



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LEAGUER

Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

Spring 2026, Volume 18, Issue 8

Together in Him - LaDonna Stanosheck

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What gift did God give me? I can't preach like Paul; I 'm afraid to go to foreign countries to share my faith; I don't know what words to use; I don't know my Bible good enough....I could go on and on saying I have no gifts. But wait. I definitely can pray; I can support missions with my mites; I can work in the church kitchen; I can clean the pews; I can pack clothes or hygiene kits for OGT; and I can even get up in front of a lot of people without my knees shaking too loudly! So I count my blessings, my gifts from God and use them as I can. Sometimes we just have to look a little deeper for those gifts we have and then go ahead and use them to His glory! And coming up in June we have our district convention where we choose mission projects; we step out in faith for a new mites goal; we pray and vote for new leaders... all gifts God gives us to further our LWML goal...to serve the Lord with gladness wherever we are. I pray I see lots of you in Gretna for Bible study, inspiration from Donna Snow and mission grant recipients, fun, and fellowship.

LWML NE North Convention

**Theme: Gifted to Serve
from 1 Peter 4:10-11**

June 26-27, 2026
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Gretna, NE

Keynote Speaker: Donna Snow

Each has received a
Gift...



...as good stewards
of God's varied Grace

1 PETER. 4:10



**2026 DISTRICT
CONVENTION**



SEEK AND SERVE



**GROUP
ACTIVITIES**



**ZONE
GATHERINGS**

Proposed Convention Agenda

Friday, June 26, 2026

- 7 AM Registration opens in Mission Activity Center (MAC)
- 8 AM Purple Auction and Exhibits open in Education Wing
- 9:30 Opening of convention with prayers, pledges and welcomes
- Karol Selle, LWML Representative
- Donna Snow, Keynote Speaker
- Bible Study with Pastor Moreno
- Pastor Schultz and Gary Thies from Mission Central
- Mites in Action speaker, Bethany Gerbers with FORWARD, Trinity, Lincoln, NE
- Officer reports
- Introduction of candidates
- Servant Events
- Instructions for voting
- Dismissal to vote with specific times for voting
- 6 PM Dinner followed by Music Bingo

Saturday, June 27, 2026

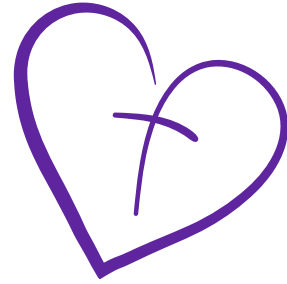
- 7 AM Registration opens in Mission Activity Center (MAC)
- 8 AM Purple Auction and Exhibits open in Education Wing
- 9:30 Worship with Communion in Good Shepherd Sanctuary
- Elijah Luebbe, LCMS Nebraska District Treasurer
- Mites in Action Speakers, Georgette and Nadar Alaraj
- Scholarship recipient, Vicar Jeff Goetz
- Donna Snow, session #2
- Bible study #2
- YWRs
- Vicky Van Velson, LWML Nebraska South President
- Invitation to NE North district convention 2028
- Invitation to National Convention in Oklahoma 2027
- Results of voting, mission grants, offerings and purple auction
- Installation of new BOD
- Closing prayer



Convention Checklist

Check Convention Central for details

- **Registration is due June 1 - there's a late fee!**
- Consider sponsoring a YWR
- Order a T-shirt
- Reserve a room
- Bring offering monies - mites, Good Shepherd, Omaha Lutheran Schools
- Support the in-gathering - Wee Lambs Preschool, Good Shepherd, Gretna
- Contribute to/ bid on Purple Auction for Mites
- Review grant proposals , share your opinion with your delegates
- Read bios of candidates for offices
- Pack a water bottle and tote bag
- Come ready to worship, study, fellowship and have fun!



Registration opens at 7 AM on Friday with convention beginning at 9:30 AM.
Saturday registration opens at 8 AM with Communion Service at 9:30.

Rev. Michael Moreno - Jr. Pastoral Counselor

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms (1 Peter 4:10).

I'll confess — there are moments when I'm convinced I should be the starting quarterback for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Oddly enough, Coach Matt Rhule has yet to knock on my door. And honestly? It's probably for good reason. At 62 years old, standing 5'6", with forty-nine years since my last snap, the NFL is not calling my name.

But here's the good news: God isn't asking me to throw touchdowns. He has given me exactly the gifts I need — to serve my family, my congregation, and my community. And He has done the same for you.

What a joy it is to look across the body of Christ and see the beautiful variety of gifts at work — gifts of hospitality, mercy, teaching, encouragement, generosity, and prayer. Each one a reflection of Christ's love, expressed through ordinary, faithful people like you and me.

And of all the gifts we have been given, none is greater than this: the privilege of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people God places in our path.

You are here on purpose, gifted on purpose, sent on purpose.

May you be richly blessed by others — and may others be richly blessed through you.

Joan Plummer - Financial Secretary

joanplummer@icloud.com
(402) 910-3683

Financial report for January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026

Mites Income

Mites from Groups	\$10,961.97
District Mites	87.84
Church Offerings	118.31
Personal Donations	150.00
Special Offerings	1,000.00
Fund Raisers	641.10
Memorials	510.00
Thrivent Choice	189.00
Total Mites(Deposits)	\$13658.22
Payment Inkind	(1681.27)
Total Mites	\$15339.49



Other Income

Checking Account Interest	\$24.45
Bookstore	83.75
Memorials- not designated	1125.00
Seek and Serve Registration	345.00
Estate Proceeding for Lois Kerschinske to Endowment	2,591.97
Total Other Income	\$41701.17

Quarterlies Income **\$5147.00**

Total Deposits: **\$27145.45**

Memorials/In honor of January 1,2026 through March 31, 2026

From

Lisa Stirtz
Don Oldenkamp
Janyce Warneke
Christ Columbus
First Lutheran, Plattsmouth
First Lutheran, Plattsmouth
Christ Norfolk Priscilla
Christ Norfolk Priscilla
Pilgrim Bellevue
Constance Anderson
Shelley Freudenburg
Bonnie Hines

For:

Helen Oldenkamp
Helen Oldenkamp
Helen Oldenkamp
Linda Cattau
Dorothy Herye
Carol Bogle
DeEtte Jenkins
Cheryl Husmann
Marie Hansen
Earl Miller
Earl Miller
Earl Miller

Memorials (continued)

From:
Pam Williams
Jeanne Crumbly
Freudenburg & Associates
Bev Miller
Crystal Miller
Annette Rasmussen
Bonnie Schumacher
St John's Wakefield

For:
Earl Miller
Earl Miller
Earl Miller
Earl Miller
Earl Miller
Earl Miller
Gayle Callan
Jolene Miller

The Board of Directors voted to put the Lois Kerschinske estate proceedings in the Endowment Fund. God's blessings to each of you.

Joan Plummer, Financial Secretary
3261 50th Ave
Columbus, NE 68601

Pam Williams - Vice President of Gospel Outreach

lwmlpam@gmail.com

Who doesn't like to receive gifts? Gifts happen to be my love language. I enjoy getting them, but I really enjoy choosing gifts for family and friends. I have fun visiting a variety of stores and finding that special item that reminds me of the person.

Each person is a gift, having been created by our Father, and has received a gift(s) to share with others. We use these abilities to serve our congregations and brothers and sisters in Christ. But it goes way beyond that. What God has bestowed on each of us, we should also share with our neighbors, neighborhoods, and communities.

Some have the gift of hospitality. They can invite friends and neighbors to their home. Others have the gift of teaching such as pastors, DCEs and deaconesses. This also includes Sunday School teachers or Bible Study leaders. Some are gifted with organization or leadership. Still others have gifts of healing, helping and administration. Generosity, filling your Mite box with coins or bills, spreads the knowledge and love of Jesus near and far.

I hope to see you at the District Convention at Good Shepherd in Gretna on June 26-27. Find out about the proposed mission grants selected for the 2026-28 biennium. Learn as we spend time in Bible study, serve at the servant events and worship with sisters and brothers from Nebraska North District and beyond. Enjoy conversation and laughter; receive hugs offering love and comfort. And we will worship our Lord and take His body and blood shed for each one of us.

Maggie Rutjens - Recording Secretary

maggie.rutjens@gmail.com

As I read 1 Peter 4:10 over a few times, it hit me that the emphasis should be on serving one another, not on trying to figure out what my gift is. I believe we should do whatever we can, within our means, to help fill the needs of our neighbors. As Matthew says in Chapter 20 verse 28, *“even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve”*, He is our perfect example of how we should be living our lives. God promises in Ephesians 6:8 that we will be rewarded for doing this but we need to be serving from our heart, not for what we will receive back from the Lord. LWML gives us such a great opportunity to fulfill this command. I stand in awe of all the brothers and sisters we are able to serve with our mission grants. I was so amazed by the flag procession at the national convention in Omaha, to see how many countries we have reached into and made a difference. With God's help, I pray we are able to continue for many years to come.



Sara Huwaldt - Vice President of Organizational Resources

sara.huwaldt@hotmail.com

Our God Given Gifts

Do you have that friend that has a gift that comes naturally to them? Does she have an amazing voice, singing those hymns with a loud musical voice? Or is she great at working with children? These are your friends. Friends that you need to be supportive of and encourage their talents. Instead, that envious bone sinks in, giving you the feeling of doubt and discouragement. Some of our talents, like our voice-talented friends, are more physical. Some people's talents are less visible, yet their talents are their own.

Our 2025 Nebraska North LWML District Convention theme, 1 Peter 4:10 says, *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.”* God has provided each one of us with gifts, some more visible than others but we all have gifts nonetheless. *“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to use, let us use them.”* (Romans 12:6a). Though we may all have different gifts, by the grace of God, we are all saved through our Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord instructs us to step up and use our God given gifts to share the love of our God. So, I encourage you to embrace the gifts that our God has given you and use them to share the love of our God.

Meta Barnett - Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

otherstuff4meta@cox.net
402-290-1766

As we gear up for the District convention this June, some of us were able to attend the North/South Seek and Serve. The ladies who organized this event outdid themselves once again. They exemplified the convention verse, 1Peter 4:10, which says *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"*. They worked together using their gifts of organizing, leading servant events, offering yummy treats and lunch, leading an awesome Bible study (thank you, Deb Burma!), sharing all sorts of info with the rest of us, bringing school supplies for the ingathering, and lots of ways we didn't even realize during the day. The ingathering is what I'd like to tell you about. The items donated were divided between three Lutheran schools in Columbus: Immanuel, St John's and Christ. We collected 158 reams of copy paper, 110 packs of filler paper, 322 glue sticks, 76 bottles of school glue, 77 pencils and pens, 9 boxes of colored pencils, 44 boxes staples, 44 rolls of masking tape, 5 sharpies, 4 dry erase pens, and 13 assorted other items, like rulers, crayons, and erasers, and \$120. What a blessing for these schools! Hope to see you at Convention!

Important change in convention ingathering!

The convention ingathering will still be for Wee Lambs Preschool at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gretna. What has changed is that you will no longer be able to purchase items directly from the Lakeshore Learning website. Instead, gifts of cash or checks made out to "Wee Lambs Preschool" are suggested as well as gift cards to Amazon, Target or Walmart.

Pam List - Vice President of Communication

listpam06@hotmail.com

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace;" (1Peter 4:10). At my local congregation I serve on the stewardship board. We encourage members, new and seasoned, to recognize and use their God-given gifts of time, talents and treasures. What a blessing it is that we have different strengths among us to accomplish the important missions of the church! Moreover, these assets are given to us by the grace of our loving God to use in service of others. Our upcoming convention is an excellent opportunity to be inspired by God's Word and energized by the message from Donna Snow, our keynote speaker and by stories of our mites in action from grant recipients. I'm amazed by the generosity of the women of Lutheran Women in Mission as they use their individual gifts to unite in a common purpose to share the Gospel through word and deed. Join me in celebrating our mission together!

Carol Taylor - President, Norfolk Zone

I have been blessed to have a group of six high school girlfriends that have shared much of life experiences through mail, phone calls, texts and visits. We don't agree on politics, religion, relationships, raising children, and the list goes on.

One of my friends is quick to be the first to know and spread information whether true or off the mark. I try to be very careful around her so we aren't as intimate, as I am with my other friends. Over the past few years, she has been in my home town often taking care of aging mom issues since her only sibling went to the Lord. We now share more of life experiences personally, and she and her husband (a pastor) are thrilled to have home cooked food and a place to relax away from pressures of handling family issues. My husband and I try to be encouraging and the sharing of our beliefs come up in discussions.

As a study note states in the Lutheran Study Bible to Romans 12:6-8, "the key is to receive all gifts humbly in faith and to use them to serve others. The measure is not the gift, but faith, which justifies before God and receives all else as gifts from Him." And, as 1 Corinthians 14:3 states, "*for upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.*"

I figured out I can be a gracious host in my home providing respite more so than telling someone how to handle affairs on behalf of family. If you have the chance, read the article, "The Church as God's Crew" in the Lutheran Study Bible just before 1 Peter Chapter 4. "God calls his people together to support one another as they journey toward their eternal goal." And with that I say, Amen!

Seek and Serve

What a celebration! Over 100 women from NE North and NE South Districts gathered at Peace Lutheran, Columbus for a reunion celebration of working together on the national convention in Omaha in June of 2025.

Shelley Freudenburg kept the day moving with introductions, announcements and even some humor.

Deb Burma led two Bible study sessions with the theme "Celebrating God's Grace: Leaning on Jesus".

The ladies of Peace served delicious snacks and lunch.

See Meta Barnett's article for the report of items contributed for the ingathering.

Servant events included coloring onesies and making MOST bracelets. While the ladies worked, they were treated to a wonderful slide show of memories from the convention assembled by Crystal Miller.

There was plenty of laughter, reminiscing and posing for pictures!

Seek and Serve Photo Gallery



Zone Spring Gatherings

Columbus Zone

Columbus Zone Spring Gathering was held on April 18th at Immanuel, Columbus with 39 in attendance. Noah Koch with Navigators campus ministry spoke on the theme “Cross & Compass”.



Norfolk Zone

At the Norfolk Zone Spring Ahead in Faith Event, Saturday, April 18, 2026, hosted by Mt. Olive-Norfolk, Pastoral Counselor Rev. Jacob Tuma provided a lively Bible Study based on the theme verse from 2 Chronicles 15:7 “*Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work will be rewarded...*”

Kamryn Green from Orphan Grain Train was the speaker and the ingathering of cash and hygiene supplies filled her pickup. A leadership sketch by current zone officers entertained, and the closing devotion on encouragement was presented by Sue Jensen from Mt. Olive who serves as our Christian Growth Chairman.



Omaha/Sarpy Zone

Women from the Omaha and Sarpy zones met April 19th at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Omaha. Sarpy zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Ryan Maser led the group in a Bible study around the convention theme of 1 Peter 4:10, addressing the fears that prevent us from using our gifts. Cadence Fulfs, a DCE student from CUNE, spoke about the opportunities of DCE ministry and her upcoming internship in Belize. The ingathering was an offering supporting Cadence.



West Point Zone

The West Point Zone LWML met at St. John's, Lyons for its Spring Gathering. A salad supper was hosted by the St. John's LWML. VP of Christian Growth Gloria Wellman, and Pastor Belinsky, Pastoral Counselor presented a skit about praying the Lord's Prayer and listening to what you're praying. Pastor Belinsky led a Bible Study, "How to Resist the Devil".

The In-gathering was eyeglasses for the Lions Club and gifts for about 200 nursing home residents. The Nebraska North District LWML Convention in Gretna was discussed and members encouraged to attend. A Gathering that is centered around God's Word and renewing faith and friendships is always something to look forward to!



Wayne Zone

The Wayne LWML Zone Spring Workshop was held on April 21, 2026 at Grace Lutheran Church in Wayne. Rev. Willie Bertrand led a Bible study based on the workshop theme, *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost “* (Luke 19:10). Roxanne Fox from the Norfolk Rescue Mission spoke about their New Life Program. This is a one-year, in-house program for those seeking a new life in Christ. A collection of items for hygiene kits and coloring books and crayons along with \$1535 were donated to the program. An ingathering of \$698.37 will be given for purchasing Bibles for the district convention.

Group Activities

Baby Shower

King of Kings Lutheran Church LWML in Omaha hosted a baby shower for mothers in need at the Lydia House - Open Door Mission. Four tables overflowed with baby items, "diaper cakes" and monetary donations. What a joy it was to bless the lives of mothers and mothers-to-be living at the Lydia House with these gifts of love!



Movie Night

Joy Circle of St. John's Lutheran, Pierce hosted a movie night in March to encourage all women from the congregation to gather together. The movie *“The Book of Esther”* from Pure Flix was shown and the group read *“The True Deaconess Spirit”* from the 2026 Spring Quarterly. Women received a thank you gift of a Heart Blessing card from LWML and a green yarn shamrock made by Carol Taylor.



Free Music

Zion, Plainview has several boxes of choir and handbell music available for free. Take some or all of it. Music will be available at the district convention in Gretna. Contact Nancy Scholte at 402-360-2271 for questions.

LWML NEBRASKA NORTH DISTRICT 2026 T-SHIRT ORDER FORM



A. District Soft Cotton T-shirt -
Shirt Color: Light Yellow
XS - XL:
\$11.00 each
XXL: \$13.00 each, 3XL: \$15.00 each

**LWML NEBRASKA NORTH DISTRICT
 2026 T-SHIRT ORDER FORM DUE FRIDAY
 JUNE 12th, 2026**

Make checks out to First Lutheran Even Guild then mail to
 Crystal Miller, 7794 Greenleaf Drive, La Vista NE 68128

NAME _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

STYLE CODE	QTY	SIZE	COLOR	COST	
TOTAL DUE					



LWML NEBRASKA NORTH DISTRICT 2026 Young Woman Representative (YWR) Application

Name of YWR Applicant (please Print): _____

Age: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____, Nebraska Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Home Church & City: _____ Zone Name: _____

I, (name) _____, desire to participate as a Young Woman Representative at the 2026 LWML Nebraska North District Convention, being held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 11204 s 204th St in Gretna, Nebraska on June 26-27, 2026.

The Nebraska North District convention theme is "Each has received a gift... Serve as good stewards of God's varied Grace." based on 1 Peter 4:10. With this theme, what do you hope to learn? The LWML motto is "Serve the Lord with Gladness" (Psalm 100:2). You may incorporate this into your response. Use the back or a separate sheet of paper for more space.

I have been invited by : _____

My LWML Group, church, City, Zone

A Nebraska North Board Member

Or myself with the Lord's Blessing

Please check all that apply:

I will be staying with the other district YWRS at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 16175 Stevens Pointe Circle, Gretna, Ne. – Mention LWML when booking room.

I plan to commute daily each day to convention.

I plan to stay with friends/sponsor.

****Please note that the LWML group or person sponsoring the YWR is responsible for reserving their hotel room. Also recommend to reserve hotel room as soon as possible. ****

Please mail this completed form to:

Sara Huwaldt
VP of Organizational Resources
203 N. Boxelder St.
Norfolk, NE 68701

Questions? E-mail: vporganizationalresources@lwmlnebraskanorthdistrict.org Phone (call or text): (402)841-4407

Registration Deadline is May 25, 2026.-

Reminder!! Convention Registration forms and fees will also need to be submitted separately. Registration forms will be in the District Convention Leaguer.

Registration Form:

LWML Nebraska North District
43rd Biennial Convention
June 26-27, 2026
Good Shepherd Lutheran
11204 S 204th St. Gretna

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2026

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact Name/Number: _____

Church, Town, Group: _____

Special Needs (Diet or physical) _____

Convention Registration Fee:

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| • Regular Registration (Manual, speakers, etc.) | \$50.00 \$ _____ |
| • Late Registration (June 2-June 26) | \$70.00 \$ _____ |
| • Friday Lunch - Sandwich bar, salads | \$ 12.00 \$ _____ |
| • Dinner - Country fried steak dinner | \$ 22.00 \$ _____ |
| • Saturday Lunch - Chicken salad croissant | \$ 12.00 \$ _____ |



TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Each has
received a

Gift...



Serve

...as good stewards
of God's varied Grace

1 PETER, 4:10

Please check one:

- LWML Delegate
- LWML Alternate
- Board of Directors, voting
- Board of Directors, nonvoting
- Past District President
- Zone President
- LWML member (non delegate)
- Young Women's Rep
- Exhibitor
- Guest
- Teen LWML (no registration fee)
- Pastor (no registration fee)

Don't forget to bring:

- Tote to carry your goodies
- **NO TOTES WILL BE PROVIDED**
- Covered container for beverages

Check Payable to:

LWML Nebraska North District

Mail to:

Pam List

17106 Palisades Dr

Omaha, NE 68136

Questions: listpamo6@hotmail.com