

# *The Mission Voice*

## LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District

2025 Summer Edition

### Reflections from the LWML National Convention

*Growing in God's Grace (2 Peter 3:18)*

The LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District participants gathered in Omaha, Nebraska, from June 26 to 29, 2025, with over 3,700 attendees to hear mission speakers, attend Bible studies, and visit booths in the exhibit area, all under the theme of "*Growing in Grace*." The delegates amended the Bylaws, elected new officers, and selected 33 mission grants totaling \$2,622,270. In addition, the Tee Up 4 Mites golf outing and the Bi-state Mission Walk raised more than \$85,000 to support the national mission grants. It was a joy to grow in His grace with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

If you would like to experience the energy and excitement, the convention highlights can be viewed at [lwml.org/convention](http://lwml.org/convention).

In His service,

Leslie Koenck, LA-MS District President



I attended my second LWML Biennial Conference in Omaha, Nebraska, from June 25th to 29th. This was the first time I attended as a district Pastoral counselor. I participated in the largest procession of pastors in a worship service in my 18 years of ministry, 180 Pastors. It was a blessing to be part of thousands of women in mission praying for and financing over \$2.6 million in mission grants. I also enjoyed being with our district representatives as they dutifully fulfilled the task you sent them to Omaha to take care of. Gerda and I also enjoyed the sights and sounds in the Omaha area, not to mention a very tasty steak. Thanks for allowing me to serve, and I look forward to seeing you all in Houma next year. I have a long history with Grace Lutheran Church in Houma. I was confirmed there in 1977.

In Christ

Pastor Portier, LA-MS District Jr Pastoral Counselor

The Vice-President of Organizational Resources has multiple interests, including serving as Growth and Development Coordinator (YWR), Leader Development Coordinator (identifying special abilities and talents for leadership positions), and Structure Coordinator (overseeing bylaws).

Gathering bylaw information enables communication with not only our 5 Zones but also with our Societies in each Zone. I sent a copy of the bylaws I received via email to each church, along with an outline for updating them. Please send the updated bylaws to me. I only received a few. I have the new binders ready, awaiting your revised bylaws. I expect to copy the updated bylaws onto a flash drive for our district. We still have time to send me the revised bylaws; I would appreciate it if you could hand over the new information to our new VP of Organizational Resources in 2026.

The YWR is also currently listed under Organizational Resources; however, National has listed YWR under Special Focus Ministries. Therefore, while it is still listed under Organizational Resources, please enjoy the available youth resources.

My goal was to share giving with our YWR. They would make two necklaces, keeping one and giving the other to someone else. We made necklaces with small natural, brown, or black wooden crosses strung on a black Nylon 0.8mm string with a poem:



*On those days you're feeling blue...  
Pray each time you touch the cross...  
To calm your heart, your mind and soul ~  
A reminder it's God who makes you whole!*



It is an honor and a blessing to serve our Lord through LWML. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for living and showing your Christ-centered love.

Kathy Capace, LWML LA-MS VP of Organizational Resources

*Proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance (Acts 28:31).*



## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

*Nominations are now being accepted for the election of the following district officers at the 2026 LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention.*

Your willing heart or that of another person who loves LWML is needed to fill the following offices.

- Vice President of Organizational Resources (formerly Servant Resources), currently Kathy Capace
- Vice President of Special Focus Ministries (formerly Human Care), currently Betty Roberson
- Treasurer, currently Joanie Schendel
- Nominating Committee, preferably one from each zone
- Junior Pastoral Counselor, currently Robert Portier, who becomes Senior Pastoral Counselor at the 2026 convention.

All that we need is a name (and preferably a phone number or e-mail address) and the position that this person would best embrace. The nominating committee will contact the person and obtain the necessary

information. Nominees are needed for all positions. Don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the following nominating committee members.

**Lauretta Houston, NC, P.O. Box 1644, Rosepine, LA 70659 or [laurettahouston49@gmail.com](mailto:laurettahouston49@gmail.com)**

**Gerda Portier, 1014 Cressmont Street, Bossier City, LA 71111 or [gerdaportier@gmail.com](mailto:gerdaportier@gmail.com)**

**Terry Kendrick, 152 Road 33, Tupelo, MS, 38801 or [terrykendrick1012@gmail.com](mailto:terrykendrick1012@gmail.com)**

**Anita Granger, 2892 Hardee Road, Lake Charles, LA 70615 or [agrangerlamslwml@gmail.com](mailto:agrangerlamslwml@gmail.com)**

**Deadline: September 30, 2025**

## Zone News

### Mississippi Zone News:

Our LWML MS Zone sisters are preparing to gather for our Zone Rally on August 30th.

Prince of Peace LWML, Corinth, MS, will host the gathering at St. Luke Lutheran church, Starkville, due to this being a more centralized location for the ladies of the zone.

After Bible Study, reports from our National Convention attendees, and conducting Zone business, we will enjoy a potluck luncheon, with a focus on COLD foods. God's peace to all our sisters in Christ.

Sherri Adam, MS Zone President

## Fall Zone Rally dates

*Mississippi Zone:* August 30 at St Luke Lutheran Church, Starkville, MS

*Southwest Zone:* October 4 at Trinity Lutheran, Leesville, LA

*Northern Zone:* October 11 at Christ Church, LA

*Southern Zone:* October 18 at Cross of Calvary Lutheran, Baton Rouge, LA

*New Orleans Zone:* October 18 at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, New Orleans, LA

## Key District Dates

### September

16 Mission Possible Day: Sharing God's grace worldwide

19-20 LA-MS Executive Council & Board of Directors Meeting

30 Deadline for LA-MS District Officers' Nomination

### October

LWML Sunday observed (<https://www.lwml.org/lwml-sunday>)

30 Deadline for LA-MS District Mission Grant Proposals



**2026 LA-MS District Convention**

**April 17 - 19**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**Houma, LA**

## News from the Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

### District Mission Grants



### Goal for Mission Grant #4



**We have collected \$18,600 towards our 2024 – 2026, \$30,000 Mission Grant Goal**

**We have collected \$3,600 towards Grant #4**



### LA-MS District Mission Grant #3 Highlight

Forged by Fire was blessed to have been chosen for a Mission Grant by the LA/MS District. We truly appreciate the financial support and the prayers of the beautiful ladies of the LWML. We could not do this ministry without you! We were able to use your Mission Mites funds to help cover the cost of two new deep freezers for our ministry.

The bonus was being able to fill both units with the products that we use a lot. One freezer is holding 600lbs of pork temple meat. The other freezer is holding 800lbs of our custom smoked sausage. We cannot thank you enough for your support and partnership in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this hurting world.



We hope that we can count on your continued support both in your daily prayers and your partnership with us in sharing the eternal hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Paul M Ernewein*

**The 2026 – 2028 LAMS Mission Grant Applications, Guidelines, and the Photo Release Form are on the LAMS website.**

**Reminder - Memorials go directly to District Mission Grants!**



## LWML Omaha Convention Highlights

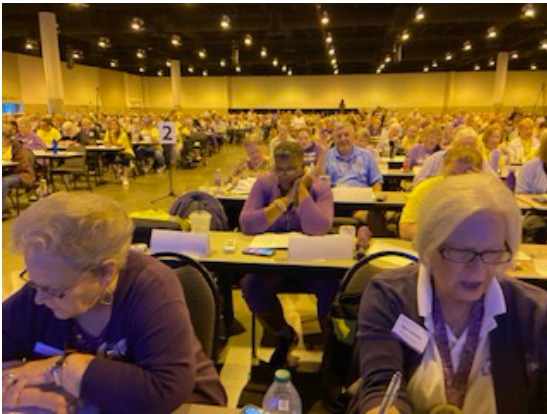


LA-MS delegates Rita Salathe, Lolitha Shapard, and our photographer Jim Slothower. Joanie Schendel and Pastor Portier are pictured below with Rita and Lolitha. Delegates not pictured are Ruth Ozburn and Gladys Brown.

LA-MS delegates and attendees enjoyed a national convention filled with bible studies, mission speakers, and enrichment sessions. The new mission grant goal of \$2,622,270 is a bold act of faith, providing funds for 33 mission grants for the Lord's work both around the world and in the United States.



President Leslie Koenck carries the district banner during the opening processional.



LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison brought greetings to the convention participants.



Mites in Action Speaker – Rev. Paul Ernewein, Forged by Fire Services.



Pastor Portier and Gerda are enjoying Omaha.



Announcing LWML 2025-2027 Grant Goal.