

The Mission Voice

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District

Spring 2026 Issue:



- 2026 LA-MS District Convention
- 2026-2028 District Officers
- 2026-2028 District Mission Grants
- Spring Retreat Registration Form
- District Convention Pictures

2026 Louisiana – Mississippi District Convention

What a fantastic district convention! Our New Orleans Zone ladies put on a wonderful event. We had 90 registered participants who enjoyed fun, fellowship, and a silent auction. The district delegates elected new district officers, voted on amendments to the district bylaws, and on 2026-2028 district mission grants.

The participants' offerings for mission grants totaled \$619, and the offering for district delegate fund was \$911.13. The silent auction featured 100 items and raised \$2,405 for district Mites. Wow! How generous LWML ladies are! Through the convention servant event activity, 200 crosses for Benny were made to support Forged by Fire. These crosses will be given out with each meal served by Forged by Fire. For more information, go to www.weservehope.org.

Societies throughout the LA-MS district held satellite events to make items needed by Phil's Friends (philsfriends.org). The count of items brought: 52 fleece blankets, 105 knitted and crocheted hats, 222 preprinted colored cards of hope, 35 embellished cards of encouragement, 102 port pillows, 29 journals, multiple toiletry items, and 7 activity books. What an awesome collection of items, and we are so blessed by such a great response. As a district, we would like to continue hosting these satellite events for Phil's Friends and collect the next set of items at the 2027 district retreat.

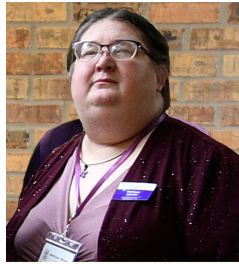


2026-2028 LA-MS District Officers



Rita Salathe
Vice President Of Christian Life

Vice President of Christian Life
Rita Salathe



Melissa Meeks
Vice President Of Communications

Vice President of Communication
Melissa Meeks



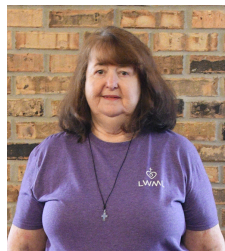
Andrea Ferguson
Vice President Of Gospel Outreach

Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Andrea Ferguson



Yolonda Prevost
Vice President Of Organizational Resources

Vice President of Organizational Resources
Dr. Yolonda Prevost



Kathy Capace
Vice President Of Special Focus Ministries

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
Kathy Capace



Rhonda Jackson
Secretary

Secretary
Rhonda Jackson



Carolyn Huerstel
Treasurer

Treasurer
Carolyn Huerstel



Rev. Robert Portier
Senior Pastoral Counselor

Senior Pastoral Counselor
Rev. Robert Portier



Rev. Richard Rudnik
Junior Pastoral Counselor

Junior Pastoral Counselor
Rev. Robert Rudnik



Leslie Koenck
LA-MS District President

President
Leslie Koenck

2026-2028 Nominating Committee



Judy Tinker
Nominating Committee Chair
Nominating Committee Chair
Judy Tinker



Judy Bartz
Nominating Committee
Nominating Committee
Judy Bartz



Sue McAdams
Nominating Committee
Nominating Committee
Sue McAdams

The Louisiana – Mississippi District BOD has appointed Pam Johnson as the financial secretary. Pam will make the Mites deposits for each society. We have adjusted the processing procedure. Pam will be able to make online deposits for each check received, reducing the time it takes for the checks to be posted to your bank account. The address to send the checks to is

Pam Johnson
11531 Cottagecreek Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

2026 – 2028 MISSION GRANT

- 1. Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time. \$3,500.00**
Funds awarded through this grant will be used to purchase essential items such as food, paper goods, fuel, operational and laundry supplies that directly support our mission of serving individuals and families affected by natural disasters. These resources enable **Forged by Fire Ministries (RSO)** to provide hot meals, spiritual care, and compassionate outreach to those in crisis, ensuring that both physical and emotional needs are met with dignity and grace.
- 2. LSU Chapel Renovations. \$5,000.00**
The grant funds will be used to replace the flooring in the Sunday School and the “cry room” of the church, repair the walls and ceiling in the office area of the church, and repair the flooring in the entrance hall/narthex of the church. It will also help to improve the front aesthetic of the church (“Curb appeal”). **Cross of Calvary, University Lutheran, Baton Rouge, LA.**
- 3. Financial Aid for Church Workers and Seminary Students. \$5,000.00**
The grant money will be used as scholarships as determined by **LCMS Southern District** in an ongoing scholarship fund maintained by LCMS Southern District. We have a history of reaching out to our students to encourage them, letting them know we are backing them. **Christ Lutheran, Shreveport, LA.**
- 4. CTSFW Food Co-op to Purchase Freezers to Store Food. \$5,000.00**
A mission grant from the Louisiana-Mississippi District will help **Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN** to furnish a walk-in freezer for a new Food and Clothing Co-op on the northeast corner of the core campus. The proposed one-level building will be completely accessible and convenient for shoppers and their

families as well as those who wish to drop off donations, with plentiful parking adjacent to the planned site. This building will significantly enhance CTSFW's support for students and their families.

5. Update Audio and Video Equipment. \$4,955.97

The **Village Church Lutheran, Lacombe, LA**, needs updated audio and video equipment to continue live streaming their Sunday services to the public via Facebook. Funds are needed for the following items to continue their ministry: microphones, professional mic stand with a telescoping boom arm, omnidirectional lavalier microphones with locking connector, digital wireless handheld microphone system, camera with 30x optical zoom, micro converter bidirectional SDI/HDMI 3G with a power supply, APC Battery backup, Cables, and quad UHF wireless receiver system.

6. Upbring BeREAL New Orleans. \$5,000.00

This grant will be used by **Lutheran Social Services of the South (RSO)** to support young adults who have not been able to experience typical milestones, to provide assistance to youth as they pursue their education, assist with costs for young adults to earn their driver's license, stabilizing crises in their life, like sudden joblessness, utility shutoffs, or car challenges. To support young adults obtaining certifications, education, life skills development, and other necessities that benefit young adults.

7. Help for Irlen Syndrome Kids. \$1544.03

The Irlen screening, assessment, purchase of glasses, and tinting of glasses is a minimum of \$640.00. It is also necessary that clients have seen an optometrist so that any prescriptive corrections are included in the lenses. The optometrist's fee is not included in the \$640.00 fee. \$250.00 would be applied to the cost, and the parent/guardian would pay the balance. The funds will cover \$250.00, which is the fee to cover the screener/assessor expenses, which will reduce the total cost to the parent/guardian. **Redeemer Lutheran, DeRidder, LA sponsors the screenings.**

What has Trinity Meridian been up to?

Funds2Orgs is an organization that takes the SHOES (new and 'gently used' shoes, boots, and sandals) you collect and ships them to entrepreneurs in 3rd world countries so they can sell them to people in need. Funds2Orgs provides you with bags and bands to contain the SHOES, offers ideas and coaching to help you collect more SHOES, sends a truck to pick up all the SHOES 2 months later, and then pays you 40 cents per pound for your bags of SHOES.

Our small church gathered 95 bags - each with 25 pairs of SHOES - that's 2375 pairs!! We received a check for \$1395.00. You can be glad that thousands of SHOES are kept out of landfills and instead headed to feet that need them. Entrepreneurs receive six bags free (150 pairs of SHOES) AND education on how to run a SHOE shop. They can then order more inventory from Funds2orgs as they need it.

Our LWML ladies emptied closet corners; asked family, friends, and coworkers; canvassed neighborhoods; and lucked out with a local SHOE manufacturer that was changing its logo and wanted to donate hundreds of SHOES to us. Everyone we asked was very generous! We

had an empty classroom at the church to store all the SHOES, and it took up a lot of space to hold a mountain of shoes. Check out the website: *Funds2Orgs.com*. I'll be happy to talk with anyone interested. Funds2Orgs worked well for our small church and might be a blessing to you as well.

Karen Miller

LWML President of Trinity, Meridian, MS



42ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 8–11, 2027

Convention Theme:
Transformed in Christ

2027 Convention Objectives:
Each convention attendee will be:

- ▶ Inspired to proclaim Christ and study God's Word.
- ▶ Transformed and equipped by Christ to serve Him.
- ▶ Encouraged to support missions throughout the world.

Scripture Verse:

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).

Convention Goal Statement:

God's renewing Spirit transforms us to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve Him and Him alone.

For more information, visit lwml.org/convention

2027 LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Christian Life Retreat

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 LA 445 Loranger, LA 70446
Friday, April 30 - Sunday, May 2, 2027

God's Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms

Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant (Psalm 119:76).

Limited Space
Please get your registration in soon!

REGISTRATION FORM

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Christian Life Retreat

Solomon Episcopal Conference Center, 54296 LA 445 Loranger, LA 70446

Friday, April 30 - Sunday, May 2, 2027

God's Quilt of Comfort: Wrapping Up in the Psalms

Name _____

Phone(cell) _____ (home) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Congregation _____ Zone _____

Email address _____

Circle One: Pastor LWML member Guest

REGISTRATION OPTIONS: Please circle the number and letter of your choice

1) Entire weekend - includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, & registration

A. Single \$401

B. Double \$283 Roommate _____

C. Triple \$247 Roommate#1 _____
Roommate #2 _____

2) Saturday & Sunday - includes 1 nights lodging, 3 meals & registration

A. Single \$229

B. Double \$170 Roommate : _____

C. Triple \$152 Roommate#1 _____
Roommate #2 _____

3) Saturday only: includes lunch and registration \$57

Number of rooms is limited – REGISTER EARLY

Mail completed form and payment to: Liz Slothower
26314 Holly Ridge Drive
Denham Springs, LA 70726

2026 LA-MS Convention Pictures



