



“Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

Oregon Leaguer

Spring 2026



LWML Oregon District President Deb Weaver and Bronco

Urgent, Important, Can Wait

As you read this issue of the *Spring Leaguer*, we are approximately twelve weeks away from the LWML Oregon District

35th Biennial Convention, scheduled for June 26–28, 2026, in Roseburg, Oregon. Preparations are well underway, and the time to reflect on our priorities is now. Earlier this year, during a Zoom Bible study at Grace Lutheran Church in Eugene, our pastor asked for prayer requests. I shared that I was feeling overwhelmed by the responsibilities of upcoming board meetings and convention planning. In his prayer, he asked God to help me discern three key questions:

What is urgent?

What is important?

What can wait?

I have reflected on those questions ever since.

At the beginning of the year, I committed to completing my daily Bible study. For several weeks, I remained consistent. However, as responsibilities increased, I allowed my “to-do” list to take precedence, and my time in Scripture became less consistent. Tasks felt urgent, and spiritual discipline felt optional. That shift made me realize how easily priorities can become misplaced.

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As District President, there are many important responsibilities—decisions to make, calls to return, meetings to attend. While these tasks matter, not all of them are truly urgent. In fact, I realized that I had allowed nearly everything to feel urgent, leaving little room to distinguish what genuinely required immediate attention.

There are also items that can wait. One long-standing project on my whiteboard is a display of churches and pastors I have visited—it remained untouched for over a year. Eventually, I removed it altogether, recognizing that it was not essential at this time

As we prepare for the June convention, our focus is on “fanning the flame of the Holy Spirit” and “igniting the Oregon District.” This work is important, and in many ways urgent—but not in the way we often define urgency. Urgency is not driven by packed schedules or lengthy meetings. True urgency is rooted in daily time in God’s Word, prayer, and spiritual focus.

While I will continue to fulfill my responsibilities—attending meetings, supporting our zones, and preparing for convention, these now fall into the category of important work. My understanding of what is truly urgent has changed. Seeking daily encouragement through Scripture and prayer is now at the top of that list.

I encourage each of you to reflect on what is urgent, what is important, and what can wait in your own lives. Do not allow the pressures of the world to push God’s work to the margins. His work is always urgent.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

Blessings,
President Deb

URGENT, **IMPORTANT**, it can wait

Waiting Patiently for Him!

I tend to do just the opposite. Psalm 37:7 reads, *“Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.”* When I was a young child of five or six, I would go with my grandparents to their cottage in Maryland. It was a quiet little village, mostly made up of vacation homes. The time passed by fishing, crabbing, and swimming. There were many birds and squirrels. One of my favorite past times was to feed the animals peanuts. They would come within a couple of feet of me. Then I would give them the nut. Since I was young this game could only go on for so long. So, the next step of the game was to throw bird seed on the ground. I waited for the birds to come and then I would clap my hands to see which of the birds — finches, cardinals, orioles, starlings would fly away first. They seemed to like this game as much as I. (In the end they did eat all the bird seed and the squirrels got all the peanuts.)

There was one person who was not happy with this whole scene. It was my grandfather on his day off. He also liked to sit on the porch and watch the animals. This could really be interpreted as he liked to nap on the porch. So, every time I would clap my hands and flush the birds I would wake him up. After a couple times of startling him, he would say, “Johnnie, can’t you just wait and watch the birds in peace.” I relented and went into the cottage to help grandma into the kitchen, which of course is another story.

The church’s current season of Lent is a time of waiting, penitence, and reflection. During Lent, I read a few more devotional books than the rest of the year. This year, I am reading Portals of Prayer, LWML Online Devotions, and the For Us CPH devotional. All these devotionals are a delightful read to me. A common theme throughout these devotions is that Jesus who was creator of the universe choose voluntarily to come to earth to live the perfect life so that you and I could receive eternal life. Jesus lived the life on earth that God had planned for Adam and Eve but were unable to because of their fall into sin.

We are now permitted the chance to wait on the Lord and to receive all His blessings when we die and receive eternal life. So, we wait and watch for the coming of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter morning with all of the faithful. Amen



Living With Purpose

“Purpose is often linked to who we are and what we do, but roles change as we age. What happens then? Do we lose purpose when we retire? Or when our children are grown and out on their own? Absolutely not!”¹

The Lord continues to urge us to seek His will. Paul exhorts us in his letter to the Ephesians saying: *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them* (Ephesians 2 8-10).

What might be your new role as your situation changes? Are you a cheerful and helpful Christian or a complaining one? Which would be the example that Christ would want to see and hear? If you can't lead a Bible study, then it may be your time to just listen.

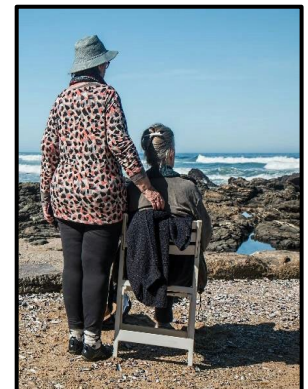


The story of an aging King David appears in 1 Kings chapter 1. The story shows that King David, one who was mighty in battle, just in his ruling of Israel, wealthy and blessed with all he needed still needed help as he aged. He couldn't get warm. They tried all types of clothing and blankets, but it did not make him comfortable. His servants decided to hire a beautiful young nurse, Abishag, to tend to him. She took care of his needs and even warmed him with her body but did not know him.

As we age, we too may need to put some of our independence aside and accept the help of others. This is God's will that we accept help cheerfully when it is needed. Yes, our roles change as we age. You may find that you become more dependent on others for a variety of tasks like deep cleaning your house, doing lawn work or driving you places. God places people in your life to help you. Sometimes you may need to ask but asking gives others a chance to share their skills to help you in your time of need.

Paul writes to the Philippians to encourage them with these words: *So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind* (Philippians 2:1-2).

Paul encourages us, as Christians, to continue steadfast in our faith. He continues in his letter discussing the attitude we should project.





Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, (Philippians 2:3-5).

Christ does not wish for us to feel abandoned or lonely at any age.

As our roles change, we pray to the Lord for direction for our lives. And if we look outside of ourselves, we may find opportunities to reach out to others within our sphere of friends and acquaintances.

Encouraging words, notes or actions can make someone else's day! Maybe a quiet listener is what a friend needs. Does a shut-in need a visit? God leads us to look around where we are planted. We can focus our time in service to others. When we look for ways to assist others we will find it. Even with small efforts, we encourage others and build them up taking away the loneliness in their lives. We show our friends and acquaintances our faith. And that faith cares for others. How will God give us a new purpose? Ask yourself — how can I use my voice, my hands, or my feet to work for Him for his purpose?

Yes, God does have a purpose for all of us throughout our lives. Our faith brings us to our knees to pray for needs of others as well as ourselves. Through our faith we praise him. And we thank God for the bountiful care God gives to us every day. Let us share God's love with a purpose in mind. God's purpose.

Lynne Beck
LWML Oregon District
Vice President Christian Life

1 Wilke, J. (2022). Living On Purpose. *Hope-ful Living*, p.22.
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LWML Prayer Chain

Let us pray with you.

Send the information to:

LWML.or.prayerchain@gmail.com

Leaguer Schedule

2026 Leaguer Dates

Leaguer Issue:	Submission Date:	Publication Date:
Summer 2026	June 1, 2026	July 1, 2026
Fall 2026	September 1, 2026	October 1, 2026
Winter 2026-27	December 1, 2026	January 1, 2027

Send items and photos to:

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crlwmlor2020@outlook.com

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LWML Oregon District

website: lwmlor.org

LWML website: lwml.org/home



Did you know? The LWML Oregon District has a Facebook page. If you're on social media, particularly Facebook, we welcome you to "like" our page so that you can see what is going on in our district! Here is the link for our Facebook page:

facebook.com/LWMLOregonDistrict/

Thank you,
Janet Schultz, VP of Communication & Carmen Nagel, Leader
Development Committee Chairman

LWML Oregon District 2026 Spring Zone Gatherings by Date

LWML Oregon District - Zone Gathering Dates and Locations, as of 2-21-2026			
Zone:	Date:	Place:	District Representative
Pacific	3/7/2026	Zion Lutheran, Hillsboro	President Deb
Willamette	3/14/2026	Zion Lutheran, Corvallis	President Deb
Interstate	4/11/2026	Zion Lutheran, Portland	Joyce Twiss
Myrtlewood	4/11/2026	St. Paul Lutheran, Roseburg	President Deb
Emerald	4/18/2026	Grace Lutheran Eugene	President Deb
Mt. Hood	4/25/2026	Immanuel Lutheran, Sandy	Connie Adams
Southern	4/25/2026	Gloria Dei, Central Point	Barb Northrop/ Janis Arnsdorf
West Hills	4/25/2026	Our Redeemer, Tigard	President Deb
Juniper	N/A	No Spring Gathering	N/A
H2H/Sisters of All Nations Gathering	4/25/2026	Hope Lutheran, Woodburn	Everyone who can, should attend! Our LWML OD needs to support these ministries of ours!



REMINDER: Please send all checks and Remittance Forms to Karen Reed, Financial Secretary of the LWML Oregon District. Remittance forms with Karen's information can be found on the district's website, lwmlor.org



View the
Monthly HUG-IN-A-MUG

lwmlor.org/district-news



 **Lutheran Women in Mission Oregon District**

Special Pre-Convention Schedule
St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
750 W. Keady Court
Roseburg, Oregon 97471

 **IGNITE**
The Power of the Holy Spirit

Save The DATE and TIMES
Thursday, June 25, 2026

4 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting
5 p.m. - Board of Directors Meeting
6 p.m. - Board of Directors and Special Guests Dinner.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League Oregon District 35th Biennial Convention



You are **INVITED** to join us in **CONVENTION**

June 26-28, 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Roseburg, OR

Please join us as we "Fan the Flame of the Holy Spirit"

*For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control
(2 Timothy 1:6-7).*

Registration information will be available in April 2026. Watch for a Special Convention *Leaguer* to be published.

Fran Mueller, Gale Shoemaker, and Delores Feddersen, the Convention Tri-Chairs from the Myrtlewood, Southern and Emerald Zones look forward to seeing you there!

*Living and Learning
Heart to Heart*



*Intercultural Learning Experiences
to Build Positive Relationships
in a Multicultural World*

LWML Oregon District

*Heart to Heart –
Sisters of All Nations*

Invites you to

*Hope Lutheran Church
211 Parr Rd
Woodburn, Oregon*

*Saturday April 25
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

Fellowship – Sharing – Bible study – Food – Fun

Bring a favorite dish from your culture to share for lunch.

Mission Activity: “We Care” packages for church workers

Appreciate your pastor, deaconess, musician, Sunday School teacher, school teacher, or any leader in your congregation or school with a package of goodies that show you care.

Ingathering: A large coffee cup or container appropriate for your culture; trail mix packets; hand sanitizer (pocket size); granola bars; energy bars; lip balm; lotion (travel size); healthy snacks; neck wraps; candy; pocket size tissues, etc. to fill the cups and make a gift package to appreciate a church worker in your congregation or a neighboring congregation.



Questions? Contact Marisol Valle 503 498 1158

**Guest Speaker
Angelica Juarez Ek**

Living and Learning Heart to Heart



Intercultural Learning Experiences
to Build Positive Relationships
in a Multicultural World

LWML Oregon District

*Hermanas de Corazón
de Todas Naciones*

La invita a

*Hope Lutheran Church
211 Parr Rd
Woodburn, Oregon*

*Sábado 25 de Abril
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*

Conversación – Estudio Bíblico

– Comida - Diversión

La invitamos traer un plato favorito de su cultura para compartir para el lonche

Actividad Misionera: Paquetes “Le apreciamos” para los que trabajan en su iglesia. Aprecia a su pastor, diaconisa, musicantes, maestras/os de la Escuela Dominical, maestra/o en la escuela o cualquier líder en su congregación con un paquete que dice, “le cuidamos y apreciamos”.

Ofrenda: Una taza para café u otro contenedor apropiado para su cultura; meriendas saludables, dulces, cualquiera cosa pequeña y útil para llenar la taza para regalar a su obrador estimado.

¿Preguntas? Contacte a Marisol Valle 503 498 1158



**Presentadora
Invitada
Angelica Juarez Ek**

Legacy of a Leader

I have had the privilege of sorting through some of the files of Past District President, Irma Fuerstenau. Her notes of meetings and retreats, her Bible studies, and her service to the LWML Oregon District is a rich legacy to our district.

The following are Irma's remarks at the Mid-Columbia Rally in April 1974.

"As I considered what I could share, the Spirit kept leading my thoughts back to four words:

LET GOD LOVE YOU

Let's think together about some of the spiritual truths that are involved in just those four words.

LET – means allow, permit, not hinder (involves yielding).

LET GOD – involves agreeing with God that His way is right. This involves confession (repentance) on our past and accepting God's plan of salvation.

LET GO (of self) LET GOD (take over)

My faith took a "giant step" when I realized the completeness of God's doing for us (grace). Paul said, *no longer I who live but Christ lives in me* (Galatians 2:20).

LET GOD LOVE YOU – you are precious and have a purpose because of Jesus.

LETTING GOD LOVE – when God does something it always is beyond human measure or reason.

I invite you to take those four words home with you to meditate and think further about. Let God further bless you through His marvelous love.

"My prayer is that each of you will let God love you." Irma Fuerstenau (This is just a snippet of Irma's legacy.)

What is your legacy of God's love? Many of you have written articles, offered prayers, and encouraged others. Your legacy overflows in fellowship with others, thanksgiving and praise, witnessing to those of the world, and in service and blessing to others. Serving Him,

Carmen Nagel
Leadership Chairman
LWML Oregon District



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LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Oregon District Mission Statement

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, ignite, involve, equip and encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry.

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Emerald Zone—Delores Feddersen

Interstate Zone—Kathy Haas

Juniper Zone—Pat Reck

Mt. Hood Zone—Connie Adams

Myrtlewood Zone—Joan Mahaffy

Pacific Zone—Char Kroemer

Southern Zone—Barb Northrop

West Hills Zone—Judy Chase

Willamette Zone—Carol Reis

The Communication Team appreciates all the wonderful submissions you send for the LWML Oregon District website, the LWML Oregon District *Leaguer* and other LWML Oregon District publications.

Photos are best sent in jpeg format. Articles for the *Leaguer* are best sent in docx format, in case they need to be edited per the official LWML Style Guide.

For the website, documents and forms that you would like our visitors to be able to download need to be sent to us as a PDF.

If you have questions or need help, you are always welcome to send an email. Janet

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Mae Smith, Web Advisor maes7010@gmail.com



2026 LWML Oregon District Scholarship Recipients

Naomi Brown



Naomi is in her third year of Deaconess training with Concordia Seminary. She chose to go into church work because, (in her own words) “God placed a call upon my heart.” She wants to share the comfort she has found in her relationship with God to help others and begin an outreach she calls “Healing Places and Spaces” within her home church and in the surrounding community. Naomi is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hillsboro.



Chloe Keller



Chloe Keller attends college at Concordia University Irvine and is pursuing a career as a Director of Christian Education (DCE). She plans to graduate in 2028. Last year Chloe was a volunteer at the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans. She led students and their leaders in service projects. This experience reinforced her leadership skills, taught the importance of being a good role model and to reflect on the marvelous things that God has done in her life. Chloe’s home church is Trinity Lutheran Church in Bend.

Kelsie Wiley



Kelsie is pursuing a Master of Business Administration in Non-Profit Management and Public Administration/Public Relations at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin. Since November of 2022, Kelsie has worked in the Education Department of the Northwest District Office-LCMS as an Executive Assistant. Kelsie lives in Portland, Oregon. She grew up in Federal Way, Washington attending Light of Christ (LoC) Lutheran Church.



