



April 30, 2020

To: LWML North District President Valerie Biberdorf and members of the LWML North Dakota District

From: LWML President Debbie Larson

Dear President Valerie and all members of the LWML North Dakota 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 Valerie 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 (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 Valerie Biberdorf serves on the Presidents Assembly,
- Graphics Team member Cheryl Rackov,
- Young Woman Representative(s) Heather Gisi and Brianna Wegner, and
- Past President Kay Kreklau, who served from 2011–2015.

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 Valerie 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 Valerie so she can share the video with you).

I wish I could present a pendent, specifically designed for retiring district presidents, and a certificate from the LWML personally to your President Valerie. It reads, "This Certificate of Appreciation is presented to Valerie Biberdorf. For service as President of the LWML North Dakota District and as a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Board of Directors/Presidents Assembly from 2016–2020, we prayerfully ask the Lord's blessings upon Valerie as she continues to serve Him wherever and whenever He has need of her." Signed, *Debbie Larson*, President. These two items will be mailed to her. Please take time to write her a thank you for her dedicated service to the LWML. I am looking forward to congratulating your new district president and serving alongside her.

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