



April 5, 2020

To: LWML Gulf States District President Gwen Marshall and members of the LWML Gulf States District

From: LWML President Debbie Larson

Dear President Gwen and all members of the LWML Gulf States District,

Greetings from the LWML Board of Directors. I ask that you read this entire letter. It is filled with important information and comes from our hearts.

Everyone who has attended an LWML convention, be it a district or national gathering, knows it is a highlight for each person as we come together in the name of Jesus. While we are saddened that gatherings are now limited because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), we rejoice in the unity of the body of Christ. We are Lutheran Women in Mission. We are HIS!

I have asked President Gwen to send each LWML group a copy of my letter that was to go in your convention manual along with the 2020 Report to the Districts (take note that the report was printed in March and we have paid many grants since that time. Praise the Lord! Check for updates on the website, right now, and see how God is working through your offerings). Please take the time to read these documents and share them with each member of your group. It is a privilege to share news about LWML and the exciting work done through women and men like you. Each and every one of us makes an impact on LWML and the world through service and Mites Box offerings.

In 2011 LWML celebrated a milestone of gathering \$100 million in offerings since the founding of the organization in 1942. Now this total tops \$127 million! This amazing total combines funds from all 40 districts and the national LWML. That's a lot of mission outreach! By the grace of God, we continue to make donations to achieve our mission goals.

We cannot meet in person and we may not be collecting mite offerings as we normally would. Let's look for opportunities to continue to give. Do you have an online giving option in your district? Can you ask your group to continue to bring their offerings to the church so they can be sent in to the district? The needs of God's people continue, especially in times of crisis. Continue to pray. Continue to give — to your church and through your Mite Box offerings.

I would like to thank those from your district who are currently serving LWML on the national level.:

- District President Gwen Marshall serves on the Presidents Assembly,
- Heart to Heart District Leader Gladys Dale,
- Young Woman Representative(s) Christina Sereda and Hope Toben.

May God continue to bless them, and all those in your district and communities who joyfully serve Him right where they are!



Please watch the President's Report video linked [here](#) for a personal message from me and information about Lutheran Women in Mission. I hope you are able to watch this whether you are all together or individually. (If this letter is printed and you cannot click on the link, please contact Gwen so she can share the video with you).

I want to thank all those who were delegates to the Mobile, Alabama, convention for participating in the selection of mission grants. At that convention, delegates approved a record \$2.1 million mission goal. We are already half way to that goal and, by the grace of God, we will pay every grant and spread Jesus' message of salvation around the world!

There is one more video you will want to view. This [LCMS video](#) was produced as a thank you to each person who gives, so you can each have a taste of the impact made through your mite offerings. (Again, if this letter is printed and you cannot click on the link, please contact Gwen so she can share the video with you).

Our next LWML Convention will be in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24–27, 2021. This coronavirus pandemic will be history. Come and help celebrate our victory in Christ as we continue "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

In HIS service, surrounded by HIS grace,

Debbie Larson, LWML President 2019-2023