

# The Mission Voice

## LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District

Winter 2026 issue:

- Mission Grant Update
- 2026 LA-MS District Convention
- Gifts of the Heart
- Nominating Committee Report
- Mission Grant Proposals



### 2024-2026 Mission Grant Progress

Our district has funded the first five district mission grants of the 2024-2026 biennium. These funded grants are

1. Concordia Seminary at St. Louis Food Bank, \$5,000
2. Epiphany Lutheran of Jackson: New Paraments and items for the Altar, \$5000
3. Forged by Fire Services, \$5,000
4. Financial Grant-In-Aid for Church Workers and Seminary Students, \$5,000
5. New Life Pregnancy Center, \$5,000

We have not yet met the final mission grant from **St. Paul Lutheran of Hammond: Handicapped Access Doors, for \$5,000**. These funds will purchase three (3) automatic door-opening kits, including installation. The kits include two push-button activators to assist people with disabilities in accessing the church. If you would like to directly contribute to the 2024-2026 final mission grant, please include "Mission Grant #6" in the memo area. As of Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, we have \$750 toward Grant #6. The 2024-2026 Mites deadline is February 28. Send to LA-MS District, P.O. Box 1644, Rosepine, LA 70659.



**LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention**  
**April 17 -19, 2026**  
**Grace Lutheran, Houma, LA**

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2Peter 3:18).*

Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

Objectives: Each convention attendee will be:

- Inspires to dig deeper in God's Word.
- Nurtured to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm.
- Encouraged to support missions and our mission goal with joy.

## 2026 LA-MS District Convention Information

### Convention Delegates:

The voting assembly of the convention shall be:

1. two certified delegates from each *society* within the district;
2. the members of the Board of Directors; and
3. past District Presidents who are currently members of the LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District.

The zone presidents certify local group delegates to district conventions. Zone presidents, please email the names of the 2 delegates and their alternates for each society in your zone to Rhonda Jackson (rlsj.lwml@gmail.com) and Leslie Koenck (lkoencklwml@gmail.com) by February 21.

**Silent Auction:** As excitement builds for the 2026 LWML LA-MS District Convention, I wanted to share more information about the Silent Auction for our District Mites. Each church society is asked to bring an item for the silent auction. Think of an item you would bid on at the auction. All proceeds will support the LA-MS District Mites. The auction items will be brought to the convention. For questions, please contact Alida Olson at [alidabita@yahoo.com](mailto:alidabita@yahoo.com).

Please help support the Lord's work as we use 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 lives.

### Hotel Reservations:

*Convention Hotel:* Homewood Suites by Hilton Houma, 142 Citiplace Drive, Houma, LA 985-262-0145. *Direct link:* [LA-MS District Conference 2026](#)

*Room rates:*

1 King bed Studio suite (sleeps 4)	\$109
1 King bed 1 bedroom Suite (sleeps 4)	\$119
2 Queen beds 2-bedroom suite (sleeps 6)	\$119

*The deadline for Homewood Suites registration for the LA-MS block rooms is April 1, 2026.*

### Preconvention Agenda

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

4:30 – 6:30 p.m. LA-MS District Executive Committee Meeting at Grace Lutheran Church

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

##### **PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES**

8:30 – 11:30 a.m. LA-MS District Board of Directors Meeting at Grace Lutheran Church

1:00 – 6:30 p.m. Registration Open; Gifts from the Heart ingathering

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Servant Events Open

1:00 – 6:30 p.m. LWML Store, Silent Auction, and Exhibits Open

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Delegate Orientation

4:30 – 4:45 p.m. Appointed Committees Meeting (Tellers, Minute Review, Ushers)

4:45 – 5:00 p.m. Friday Evening & Saturday Morning Processional Rehearsal

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dinner and fellowship

## FIRST CONVENTION SESSION

7:15 p.m. Pre-Worship Music/Singing begins  
7:30 p.m. Processional and Convention Opening

## Service Events for Phil's Friends and Benny's Crosses



The LA-MS District Board of Directors encourages each society to participate in a fun volunteer service opportunity in February 2026. Our district societies can support Phil's

Friends' mission by organizing a heart-themed service project and creating items for the Care Packages, such as blankets, hats, handmade cards, decorated journals, and chemo port pillows. By sharing Phil's Friends' mission service activities with our church family, neighbors, and community groups, we can make a difference by spreading hope.

For more details of care package items, please use this link: <https://philsfriends.org/volunteer/>

Each individual and society is asked to bring the items made to the 2026 LA-MS District Convention in Houma, LA. Please do not hesitate to contact Rhonda Jackson at [rlsj.lwml@gmail.com](mailto:rlsj.lwml@gmail.com) with any questions you may have.



The idea came to mind after the death of a dear friend of the Erneweins. Pastor Paul had given Benny this style of cross. It served as a reminder of God's love when Benny was in the hospital after he was diagnosed with cancer. For the next few years that cross rarely came off his neck as he battled this horrific disease. Benny died at the age of 49, wearing the cross that meant so much to him. We want to share that hope and comfort with as many people as possible - fulfilling our mission of sharing our Savior, one meal at a time.

## Gifts from the Heart

The Haven is a refuge for individuals and families affected by domestic violence. Over the years, they have provided numerous services to those in the community. In 2024 alone, the Haven served nearly 500 families from all walks of life, providing over 9000 nights of shelter and 1200 support services. They also helped 125 families with rental assistance. Please join in showing grace to the Haven by freely donating the requested items below.

DONATION LIST: HAND SOAP, BODY WASH, DEODERANT, LOTION, HAIRBRUSHES, COMBS, KLEENEX, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SOCKS, SHAMPOO, RINSELESS SHAMPOO, BABY BIBS, BURPING CLOTHS, PUZZLE BOOKS, CRAYON, ADULT & CHILDREN COLORING BOOKS, COLORING PENCILS. Please share this list with the LWML ladies in your zones and societies.

Betty C. Roberson, MSN, BSN, FCN  
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

*In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).*

## **District Mission Grant Proposals for the 2026-2028 Biennium**

Upbring BeREAL New Orleans Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc., dba Upbring  
\$5,000.00

Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time, Forged by Fire (RSO).  
\$3,500.00

Gospel Access for Aging Adults, Worship Anew (RSO)  
\$5,000.00

Support for LCMHS Belize Mercy House Project, Immanuel Lutheran Church (Mary Martha LWML Group)  
\$5,000.00

Changed Lives, Shared Word: Restoring the Bible Printing Fund, Lutheran Bible Translators  
\$5,000.00

Financial Aid for Church Workers and Seminary Students, Christ Lutheran Church (Daughters of Christ)  
\$5,000.00

God's Word for Teenagers Around the World, Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) (RSO)  
\$2,500.00

Shepherd's Heart (RSO), Our Savior LCMS (Dorcas Group), Columbus, MS  
\$3,000.00

Sharing the Light of Christ's Love, Lutheran Braille Workers (RSO)  
\$5,000.00

Nourishing Bodies and Souls in Haiti, Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
\$5,000.00

Be Thou My Vision – Eyeglass Evangelism Outreach, MOST Ministries (RSO)  
\$3,000.00

CTSW Food Co-op to Purchase Freezers to Store Food, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana \$5,000.00

Wrapping Families in Christ's Love, Camp Restore Detroit (RSO)  
\$5,000.00

Update Audio and Video Equipment, Village Church Lutheran  
\$4,955.97

Forming Faithful Youth in Christ's Gifts, Higher Things (RSO)  
\$5,000.00

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following slate of officer candidates is ready to present to the LWML LA-MS District for the 2026 April Convention Election:

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Yolanda Worner Preavost

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Kathy Capace  
Lolitha Shepard

Treasurer

Carolyn Huerstel  
Pam Johnson

Junior Pastoral Counselor

Emil Gretarsson  
Limakatso Nare  
Richard Rudnik

Nominating Committee (3 to be selected)

Sharilyn Adam  
Judy Bartz  
Gladys Brown  
Sue McAdams  
Judy Tinker  
Joanie Schendel



***“Growing in God's Grace”***  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Biennial LWML LA-MS District Convention**  
**Grace Lutheran Church ~ 422 Valhi Blvd, Houma, LA**  
**April 17- 19, 2026**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Please Print: Check One:**

Name: _____	General Registration
Address: _____	Society delegate _____ Alternate
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	District Board of Directors
Phone number: _____	Past District President
Email: _____	Pastor
Church: _____	Guest or Exhibitor
City: _____	DCE _____ Deaconess
Zone: _____ Society: _____	Young Woman Representative YWR
	District _____ Zone _____ Society

**Convention Registration Fee:** (Includes Conference facilities, materials, programming and speakers)

Pastors {No registration fee is charged to Pastors).....	\$ 0
YWR, DCE, Deaconess, rostered church worker.....	\$ 35    \$ _____
All others.....	\$ 65

**Please check all that may be applicable:**

- Servant event Friday afternoon
- Choir participation
- Special needs  Large Print booklet  Interpreter  Wheelchair accessibility \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions: (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals:** Please check meals you are ordering and include payment with the registration fee

<b>Friday dinner</b> <input type="checkbox"/> red beans & rice & sausage, garden salad, bread, cake, water	\$20.00 _____
<b>Saturday box lunch</b> <input type="checkbox"/> chicken salad <input type="checkbox"/> turkey or <input type="checkbox"/> ham sandwich (Check one) with chips, cookie, water	\$15.00 _____
<b>Saturday Banquet</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Fried chicken or <input type="checkbox"/> Baked chicken {Check one), salad, yellow rice, green beans, dinner roll and cake, sweet or unsweetened tea	\$30.00 _____
<b>Sunday Brunch</b> – Eggs, sausage, grits, with biscuits & gravy, coffee or tea	\$10.00 _____
<b>Total Payment:</b> _____	

**Permission Release:** I grant to LWML LA-MS the right and permission to take photographs and audio/video recordings during my participation. I agree that these images and recordings may be used in LWML's promotional literature, audio-visual presentations, and written and electronic publications such as the District's newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Convention Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration to be completed by April 1, 2026**

Mail check (payable to LA-MS District LWML) and Registration Form to:

**Oddistine Moore**  
**311 Brett Drive**  
**Gretna, LA 70056**