Lutheran Women's Missionary League
LWML
Nebraska North District
Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

LEAGUER

Fall 2026, Volume 19, Issue 2



Tonya Waite
NE North
District President

Talks with Tonya

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Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we begin to see the fall colors appear in God's beautiful creation, it is an easy reminder that we too are "Transformed in Christ."

We continue to keep the Plummer family in our daily prayers. Thank you, Lisa Stirtz, for keeping us updated.

I have been to many fall gatherings, churches and rallies the past couple months. I LOVE the way you share and show Jesus to your groups and zones. Some of you knew I was coming; others were surprised when I just popped in. I love the enthusiasm and encouragement. I am hoping all of you are making plans to get to Oklahoma!!! Bus, car, or plane, it is sure to be a good time. I have my purple cowboy boots ready to go. Our banner is in progress, YWRs are being recruited, and delegates are coming forward. Is your zone ready with all your delegate information? It needs to be turned into me as soon as you have the delegate's completed paperwork. Watch the next *Quarterly* for more details. Group reports are due to your zone president by Thanksgiving so they can get the data to me by December 1st. Lots of work to do ladies so keep up the great work, pray daily and stay in His Word. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.



ZONE GATHERINGS



SCHOLARSHIPS

MISSION GRANTS



GROUP ACTIVITIES

Jr. Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Ryan Maser

pastormaser@gmail.com

I have learned the longer that I'm around in the world, the more wrong I've been about things. It can be a humbling experience. Perhaps you can relate. Nobody likes being wrong – including me.

Last month at the LWML District Board of Directors meeting, there was a line from Pastor Moreno's Bible study on Romans 12:2 that caught my eye. Pastor Moreno wrote: "Paul doesn't say 'try harder.' He says be transformed – passive voice. This is something that happens to you, not something you manufacture."

I admit, when I have heard these words from St. Paul, *"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind"*, I have immediately jumped into 'active mode'. The fix-it mentality goes into overdrive, thinking and plotting of all the things in my life, in my family, in my congregation that need to be changed, corrected, or revamped. I start thinking about plans, strategies, what I can do today, in ten steps, or in a year- that it's all up to me and my own strength. I just need to try harder – and then I'll be transformed!

But Pastor Moreno is right. St. Paul is right. Old sinful fix-it Ryan is wrong. Any level of transformation begins with God and His grace. With prayer. With receiving what our Lord graciously and abundantly gives to us through Baptism and the Supper: forgiveness, life, and salvation. With the various gifts, talents, and abilities given to the people of His church. With allowing the Word of God to speak and guide and rule.

Maybe there are things you see that need to be transformed – in your life, in your home, in your LWML circle, or your congregation. You've seen what happens when things slip into the pattern of this world. Truth be told, we are all in need of transformation every single day. I urge you to first look to the Lord and not to yourself. Allow His gifts to lead the conversation, guide you, and transform you. Put those things to the test – and see what happens!

Mailbox MEMBER

Be watching for more information about this exciting opportunity to engage more women of your congregation to be a part of Lutheran Women in Mission!

Pam List – Vice President of Communication

listpam06@hotmail.com

There has been so much happening in NE North since the June district convention, and I am excited to be able to share many of those in this Leaguer! Take note of the mission grants and scholarships (paid!), the zone fall gatherings, and some interesting group activities. I had the privilege of participating in a couple of very special ones.

BOD Planning Retreat

Braving downpours and muddy country roads, the NE North Board of Directors met in September at Camp Luther for a planning treat. Newly elected President Tonya Waite guided the group through ice-breakers, brain-storming sessions and crafts. Senior Counselor Pastor Moreno led a Bible study focused on Romans 12:2, the theme verse for the 2027 national convention in Oklahoma City. Junior Counselor Ryan Maser closed our time together with an encouraging devotion. And of course, there was plenty of food, fellowship and fun!

Assembly of Leaders

The LWML Assembly of Leaders (AOL) was held in St. Louis, Missouri, October 28 - 31. Each district was represented by its president, a pastoral counselor and two district leaders. VP of Organizational Resources Kenzie Pasold and I accompanied Tonya and Pastor Ryan Maser. As members of the national Leader, Development, and Support Committee, Crystal Miller and Sarah Huwaldt led some of the activities. It was an intense four days of presentations reviewing basics for district leaders, demonstrating creative ways to share information and engage members, and staying focused on keeping "Jesus Christ at the Radical Center." Worship, Bible study, singing and networking were a part of each day. There were also opportunities to shop at the LWML store and the "Purple Garage Sale." Over $8,000 was raised for mites! Our team has developed a plan for sharing what we learned over the coming year. I'm exited to see where the Lord leads us!



Deb Gutz- Vice President of Gospel Outreach

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Romans 12:2 says, *"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."*
I love this time of year when we go from everything green to the change of beautiful fall colors, and the fields going from crops everywhere to empty fields – what a transformation! As Christians, God transformed our lives in Baptism and continues to renew us daily by His Holy Spirit. We thank our heavenly Father for His mercies in Jesus Christ and for the transforming work He began in our Baptism. God gives us many opportunities to be in His Word such as daily devotions, Bible study, worship with fellow Christians, and partaking in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Thanks be to God, we are always being transformed in Him!

PAID -- **1 - Mission Grant to Camp Luther - Gerwick Kitchen Remodel for $10,000:**
Meals at Camp Luther are more than just food – they are ministry. Around each table, campers, staff, and guests share in prayer, conversation and community. The kitchen is the heartbeat of this fellowship, where hospitality becomes an expression of the Gospel. By providing reliable and efficient kitchen equipment, this project ensures that those who serve can do so joyfully and safely, and that guests' physical needs are met as their spiritual lives are nourished. Supporting this project will help sustain a Christ-centered environment where God's Word is lived out daily through acts of service, gratitude and love.



The $10,000 check was presented to Camp Luther staff during the annual women's retreat led by Deb Burma. Pictured with the staff are members of NE North.

2026-2028 LWML Nebraska North





















*"Each has received a **Gift**... **Serve** ...as good stewards of God's varied Grace.*

1 Peter 4:10

PAID--**Mission Grant selected by the 2025 National Convention YWRs - Project Harmony:** Every child deserves to grow up safe, happy and healthy. Project Harmony intends to end child abuse at all levels. They are known for their response, preventative services and programs, and are working inside the Omaha communities to build protections for children. Project Harmony provides a safe place where children can find the courage to share what they have experienced or witnessed, and families can begin to heal. $2,026 was paid through the Special Gifts Fund.

Keep collecting those mites!

NEXT UP -- **2 – Mission Grant to Sleep in Heavenly Peace – building beds for kids who have none for $10,000:** Quality sleep is essential for the overall well-being of children, both mentally and physically. During sleep, the body and mind undergo essential repair and rejuvenation processes, while the brain consolidates new information. Insufficient sleep can have detrimental effects on children, including difficulties with concentration, memory, mood regulation, behavior and academic performance. Moreover, children without a suitable sleeping environment are more susceptible to sleep disturbances and are at higher risk of developing mental health issues. The discomfort and insecurity of sleeping on the floor can contribute to stress, anxiety and low self-esteem. The current request is to contribute $10,000 to the cost of lumber, mattresses and bedding to build and deliver beds to local bedless children by the chapter. The chapter has a goal of delivering 1000 beds to children in 2026.

Shelley Freudenburg – Vice President of Christian Life

shelld844@gmail.com

Transformed in Christ Romans 12:2

As we reflect on Romans 12:2, the theme of the OK national convention in July 2027, we are reminded that a transformed life does not remove us from the world. Instead, renewed minds equip us to put our faith into action by serving others, sharing the Gospel and expressing Christ's love in meaningful ways. When our minds are anchored in Him, we can discern and embrace God's will, knowing it is always perfect for us.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Word. Forgive us for the times we let the world mold our thinking. Renew our minds and transform our hearts so that everything we do points back to Your grace and love.

Start making plans now to attend the national convention in OK, it is time well spent and will be a huge blessing to you.

Kenzie Pasold- Vice President of Organizational Resources

kenziepasold@gmail.com

Romans 12:2 tells us to be transformed in Christ.
My child has always loved playing with Transformer toys, and I enjoy the movies, too. One of my favorite moments is when Optimus Prime, the leader of the Autobots, declares, "Autobots, roll out!" It's his way of saying, "Team, let's do this! Let's go!" That phrase reminds me of how God is transforming us as women of faith, preparing us to roll out together and serve Him.

Recently, our board gathered at Camp Luther to plan for the future and share ideas, and our newly installed officers then attended the Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis. I believe that through these experiences He transforms us and equips us with fresh ways to serve our district and the Lord with gladness. So, ladies, as God continues to work in and through us, let's be ready to answer His call: **Women in Mission, roll out!**

Karla Koehler – Treasurer

k3koehler@gmail.com

"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).

As I ponder this verse, I am reminded that the world shapes our thoughts, words and actions. How can we be transformed by the renewal of our minds? We first must confess that we are sinners, which means sometimes my attitude and actions are not always loving, forgiving or kind. Even though I put my faith in Christ, my struggle with sin does not end, but it does allow me to continuously invite Christ to take His place on the "throne" of my life. When I submit myself to follow His will and trust Him, He will indeed empower me to live for Him and His purposes. How do I accomplish this? I can pray and talk to God daily (sometimes even hourly or minute-by-minute) and I can read and listen to His Word and hear what He is saying to me. I can also be still and reminded that I am loved and forgiven, and in turn, I can show Christ's love to others.

As I am empowered to live for Him, I am humbled to serve as your district treasurer by paying bills, sending in mites, recording our financial activities, and paying our first mission grants. I pray that God helps us to see and hear opportunities to share the Gospel through our mission grants and other outreach opportunities. Let us remember the LWML Mission: "As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others." When we live this Mission, we will be transformed!

Nancy Schlote – Interim Financial Secretary

bnschlote@plvwtelco.net

Since taking over in July for Joan, I try to pray for her every day, asking God to give her strength. I have made deposits and compared reports with Karla Koehler. I attended the board retreat at Camp Luther. What a wonderful time spent with other Christian women in missions. It was great studying God's Word and bonding with the gals.

Financial Report for July 1 through September 30, 2026

Mites Income	$ 9,219.56
Church Offerings	31.31
Personal to mites	100.00
Nebraska North Purple Auction	253.00
Memorials	140.00
Thrivent Choice	206.00
Total Mites Income	**$9,949.87**
Other Income:	
Checking Account Interest	$ 202.13
Estate Proceeds	82,152.70
Bookstore Sales	19.33
Memorials not to Mites	260.00
Board Retreat Registration	601.00
Total Other Income	**$83,235.16**
District Convention - Gretna	
Exhibitor Fees & Meals	$ 85.00
Room - Connie Anderson	189.00
Hotel - Room Refund	182.00
Total District Convention	**$456.00**
Transfer from LCEF	**$ 3,026.00**
Total Deposits	**$96,667.03**

Memorials/In Honor of July 1 through September 30, 2026

From:	For:
Immanuel Lutheran WS-Laurel	Marjorie Mackey
Immanuel Lutheran WS-Laurel	Lonnie Nixon
Immanuel Lutheran WS-Laurel	50th Anniversary Scott & Deanne Thompson
Immanuel Lutheran WS-Laurel	50th Anniversary Brad & Lynette Penierick
Peace-Columbus	Jeanne Kohtz
Grace LA-Wayne	Leota Larson
Monique Wolske	Emmy Gutz
Monique Wolske	Elnore Freudenburg
Janet Casey	Lee Larson & Betty Casey
Joyce Peterson	Jeanne Kohtz
Zion Priscillas-Plainview	Emmy Gutz
Deb Gutz	Emmy Gutz
Dianne Fittje	Jeanne Kohtz

Mail Mites to:
Nancy Schlote
53809 870 Rd
Plainview, NE 68769

Zone Fall Gatherings

West Point – Wende Carson, President

The West Point Zone met on Sunday afternoon, September 27th, at St. Paul Lutheran in Bancroft, for our fall gathering. Dawn Cooksey of Lutheran High, Fremont, spoke about the growing high school and the many joys and blessings it has already provided! For our in-gathering we helped raise funding for their new visual arts program.

We were pleased to be joined by Tonya Waite, who provided an LWML district report. Our business meeting concluded with the installation of officers and a devotion by Pastor Mike Belinsky, our circuit counselor. A wonderful supper was served by our hostesses at St. Paul.

Wayne Zone – Sheila Floyd, President

The Wayne Zone LWML fall rally was held on Tuesday, October 20, at Immanuel Lutheran in Laurel. The theme for our rally was "God Bless America" based on Psalm 33:12 – *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen for His heritage!"* Pastor Jeffrey Warner gave the opening devotion. Pastoral Counselor Martin Hill presented a Bible study based on Matthew 7:24-25. The guest speaker was Mary Rastede, group leader of "Quilts of Valor," whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war in comforting and healing quilts. An ingathering of $780.00 was collected for fabric and other expenses. District President Tonya Waite updated members on district activities.



Omaha Zone - Lana Erickson, President
Sarpy Zone - Cindy Clark, President

The Omaha/Sarpy Zone fall rally was held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Omaha, on August 30. We had the privilege of being the first zone to hear the first district report from Tonya Waite, our new district president. New officers were installed.

Our Bible study was a great one provided by Mt. Calvary's own Rev. Andrew Gerike.

For our keynote, we asked for a speaker from Lydia House, but at the last minute, we were blessed with two men who worked at Open Door Mission, one of them having been through the program. Our ingathering was diapers for Lydia House. From the picture, you can see how many we gathered. There was more on the floor under the table. Purple peeps are so generous!









Norfolk Zone - Lynette, Koehler, President

The Norfolk Zone gathering was held October 3, at St. John Lutheran, rural Pierce. Pastor Jonathan Conner from Lutheran Family Service was awesome, presenting "AI and the Need for True Wisdom."

Plainview Zone - Connie Anderson, President

The Plainview zone met at Grace Lutheran, Neligh. Guest speaker was Pastor Ricky Jacob from Winnebago. Tonya Waite provided a district update. New officers were installed.



Columbus Zone - Susan Rubeck, President

The Columbus Zone fall rally was held at Peace Lutheran, Columbus on October 17, with special guest Tonya Waite delivering the district report. Pastor Cory Burma served as our guest speaker, presenting his travels to Turkey and Greece.







Save the date - All District Retreat will be held **September 24, 2027,** at Peace Lutheran, Columbus with Deb Burma leading Bible study. More details to follow!

Group Activities

Grace Lutheran, Norfolk

A surprise bridal shower was held by the LWML Women of Grace Lutheran in Norfolk. The honored guest was their very own president, Mary Brader. After the regular meeting, Mary was genuinely overwhelmed with the totally unexpected celebration.







St. John Lutheran, Beemer

Members of St. John Lutheran in Beemer celebrated LWML Sunday by singing for the service. Cheryl Ott (left) made a banner. The group also held its 51st Creamed Chicken Dinner and Bake Sale.

King of Kings, Omaha

President Tonya Waite joined with some smiling faces to greet ladies coming to church on LWML Sunday at King of Kings Millard campus in Omaha.



Living Water, Omaha

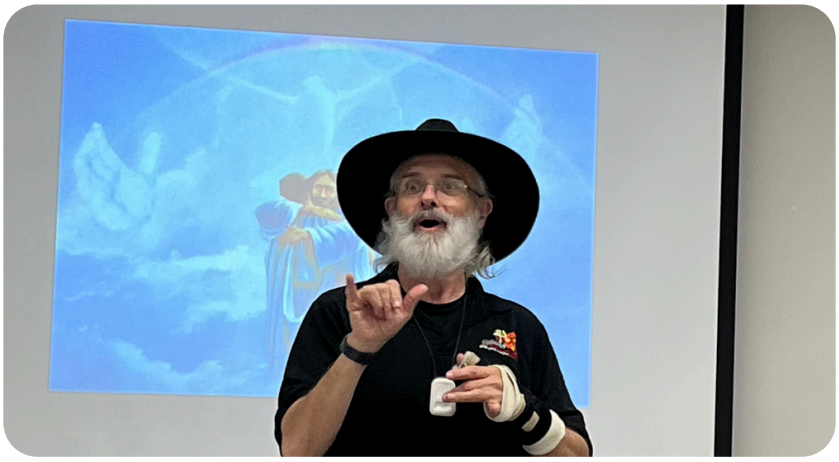
In October the Living Water LWML collected food pantry items for IMMPACT Migrant Ministry which is an outreach program to Muslims in Omaha. Thanks to contributions from our congregation and Thrivent, we were able to donate boxes of items for 14 families. On October 31 we delivered the supplies to IMMPACT Ministry at River of Life in Omaha. Pictured below are members from Living Water with Georgette Alaraj and her daughter. Georgette and her husband, Nader, spoke about the ministry at the NE North District convention in Gretna last June.





Good Shepherd Lutheran, Gretna

Several members from the Sarpy Zone joined the ladies from Good Shepherd Lutheran, Gretna, in learning about the deaf outreach ministry of Reverend John Reinke. He shared stories from the formation of his ministry to his current work in disciplining leaders for deaf ministry in the United States and abroad. He provided resources to enhance outreach to hearing impaired individuals.



Scholarship Recipients

Praise God that scholarships for the 2026-2027 academic year have been paid! I hope you will enjoy excerpts from letters received from some of the recipients. It's a joy to know that our mites help to support church work students from our district congregations.



Vicar Timothy Hoffman

Thank you for awarding me a $400 scholarship for the 2026–2027 school year. I receive this gift with deep gratitude. Your generosity will help with the cost of my theological education as I continue in the Specific Ministry Pastor program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, finishing up my second year. I currently serve as a vicar at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska, with much of my ministry centered at Zion Lutheran Church in Leigh.

This scholarship is more than financial assistance. It is also a meaningful expression of encouragement from fellow Christians who care about the future of pastoral ministry. I thank God for your partnership in the Gospel and for the witness of the Nebraska North District LWML.

Judd William Coffey
River of Life, Omaha
Freshman, Concordia University Nebraska



I would like to say a sincere thank you for choosing me for the LWML scholarship to help me further my education. My mom has been involved in LWML since I was born and I know how important their work is in the LCMS to spread the Gospel and share God's love.

My plans are to attend Concordia Seward to study theology and from there plan to attend seminary to become an LCMS pastor. This scholarship will help me to attain those goals.



Grace M. Wysocki
St. John Lutheran Church, Battle Creek, Nebraska
Senior at Concordia University Nebraska

I cannot express how thankful I am to have been chosen as a recipient of one of your scholarships! Your generosity means so much to me and will help me complete my final year at Concordia University Nebraska, as I continue following God's calling to become a full-time Lutheran teacher. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout this journey!

Jonah Wilson
Lord of Life, Elkhorn, NE
4th Year Seminarian,Concordia Seminary St. Louis



I am appreciative of all the prayers, support, encouragement and aid the entire district has provided for myself and all other church work vocations! It has been a real blessing to have your generosity as I continue on into my last year of seminary and being formed and placed to serve Christ's church in 8 short months!



Riley Hlavac
Grace Lutheran in Wayne, Nebraska

Thank you for the $800 scholarship! I greatly appreciate the help as I enter my final year of training at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

I just finished my vicarage at St. John's Lutheran Church in Yuma, Colorado, and am preparing to begin my fourth year of seminary this fall. I hope to return to eastern Nebraska to serve as a pastor after graduation next spring.

This is a photo of myself (left) and my vicarage supervisor, Rev. Dennis FitzPatrick (right). God's blessings as you continue in your service to Jesus and His Church!

Braiten Beck
Immanuel Lutheran, Columbus, Nebraska
Third year college, first at Concordia, Nebraska

Thank you for the blessing of a scholarship. I am extremely grateful!





Nathan Christopher Sollberger
Immanuel Lutheran, Louisville, Nebraska
Senior, Concordia University Nebraska

Thank you for providing a scholarship towards my education as a future church worker. I plan to attend Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, after college and become a parish pastor.

Stephanie Wall
Faith Lutheran, Lincoln, Nebraska
Freshman transferring from community college to Concordia University Nebraska.



I am currently enrolled as an English major in the Pre-Deaconess program. I want to use my gifts in the written word to further God's mission on Earth. Whatever path I take, I know I have the power of the true Word and the one true God to guide me.

Thank you for supporting me and enabling me to grow in faith and knowledge.

Caden Licht
Gracehill Lutheran, Elkhorn, Nebraska



I am very honored to receive this scholarship again this year. It will greatly benefit me this school year as I complete my undergraduate degree and the Pre-Seminary program.

I am going into my senior year, majoring in History and participating in the Pre-Seminary Program. This scholarship, while easing some of the financial burden, also encourages me to continue down this path. Throughout my time in college, I have grown in my interest in history, theology, and the Lutheran faith, and the Pre-Seminary Program has helped me further consider my calling to ministry. In December, after the fall semester, I will marry my fiancée, Sofie. After graduation, we will move to one of the seminaries with the goal of my becoming a pastor. I look forward to continuing my education and preparing to serve the Church.

Ross Petersen
Our Savior Lutheran, Norfolk, Nebraska
Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Year 3.

Future Career Plans:
I am currently serving as a vicar at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norfolk, Nebraska, while completing the Specific Ministry Pastor program through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Upon completion of the program and certification, I plan to be ordained into the pastoral ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

I am grateful for the all the joyful experience God has given me to prepare for pastoral ministry and deeply appreciate the encouragement, prayers and financial support of the LWML Nebraska North District.

Thank you for supporting me as I continue preparing to serve our Lord and His Church.



Ruth Ersland
Zion Lutheran, Omaha
Freshman at Concordia University Nebraska

Plans to teach elementary education at a Lutheran school.

Jeffery Goetz, vicarage year, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, from Gracehill, Elkhorn

Harrison Robbins, Concordia Chicago, 3rd year, pre-sem, from 1C, Columbus

Kasha Iwan, Concordia Nebraska, 4th year, DCE, from 1C, Columbus

Abigail Kollbaum, Concordia Nebraska 4th year, teacher ed, from Trinity, Madison

Declan McPhillips, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1st year, from Immanuel, Columbus

Faith Baumgartel, Concordia Nebraska, 2nd year, teacher, from St. John, Battle Creek

Peder Ersland, Concordia, Nebraska, 3rd year, Pastor/teacher, from Zion, Omaha

Broderick Splittgerber, Concordia Nebraska, 1st year, teacher, from Christ, Columbus

Jacob Morse, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Vicarage year, from Peace, Columbus

Nikki Haack, Concordia Nebraska, 1st year, DCE, from St. John, Battle Creek