I want to ride the bus to LWML National Convention, June 26-29, 2025

- \$130 for the bus
- \$12 for a Hy-Vee Box lunch (if you don’t include this, it’s understood you’ll bring your own lunch or do without)
- I understand that, by signing up, I am guaranteed a spot on the bus and my motel room will be assigned but not paid for until I register for convention and pay for it there. If I do not list a roommate, one will be assigned.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Roommate _____