



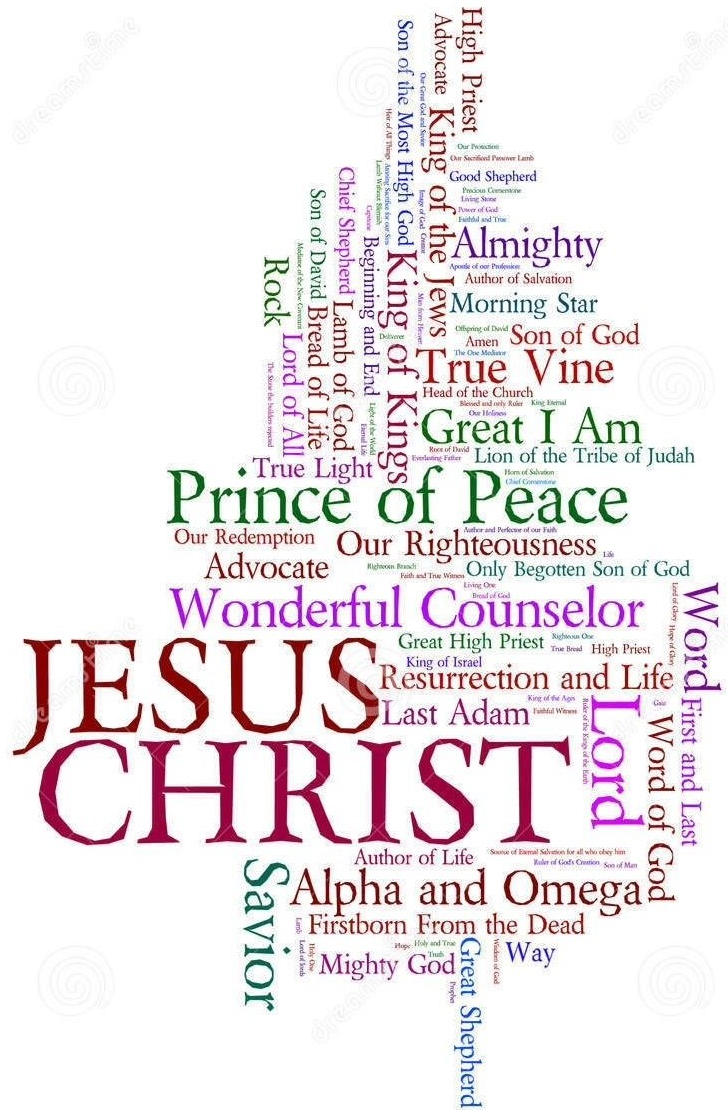
Lutheran Women
in Mission
FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

Evangel

Spring 2026

Quarterly Newsletter

Name
Above
All
Names



Pinterest: DM lambdaprincess

LWML PLEDGE

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Deaconess Liz Borth



Identify and Distinguish

A good name is to be treasured more than riches (Proverbs 22:1). Parents expecting a baby spend a great deal of time choosing just the right name for that baby. The name should be a reflection of goodness, strength, determination, and connection to the family. Sometimes the name is chosen to honor a friend, or place that has special memories. Looking at a family tree helps but it also shows that some names disappear. Jesus' name was a family name not uncommon nor unique. Mary AND

Joseph were instructed by God's messenger to name the baby she carried "Jesus". This child was definitely unique, but bore a common name, and one that will never disappear. According to the Biblical Cyclopedic Index, "Christ" is an adjective, and we learned that an adjective describes a noun. This too is not uncommon. Think of some ancient and maybe not so ancient descriptions of people. Attila the Hun, Ignatius of Loyola, Andre' the Giant, and The Old Woman who lived in a shoe. So it is with Jesus (deliver or rescue) Christ (anointed one); Jesus is his name and Christ distinguishes him.

Names of Jesus in Song

We know the names of Jesus from Handel's Oratorio, Messiah. Here is a song by Cece Winans that shares these names too:

<https://CeCe.lnk.to/TMK>.

Enjoy and sing along!

There are many well-chosen words used to describe *what Jesus did*. He taught (teacher), He was authoritative (Master), He was a strong presence (Lord), He was descended from royalty (King), He gave himself completely and willingly (Love). For me, the name *Jesus* is all I need each morning and every evening and all throughout the day. Jesus' name may be the correct Sunday School answer to almost every question, but the

power in that name is truth, life, and the only way I will rejoice in God's presence forever.

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Hanes

The name of Jesus that speaks loudest to me is Prince of Peace.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding is an assurance that gently reminds me I am His. It is rooted in faith and trust in who He is. It allows me to rest in his steadfast and unwavering love.

The peace of God fills my soul, regardless of the circumstances in my life. In fact, it often comes amidst the trouble, chaos, confusion, hurt, and hardship in my life. This peace is something He gives me; it is not the result of my own strength or understanding.

The name Prince of Peace enhances my prayer and worship life because I most often experience this peace that surpasses all understanding when I spend time in His Word. Nothing the world offers even comes close to what only the Prince of Peace can give.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)



VP MISSION SERVICE

Silvia Grasberger



It is no wonder people refer to Jesus as the Great Physician. Jesus Himself said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" (Mark 2:17 NKJV).

During Jesus's ministry, he interacted with a remarkably diverse group of people. The Gospel records His encounters with Pharisees, tax collectors, Roman officials, fishermen, a Samaritan woman, and a host of others. Jesus gave personalized attention to each person, whether it was encouragement, rebuke, or healing. He

provided it all.

Jesus still provides personalized care for His people. He knows what we need better than we do ourselves. We need to reach out to Him and open ourselves to His loving ministry.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) How wonderful it is to know that we have the "Great Physician." Through His death and resurrection, we are cleansed. The empty tomb is proof of our salvation!

Being Woven Together with God



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Rev. Paul R. Meseke



Scripture tells us that we are "*fearfully and wonderfully made*" (Psalm 139:14), not mass-produced or hastily assembled, but carefully woven together by the hands of God. As a pastoral counselor, I often sit with people who feel frayed—pulled thin by grief, anxiety, conflict, or exhaustion. They describe themselves as unraveling. Yet the biblical image is not one of a thread about to snap, but of a Master Weaver who never lets go of the loom.

To be woven together with God is to recognize that our lives—every joy, every sorrow, every unanswered question—are being integrated into something meaningful, even when we cannot yet see the pattern. From our limited perspective, the underside of the tapestry looks tangled and messy. Threads cross in ways that seem random or even wrong. But God sees the finished work. He is not surprised by our weakness, nor discouraged by our doubts. He weaves even those into faith.

In counseling, healing often begins when someone realizes they are not broken beyond repair. They are still in God's hands. Christ Himself entered into the fabric of our human lives, taking on flesh, suffering, and death, so that nothing we experience is foreign to Him. Through Baptism and the Word, the Holy Spirit continually stitches us back into God's promises.

For the women of LWML, this truth is both comfort and calling. As God weaves us together with Him, He also weaves us together with one another—supporting, encouraging, and serving in love. Even when life feels like loose threads, trust the Weaver. He is faithful, and His design is always shaped by grace.

VP SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Linda Meseke



Everlasting God... Psalm 90 says He is the dwelling place in all generations. He is who I rest in, trust in, want a relationship with. We gather to study Him – He desires our interaction. It is an ultimate assurance that He is, as Psalm 106 says, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. He is with us until the end of time, and throughout eternity. Spend time in God’s Word and Praise Him – Father, Son & Holy Spirit!

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sheryl Lutz

Since my last report for the Winter Evangel, we have received:
Love Scholarship monies from St. Petersburg Zone and St. Paul- Miami
Mite and Scholarship monies in memory of:

- Nancy Bronsema by Mary Ann O’Keefe, Jodi Whitt and Our Savior- Plantation, FL
- Sharlen Miers by Steve Wilson (her son)
- Velma Swan by Sarah Elston

Another \$22,409 had been collected for mites.

It’s also wonderful to see zones getting back to having rallies- all but 8 zones had a fall rally, (three of them are not active, and one was temporarily missing a Zone President)!



Zone Presidents and LWML Group Presidents/Contacts:

- PLEASE make sure your treasurers have the forms with MY name on them, and
- make sure that they get filled out and sent along with the checks!

Linda Peters, Financial Secretary at least two four-year terms before me, is STILL receiving checks, and Chris Jennison sends me checks at least once a month (I have been in this position for more than a year). Going to the wrong person causes weeks-long delays in your checks being cashed and posted to your “accounts”. If your checks come from an accountant/bill company, send me the form separately, with whatever info you have, along with your info PRINTED so I can read it.

The current forms are on our website in the ‘Zones’ menu:

- https://www.flgalwml.com/remittance_84834f
- https://www.flgalwml.com/memorial_remittance

Alternatively, you can email me:

lwmlflgafinancialsecretary@gmail.com or call me: 954-242-3148 for hard copies if you don’t have email.

Thanks so much! Love getting your checks and lovely cards- Happy Spring!

NEXT EVANGEL DEADLINE

May 5 2026

Send articles & photos to:

evangel.flga@gmail.com

Write in **Word** with pics as attachments.

Max 250 words

Identify everyone in pics

VP MISSION GRANTS

Cheryl Briggs

Reminder! The Mission Grant application and instructions for the 26-28 biennium are located on the LWML FL GA District website. Please help in locating worthy recipients to apply. Application needs to be submitted by **March 15, 2026**. Pray with me for the mission grant process.

https://www.flgalwml.com/mission_grant_application

For our current biennium, disbursements were made to ten mission grants. See table at end of this Evangel. Total paid so far: **\$68,308.83**



SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

Lois Ford



It's Time Again

This is the time of year to get the new Scholarship Application in the hands of perspective students heading into full time Church work and attending one of our LCMS Concordia colleges. Find the new updated Application on our website (flgalwml.com) or contact me lwmllouisford@yahoo.com

We have ten students that successfully completed this past year and received their full scholarship.

Raleigh Sims (in photo at right with Lois Ford) is an SMP pastor continuing in the GPC (General Pastor Certification) program.

Thank you for your generosity to the Love Gift Fund. For the first time ever, we were able to give each student a \$250 Christmas Gift. One thank-you note said, "It truly makes me heart sing and helps me remember God's generosity toward His people." On his first Sunday home for Christmas break, Stephen Peeler from Faith Eustis was presented his Christmas Gift by Pastor Marc Kappel. (photo below: Pastor Kappel and Stephen)



Other student updates:

- Rachel Lingsch - Utlley is now married and continuing her studies to become a Deaconess.
- Josh Wareham has finished his 2-year vicarage in the Dominican Republic. His original plans were changed, he learned Spanish and will now return for his 4th year at the Seminary in St. Louis. It will be an exciting year for him. He returns home in April and October 3rd he will marry Erin, a career Missionary he met in the D.R. After that.... They will have to wait and see what God's plans are for them.

Keep all these students in your prayers as they continue 'Serving the Lord with Gladness.'

EVANGEL EDITOR

Cynthia Foley



This quarter's theme is inspired by Philippians 2:9-11: *Name Above All Names*. Consider the many names and titles of Jesus to be found in the Scriptures and in our hymnals: Immanuel, Son of God, Wonderful Counselor, Teacher, Great Physician, Lord of Lords, King of Kings, Lamb of God, Son of Man, Messiah, Saviour, Light of the World and others. Some titles are associated with Advent and Christmas. Others belong with Lent and Easter. Each name captures an aspect of Jesus' being or ministry. Together they enable us to draw closer to Jesus.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

My favorite: Lamb of God. It was used by John the Baptist at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. It succinctly describes his prime purpose – to die as a sacrifice in my place, to take away my sins. The angels around the throne of God give endless praise to “the Lamb, who was slain” and yet stands on the throne, with words we repeat in our liturgy: *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!”* (Revelation 5:12)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Louise Cox

Step Up and Lead: Call for LWML FL-GA District Nominations

Let's have a full slate of nominees on the ballot for election at our LWML FL-GA District Convention this September! We are still seeking nominees for these positions:

Vice President Communications, Vice President Mission Service, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee (3 members).

Officers serve a four-year term; Nominating committee members serve for two years.



Officer candidates should have at least two years of leadership experience in their zones or groups. Descriptions of the duties for these positions can be found by selecting “Bylaws” under “About Us” tab on our website, flgalwml.com, or by contacting a member of the nominating committee for more information:

Louise Cox 478-957-7332 grammylou.cox@gmail.com

Carol Jones 954-663-5855 wsjcjaj@aol.com or jonescarol093@gmail.com

Patricia Aamoth 706-247-6641 trish.aamoth@gmail.com

The deadline for the Nominating Committee to receive recommendations for nominees has been extended to March 15, 2026.

Please give prayerful thought to possible candidates to recommend to the nominating committee for consideration for these positions. The committee appreciates your time and your prayers. **Perhaps the Lord is calling you to serve!**

Around the Zones...

NORTHEAST GA ZONE

Kitty Anderson - President

A couple of years ago, I was acquainted with The Great "O" Antiphons, the basis of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, Hymn 357 in the Lutheran Service Book. They are ancient (12th Century), verses used at Vespers on the last seven days of Advent.

I would urge others to become familiar with the words of each "O" Antiphon as a way to bring the days leading up to Christmas Eve service full of purpose and truth. The first, for December 17 is "O" Wisdom, teach us prudence, followed by December 18, with "O" Adonai, redeem us. December 19 to December 22, follows each day, with "O" Root of Jesse, delivers us; "O" Key of David, rescue us; "O" Day Spring, enlighten us; "O" King of Nations, save us. Can anything be more powerful in declaring the names and actions of our Wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ to quiet the fear and misgivings of our daily life in this world.

SOUTHWEST ZONE

Vicky Manietta - President

Of all the women in the Gospels, we know the names of only a handful, (the several Marys, named for Miriam who joined Moses and Aaron in the tent of meeting, Martha, Anna, etc.), but many of the significant women are nameless. One such woman was in the house of Simon the Pharisee. She was labeled only as "sinner" (but aren't we all). After Jesus had been shamed by Simon, she was the one to offer the proper honor. The sinner washed Jesus's feet with her tears and hair (she did not seem prepared for this, otherwise she would have brought water and a towel), then kissed them before pouring out the perfume she had brought. Jesus pronounced

forgiveness of that woman's sins, for her faith had saved her.

Jesus is the one through whom that nameless woman was granted salvation. More than

We want news about YOUR zone!

Send a **paragraph** (50-250 words) **and pictures** to be included in an upcoming issue!

Please identify everyone

Send to **evangel.flga@gmail.com**

that, the name of Jesus means "Yahweh Saves." Hers and all our salvation is granted through the One called by this name. He stands in for all the nameless. His name is enough for each of us to remain nameless in this world. We do not stand on fame or notoriety, only Jesus, for that name - Salvation - is all that we need. We pray in his name, and we gather in his name.

TREASURE COAST ZONE

Betsy Ablott - President

We held a very busy Zone Rally on October 4, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie where we learned about the missionary work going on in Haiti through Habitat for Children Ministry. Our Gifts from the Heart were medical supplies for their clinic. Our spring rally will be in conjunction with the South Palm Beach Zone.

Each church in the zone agreed to gather hygiene or medical supplies for a charity of each church's choosing. We will celebrate this "Zone-a-Goal" at our spring rally, sharing how God has blessed the recipients.

Around the Zones...

TALLAHASSEE ZONE

Cyndy Pieplow - President

Our zone is working on being “Lights” in the footsteps of our Savior the Light to the World.

Messiah is excited to be lights as we host the spring rally April 18th in **Valdosta**. It is the first one since we welcomed our new pastor Rev. Stephen Wareham. We are pleased to have District President, Deaconess Liz Borth attend and share a devotion and notes on the National Convention. We will be busy in March as lights with our annual inside community “garage” sale. It is difficult to do but the results are so worthwhile as the money goes to many nonprofits in our area.

Peace, Tifton rejoices that their cookie walk was a big success. They were able to be lights to the local House of Hope, Meals on Wheels, and the USO at Ft. Stewart. They were happy lights to have their Vicar Greg Rowell ordained and installed as their pastor.

Trinity, Albany let their lights shine by including the congregation in collecting personal items and cleaning items for Liberty House in Albany. It is a non-profit domestic violence shelter.

We continue to find ways, by our actions, to share with others the One who we know as our Savior the Light of the World

ST. PETERSBURG ZONE

Gail Leppert - President

Our fall rally at Grace Lutheran in St Petersburg was on November 1. The theme was “Let your light so shine”. There were about 45 people present. Our speaker was Kevin Stemper from Lutheran Service foster care.

District President Liz Borth was our special guest.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Karen Brasted was elected Zone Treasurer and Sue Laeder was elected VP of Spiritual Growth.



Left to Right: Karen Brasted, Sue Laeder and Pastor Apple

NORTH CENTRAL FL ZONE

Sheryl Lutz - President

This year’s LWML Prayer Service is really nice, and includes some group interaction (but not enough to be scary!).

Our zone held its Annual Prayer Service on Saturday, January 24 at First Lutheran, Inverness. We had 31 ladies, two pastors, plus a wonderful organist. Zone Pastor Terry McKee led our service, with about eight or so ladies from First Lutheran reading the parts. One lady who had never attended an LWML Prayer Service before was so excited. She’s ready for them to host it again!

Our Spring Rally theme verse is my personal favorite: *Be still and know that I am God.* (Psalm 46:10)

Around the Zones...

GREATER ORLANDO ZONE

Carol Lynn Scheer -
President

St. Luke's Church, Oviedo hosted a Ministry Fair. Both the morning and afternoon groups shared an LWML table. They had a variety of LWML brochures as well as mite boxes for adults and children and a sign-up sheet if ladies were interested in attending one of the LWML groups. Groups did different activities during Advent and Christmas, such as Advent Dinner, Advent by Candlelight, Craft Fair, and Christmas Tea.

Groups throughout the Zone work year-round making quilts and sending them to Lutheran World Relief. One group has sponsored a 4th year seminary student, with a family, with a commitment of \$50 per month. At our meetings, the ladies freely donate above our committed tuition. They also had a baby shower as the student's wife was expecting their fourth baby in early February. Zone LWML polo shirts were re-ordered.

SAVE THE DATE

2026 LWML FL-GA District Convention will be in West Palm Beach, FL on **Sept 18-20**.
Theme: "In a divided world, we are woven together in Christ."
Bible verse: John 16:33.

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www.flgalwml.com

Go to "Join Mailing List" at bottom left and type your name and email address.

ZONE RALLY DATES

ATLANTA

St. Mark Lutheran, Tucker
March 21, 2026

EAST CENTRAL GEORGIA

Calvary Lutheran, Warner Robins
April 18, 2026

GREATER ORLANDO

Woodlands Lutheran, Monteverde
March 21, 2026

HEARTLAND

Faith Lutheran, Clewiston
February 21, 2026

NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

Faith Lutheran, Lecanto
April 18, 2026

NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Oak Road Lutheran, Lilburn
April 18, 2026

ST. PETERSBURG

Our Savior Lutheran, St. Petersburg
April 11, 2026

SOUTHWEST

Grace Lutheran, Naples
February 28, 2026

SPACE COAST

Good Shepherd Lutheran, Titusville
May 2, 2026

TALLAHASSEE

Messiah Lutheran, Valdosta
April 18, 2026

TROPICAL

Holy Cross Lutheran, North Miami
April 25, 2026

WINTER HAVEN

Our Savior, Zephyrhills
Date TBA

2024-2026 MISSION GRANTS AS OF 2/16/2026

Highlighted items changed this quarter

GRANT RECIPIENT	GRANT	DISBURSED	BALANCE
#1 Facilitating Futures: Forward Paths for Young Men and Women Aging Out of Foster Care	10,000.00	7,500.00	2,500.00
#2 Reaching College Students So They Thrive in Christ	9,000.00	4,663.50	4,336.50
#3 Wheels of Plenty	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
#4 Center for Seafarer Mental health	8,750.00	0.00	8,750.00
#5 Proclaiming Jesus to the Visually Impaired	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
#6 Christian Care and Early Childhood Education	10,000.00	2,157.50	7,842.50
#7 Surgical Sterilizer	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
#8 Feeding Haitian Children Through Gospel and Meals	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
#9 Who Is My Neighbor? Bible Books for Non-English speakers	8,500.00	8,500.00	0.00
#10 Missionary Couple for Christian Outreach to International Communities in the FloridaGeorgia District	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
#11 Trinity Lutheran Academy Security Locks	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
#12 Buma Village Project (partial)	487.83	487.83	0.00
TOTALS	106,737.83	68,308.83	38,429.00

Praise GOD for His blessings!

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the LWML FL-GA District is to share the love of Christ with women of all ages and diversities and to foster a recognition that the mission field exists both at home and abroad.

LWML National News – www.lwml.org

LWML FL-GA DISTRICT

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Deaconess Liz Borth

VP COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Hanes

VP MISSION GRANTS

Cheri Briggs

VP MISSION SERVICE

Silvia Grasberger

VP SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Linda Meseke

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Kathy McCartin

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sheryl Lutz

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Bunnie Koelsch

SR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

vacant

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

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NOMINATING

Louise Cox

REGISTRAR

Ada Jarmosevich

SCHOLARSHIPS

Lois Ford

STRUCTURE

vacant

WEBMASTER

Stephanie Edgar

YOUNG WOMAN DEVELOPER

Lydia Landes & Ashley Pridgeon

LWML Mite and Mission Grant Report September 2025 (posted January 26th) indicates 11.9% of the mission goal has been received. \$311,501 has been applied to the mission goal in the first quarter of the biennium.

<https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants>

MISSION GRANTS

New Mission Grant Goal is \$2,622,270

All 33 grants are listed at <https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants>

The international grants were

2. Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons
6. Introducing Muslims to the Savior
13. Reaching God's Children in Haiti
14. Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel
16. Teaching of Lutheran Pastors in West Africa
18. Scholarships to Support International Deaconesses
19. Support Rev. Roberto and Katie Weber, Dominican Republic
28. MOST Ministries
32. Proclaiming Christ in Honduras

✦ LWML Presidents Assembly (all District Presidents) meeting in January was cancelled due to inclement weather.

✦ Four LWML leaders spoke at Best Practices Ministry Conference held February 11-14.

- LWML President Eden Keefe spoke on the topic "LWML and Women's Ministry – Competition or Collaboration?"
- LWML Vice President of Christian Life Shari Miller lead a session entitled "Life After...Support for Widows".
- LWML Public Relations Director Debbie Yocky's topic was "Surprise! I'm Leading Today's Devotion- LWML can help".
- Finally, LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach Anne Hartman presented "Mission Grant Writing 101".

✦ Next convention will be July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City.

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