

A Message from President Cheryl

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it. Every morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended, In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended. LSB 869 vs. 1

The ladies of the Decatur zone have been at their task of preparing for the District Convention; I have been preparing my tasks too. **NOW** comes the time for you and your group to prepare. While our convention will be a day spent with each other in the **LIGHT** of our Savior, we do have tasks and decisions to make in several areas. Hopefully, this Clarion will give explanation and added details to help make informed decisions when voting at convention.

First, this Clarion contains **MUCH** convention information. I, as president, decided it would be a much more efficient way to get this to each of you. The expense of paper, printing, postage and unreliable mail service was the decisive factor. **Each group is receiving this just as they would a printed copy.**

PLEASE INFORM ALL IN YOUR GROUP OF THIS CLARION. I have asked all zone presidents to follow up with you to be sure you have access.

Specific points I want to make and explain:

1. This Clarion includes a welcoming invitation. The hotel information, registration forms, breakout session descriptions, and choice selections. Also, there will be Servant Events Information, along with Ingathering's Information, Bylaws Changes, and Mission Grant Proposals. Lastly there are Officer Biographies for elections.
2. I am excited that our Speaker Martha Dahlke will address our theme 'for the Lord shall be thine Everlasting Light' with her knowledge of LCMS missions. Linda Guterres, LWML VP of Communication will bring LWML news to us. Rev. Meyer will lead our Bible study. The joy of fellowship and being in the Light will be experienced by you!
3. The delegates will have several issues before them. I ask that your group meet and give to the delegates your input. **Step up and be that delegate!**
4. In the business meeting we will address/vote upon these issues:
 - A. Annual or Biennial conventions going forward
 - B. Bylaws Changes:
 - a. Bonding of Financial Secretary and Treasurer
 - b. Mission Grant Procedures

C. Officer Selection

D. Mission Grant Selection

Further explanation of A: A motion will be made to allow for discussion of moving to annual or biennial conventions. This does not require bylaws change. Discussions should be brief and respectful. Hopefully you have been made aware of this issue at your fall rally and have held group discussions about it.

Further explanation of B: Bonding of our officers is done through National insurance coverage and now not required of us as a district cost. The Mission Grant Procedure would allow Student Aid for Church workers to be first selection each voting period and not be a ballot item. Funding is explained in the bylaw.

Further explanation of D: This voting is dependent upon the decision regarding annual or biennial convention. Included in your invitation are 2 different Grant Proposal Sheets. One is for 2026-2027. The other is 2026-2028. Two *different* mite goals are listed. In the 2-year period, more grants will be selected. The **Grant Proposal descriptions are listed differently**. By bylaw, the grants are listed in order received. Delegates will need to be aware of which proposals they want to select. Remember the name perhaps not the letter. **YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE APPROPRIATE BALLOT TO VOTE ON CONVENTION DAY.**

I am hopeful this helps explain the many necessary papers in this invitation. **DO NOT BE OVERWHELMED.** Any questions, ask your zone president or myself.

We are dedicated to Serving our Lord and Spreading the news of the Gospel and our Everlasting Light! Lastly, go to your hymnal and read LSB Hymn 869 in its entirety.



Message from outgoing Recording Secretary – Vickie Douglas

Greetings to my LWML sisters.

As I'm writing this, I have just finished sending my last set of minutes to the district board. I have almost completed my four-year term as recording secretary, and I only have the 2026 district convention left.

So, what is my take-away from this experience? I've learned a lot in four years. I came in with the skills. I knew how to write well and listen. I knew how to take notes. But I had never served at the district level before. What was expected of me? What was the procedure for a meeting?

Now, four years later, I've learned all of that and more and I have systems in place that make my job more efficient. But beyond the mechanics of the role, I've seen how LWML is so much bigger than my local group, how we literally affect lives around the world. I've met women and men from all over Illinois who share my love for Christ and are committed to his service.

To put it simply, I've grown. Thank you for letting me serve as your secretary. God's

Blessings to you all.

Vickie Douglas
Recording Secretary

March 9, 2026

Dear LWML Members, Pastors, & Church Workers,

The Decatur Zone invites you join with them for the 81st annual LWML CID Convention to be held on Saturday, **April 25, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Court, Decatur.** Parking is available on site. The convention will begin at 8:45 am. Registration and morning refreshments will start at 7:45 am. Lunch will be a catered meal.

Our theme is "*for the Lord shall be thine Everlasting Light*" Isiah 60:20. We are honored to have Martha Dahlke, Director, Campaigns & Special Initiatives, Mission Advancement, LCMS, as our keynote speaker. LWML Vice President of Communications Linda Guterres will be our national board representative.

We have several "Gifts from the Heart recipients. One will be Orphan Grain Train who will have a truck there for collections Saturday morning, 7:30 to 9:30 am. The local collection will be for God's Shelter of Love and New Life Pregnancy Center. MOST ministries will take eyeglasses.

Please see the included flyer for more details.

Pre-convention servant events and evening activities will take place on **Friday, April 24, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2727 N. Union St in Decatur.** Servant events begin at 1 pm. See the attached flyer for activities. A light supper will be served at 5 pm with a free will offering. The worship service with communion will begin at 6:15 pm. The worship service will conclude the evening.

Each group is encouraged to send two (2) delegates, and name two (2) alternates in case one or both delegates cannot attend. ***We have important*** work to ***do at this convention and your group's input is essential.*** A decision regarding annual or biennial conventions, bylaws changes, mission grant selections and officer election are all items we will vote on. The voice of your group is needed!

Enclosed you will find the registration forms. **If necessary, please make copies of all the papers in the invitation packet for distribution to your group's members. Or know that they have access to the special Convention Clarion that contains this information.** Groups are encouraged to pay the registration for your pastors or even your delegates, if you are able.

Please read carefully. Each person attending must fill out a registration form that includes the breakout session choices. Please return the forms with the \$35 registration fee which covers lunch, no later than April 10th. All checks should be made payable to LWML Decatur Zone.

Our convention offering is given to God's Glory with 50% going to MITES and 50% going to the OPERATING ACCOUNT, per CID guidelines.

AREA HOTELS:

A block or rooms has been reserved at each of the hotels listed below for your stay on Friday, April 24. Rate does not include taxes.

1. Quality Inn 134 Barnett Ave Forsyth, IL 217-413-4551 Rate: \$72.00
2. Sleep Inn Decatur I-72 3920 East Hospitality Lane Rate: \$82.00
Decatur, IL 217-329-3108
3. Comfort Inn & Suites Decatur-Forsyth 5170 N. Wingate Dr. Rate: \$127.00
Forsyth, IL 217-875-5500

Enclosures:

Registration Form

Servant Events & Breakout Sessions Selections Breakout Session Descriptions

Speaker & LWML Speaker Biographies Servant Events & Ingathering Flyer

By Law Changes

Mission Grant Proposals

Decatur map

Officer Biographies

Your LWML Sister & Decatur Convention Chairman.

Sandy Haseley

(217) 620-3442

REGISTRATION FORM-2026 LWML CID CONVENTION

Please make copies or email the entire invitation packet to your group members. Each attendee should return their completed registration form, **2 pages**, to Denise Gentry (see address below).

Registration Fee: \$35.00 (includes registration and lunch). **Registration Deadline is April 10, 2026**, and any registrations received after that date will be charged an additional \$10.00 late fee. The Friday evening meal at 5:00 pm will be a freewill donation.

COPY FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Email _____ Phone () _____
LWML CID Zone _____ Group Name _____
Congregation Name _____ City _____

This is a catered meal. If you have dietary restrictions, please contact Sandy Haseley at (217) 620-3442.

Check the appropriate category (each group is allowed 2 voting delegates and 2 alternates)

- _____ Voting Delegate #1 (District board members may not be a group's delegate)
- _____ Voting Delegate #2
- _____ Alternate #1
- _____ Alternate #2
- _____ Past District President (voting)
- _____ District Board Member (voting) — this includes Zone Presidents
- _____ Pastor or Vicar
- _____ Young Woman Representative or Teen
- _____ Deaconess or DCE
- _____ General Registration
- _____ Guest

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Registration Deadline is April 10, 2026

Friday evening meal-- Free Will Donation

MAIL FORM & REGISTRATION FEE TO:

Denise Gentry
2809 E Wood St
Decatur IL 62521
(217)454-4751

SERVANT EVENTS -Friday, April 24th 1:00 – 4:00 pm

At St. John's Lutheran Church, 2727 N. Union St., Decatur IL

Please check which servant event you would like to do.

____ I will be attending the Friday afternoon servant events

____ Church Servant Events AT St. John's

OFFSITE ____ Northeast Foundation Food Bank ____ LSA Store LIMITED to 6 each

____ I will be attending the Friday evening meal at 5:00pm -this meal is a freewill donation

____ I will be attending Saturday convention only

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Saturday Morning Breakout Sessions (delegates & voting members cannot attend the morning session) Please indicate 1st and 2nd choices

1. ____ Rev. Timothy Schnare, Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 2. ____ Angela Kargbo, Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch -Exploring how spiritual life nurtures hope, identity, and healing for youth in residential care
 3. ____ Alicia 'Lee' Hinton, Operation Barnabus Coordinator-Beyond Thank You for your service
 4. ____ Kelly Bone, MOST Ministries-Rooted in Christ, Reaching the World
-

Saturday Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Please indicate 1st and 2nd choices

1. ____ Rev. Timothy Schnare, Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 2. ____ Angela Kargbo, Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch-Exploring how spiritual life nurtures hope, identity, and healing for youth in residential care
 3. ____ Alicia 'Lee' Hinton, Operation Barnabus Coordinator-Beyond Thank You for your service
 4. ____ Kelly Bone, MOST Ministries-Rooted in Christ, Reaching the World
 5. ____ Linda Guterres, LWML VP of Communication-Let's Communicate
 6. ____ Martha Dahlke, LCMS Mission Advancement-
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PHOTO RELEASE STATEMENT:

I grant to the LWML Central Illinois District and its personnel the right and permission to take photographs during my convention participation, and to retain, publish and distribute, without charge of fee, such photographs. I agree that these images may be used in publications, including electronic publications and websites, and in other similar ways.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

2026 Breakout Session Descriptions

MORNING SESSIONS

Session 1: Rev. Tim Schnare, Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)

Rev. Schnare will share the story of Lutheran Heritage Foundation and tell of LWML's connection in doing their mission work.

Session 2: Angela Kargbo, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

This session explores the evolving landscape of children's residential treatment and its essential role in supporting young people with complex mental health needs. We will look at how trauma informed practices, therapeutic structure, and family engagement come together to create healing centered environments. Discover how a focus on spiritual life can serve as a powerful source of grounding, identity and hope for children who have suffered from trauma and abuse.

Session 3: Alicia "Lee" Hinton, Admin Coordinator, Ministry to the Armed Forces

Beyond "Thank You for Your Service": Practical Ways to Support Military Connected Individuals, Service Members, veterans, and family members as they face unique challenges related to military life and transitions. This session introduces Operation Barnabas and shares practical, Christ-centered ways LWML groups and congregations can support military connected individuals through prayer, presence and everyday acts of care.

Session 4: Kelly Bone, MOST Ministries

Rooted in Christ, we are called to 'Go and Make Disciples' (Matthew 28:19). Come and hear how MOST Ministries brings together team members, prepares them to serve, and sends them to communities around the world that need to hear the Gospel. Learn how these communities are directly impacted through our short term mission teams. By engaging with the world, we can demonstrate the love and hope that our faith offers, inspiring change and growth in ourselves and others.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Session 1: Rev. Tim Schnare, Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)

See Morning Session Description

Session 2: Angela Kargbo, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch

See Morning Session Description

Session 3: Alicia "Lee" Hinton, Admin Coordinator, Ministry to the Armed Forces

See Morning Session Description

Session 4: Kelly Bone, MOST Ministries

See Morning Session Description

Session 5: Martha Dahlke, LCMS, Director of Campaigns and Special initiatives for Mission Advancement, Mission Service Advocate serving 9 western states

Plugging into missions-How you and your ladies can connect to short-term teams, FOROS and Missionary networks.

Let's Communicate- Let's see where this breakout session goes!

Keynote Speaker Martha Dahlke

Martha is a mission advocate serving congregations, groups and individuals in North and South Dakota, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. She also serves as the director of campaigns and special initiatives for LCMS Mission Advancement. Both roles afford her the opportunity to serve God's people with a heart for growing Christ's kingdom through their joyful giving. She is here to listen, support and encourage you in your faithful support of Christ's mission and ministry through The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

We are called to serve Christ's church through our vocation. For some that means traveling to far off lands. For others that means lifting up these missionaries in prayer and in monetary support. God has called Martha to serve His people through Philanthropic gifts, first at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and now with our synod for the past 18 years.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband, Daniel and seeking out historical sites. She enjoys baking and cooking. And cheering her nieces and nephews in their events. Her favorite hymn is "*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*". It is a daily reminder that God has blessed her much more richly than she could ever deserve by making the ultimate sacrifice of His Son's precious bleed as a ransom for her sin.

LWML Vice President of Communication Linda Guteres

Linda was elected to this position at the 2025 Omaha convention. She has been blessed by being married to Robert for over 40 years and being the mother of four grown sons. She has two daughters-in-love as well as four precious grandchildren. Wading River, New York is her home. She worked as the business manager of Longwood Public Library. Retiring in June of 2025, she was hired back as a part-time senior account clerk. She has served many positions in throughout LWML on many levels.

She does her best to listen and follow where God leads. She also enjoys writing, reading, crafting, gardening, and telling everyone she meets about the hope and undying love of her Risen Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Linda's favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 12:2, *Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is y strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.*

2026 LWML CID SERVANT EVENTS & IN GATHERING

FRIDAY APRIL 24

CHURCH SERVANT EVENTS

TYING QUILTS

MARKING BIBLES AND MAKING ZIPPER PULLS FOR LLL STAND

COLORING CARDS FOR PHIL'S FRIENDS

OFFSITE EVENTS

ONLY TAKING 6 PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH VENUE

NORTHEAST FOUNDATION FOOD BANK 1pm-3pm

LSA Store 1pm-3pm

SATURDAY APRIL 25

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN truck will be at St Paul Church parking lot **7:30-9:30**

ALL IN GATHERING ITEMS will be collected on Saturday

GOD'S SHELTER OF LOVE

New socks and underwear for children and female adults

Personal items (tooth brushes, mouth wash, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner

Cleaning supplies (bleach, and paper towels)

Paper products (tissues, plates)

Treats for children

NEW LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER

Toddler socks, baby wash clothes, new bottles, size 5 & 6 diapers

When making a donation, please make checks payable to the organization.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES
LWML Central Illinois District

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 1

ARTICLE VIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Proposed amendment: to delete the requirement that the financial secretary shall be bonded at the expense of the district.

Rationale: now that all volunteers of LWML are covered by the Dishonesty Liability Coverage Insurance through the Employee Theft Coverage and Crime Coverage and that officers would no longer be required to be bonded, this bylaw is no longer required.

Current Bylaw	Proposed bylaw
Section 7 (a) The Financial Secretary shall: (a) Be bonded at the expense of the LWML CID for an amount determined by the Executive Committee.	New Section 7 (a) The Financial Secretary shall: Delete the current (a) and the remaining subsections in this section shall be re-lettered accordingly.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 2

ARTICLE VIII—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Proposed amendment: to delete the requirements that the treasurer shall be bonded at the expense of the district and to renew the fidelity bond for the Financial Secretary and Treasurer upon expiration.

Rationale: now that all volunteers of LWML are covered by the Dishonesty Liability Coverage Insurance through the Employee Theft Coverage and Crime Coverage and that officers would not be required to be bonded, these subsections are no longer required.

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
Section 8 (a and b) The Treasurer shall: (a) Be bonded at the expense of the LWML CID for an amount determined by the Executive Committee. (b) Renew fidelity bond for Financial Secretary and Treasurer upon expiration.	New Section 8 The Treasurer shall: Delete the current (a) and (b) and the remaining subsections in this section shall be re-lettered accordingly.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 3

ARTICLE XV – MISSION GRANT PROCEDURE

Proposed amendment: to allow “Student Aid for Church Workers” to become an automatic mission grant without having to place it on the ballot for voting by convention delegates.

Rationale: Since 1990, “Student Aid for Church Workers” has been voted on and funded annually as a mission grant.

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
<p>Section 1</p> <p>Proposals for Gospel-centered mission grants shall be submitted to the LWML CID Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants and bear a USPS postmark of, or an email date of, no later than October 31. The proposed mission grants may be submitted by LWML CID members, groups, zones, LWML CID, and by an LCMS representative(s) and/or an LCMS CID representative(s).</p>	<p>New Section 1</p> <p>“Student Aid for Church Workers” will be an automatic mission grant that does not need to be voted on by the voting body.</p> <p>The total mission grant financial goal will include the amount for “Student Aid for Church Workers.” The “Student Aid for Church Workers” mission grant yearly amount shall be set by the LWML CID Board upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee at the annual October Board meeting.</p> <p>And re-number the current sections accordingly</p>

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 4

ARTICLE XV – MISSION GRANT PROCEDURE

Proposed amendment: will clarify that “Student Aid for Church Workers” is an automatic mission grant and does not need to be voted on.

Rationale: to avoid confusion when voting members do not see “Student Aid for Church Workers” on the slate of mission grants to be voted on.

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
<p>Section 3 (b)</p> <p>The LWML CID in convention shall adopt mission grants from the slate of approved proposals submitted by the Mission Grants Committee. Voting shall be by ballot.</p>	<p>New Section 4 (b)</p> <p>The LWML CID in convention shall adopt mission grants from the slate of approved proposals submitted by the Mission Grants Committee. Voting shall be by ballot. Student Aid for Church Workers is an automatic grant and does not need to be voted on; a statement to this effect will be on the convention mission grant ballot.</p>

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 5

ARTICLE XV – MISSION GRANT PROCEDURE

Proposed amendment and Rationale: to incorporate when scholarships for Student Aid for Church Workers will be paid while also funding approved mission projects voted on by the convention body.

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
<p>Section 3 (g)</p> <p>(g) Mission grants receiving the highest number of votes shall be the adopted mission grants for the coming year and shall be funded in order, provided that the recipients are ready to put the funds to use, according to their original request.</p>	<p>New Section 4 (g)</p> <p>(g) Mission grants receiving the highest number of votes shall be the adopted mission grants for the coming current fiscal year and shall be fully funded in order of number of votes received. Student Aid for Church Workers shall be the first grant fully funded at a level or amount as determined by the LWML CID Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Provided that the recipients are ready to put the funds to use, according to their original request.</p>

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 6

ARTICLE XV – MISSION GRANT PROCEDURE

Proposed amendment & Rationale: to bring this section into current LWML CID practice.

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw
<p>Section 4</p> <p>The Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants, as Mission Grants Chairman, notifies the recipients of the favorable vote of the convention and instructs them to stay in communication with this Chairman, notifying her when funds are needed.</p>	<p>New Section 5</p> <p>The Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants, as Mission Grants Chairman, notifies the recipients of the favorable vote of the convention and will notify each recipient when their funds become available.</p>

2026 - 2027 LWML CID Mission Grant Proposals

LWML CID Board of Directors recommends the following to the LWML CID Convention delegates:

A Mission Goal of \$110,000 for 2026-2027 with twenty-five percent (25%) for National projects and seventy-five percent (75%) for CID projects to be voted on by the delegates and prioritized by the number of votes.

The 2026 LWML CID Convention Delegates will vote for five (5) mission projects.

A. Family 4 Life in CID-----\$10,947

Y4Life, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life, desires funds for the creation and distribution of educational resources for families of young children birth through grade three. These resources would include Lil' Lutheran Activity pages, posters, Family 4Life Kits, and if interested, a one-day conference in CID on raising kids for life. Each component will equip parents with young children, Lutheran teachers, and pastors in the CID to begin addressing life issues that revolve around gender and sexuality, identity, safe touch, family, and marriage. In an effort to prepare adults to counter the cultural push to include secular standards for sexuality, Y4Life's efforts will produce child-friendly, Gospel-motivated resources.

B. Lutheran Books for Little Children Around the World -----\$ 5,000

Every year, Lutheran Heritage Foundation receives overseas emergency requests for children's Bible books, translated into the languages of the people, so that they may introduce children to the Savior. At a cost of only \$4 per book, this grant will provide at least 1,250 brightly-illustrated children's Bible books in the languages of the people to be served.

C. Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time in the US-----\$ 7,500

Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time is the mission for Forged by Fire Services. They serve individuals and families living in communities across the United States who are recovering from natural disasters. Those in disaster-stricken areas will receive spiritual care, a freshly prepared meal, a cross necklace provided by LWML women from around the US, devotional materials, Bibles and eventually, thanks to a LWML National Mission Grant, be able to do laundry. These grant funds would be used to purchase food for the meals, Bibles, devotional materials, and other operating costs.

D. Children's Books for LHM State Fair Booth-----\$10,000

Central Illinois District Lutheran Laymen's League sponsors a tent at the Illinois State Fair annually. At the 2025 Fair Booth, the following children's books were given away: 776 copies of CPH hardback book "120 Bible Stories" and 960 copies of CPH "Story of Jesus Coloring and Activity Book". The grant would help to purchase 1,000 copies of each of the two books mentioned previously. This project received funding in 2025.

E. Gospel Access for Aging Adults in CID-----\$13,000

We seek support to equip LCMS congregations in the CID with resources to connect aging adults with God's Word. Each week, aging adults can hear the Gospel through a weekly worship message on Worship Anew, can grow in His Word through daily devotionals in Hope-Full Living, can find understanding in the circumstances through practical articles in the Broadcaster magazine, and can see God's love by receiving a care package. Through your support, Worship Anew can connect churches to these resources that they can then share with aging adults in their congregations, especially with those who are homebound.

F. Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ-----\$12,500

Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ is a Recognized Service Organizations (RSO) of LCMS with over 50 years of evangelism and youth ministry experience. They offer training to youth and adults, assisting in evangelism and strengthening the faith of all who participate in any way. Currently, Oafc has two major projects: 1) Working with Central IL, Southern IL, and Southern WI District to recruit and train groups of adults to do Oafc-style events with churches looking to connect with their communities, and 2) Working with the Synodical Office of National Mission with church plants around the country, aiding in canvassing communities to invite the local community to church. Funds would be used for those two projects.

G. Set Apart to Serve-----\$10,000

There is a great need for pastors, teachers, and church workers throughout the Synod. We need to be intentional about talking to our youth about opportunities to become church workers and supporting those who pursue these sacred and joyful vocations. Set Apart to Serve, a Synodical initiative, is building a culture of church work formation and recruitment to raise up future pastors and church workers. Funds would be used for staff, travel, workshops, conferences, resource development, etc.

H. Care Packages: Whole-Person Care—Phil's Friends-----\$ 5,000

Phil's Friends is dedicated to supporting cancer patients across the US by distributing free, personalized Care Packages filled with items that offer practical, emotional, and spiritual encouragement, including a Bible. Afterwards, each recipient receives monthly Cards of Hope—featuring Scripture and prayer- and ongoing prayer support for an entire year. Funds would be used to purchase the various items included in each care package and cover the cost of printing the cards of hope for 40 patients.

I. Help Pastors, Church Workers, and Spouses go to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat -- \$ 5,000

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is an LCMS RSO (Recognized Service Organization) led by Rev. Kevin Bueltmann that provides week-long counseling retreats and has successfully helped hundreds of ministry workers over the years who are in various stages of burnout, stress, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds, many of whom were ready to quit the ministry. The CID LWML grant funds will be used for scholarships for pastors, ministry workers, and spouses to attend a Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.

J. Deaconess Kim Bueltmann in Germany-----\$10,000

Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, Refuge Outreach Facilitator, assists congregations in Leipzig and Chemnitz, Germany, providing outreach to socioeconomically disadvantaged Germans and refugees who are primarily from Iran and Afghanistan. She is trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, offering diaconal support and teaching the Bible and catechism to refugees and socioeconomically disadvantaged Germans. She is actively involved in worship planning, leading music for worship in the Farsi language, and developing more hymns and the liturgy in Farsi. The CID LWML grants funds would be used to provide the annual support needed for Deaconess Bueltmann to continue the Lordi's work in Germany. Deaconess Bueltmann received funding in 2025.

K. Hands that Serve, Hearts that See: Free Bibles in Braille and Large Print-----\$12,000

Lutheran Braille Workers requests these funds to produce and freely distribute approximately 3,000 volumes of Scripture and Christ-centered materials in Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Prison Large Print formats. These materials would be produced through LBW's Ministry Production Centers in Effingham, Peoria, and Decatur and distributed at no cost to recipients. The project is ready to implement immediately upon funding, with current requests in queue from individuals, congregations, schools, and prison chaplaincies. This project received funding in 2025.

2026 - 2028 LWML CID Mission Grant Proposals

LWML CID Board of Directors recommends the following to the LWML CID Convention delegates:

A Mission Goal of \$220,000 for 2026-2028 with twenty-five percent (25%) for National projects and seventy-five percent (75%) for CID projects to be voted on by the delegates and prioritized by the number of votes.

The 2026 LWML CID Convention Delegates will vote for ten (10) mission projects.

A. Family 4 Life in CID-----**\$10,947**

Y4Life, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life, desires funds for the creation and distribution of educational resources for families of young children birth through grade three. These resources would include Lil' Lutheran Activity pages, posters, Family 4Life Kits, and if interested, a one-day conference in CID on raising kids for life. Each component will equip parents with young children, Lutheran teachers, and pastors in the CID to begin addressing life issues that revolve around gender and sexuality, identity, safe touch, family, and marriage. In an effort to prepare adults to counter the cultural push to include secular standards for sexuality, Y4Life's efforts will produce child-friendly, Gospel-motivated resources.

B. Lutheran Books for Little Children Around the World -----**\$ 5,000**

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C. Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time in the US-----**\$ 7,500**

Sharing our Savior, One Meal at a Time is the mission for Forged by Fire Services. They serve individuals and families living in communities across the United States who are recovering from natural disasters. Those in disaster-stricken areas will receive spiritual care, a freshly prepared meal, a cross necklace provided by LWML women from around the US, devotional materials, Bibles and eventually, thanks to a LWML National Mission Grant, be able to do laundry. These grant funds would be used to purchase food for the meals, Bibles, devotional materials, and other operating costs.

D. Children's Books for LHM State Fair Booth-----**\$10,000**

Central Illinois District Lutheran Laymen's League sponsors a tent at the Illinois State Fair annually. At the 2025 Fair Booth, the following children's books were given away: 776 copies of CPH hardback book "120 Bible Stories" and 960 copies of CPH "Story of Jesus Coloring and Activity Book". The grant would help to purchase 1,000 copies of each of the two books mentioned previously. This project received funding in 2025.

E. Christ-Centered Materials & Events for International Students & Scholars—\$10,000

International Student Ministry sites at LCMS congregations and campus ministries across the US will be empowered to provide resources and events so international students and scholars can learn of Christ's love and His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. International Student Ministry, Inc. would use half of this grant in each of the next two years to bless ten or more ISM sites each year with grants of up to \$500 each to assist them in hosting Christ-centered events or in providing Christ-Centered resources or both. Christ-centered events would include Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas celebrations, or Easter events. Christ-centered resources include Bibles in the students' own languages or in easy-to-read English.

F. Mailbox Member Program: Expand & Equip in Peoria/Pekin—\$ 5,000

The Mailbox Member Program of Christ Lutheran Church in Peoria/Pekin grant will help to purchase supplies for printing, mailing, and materials to equip and expand this program in all of the Peoria/Pekin Zone. This program will reach each woman each month who may not or cannot participate in LWML regular group Bible studies, devotions, and/or service opportunities, but want to be involved in some way.

G. Gospel Access for Aging Adults in CID—\$13,000

We seek support to equip LCMS congregations in the CID with resources to connect aging adults with God's Word. Each week, aging adults can hear the Gospel through a weekly worship message on Worship Anew, can grow in His Word through daily devotionals in Hope-Full Living, can find understanding in the circumstances through practical articles in the Broadcaster magazine, and can see God's love by receiving a care package. Through your support, Worship Anew can connect churches to these resources that they can then share with aging adults in their congregations, especially with those who are homebound.

H. Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ—\$12,500

Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ is a Recognized Service Organizations (RSO) of LCMS with over 50 years of evangelism and youth ministry experience. They offer training to youth and adults, assisting in evangelism and strengthening the faith of all who participate in any way. Currently, O AFC has two major projects: 1) Working with Central IL, Southern IL, and Southern WI District to recruit and train groups of adults to do O AFC-style events with churches looking to connect with their communities, and 2) Working with the Synodical Office of National Mission with church plants around the country, aiding in canvassing communities to invite the local community to church. Funds would be used for those two projects.

I. Changed Lives, Shared Word: Restoring the LBT Bible Printing Fund—\$ 5,000

This grant would be used to replenish Lutheran Bible Translators' Bible printing and distribution fund, which enables the printing and delivery of new Bible translations to communities receiving Scripture in their heart language for the first time. In 2025, the fund supported the dedication of two new translations – an extraordinary milestone in our mission to share God's Word with the unreached. Each Bible costs approximately \$20 to print. This grant will fund 250 additional copies and help rebuild our reserve toward a \$30,000 goal, positioning us to respond to printing needs in 2026 and prepare for 5-7 anticipated dedications in 2027.

J. Classroom Construction in Sudan-----\$5,000

This proposal seeks funding and support for the construction of a single classroom to serve approximately 40-50 students at St. Augustine Nursery and Primary School, a ministry of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, in the Nuba Mountains, Sudan. This classroom will provide a safe, weather-resistant, and conducive learning environment where Lutheran education and mission work can take place.

K. Deaconess Anika Slayton serving in Germany-----\$10,000

The project is mission work directed towards the many refugees and immigrants living in Leipzig, Germany, who have converted or are considering converting to Christianity. The majority of this ministry will be diaconal work directed towards women and children. The funds for this mission grant would be used to support Deaconess Anika Slayton as she participates in this mission work.

L. Set Apart to Serve-----\$10,000

There is a great need for pastors, teachers, and church workers throughout the Synod. We need to be intentional about talking to our youth about opportunities to become church workers and supporting those who pursue these sacred and joyful vocations. Set Apart to Serve, a Synodical initiative, is building a culture of church work formation and recruitment to raise up future pastors and church workers. Funds would be used for staff, travel, workshops, conferences, resource development, etc.

M. Increasing Access to Christ-Centered Counseling in IN-----\$15,000

Concordia Counseling: A Lutheran Outreach Ministry, Inc., an LCMS RSO (recognized service organization), provides Christ-centered mental health care to individuals and families in need in Seymour, IN. This grant will help bridge the gap for clients who would otherwise be unable to access care, ensuring that cost is never a barrier to receiving Gospel-rooted counseling. Services are offered in Lutheran schools, churches, and community settings, reaching both members of the church and those not yet connected to the Body of Christ.

N. Care Packages: Whole-Person Care—Phil's Friends-----\$ 5,000

Phil's Friends is dedicated to supporting cancer patients across the US by distributing free, personalized Care Packages filled with items that offer practical, emotional, and spiritual encouragement, including a Bible. Afterwards, each recipient receives monthly Cards of Hope—featuring Scripture and prayer- and ongoing prayer support for an entire year. Funds would be used to purchase the various items included in each care package and cover the cost of printing the cards of hope for 40 patients.

O. Christ-Centered Crisis Pregnancy & Adoption Support for Families of CID—\$25,000

Every year in Illinois, 40% of babies are born to single mothers. Being unprepared to parent and lacking essential support can lead young mothers to make a deadly decision to abort their children or be unable to adequately care for them after they arrive. Those who face unplanned pregnancy without support need attention, care, accurate information, and truth spoken in love provided through counseling, which offers life-affirming options of parenting or adoption, along with clear messages of God's love, grace, forgiveness, and salvation that are theirs in Christ. In

partnership with the LWML CID, Lutheran Family Services (LFS) will grow its established pregnancy counseling and adoption services in Moline, to open a new office near the Bloomington/Normal area, and provide faith-infused services supporting pregnant women, their at-risk babies, and Christian adopting couples throughout the CID.

P. Christ-Centered Home, Help, and Hope: Redeeming Life's Illinois Maternity Home -\$14,000

Redeeming Life's new Christ-centered maternity home in East Dundee, IL, is a life-affirming ministry that gives pregnant women facing helplessness and hopelessness an "escape hatch" into a loving, caring family-style residence where they can find respite, respect, and the redeeming love of Jesus as they await the birth of their child. Now in its second year of operation, the maternity home seeks funding to expand and continue the ways in which these women can experience the grace of Jesus, through programming overseen by an LCMS deaconess.

Q. Help Pastors, Church Workers, and Spouses go to Shepherd's Canyon Retreat – \$ 5,000

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat is an LCMS RSO (Recognized Service Organization) led by Rev. Kevin Bueltmann that provides week-long counseling retreats and has successfully helped hundreds of ministry workers over the years who are in various stages of burnout, stress, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds, many of whom were ready to quit the ministry. The CID LWML grant funds will be used for scholarships for pastors, ministry workers, and spouses to attend a Shepherd's Canyon Retreat.

R. Deaconess Kim Bueltmann in Germany-----\$10,000

Deaconess Kim Bueltmann, Refuge Outreach Facilitator, assists congregations in Leipzig and Chemnitz, Germany, providing outreach to socioeconomically disadvantaged Germans and refugees who are primarily from Iran and Afghanistan. She is trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, offering diaconal support and teaching the Bible and catechism to refugees and socioeconomically disadvantaged Germans. She is actively involved in worship planning, leading music for worship in the Farsi language, and developing more hymns and the liturgy in Farsi. The CID LWML grants funds would be used to provide the annual support needed for Deaconess Bueltmann to continue the Lord's work in Germany. Deaconess Bueltmann received funding in 2025.

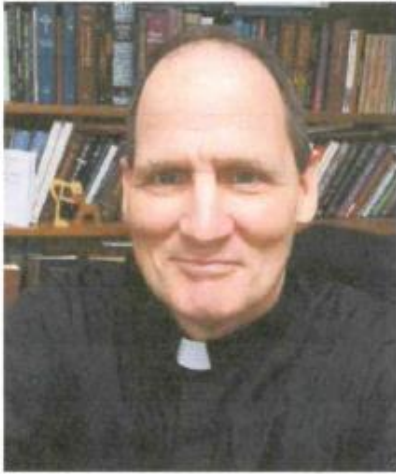
S. Hands that Serve, Hearts that See: Free Bibles in Braille and Large Print—\$12,000

Lutheran Braille Workers requests these funds to produce and freely distribute approximately 3,000 volumes of Scripture and Christ-centered materials in Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Prison Large Print formats. These materials would be produced through LBW's Ministry Production Centers in Effingham, Peoria, and Decatur and distributed at no cost to recipients. The project is ready to implement immediately upon funding, with current requests in queue from individuals, congregations, schools, and prison chaplaincies. This project received funding in 2025.

SLATE OF OFFICERS LWML CID 2026 CONVENTION

Jr. Pastoral Counselor

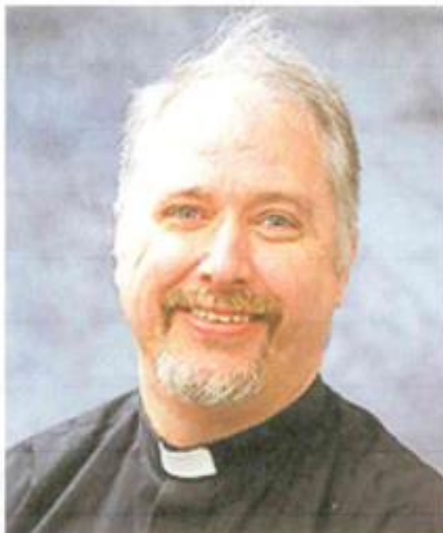
Rev. Steven Sommerer, Rock Island



Pastor Steven Sommerer has been a pastor since 1997, serving congregations in Odell, NE; Carlyle, IL; and Galesburg, IL. He graduated from Concordia Seminary St. Louis in 1997. He has been serving at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Galesburg, IL, since August of 2017. He is married to Melanie Sommerer and they have three children: Daniel, Ezra, and Micah. During his time in the Southern Illinois District, Pastor Sommerer served as an LWML

Zone counselor. He is grateful for the labors of the faithful women of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League for supporting his own education and preparation for the ministry, as well as their faithful labors in the congregations he has served.

Rev. Doug Minton, Danville



Rev. Doug Minton has been the pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Milford, since February 2021. Before that, he served in Minnesota South District since July 2007. Rev. Minton has served as the LWML Zone Counselor for the Pipestone Zone in Minnesota South District. He is looking forward to the opportunity to serve the Central Illinois District as the District Counselor.

Treasurer

Sara Wendling, Effingham/Shelby



Sara Wendling is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Louisville, IL, where she currently serves as the president of the Ladies Aid Group. Sara has also served on the LWML Effingham/Shelby Zone board previously serving as President and Secretary/Treasurer. Sara and husband Rick, have 4 children, their spouses and 13 grandchildren. They both help on the family farm in rural Mason, IL, that is operated by 2 of their sons with help from almost all the family in one way or another.

They raise corn, soybeans, wheat and cattle. Sara previously worked in banking for 27 years as branch manager and loan officer.

Deloris Blessman, Lincoln



Deloris Blessman is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Havana, and treasurer of her LWML group, WINGS. She has served as Lincoln Zone LWML President and Vice President. She is currently serving as LWML CID Corresponding Secretary. She has been treasurer of CID Lutheran Layman's League and is currently the CID LLL Fair Booth Chairmen. She has been a Camp CILCA Board Member, Sunday School Teacher and VBS Superintendent at her church. She has retired

from working office positions in human resources, purchasing, accounts payable, and receivable. Deloris and her husband, Tom, have been married 51 years, have 3 grown children, and 7 grandchildren. Deloris has used Microsoft Office, Quicken, and email in her career and volunteer activities.

Recording Secretary

Pat Heinecke, Quincy



Pat Heinecke is from Camp Point, a little town near Quincy. In 1978, she became a member of the Golden Holy Cross Missouri Synod Lutheran Church and then joined the church's LWML group. God has blessed her with 2 daughters and two grandchildren.

Through the following years, she held the secretary, treasurer, and president positions in that group. She has also served as Quincy Zone President and currently Zone Treasurer, and one and ½ terms of District Vice-President of Mission Grants.

She was an educator for 34 years, being a teacher and a principal. Later, she served on the same district's school board and its Foundation.

After her retirement from education, she was part of an initiative to bring "*7 Habits of Highly Effective People*" to all Adams County Schools for which she worked for 11 years and was also her church's secretary. From 2017 till 2024, she was the director of the Community for Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point. All her different opportunities have shown her that she can serve God through any activity in her life.

Corresponding Secretary

Brenda Hendricks, Danville



Brenda Hendricks was born and raised in western Illinois in the small town of Bluffs. She graduated from Western Illinois University and became a high school librarian in a small high school in southeastern Iowa, Pekin High School. After two years she returned to Illinois and was hired as a high school librarian for another small school in east central Illinois – presently the Blue Ridge School system located in Farmer City. She later became the unit librarian for grades K – 12 and in 2016 she happily retired. She has been a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Osman since 1980 where she has worn many hats – Sunday School teacher, Confirmation teacher, several positions on the church council, member of Ladies Aid and LWML and have held several offices, just completing her sixth year as president. She also served as editor of the **Clarion** for the Central Illinois District LWML for several years.

VP Gospel Outreach and Grants

Laura Stratman, Jacksonville



Laura Stratman began her journey with the LWML in 1995 when her husband Gene became Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Chapin, IL. As pastor's wife at St. Paul's, Chapin, she has been the secretary and the co-chair of the Mary Martha Circle in her church. She has been the "craft lady" for VBS for 25 years. Laura became Human Care Chairman under the presidency of Pam Spilker and continued under Sheila Lutz. She chaired the 2016 District

Convention in Jacksonville, has chaired one district retreat and served on the committee several times. She has attended nine national conventions and has been a delegate twice. Her one and only mission trip was to Tijuana, Mexico in 2005. While there, the team she went with built 2 houses and conducted VBS for 25 children for 4 days. Her goal in retirement is to go on more short-term mission trips.

Laura was elected District President during the pandemic of 2020 and served until 2024. During that time, she organized four district conventions. Serving the district has been a great joy to her as she has made many friends and gained many mentors. Laura was elected to the National Nominating Committee in 2023 and completed that position in July 2025.

Laura's husband retired in June of 2025; they moved from their parsonage that was home for 30 years and purchased a home in Jacksonville. They are still only 10 minutes from grandsons Garrett (6) and Nolan (3). Oh, and they have a daughter Jessica (Eric) and son Joseph. Laura is a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield.

Jane Henderson, Jacksonville



Jane Henderson was born and raised in the thumb area of Michigan. She attended a Lutheran grade school and, inspired by her first grade teacher, wanted to be a Lutheran schoolteacher. She attended Concordia Ann Arbor and Concordia River Forest, earning her Early Childhood Degree and later her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Western Illinois University. Her first call was to teach Jesus' Little Lambs at Salem Lutheran School in Jacksonville, IL where she spent 24 years

teaching first grade and Kindergarten then returning to retire from there. She also taught and coordinated the gifted program for a 4 county region for 10 years. She and her husband have 6 children, are grandparents to 12 special kiddos, and have one great-grandchild. They like to travel and go camping visiting the National Parks, the arts, and attending grandkids' events. Jane enjoys her Bible Study classes, volunteering with her church's Friendship Bible Study for the special group home in their area, calling Bingo and visiting residents at the Assisted Living Center in her town, grading Bible Studies with Prison Ministries, and making Raise-A Reader packets for new moms at the hospital to promote literacy through Delta Kappa Gamma of which she serves as the secretary. She is also a member of the Ladies Aid and honors God by serving as the Jacksonville LWML Zone President. LWML has been a special love of hers since it allows her to do mission work at home and abroad, which she always felt a calling to do but never had the opportunity to do. Doing the Lord's work with her sisters in Christ is so rewarding on this side of heaven! She loves sharing Jesus by passing out little Jesus figures daily because everybody needs a little Jesus and, "people like me need a lotta Jesus!"

Nominating Committee

Jo Ellen Tappendorf, Altamont



Jo Ellen Tappendorf has been married to her husband Kent for 25 years. They have 5 children: Seth, Hannah, Ada, Jillian, and Mary. She has served her local group, St. Paul Blue Point Ladies Aid, for 16 years. She's held the offices of President and Treasurer. She has also served on various committees. On the District level, she's served as Human Care Chairman, Young Woman Chairman, and currently serve as the Christian Life Chairman. She is currently a 4-H leader, coaches junior high volleyball, and helps with her church LYF group. She looks forward to serving on the Nominating committee.

Karen Stoll, Champaign



Karen Stoll is married to Kerwyn Stoll. They have been members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mattoon, IL, for 26 years. They have two sons, a daughter-in-law and a toddler grandson. Karen has been a member of LWML groups for 27 years. She is currently the Champaign Zone secretary and the Ladies Aid secretary at St. John's—Mattoon. She has been married for 36 years and is a homemaker and substitute teacher aide. She volunteers at St. John's and at the gift shop at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital. She enjoys Bible Studies, service projects and fellowship with LWML sisters-in-Christ. She is honored to serve on the CID Nominating Committee, if elected.

Carol Schuldt, Danville



Carol Schuldt has been a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, rural Milford, for 55 years and an LWML member for as long. She has held all positions in her local Group and recently completed 4 years as Sec-Treas and 4 years as President of the Danville Zone. She has had the privilege of attending many National Conventions.

She has been widowed since 2011. She married a farmer, raised four children, and partnered with her husband to own and run an insurance agency. She served on the Finance Board at Prairieview Lutheran Home for the Aged for ten years. She and Roger have also been blessed with eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. God is good!

Kathryn Kirby, Effingham/Shelby



Kathryn Kirby has been a teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Stewardson for 41 years. She also serve as the athletic director. She is in the adult choir and serves on the altar guild at Trinity. She has been married to Keith Kirby for 25 years and they have 2 sons. Ethan is a Senior at Concordia University, Seward, NE, and Aaron works as a conductor for Union Pacific out of Kansas City. He is married to Katie and they have the Kirbys' only grandson, Nolan.

Kathryn has previously served at the secretary/treasurer of the Effingham/Shelby Zone. Currently, she is the president of Women of Trinity, the evening LWML group at Trinity.

Rita Tendrink, Jacksonville



Rita Tendrink's mission is to help bring the good news of our salvation through Jesus Christ. She's been involved in LWML by serving as president for her church's Ladies Guild in the past. She's served as the Jacksonville Zone President for 4 years and Vice President for 4 years. Recently she has been volunteering with her local food pantry, Doorbell Dinners, and Swaddling Clothes. Sewing quilt tops and making pillowcase dresses for Orphan Grain train has become a newer hobby for her. I'm a retired teacher having worked for 40 years in public and parochial schools in the Jacksonville community. My husband Randy and I have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Deanna Brust, Lincoln



Deanna Brust is a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Manito, IL. She retired after working 45 years at OSF System's Lab in Peoria, IL. She has a daughter, Heather, a grandson, Dillion, and step-granddaughter, Jessica, along with a step-great-granddaughter and step-great-grandson. She enjoys family history and photography.

Deanna Bishop, Peoria/Pekin



Deanna Bishop has been a member of LWML since 1984. She has served as YWR, zone president, and is currently president of Women in Faith LWML at St. John's in Pekin where her husband, Daniel of 42 years, is serving as the pastor. This year is his 34th year in the ministry. They have one son, Samuel.

Cindy Ushman, Springfield



Cindy Ushman is from Springfield and is the current Springfield Zone President. She attends Trinity Lutheran Church and is treasurer for the Ladies Aid and helps with altar guild.

She was confirmed and married at St. John's Lutheran Church in New Berlin, IL. She is married to Mark Ushman and has two daughters, Clara and Christina, and two grand cats. She retired from working at the State of Illinois Department of Human Services and enjoys sewing and quilting.

Past offices with LWML include secretary and president of her local guild, vice president and president of zone, and district board Christian growth.

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