# 41<sup>st</sup> BIENNIAL LWML CONVENTION JUNE 26-29, 2025 V OMAHA, NEBRASKA



# COME to the HEARTLAND!

# The Nebraska North and Nebraska South Districts are excited to welcome you to Omaha to experience "Nebraska Nice!"

"There is nothing like Nebraska Nice" is a regional saying, referring to the friendly, welcoming, and helpful nature of Nebraskans. Under the theme of "Growing in God's Grace," we are eager to show Lutheran Women in Mission attendees that truly, there is no place like Nebraska.

We encourage you to take a moment to explore the pages of the convention insert, where you'll find all that's planned for the 2025 convention. Then, be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to join us in Omaha.

Experience "Nebraska Nice" in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26–29, 2025. See you there!



# Register online for the 2025 LWML Convention beginning March 1.

The following pages provide details about meals and session options. When you are ready to register, go to *lwml.org/convention* to access the online registration form.

### You'll need the following information for the form:

• Your email address: an individual and unique email address is needed for each registrant. Emails for a spouse and/or children are optional. If you do not have an email address, ask your church secretary, a friend not attending, or a family member who is willing to use their email address to receive information about the convention for you.

#### • Registration Category:

- A. General Registration.
- B. Delegate.
- C. District Young Woman Representative (YWR).
- D. District President.
- E. District Pastoral Counselor.
- F. LWML Past National President.
- G. LWML National Elected or Appointed Personnel.
- H. LWML National Committee Member.
- I. Special Invited Guest.
- J. Exhibitor.
- K. Host District Worker (LWML Districts: Nebraska North, Nebraska South only).

# Prepare the following choices before beginning your registration:

A. Meal choices.

- B. Luncheon speaker choices.
- C. Optional activities:
  - Choir (Practice will be Thursday from noon-2 p.m.).
  - Mission Pledge Walk (shirt size needed).
  - Thursday Servant Activities (indicate choice of time).
  - Thursday Blood Drive.
  - Christ's Kids Camp, the children and teen program (shirt size needed).
- D. If you want to sign up for Whova, a mobile app to use during the convention to network with other attendees and to access convention information on your smartphone or device.
- E. Special needs: wheelchair, special diet, ASL interpreter, large-print convention manual.
- F. Emergency contact information.

### **Confirmation Email:**

After you complete your registration online, a confirmation email will be sent to the address you provided. It will include a link to the online hotel reservation site so you may make your hotel reservation. The confirmation email will also include instructions for re-accessing your registration form to modify it.

### **Housing:**

You may select your hotel through the link sent to your email after you have registered to reserve your room. Hotel reservations are made ONLY through the online hotel reservation site. **Please DO NOT contact the hotel directly.** Using the online hotel reservation site will provide you with the most up-todate hotel information and access to negotiated room rates.

Only one person from each room needs to make hotel reservations. If you have roommates, you will be able to indicate them at this time.

Special discounted LWML group rates will be held until May 15, 2025.

## **Final Details:**

- 1. The General/Photo Release may be viewed in its entirety at *lwml.org/convention* as well as in the registration form.
- 2. A credit or debit card will be needed to complete your registration.
- 3. The LWML Office will be available to answer any questions about registration Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Central Time. The LWML phone number is (800) 252-5965. You may email questions to *conventionhelp@lwml.org* any time beginning March 1, 2025.

# REGISTRATION SCHEDULE AND COSTS

| Regular Registration:                    | . \$185 |  |  |  |
|--|---------|--|--|--|
| March 1–April 30, 2025                   |         |  |  |  |
| Late Registration:<br>May 1–June 1, 2025 | . \$235 |  |  |  |
| One Day Registration:                    | . \$125 |  |  |  |
| Spouse Registration:                     | . \$125 |  |  |  |
| <b>Under 18 years Registration:</b> \$0  |         |  |  |  |
| Child Care/                              |         |  |  |  |
| Youth Activities:\$75 pe                 | er day  |  |  |  |
| (children/teens under 18 years)          | 25      |  |  |  |
| Servant Activities:                      | \$10    |  |  |  |
| Choir:                                   | \$10    |  |  |  |
| Mission Walk                             | \$15    |  |  |  |

# CANCELLATION AND REFUND DATES

## June 1, 2025:

CANCELLATIONS must be in writing, postmarked, emailed, or faxed, signed by the registrant **before this date**. A \$50 processing fee will be retained for all cancellations.

# June 1, 2025:

Registrations received after this date will be handled as on-site registrations. Catered meals will not be available.

## June 1, 2025:

NO REFUNDS BEGINNING THIS DATE — NO EXCEPTIONS





Child Care and Youth Activities will be held Friday, June 27, and Saturday, June 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children whose parent(s) is/are attending the 2025 LWML Convention may attend the activities for one of the three age groups.

**Nursery and Child Care Program** (under age 5) Located in the CHI Health Center. Children will participate in age-appropriate activities (e.g. play time, story time, music time, etc.). Lunch will be included in the daily rate for children one year or older. Parents must provide food for children younger than one year old.

#### Intermediate Program (ages 5-12)

Located in the CHI Health Center. Children will participate in a variety of age-appropriate activities (e.g. crafts, Bible stories, games, sing-a-longs, etc.). Children will also participate in two chaperoned field trips: the Kiewit Luminarium and the Henry Doorly Zoo. Admission and lunch are included in the registration fee.



**Teens Program** (ages 13–17) Located in the CHI Health Center. Teens will participate in a variety of age-appropriate activities (e.g., crafts, Bible studies, games, etc.). Youth will also participate in servant events and chaperoned field trips to the Kiewit Luminarium and the Henry Doorly Zoo. Admission and lunch are included in the registration fee.

# All registrations must be received by May 18 so shirts can be ordered for the program participants.

Transportation for the field trips and servant activities will be provided at no additional cost.

Since space is limited, children/youth **must** be pre-registered to participate. **NO** on-site registration is available for Child Care/Youth Activities.

If you have any questions, please contact the Child/ Youth Care Chairman through *lwml@lwml.org*.

# Convention Personalities



# Rev. Richard Snow Opening Worship Proclaimer

Rev. Snow currently serves as the LCMS Nebraska District President. Prior to his term as district president, he served as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, Nebraska (1987–2000), and as senior pastor at St. John Lutheran

Church, Battle Creek, Nebraska (2000–2015). He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis with a Master of Divinity degree. Pastor Snow and his wife Valorie have three children, and three beautiful granddaughters. He and Valorie have traveled with Orphan Grain Train on short-term missionary trips to Slovakia and to Jamaica as pastoral advisor for the Jamaica Lutheran Mission Society. He enjoys golf, hunting, fishing, and gardening. He is also a Cornhusker fan.



### Rev. Kris Whitby Keynote Speaker

Rev. Whitby rejoices that he is a forgiven and redeemed child of Christ! He served for 24 years as a parish pastor at Guardian Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida, and Saint Paul Lutheran Church and School in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Rev.

Whitby served the LWML as district pastoral counselor in Florida-Georgia and Northern Illinois as well as LWML Pastoral Counselor 2009–2013. He hosted the radio talk show "Faith Talks" and served as volunteer chaplain for the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers of Northeast Florida. He has written many resources for LWML including Mustard Seed Devotions, prayer services, and the "At Table with Jesus" Bible study. He currently serves as Assistant to the President — Mission and Ministry for the LCMS Northern Illinois District.



# Rev. Cory Burma Closing Worship Proclaimer

Rev. Burma is a beloved child of God, a husband to Deb, a dad to three grown children and their spouses, a pops to one granddaughter, and lead pastor at Peace, Columbus, Nebraska. A 2004 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis,

Rev. Burma's favorite task is teaching all ages, especially confirmation — yes, he is a little strange! He enjoys a good cup of single origin coffee anytime. When not at the church or with family, he loves gardening. He has experimented with a hydroponic indoor vegetable garden during the winter yet continues to shop for vegetables.



### Christina Hergenrader Bible Study Leader

Christina Hergenrader grew up in Galveston and now lives in Friendswood, Texas. She and her husband Mike have four children — Catie, Sam and Elisabeth (twins), and Nate. She is the author of 12 books,

including God Loves Moms, Starring Roles, Love Rules, Family Trees & Olive Branches, Last Summer at Eden, Shine, and Inspired. Christina is an enthusiastic speaker and Bible study author. She holds a master's degree in creative writing and is a certified Growth Coach. She understands Christian women's pressures and concerns and brings warmth and wisdom to teaching them. In her free time, she enjoys coaching women, spending time at her family's beach house, and walking her rescue greyhounds.

# Jan Struck & Abby Goehring — Comic Relief Duo



Jan became involved in LWML after serving as the Humorous Interrupter at the 1999 LWML Convention in Minneapolis. Realizing the scope of the LWML ministry, she wanted to be part of the mission. Blessed to use her gifts by sharing God's love through laughter, her favorite Bible verse is, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by* 

prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6–7). And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Jan knows that she can take anything to the Lord in prayer and thanks Him in advance for His answer, trusting in His love.



Abby has been teaching since 2008 and finds her joy working with young children. She believes that the classroom is her mission field and a place where she can be a role model for her students. It was when she participated as a Young Woman Representative (YWR) that she was hooked on LWML. She speaks to LWML

groups and zones about how to get young women involved. She believes the three reasons why young women join in are for Bible studies, opportunities to do mission work, and fellowship with other young Lutheran women. Jan Struck encouraged her to be "Katie Luther" at her district convention and the rest is history. Jan & Abby have been the Comic Relief Duo since 2021.

# Mites in Action Speakers



# **Deaconess Kelly Bristow**

#### MG #1 2021–2023 Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Cirls Ranch

Deaconess Kelly Bristow is the daughter of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod missionaries, Pastor Ricky and Kim Jacob. She was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and raised on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in northeast Nebraska. Deaconess Kelly has been

a called deaconess serving as the Spiritual Life Coordinator on the Minot campus of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch since July of 2018.



#### Chelsea Irwin

#### MG #8 2021–2023 Light of Christ in Eastern Europe

Chelsea Irwin earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, with a minor in English as a Second Language (ESL), from Concordia University, Nebraska. Since 2021, Chelsea has served the Lord through LCMS in the Eurasia region as missionary

coordinator for volunteer opportunities. Based out of Český Těšín, Czech Republic, she works with LCMS missionaries and local church partners to place and send volunteers to serve in Eurasia.



## Rev. Dr. John Reinke

### MG #5 2021–2023 Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach

For the past 39 years, Rev. Dr. John Reinke has worked across the U.S. and around the world, training people for Deaf Outreach. Pastor Reinke's passion is helping people share their faith in Jesus with other people by using American Sign

Language. Having a hearing loss himself, Rev. Dr. Reinke is aware of the needs of those struggling to live in a hearing world.



### **Rachel Potts**

MG #19 2021-2023 Sharing Jesus' Love in India

#### MG #4 2023–2025 Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment

Rachel Potts serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Ministry Relations with Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW). This past July, Rachel was invited to join the leadership team at LBW, where she works alongside the Vice President of Operations to guide the organization. She feels blessed and honored to be sharing the Good News of Jesus with people with visual impairments.



# Rev. Paul Ernewein

#### MG #6 2023-2025 (Mobile Kitchen, Forged by Fire Services)

Rev. Paul Ernewein serves as the director of Forged by Fire Services, which combine the mercy work

of feeding those in need while providing spiritual care through prayer, Bibles, and devotionals. Since the inception of Forged by Fire, volunteers have served over 175,000 meals. Rev. Ernewein is a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Each year he and his wife Peggy host "Jambalaya Fest" for faculty, staff, and students and their families at the St. Louis campus.

## Mark Senechal — Song Leader



Mark Senechal, a native of upstate New York, has been a bit of a nomad in ministry, serving as a Lutheran High School music teacher in Florida and California before transitioning into full-time worship ministry. For almost 30 years he has served congregations in Texas, Arizona, and Missouri. Mark currently serves as Director of Worship

at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis. He is passionate about connecting the hearts of people with the heart of God through music. He and his wife Susan have been married for 32 years. They have two children, a grandson, and a German shepherd named Lyric. They love to travel and are nearly finished visiting all the national parks in the United States.

## Jennie Williamson – Saturday Night Entertainment



Jennie Williamson leads a dynamic music ministry that impacts youth and families worldwide. Known for her infectious energy and passion for Jesus, Jennie delivers powerful messages of love and hope through her music at Christian schools, churches, and women's ministry events. In 2004, Jennie and her

husband Brian founded AriSon Records and launched the children's CD series "God is Great!" She enjoys connecting with audiences of all generations. Jennie and Brian live in Frohna, Missouri, at the Saxon Lutheran Memorial.





# Rev. Kevin D. Robson, LCMS Chief Mission Officer

Rev. Robson has served as the Chief Mission Officer for the LCMS since 2015, supervising the Synod's Offices of International Mission, National Mission, and Pastoral Education, as well as its Mission Advancement (donor

engagement and fundraising) and Communications units. He also serves on the Synod's Operations and Administrative Teams and regularly interacts with various Synod agencies and auxiliary heads and church partners to further LCMS objectives. Rev. Robson is an avid bicyclist and enjoys classical and jazz music.



# Rehema Kavugha

Rehema serves as the Director of Synod Relations at Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). She has been with LCEF since May 2019. Rehema previously served as the Director of Student Development at Concordia, Nebraska. Prior to that, she

was a Lutheran Music Teacher. Rehema, originally from Houston, Texas, now lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and enjoys volunteering at a dog shelter in her free time.



# Linda Gage

Linda Gage is passionate about helping people discover and use their God-given gifts to serve God and grow His kingdom. She is LWML's Senior Gift Planning Counselor, serving in partnership with the LCMS Foundation, and

helps people share their faith, bless their family, and make a lasting impact on ministry. She has served in the LCMS for over 35 years, working with the LWML and the LCMS Foundation, and has experience in gift planning and gift development.



# Carol von Soosten

Carol serves as an LWML Gift Planning Counselor in partnership with the LCMS Foundation. She assists individuals and couples by developing gifts plans which provide for their family and ministries,

making a lasting impact through charitable gift planning. Carol has almost 30 years of joyful service in various positions in LWML including Strategic Plan Facilitator, Public Relations Director, and Rocky Mountain District President. Carol looks forward to working with Lutheran women and their families.



# Jeffrey Craig-Meyer

Jeff Craig-Meyer joined the Lutheran Hour Ministries staff in 2014 and currently serves as President, United States Ministries, of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). He provides dedicated leadership to LHM's ministry operations in the U.S. and oversees all administrative functions for LHM's global headquarters. He has served with several faith-based non-profit organizations, most recently with Open Sky Education (formerly called Educational Enterprises, Inc.), a charter school management organization. He and his wife, Justine, have three sons and live in the St. Louis area.



# **NEW! REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2025**

LWML has blocked almost 1,500 hotel rooms within one mile of the CHI Health Center plus more rooms about five miles away. Omaha — we are coming!



# Friday Mission Impact Luncheons

Friday: a boxed lunch is available for all registered convention attendees to purchase through their registration form. Pick up your pre-ordered boxed lunch, and bring it to the assigned speaker's room. The gatherings are being held on Friday, June 27, 2025, during the lunch break from 12 until 1:30 p.m. Boxed lunches will not be available for purchase at the convention center, but there are additional concession options at the Center. Individuals not pre-ordering the boxed lunch may attend the Friday Mission Impact Luncheons and bring their meal, purchased separately, from the Center concessions. Seating at each of the lunch sessions is limited so please identify your luncheon option on your registration form.



# Friday Mission Impact Luncheon Options:

- A. President Eden Keefe Meets with First-time Convention Participants to share the mission impact of Lutheran Women in Mission. President Eden will encourage you to "grow with me — in prayer, in anticipation, and in Christ."
- **B. Jeff Craig-Meyer, President of Lutheran Hour Ministries** (LHM) United States Ministries, will explain how LHM reaches individuals with the Gospel message more than 150 million times each week, as well as the mission impact of the LHM outreach programs is felt around the world.
- C. Rev. Craig Muehler and Rev. Steve Hokana, Chaplains serving in the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, will speak of the mission impact being made through supporting our military and their families as we acknowledge their service to our country.
- D. Linda Gage and Carol von Soosten, LWML Gift Planning Counselors, will inspire and encourage us to share our faith, bless our families, and make a lasting mission impact on ministry through charitable gift planning.
- E. Rehema Kavugha, Director of Synod Relations for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), will discuss the focus of LCEF which is to provide church workers and congregations the opportunity to impact mission and use the financial gifts God has given them to share the Gospel with others.
- **F. Lunch with My Friends** provides participants a chance to relax and enjoy a meal with new and old friends alike. While there is no speaker assigned to this luncheon, participants are encouraged to share their thoughts on how the work of the LWML impacts the mission of the church.



Saturday Mission Impact Luncheons

The Saturday Mission Impact Luncheons will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 12 until 1:30 p.m. Registered attendees will have the opportunity to hear about the mission impact of the ministries supported by LWML or be further encouraged by featured speakers from the convention sessions. Luncheon attendees must purchase the Saturday Noon Plated Lunch on the Registration Form and select the desired luncheon to attend. All luncheons have the same menu.

# Saturday Mission Impact Luncheon Options:

- **G. Rev. Kris Whitby, Keynote Speaker** will expand on his encouragement for serving the Lord with gladness, using his God-given talent of wit.
- H. Jan Struck and Abby Goehring will infuse humor in their presentation that is sure to encourage attendees to serve our Lord with gladness and proclaim His glory.
- I. Rev. Kevin D. Robson, LCMS Chief Mission Officer, will introduce missionaries serving in the harvest fields where God's Word is making an impact on the lives of the lost. Attendees of this luncheon will hear from Deaconess Carol Lee Halter, serving in Hong Kong, and Chelsie Irwin, serving the Lord in the Eurasia Region.
- J. Rev. Steve Schulz, Pastoral Advisor and Mission Development Counselor at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, will share how the important work at Mission Central raises mission awareness in support of our LCMS missionaries around the world.
- K. Rev. Max Phillips, Executive Director, Lutheran Family Services, Fort Dodge, Iowa, will describe the mission impact of 2023-2025 Mission Grant #21 Healthy Together: Healthy Workers, Healthy Church.
- L. Heart to Heart (H2H) Reunion hosted by the Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations Committee. Join other sisters who are or have been involved in the H2H program on the district level. Meet new friends, renew friendships, and share H2H ideas to enrich this special focus ministry.



# A. CATERED MEALS

Meals are catered by the CHI Health Center and served in the Hall A Ground level and other noted locations in the Center. Only registered attendees may purchase these meals. They must be ordered when you register. **They will not be available for purchase at the convention.** All meals may be purchased separately. Menu may vary slightly due to supply chain issues.

| Thursday Evening Boxed Supper       | \$25 |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Friday Noon Boxed Salad Lunch       | \$25 |
| Friday Evening Plated Dinner        | \$30 |
| Saturday Noon Plated Salad Luncheon | \$28 |
| Saturday Evening Plated Dinner      | \$30 |
| Sunday Noon Boxed Lunch             | \$25 |

Prices for the above meals include the gratuity and tax. A description of the meals is found below. The boxed meals will be packaged to-go — to attend the district caucus or a Mission Impact Luncheon, to enjoy outdoors, or to take with you. The dinners will be plated meals served at round tables of ten. You are encouraged to enter the dining room with your family or group so you can be seated together. Seats may not be saved for latecomers.

#### **Menu Descriptions**

#### Thursday Evening Boxed Supper (\$25)

Turkey Cheddar Croissant with Roasted Turkey, Lettuce, Tomato, and Cheddar Cheese, Mayo & Mustard on side. Includes Chips, Pasta Salad, Brownie, and Water.

#### Friday Noon Boxed Salad Lunch (\$25)

Chicken Caesar Salad with 4 oz. Grilled Chicken Breast, Parmesan Cheese, Dessert Bar, and Water.

#### Friday Evening Plated Dinner (\$30)

Baby Spinach Salad with Balsamic Vinagrette Dressing. Grilled Chicken with Lemon Jus Lie. Served with Roasted Potatoes, Fresh Green Beans, Rolls, Butter, and Dessert.

#### Saturday Noon Plated Salad Luncheon (\$28)

Summer Harvest Entree Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast, Tomatoes, Cucumber, Sweet Corn, and Cheddar Cheese. Served with Creamy Lemon-Dill Vinaigrette, Rolls, Butter, and Dessert.

#### Saturday Evening Plated Dinner (\$30)

Garden Salad with Dressing, Herb Roasted Pork Loin with Cranberry Chutney. Served with Wild Rice Pilaf, Bistro Vegetable Medley, Rolls, Butter, and Dessert.

#### Sunday Noon Boxed Lunch (\$25)

Turkey and Provolone Wrap with Roasted Turkey, Crispy Lettuce, and Tomato. Served with Chips, Macaroni Salad, Cookie, and Water. Vegetarian and Other Dietary Needs should be requested when you register online. Special vegetarian and gluten-free meals will be provided at the same costs as regular meals.

Other dietary restrictions/ food allergies may be accommodated by selecting allowable foods from those served or purchasing food from the concessions. Watch for more information on special meal ticket pick-up near registration.

### **B. CONCESSION FOOD**

There will be concession stands located throughout the CHI Health Center. They will have typical concession-type food available and will be open Thursday through Sunday during the convention hours. These may include sandwiches, salads, hamburgers, chips, pretzels, ice cream, breakfast items, and a variety of beverages. Limited seating will be available close to the concessions.

#### C. RESTAURANTS

There are restaurant facilities within walking distance of the Center. Several restaurants are located within a short walk and others are within a few miles. A list of Omaha restaurants will be available at the convention. Stop at the Host Committee Information Kiosk in



the CHI Health Center, or find it on the Whova App. There will be other events taking place in downtown Omaha on Friday and Saturday nights. Restaurants downtown and near the CHI Health Center may be crowded. Consider this when making your dinner plans for these evenings.

# Invitation-only Dinners

#### Past LWML District Presidents —

This dinner is offered as a reunion for past LWML District Presidents. Please order the Friday Evening Plated Dinner meal and respond to the separate invitation which will be sent to past LWML District Presidents through their current District President. Please contact your District President if you don't hear from her by March 1, 2025, to indicate your plans to join this special dinner.

YWRs with LWML

**President** — This dinner will provide our Omaha Young Woman Representatives (YWRs) an opportunity to hear an encouraging message from President Eden Keefe. All YWRs will be registered for this dinner through their YWR participation.

#### Saturday Invitation Dinner

for Teens and Parents — This special social event, hosted by the Church Workers in Mission Committee, will be an opportunity for teens and their parents to socialize, learn about church work vocations, and about Lutheran Women in Mission. Please DO NOT register for the Saturday Evening Plated Dinner. Instead, teens registered for the convention will receive a special invitation to attend the dinner with instructions on how to RSVP and pay for the meal.

# eceptions

Several receptions will be held Friday and Saturday evenings. Find receptions in the first issue of the convention newspaper or at convention central (www.lwml.org/convention). There is no need to register for receptions.



# Shop Online. Ship Direct.

No need to haul boxes across the country!

# Three ministries were selected to receive Gifts From the Heart (GFTH) ingathering items for the Omaha convention.

Camp Luther of Nebraska is a non-profit Christian ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Their mission statement is "To create and renew disciples." The camp offers a wide variety of programs and services for youth, families, special needs ministry, women's, and men's retreats.

### **Lutheran Family Services**

- of Nebraska is a non-profit
- organization dedicated to providing
- vital support and resources to
- individuals and families in need
- across Nebraska. From adoption
- and foster care to behavioral health
- and refugee resettlement, they
- strive to build resilient communities
- and promote well-being for all.

#### The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry is a

student-led ministry with oversight by a pastor who himself was impacted by this ministry as a university student. The student leaders are active in welcoming and engaging all students in Bible study huddles and through their coffee hub, where students can fellowship in a safe environment.

GFTH Wish Lists for these three recipients can be found under the News and Events/Convention Central tab on the Iwml.org website. Shopping will open February 2025, through the convention weekend in June. Even if you don't travel to Omaha, you can participate through online Gifts From the Heart giving.

The time is now to embrace new ways to collect GFTH ingathering items!

Ready? Set. Here we GO!



| Hotel Name<br>and Map Locattion  | Rates   | Distance<br>to CHI | Parking<br>per Day                        | Breakfast   | Hotel<br>Airport<br>Shuttle | Daily<br>Trolley |
|--|---|--------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Hilton Omaha Street<br>1001 Cass Street  | King: \$129<br>Queen/Queen: \$129<br>Single or Double<br>occupancy: \$129<br>Triple occupancy: \$139<br>Quad: \$149 | Adjacent           | 50% discount<br>currently<br>\$18/car/day | Discounted<br>breakfast   | Yes                         | No               |
| <b>Omaha Marriott at the</b><br><b>Capitol District</b><br>222 N. 10th St.                       | King: \$149<br>Queen/Queen: \$149<br>Panoramic: \$149   | .2 mile            | 50% discount                              | Discounted<br>breakfast   | Yes                         | No               |
| <ul> <li>Fairfield Inn &amp; Suites</li> <li>Omaha Downtown</li> <li>1501 Nicholas St</li> </ul> | King: \$109<br>Double/Double: \$119   | .6 mile            | Complimentary<br>parking                  | Complimentary<br>buffet   | No                          | Yes              |
| Hampton Inn & Suites<br>Downtown<br>1212 Cuming St.  | King: \$135<br>Queen/Queen: \$140<br>Q/Q w/pullout: \$150   | .4 mile            | \$10/day<br>unlimited<br>in and out       | Complimentary<br>buffet   | No                          | Yes              |
| <ul> <li>Homewood Suites by</li> <li>Hilton Omaha Downtown</li> <li>1314 Cuming St</li> </ul>    | King Suite<br>w/pullout: \$140  | .6 mile            | \$10/day<br>unlimited<br>in and out       | Complimentary<br>buffet   | No                          | Yes              |
| <b>Hilton Garden Inn</b><br>1005 Dodge St  | King: \$140<br>Queen/Queen: \$145   | .2 mile            | 25% discount,<br>unlimited in and<br>out  | Discounted<br>breakfast   | No                          | Yes              |
| <b>DoubleTree by Hilton</b><br>16161 Dodge St.   | King: \$129<br>Double/Double: \$129   | .4 mile            | \$10/day                                  | Complimentary<br>buffet   | Yes                         | Yes              |
| <ul> <li>Cambria Hotel</li> <li>Omaha Downtown</li> <li>740 N 14th St.</li> </ul>                | King: \$129<br>Queen/Queen: \$129   | .6 mile            | Complimentary                             | Complimentary<br>buffet   | Yes                         | Yes              |
| Embassy Suites<br>by Hilton Omaha<br>Downtown Old Market<br>555 South 10th St.                   | Double/Double Suite<br>w/pullout: \$159   | .4 mile            | \$21/day unlimited<br>in and out          | Complimentary<br>breakfast buffet<br>and evening<br>managers<br>reception | No                          | Yes              |
| Courtyard Omaha<br>Downtown<br>101 South 10th St   | King: \$149<br>Queen/Queen: \$149   | .1 mile            |   | Grab and go<br>breakfast  | Yes                         | Yes              |

This hotel information is for all General Registration attendees. All hotels have a check in/check out policy of 4PM and Noon. Rates listed do not include tax which is currently at 18.16%.

Hotel airport shuttles are listed above.

Room reservations may be made starting March1 through the reservation housing link that will be provided in your convention registration confirmation. Any changes to reservations may be made through this link until May 15. After you receive your confirmation from the hotel, modifications may be made directly through the hotel.

LWML has contracted with Ollie the Trolley to provide daily trolleys from certain convention hotels to the CHI Health Convention Center. Hours will be limited, and times will be posted at the hotels specified in the chart above. There will be a North route and a West route. Seating is limited on the trolley, so be considerate of those that are in need of a ride.



# **V** Travel to Omaha

How do you plan to travel to the LMWL Convention in Omaha, Nebraska? Car, district charter motorcoach, train, plane? **Please indicate your travel plans on your registration form.** Here are some of the many possibilities for travel to Omaha in 2025.

#### Charter Motorcoach

Check with your Zone or District President, or District Charter Motorcoach Chairman to learn of your district's plans to come to the convention by charter motorcoach. Many districts are already making these plans.

#### Car Omaha is located on the eastern border of Nebraska. The heart of the city can be reached by I-80 and I-29. Parking fees at the hotels and the convention center vary.

#### Amtrak

Amtrak has a stop in Omaha. The station is located at 1003 South 9th Street, about 1.5 miles from the CHI Health Center. You are responsible for your own transportation from the Amtrak station to your hotel. Contact *Amtrak.com* or 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245).

#### **Greyhound Bus and Megabus**

Buses operate to Omaha from several cities in the U.S. Both bus companies arrive at the Greyhound bus station located at 1601 Jackson St. It is 2–3 miles to the CHI Health Center and downtown hotels. You are responsible for your own transportation from the bus station to your hotel. Contact greyhound.com or call 1-800-231-2222 or megabus.com or call (877) 462-6342.

#### Air

The Omaha airport, Eppley Airfield (OMA), is located five miles from downtown Omaha and the downtown hotels. Airlines that serve Omaha include: Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Sun Country Airlines, and United Airlines.

#### Travel to/from the Hotels

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#### **Airport Shuttles**

Plan your transportation needs before you arrive. The Ground Transportation Center at the airport is located inside Door #3 on the lower level of the terminal building. Look for the LWML table in the airport!

Taxis and ride apps (Uber/Lyft) options are available.

A few of the hotels have airport shuttles. This information is listed with the convention registration information. You may also contact your hotel directly for information on airport shuttle service.

#### **Rental Cars**

Rental cars are available at the airport. Please reserve your rental car before your arrival. Verify the rental car company's address and location, as most cities have multiple car rental facilities. Use the airport's code OMA as the pickup address. The rental car counter is located in the Customer Service Building. Rental Car options include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National, Payless, and Thrifty.

#### From The Train or Bus Station

Taxis and ride apps (Uber/Lyft) options are available.

#### **Hotel Parking**

Hotel parking is available at each hotel. The rates vary greatly, so be sure to review the rates in the hotel information before you book your hotel. LWML has contracted special parking rates with the hotels.

#### Travel to the CHI Health Center

(see hotel chart on page J)

#### **District Charter Motorcoach**

Districts have been asked to use their charter motorcoaches to provide daily transportation for those who have traveled by their bus. Check with your Motorcoach Chairman to be sure your district is providing this daily service. Certain hotels have been specifically reserved for the charter motorcoaches and are not within walking distance of the convention center. Your Motorcoach Chairman will have more details about your hotel arrangements.

Make your reservations as soon as your plans are

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definite to get the best prices and most desirable flight

Airfield Omaha is OMA. A select number of area hotels offer shuttle transportation to/from Eppley Airfield

schedule. The three-letter designation for the Eppley

#### Parking

Public parking is available in Lots B and D at the CHI Health Center. The cost is \$10 every time you enter. **Please note this is NOT A DAILY rate, but the rate for each entry and re-entry.** There is no pay-ahead or reserved parking. Visit *park.omaha. com* to see more parking lot options.

#### **Daily Trolleys**

Most LWML contracted hotels are a short 5–15-minute walk from the CHI Health Center.

LWML has contracted with Ollie the Trolley to provide daily trolleys from certain convention hotels to the CHI Health Center and back. Pork Chop Trolley and Polly Trolley will run routes during limited hours on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings and after the final events each of those days. Information will be posted at the hotels. Refer to the hotel chart to know which hotels are on the daily trolley route. Only registered convention attendees may ride the trolley.



# Head to the Heartland SEARCH OMAHA!

From the early native heritage and pioneer days of Nebraska to the contemporary activities that reveal the agricultural background and sprouting of new ideas, come and see what "*Growing in God's Grace*" offers.

Enjoy the beauty of the Heartland through tours of mission opportunities (Mission Central, Orphan Grain Train), iconic Omaha attractions (Henry Doorly Zoo, Lauritzen Gardens, Kiewit Luminarium, Hot Shops Art Center), historical sites (Arbor Lodge at Nebraska City, Boys Town), and adventures (Loess Hills & Lavender Farm, Concordia University Seward, Deb Burma with Chocolate shops & biblical descriptions of faith) and so much more.



A choice of multiple tours will be available before and after the convention ranging in length from a few hours to a full day. Make your way to Omaha and see why it's the heart of the U.S.!

The details of each of the tours, along with pricing, dates, times, and the ability to book online, will be available on the "2025 LWML Convention Tours" link on the LWML website.



LWML makes no representations regarding the tours offered by the tour company. LWML disclaims all responsibility respecting tours, including without limitation to, any responsibility for the cost, quality, and safety of such tours.



- Need more time to shop?
- Love Bible study but hate early mornings?
- Love Karaoke?
- Want somewhere quiet to sit and talk with friends?

# Friday night in Omaha is your night to plan!

The Exhibit Hall and LWML SHOP will be open to allow more time to talk with exhibitors and shop. A Karaoke stage will be near the concession stands. Want a quieter and more laid-back evening? Hang out with friends in designated seating areas or join an evening Bible study led by Donna Snow or Deb and Rev. Cory Burma. A night of Lutheran Women in Mission fun and fellowship tailored just for you!



### Our one-mile mission walk will do what no LWML mission walk has done before when we walk in not one, but TWO different states.

We will be able to experience stunning views of the Missouri River as we hike the 3,000 feet of the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge that connects Omaha, Nebraska, to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The connection between the two states is a wonderful symbol of Lutheran Women in

Swing into Action!

TEE UP 4 MITES GOLF OUTING · JUNE 25

Mission growing in God's grace as we connect with others through our service. Mission walkers will experience beautiful trails along the river along with sprawling green space, beautiful gardens, and stunning sculptures. This Mission Pledge Walk is not only an opportunity to make history, but a way to raise funds to share God's grace with people around the world. We hope you will join us on June 28, 2025.



Join us for an exciting and enjoyable day on the golf course to raise money for missions. Proceeds will go towards the 2025–2027 mission grants selected at the convention in Omaha!

The Eighth Biennial Tee Up 4 Mites Golf Outing will be held Wednesday, June 25, 2025, beginning at 8 a.m. at Bent Tree Golf Club. Bent Tree is located less than 20 minutes from the CHI Convention Center.

We are planning a fun four-person scramble with a shot gun start. Both men and women golfers of all skill levels will enjoy the bentgrass fairways on one of the most unique and challenging golf courses in the Omaha metro area. It is time to start organizing your team(s). We will also pair up singles or partial teams. Not sure if you will have room for your clubs? We can arrange for club rentals.

Even if you are not a golfer or are unable to attend, we invite you to help us support mission grants through various levels of sponsorships. Watch for more details!

Join Past LWML Presidents Gloria Edwards, Linda Reiser, and Patti Ross for a fun day. Remember, all net proceeds will be donated to mites for the 2025–2027 mission goal!

Check *lwml.org/convention* to access entry and sponsorship forms! *We are looking forward to hitting the greens with you!* 

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# SERVANT ACTIVITIES AND BLOOD DRIVE

# Thursday, June 26, 2025 | 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Your LWML Nebraska sisters in Christ are looking forward to welcoming you to the Heartland and invite you to participate as we serve the Lord together with gladness. Women, men, and children 14 years and over are encouraged to sign up to participate in the Thursday servant activities (see restrictions below for participating in the blood drive).

# **On-site Servant Activities**

There is a \$10 participation fee for the activities below. Additional information will be sent to those registered for servant activities prior to the convention. You will receive a special memento which will allow your admittance into the servant activities area on Thursday. Once there, you can choose one or several activities to complete during your scheduled time.

- Assembling meal packs for Mercy Meals through Orphan Grain Train of Norfolk, Nebraska.
- Tying quilts to be distributed through Orphan Grain Train.
- Creating and designing onesies to be distributed through Orphan Grain Train.
- Making witness bracelets for MOST Ministries.
- Assembling First Responder Tool Kits to be distributed to First Responders in Nebraska.

- Coloring and writing cards of hope for Phil's Friends.
- Creating encouragement/thank you cards for our military. These will be distributed to Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha.
- Cutting/Measuring/Assembling Feminine Hygiene products for Days for Girls. This ministry is through Common Threads, Messiah Lutheran. Products are distributed to missionaries in the field and distribution centers through Orphan Grain Train.
- Assembling Braille books and calendars for Lutheran Braille Workers.

**Please select a first and second preference as you register online.** Session I: 9–11 a.m. · Session II: 11 a.m.–1 p.m. · Session III: 1–3 p.m.

### Nebraska Community Blood Bank — Blood Drive

In less than one hour you can help save the lives of three people in need. That person may be a cancer or surgery patient, a trauma victim, an organ transplant recipient, or a burn patient. The need for lifesaving blood is great!

**Donors must** be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and feeling well on the day of donation. Bring a current photo ID, drink plenty of fluids, and eat prior to the appointment.



Schedule your appointment by scanning this QR code, or visit ncbb.org/searchdrives

and **use sponsor code LWM**. You may also call 402-486-9414.

Thank you for helping keep the blood supply stable.

# Convention Connections Online

## **Mission Grants Video**

The video of the adopted 2025–2027 Mission Grants will be available in digital format for free download after the close of the convention. Visit *lwml.org/convention* to access the convention manual for all the Mission Grants details. Watch for information on the LWML website, on Facebook, in eNews, and in the Fall 2025 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. The video will also be available for viewing on the LWML YouTube channel.

## Watch Convention Sessions Live!

If you are unable to attend the Omaha convention in person, you can still participate by watching a livestream of the convention. All sessions and worship services will be livestreamed, and most will also be available for viewing later. A link to the livestream, printed materials, and resources can be found at *lwml.org/convention*. If you know others who do not have the ability to watch the convention live, consider inviting them over and making it a party!

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|---|--|---|---|
| Manchester Full-Zip Cardigan Swtr<br>GRAPE / NAVY   | Ladies Luxe Knit Tunic<br>DEEP BLACK   | Ladies Silk Touch Polo<br>BRIGHT LAVENDER   | Mens Silk Touch Polo<br>BRIGHT LAVENDER   |
| QTY         TOTAL           Small         @ \$35           Med         @ \$35                     | QTY     TOTAL       Small     @ \$32       Med     @ \$32       Large     @ \$32       XL     @ \$32       XL     @ \$32       3XL     @ \$35       4XL     @ \$35 | QTY     TOTAL       Small     @ \$30       Med     @ \$30       Large     @ \$30       XL     @ \$30       2XL     @ \$30       3XL     @ \$35       4XL     @ \$35                                       | QTY     TOTAL       Small     @ \$30       Med     @ \$30       Large     @ \$30       XL     @ \$30       2XL     @ \$30       3XL     @ \$35       4XL     @ \$35 |
| ADD SHI<br>Mail Order Deadline: March<br>Pick up at 2025 Convention<br>(postmarked): May 15, 2025 | Deadline   | TOTAL         \$           Shipping:         Add:           1-4 Items         \$ 9.00           5-9 Items         \$15.00           10+         \$25.00           20+         \$50.00           # of Item | S   |
| Name:<br>Address:   |  | PAY BY SQUAR<br>https://lwml-nebraska-host-committee.sc<br>CHECKS PAYAB   | uare.site/  |
| Address:  | State Zip  | <b>SEND</b> Carolyn Meyer   | nost committee  |
|   |  | FORM & 3725 Rd C<br>PAYMENT Superior, NE 68<br>meyerst@winds  |   |