



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

Oregon Leaguer

Summer 2015

In Memory of Rhoda Spidal



Rhoda (Schuldheisz) Spidal, 76, a longtime resident of the Gaston community, died Saturday morning, April

25, surrounded by her family. A celebration of life was held on Saturday, May 9 at the Gaston High School gymnasium

Thank you, Lord, for Rhoda Ruth Spidal. Empowered by You, Rhoda was a loving and caring daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, sister-in-law, cousin, aunt, neighbor, school secretary, enthusiastic sports fan, community supporter, faithful and active church member, and passionate supporter of LWML. She is now home with You, and greatly missed by many.

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Stop by Christ's Love Connects Us exhibit at convention

Are you headed to the National LWML Convention in Des Moines this summer? The LWML Public Relations Director and the Marketing Team are excited to highlight “Christ’s Love Connects Us” at its exhibit in the LWML Exhibit Hall during the convention, June 25-28. Participants will be encouraged to connect with each other. They will cut out paper dolls that connect – but there’s a special surprise that we won’t share until Convention! – come and see! Everyone will be encouraged to sign up for a very special door prize – a hand-sewn banner. This exhibit promises to be fun and interactive!



Oregon banner for national convention created by Mae Smith

It is with great pride that Oregon District LWML President Carolyn Stucky will carry a banner designed and constructed by Mae Smith of the Mt. Hood Zone in the banner procession at the LWML National Convention.

Here is a description of the banner: The multi-patterned fabrics in the Oregon District’s banner represent the diversity of the LWML. The dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit and the power He provides within us. The cross and the open Bible behind the cross also remind us of the power of God. The “seeds” that we plant by our “GO” (Gospel Outreach) and our sharing stories of Jesus’ love are represented beneath the cross and in the bountiful fields. The twelve seedpods on the wheat stalks remind us of the twelve disciples and how we relate to them as we “GO Share Jesus” in those harvest fields.



This picture along with the description will be posted on the national LWML website after the convention along with all the other banners from the other 39 LWML Districts.



From the President ... The Focus is the Kingdom of God

By the time you read this there will be two conventions that have taken place within two weeks of each other. I will be attending both and representing LWML Oregon District. The LCMS Northwest District convention has a theme based on Joshua 1:9 “Strong and Courageous – “Leading toward a full life in Jesus”. The LWML convention theme is based on 2 Corinthians 9:8 “Bountiful – Sow. Nourish. Reap.” Both of these are wonderful themes. I was thinking about them and wondering how I could weave them together. Are they even

related? What is the focus of each convention?

After some study on the Bible passages, I realized that the focus was the same for both conventions. It is actually the same focus for all of us no matter if it is a convention theme or our daily walk. The focus is the mission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Jesus’ mission is to redeem and restore human lives to the Kingdom of God. When Jesus asks us to follow Him, he is asking us to join Him in that mission.

The beautiful thing is that by walking with Jesus we will see some amazing things in ourselves and others. Strength and Courage will increase because of how God grows us in our faith. 2 Corinthians 9:8 says that “God is able to make all grace abound in you.” What happens then? Good works abound as we serve the Lord with gladness. The Word of God is shared. People will be attracted to and nourished by God’s Good News and become a disciple of Jesus too.

What would the day look like if the focus each day was to join Jesus in His Mission? What would the day look like if each day started with “Jesus what are you up to today? Show me where I may join you.” What would the day look like if the focus was on the mission of Jesus where I intentionally shared a smile and a greeting with someone? What would life look like if the focus was on Jesus and less on me and my own abilities or inadequacies? Could I really “let go and follow God”?

What would it look like in each society if people volunteered to be leaders believing in Jesus and His ability to lead and guide them? What if no resume’ was needed because that just focuses on our own abilities and nothing about our trust that God uses what He has given us to develop an amazing focus on the mission of Jesus. I pray that my phone rings with volunteers who are ready for opportunities to lead.

I believe these conventions will bring the focus to Jesus and His Mission and together we will be eager to be joining Him as we build relationships in our communities, neighborhoods, churches, work spaces, the places we do business, and in our homes. I pray that if you are not attending either convention that you ask your delegate just where they saw Jesus and just what is He up to? Let them tell their story. Then ask how you can get involved too. Find out what circuit your delegate to the LCMS convention was from. Our Zones follow much the same lines, but this is the time to find out because the LWML is the official auxiliary of the LCMS. The time is Now – to set your focus.

Carolyn Stucky, Oregon District LWML President



The Time is NOW is an initiative to help the LWML refocus on our basic common core values: being in God’s Word, missions, service, and fellowship. It is imperative, even urgent, that women share with other women the contagious joy that results from participating in the LWML. The Time is NOW to look to the future of the LWML!

These BIG Ideas shared by members of the LWML Board of Directors, show how this initiative could be shared throughout our LWML. The challenge is to try to use these 75 BIG Ideas before the 2017 LWML Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, when the LWML will celebrate its 75th Anniversary!

Begin to think “outside the box” and be creative. Share at least one BIG Idea with a sister in Christ today! Here are the first eight BIG ideas. Future issues of The Leaguer will feature the remaining BIG ideas.

1. The Time is NOW to hold an “Advent by Candlelight” evening in December, and invite a new friend to attend with you. Sit at specially decorated festive tables and enjoy the fellowship!
2. The Time is NOW to learn how to access the great LWML resources for meetings, personal devotions, and Bible studies on the Internet. Share the excitement of www.lwml.org with a friend! Easy to Access! Easy to Share!
3. The Time is NOW to find out how LWML is involved in social media. See what’s happening on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest. Get involved! “Follow,” “friend,” “like,” and most importantly, “share” with your sister in Christ.
4. The Time is NOW to encourage others to go on a mission trip! Perhaps you can’t go, but you can identify and encourage ... even support ... a special woman in your life to tell the Good News about Jesus!



5. The Time is NOW to have more than one LWML group in your congregation! Perhaps groups might create quilts, assist the elderly, or work at a clothing bank or food pantry. Make Bible study a part of each activity. Serve the Lord with Gladness!
6. Women of all ages and cultures have gifts to share. The Time is NOW to use the talents of these women ... involve them in your special projects ... listen to them ... encourage them!
7. The Time is NOW to be a local missionary – get your group involved in an eyeglass project! Help sort eyeglasses that can be used or recycled for distribution during mission trips. Think of other ways to be involved in missions. Ask a sister in Christ to join you.
8. The Time is NOW to make a joyful noise to the Lord! Make noise by encouraging everyone (young and old) to put their mites into a purple metal bucket ... what a noise, perhaps heard around the world!

The Counselor's Chronicle

Tomorrow morning Janette and I are leaving on the train with some friends and heading up to Seattle for a short retreat. We will see the Yankees (I am a long time Yankee fan) play the Mariners. We will shop downtown at the Pike Place Market, maybe go up the Space Needle (well, maybe me, but certainly not Janette), and generally take some time off from our busy retired schedules.

We all need to retreat. "Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest" (Ex 34:21). Jesus and His disciples retreated: "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). This was right after those 12 waiters distributed all those fishwiches to the 5,000...they had to be tired. And note in this that Jesus said, "Come with Me..." The only way we can find true rest and relaxation is to have Jesus be with us in our quiet place. Our Lord said some 3,500 years ago, "My presence will go with you, and I will give your rest" (Ex 33:14), and that promise is still true today. "He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul" (Ps 23:2-3). Retreat. Rest. Relaxation. Restoration.

In September the ladies of our LWML are invited to "Come with Me" to retreat, rest, relax, and be restored at the Macleay Christian Retreat Center, near Salem, from September 25-27. Ingredients will include Bible study from Psalm 107, quiet time, not so quiet time as we laugh, sing, play, and worship, oh, and eat. I have no idea what you women do when you get off alone by yourselves, but I can only imagine that you have a great time.

So I encourage you to invite a friend, and maybe even pay their way, to this quiet setting to be with others to rest, to have fun, and most importantly to be with Jesus. Doesn't that sound good?

And if you can't make this retreat, be sure to take some time off this summer to be with Jesus. I wonder if He likes train rides and if He is a Yankee fan.....I sure want Him to be with us the next few days in Seattle.

God's rich and restful blessings,

Pastor Dennis Bohlen, Senior Pastoral Counselor

Where is Our Joy?

Perhaps we should first determine what IS joy. There are 169 uses of the word joy in the NKJV of the Bible.

Joy is not happiness. Happiness is of the world. Happy to meet you; happy you came; these are fleeting.

Joy is of and in the Lord. His joy is everlasting. We are joyful that God has called us to be His own. We are joyful to have sonship with His Son our Savior Jesus, the Christ. We are joyful in His gifts given to us through the gift of faith by way of the Holy Spirit – the Word of God.

So where is our joy? It is in the water and the Word of our baptism; it is in the forgiveness of our sins; it is in the drinking of His blood and the eating of His body at His table at the Holy Supper.

Our joy is also found in each other as we serve our neighbors through our various vocations sharing in the love of Christ in His Koinonia.

Good sound Lutheran biblical teaching. It is what we believe, preach, teach, practice and profess each Sunday and special divine services throughout the year.

But the unspoken question is..."where is the visible manifestation of our joy?" How do we demonstrate our joy and inner peace that passes all human understanding?

How do others, our neighbors, the unchurched in our circle of acquaintances, those following false teachers see our joy?

I asked one of our pastoral counselors "How do we get more people involved in the serving through their vocations in the body of Christ, the church?" He had a three-word answer. "SHOW YOUR JOY!."

Marianne Dolson, Recording Secretary, LWML Oregon District



Come attend the LWML Oregon District Fall Retreat, September 25-27

The Christian Life Committee invites you to our fall retreat, September 25-27. Are you wandering in the wilderness? Are you sitting in darkness and gloom? Are you feeling tossed about in the storms of life? Has the Lord redeemed you? There will be: Time for fellowship. Time for Bible Studies on Psalm 107. Time to reflect and be silent. Time to take a walk or take a nap. Time to share your faith story.

What do I need to bring? Bible, flashlight, bedding/sleeping bag, pillow, bath towel and toiletries, comfortable walking shoes, casual clothes, swim suit for the Jacuzzi, book to read, journal to write in, an open heart. Medical information and release form.

What can't I bring? Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs. No pets, no firearms. Smoking is NOT permitted anywhere on the entire retreat property.

Registration: Complete the Registration Form and the Participant Information Form (found on pages 4 & 5 of The Leaguer). Mail them in, along with your registration fee by August 31. Check-in time begins at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 25 and check-out is no later than 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27.

Questions? Call Christian Life Committee Chairman Debbie Weaver at 503-543-2229 or by e-mail at boodsmom@centurytel.net.

Let the Redeemed of
the Lord say so



Psalm 107:2

September 25, 26, 27, 2015

A retreat planned by the Oregon District LWML Christian Life Committee
Macleay Christian Retreat Center, 2887 74th Avenue, Salem, OR 97317
www.experiencemacleay.org

Name _____ Preferred Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Roommate Preference Name (s) _____

I am a member of the Board of Directors (EC & BOD)

Registration Fees: Two nights and five meals.....	\$140.00
(This includes Friday dinner, Saturday-all meals; Sunday breakfast)	
For members of the EC and BOD only – additional Friday lunch	\$ 12.50
Total Amount Enclosed.....	\$ _____

(NOTE: There is an additional \$20.00 for registration after August 31, 2015)

A registration confirmation will be sent by e-mail for those who list an e-mail address. Attached to the confirmation will be an Emergency and Medical Information Form. Please fill this form out and bring it with you to the retreat.

Everyone provides own linens (sleeping bag or sheets/blankets and towels.)
PLEASE NOTE: The retreat center does not accommodate special dietary needs.

Mail this Registration form, the Participant Information form and a check by August 31, 2015 (earlier would be appreciated)
To: Debbie Weaver P.O. Box 1534 Scappoose, OR 97056
Make Checks payable to: **Oregon District LWML**

Questions: Please contact Debbie Weaver at 503-543-2229 or e-mail boodsmom@centurytel.net,



Participant Information Form, Acknowledgement and Release

The purpose of this Participant Information Form, Acknowledgment and Release is to identify each person (a "**Participant**") who wishes to volunteer with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League ("**LWML**") or participate in LWML-sponsored activities. As a condition to becoming a Participant, LWML requires each person to provide the following information and release LWML from any responsibility for his or her safety and well-being when volunteering for LWML and while participating in LWML-sponsored activities.

Name/Address: _____

Allergies and Other Known Health Risks/Problems: _____

Person to Contact in the Event of an Emergency (Name, Address, Telephone Number(s), Relationship):

Health Insurance Carrier/Policy Number: _____

Medications: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE

I understand that to become a Participant, LWML requires me to acknowledge and agree that LWML assumes, no, and disclaims all, responsibility for my safety and well-being while acting as a Participant. In consideration of LWML permitting me to be a Participant:

- (a) I acknowledge that the information set forth above is complete and accurate;
- (b) I acknowledge and agree that LWML is an auxiliary agency of The Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) and cannot and does not accept any (and expressly disclaims all) responsibility for my safety and well-being while being a Participant;
- (c) I release LWML, its directors, officers, employees and agents from all claims, demands, actions or causes of action that I may have, now or in the future, relating to or resulting from any illness or injuries (including death) suffered by me or my possessions while being a Participant; and
- (d) I consent to any medical treatment that LWML (or any of its authorized representatives) deems to be necessary or appropriate in the event of my illness, accident or other medical emergency, and I accept full financial responsibility for any fees or expenses relating to this treatment.

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

Human Care Survey Results

In February the Human Care Committee sent out a survey to each of the Zone Presidents to be shared with their societies. The response was most gratifying. We very much appreciate the time each of you took to participate in this. Zone Presidents have the complete results, but we would like to list a few of them in hopes that you may gain some new ideas to implement in your own rallies, workshops and in gatherings. Our Oregon District LWMLers are very creative and very busy, as they "serve the Lord with gladness."

Workshops

Birthing kits for medical missionary to Tanzania
Seventy-two hour emergency preparedness/CPR
Preparing items for OGT (Orphan Grain Train): pillowcase clothes, health & school kits
Making layettes for premature babies
Marking bibles for prisoners
Preparing back packs and comfort bags for foster children

Servant Events

Visiting shut-ins
Steps for Life: baby bottle drive
Relay for Life

Seasonal baskets, cards, cookies for shut-ins
Volunteering at local food banks and other community events
Serving at weddings & funerals

In Gatherings

Items for OGT, LWR, Operation Christmas Child, Bethesda Communities
Food & cash for local food banks
Food, cash, clothing, toiletries for Rescue Missions and Women's Shelters
Collecting used ink cartridges and old cell phones for Funding Factory
Winter clothing and blankets for homeless
Soap for Salem Connect

Holiday Bazaars/Special Events

Cookies Walks
Rummage and garage sales
Advent & Lenten Luncheons
Bunco Party for Mites
Fair market coffee, tea, and cocoa sales
Hosting Shelter Night for homeless

Thank you again, and don't forget to use the LWML website (www.lwml.org) to check out great ideas for serving the Lord.

*Gayle Wolfe, Chairman,
Oregon District Human Care Committee*

Mighty Message from Gospel Outreach

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us that your way be known on earth and your salvation among all nations." Psalm 67:1-2

Two mission grants have received partial funding during the month of May! Thank you to all who share your "change" and prayers in support of our mission grants.

Mission trips are being planned to Kitkatla in British Columbia, Canada this August and to the Dominican Republic in November. Some of the funds from our GO (Gospel Outreach)-Share Jesus mission grant will be helping some of our LWML members share Jesus' love in Word and action.

Your amazing mites are also being used to support the Hope House Ministry of Deacon Tom and Deaconess Cathy Benzler as they reach out to Native Americans on the Olympic Peninsula with Word, Sacrament and basic necessities. A much needed storage facility to house food and basic supplies, called Hope House, is currently under construction. Please look at the picture to the left and envision a new facility filled with canned foods and other basic necessities. The title of this grant is: Expanding Outreach to the Native Americans on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington.



Pie by the Slice

The Trinity, Bend, LWML women hosted their annual LWML Sunday on May 30, with nearly 400 in attendance. The service was followed by the Annual "pie-by-the-slice" Reception in the Narthex where attendees devoured nearly 40 pies and raised \$700 for Mites 'n MISSION GRANTS!

Displays featured the District 2014-2016 Biennium picture boards of Mission Grants, Pregnancy Resource Layette Bags for the local center, Prayer Shawls, Dialysis Blankets, all regular mission projects by Trinity Society women. Application Forms for the 6th Annual Women's Retreat at Round Lake, hosted by LaPine Society women, July 16-19, were also available. For more information, contact Joan Kittrell at thekittrells@ymail.com. All ODL-WML women are invited!

Funding Factory



We all know the "drill"! Zone Presidents have the free UPS labels. We all need to

keep collecting and sending in boxes and boxes and boxes of items.

HOW ABOUT ASKING OUR VBS attendees to scout around and bring old cell phones and old printer boxes to help missions?

Blessings on a "fruit full" summer!

Grant Proposals Wanted

Please share with family, friends, and people at your church that LWML Oregon District Grant Proposals may be submitted for the 2016-2018 biennium until September 30. Individual LWML members, societies, zones or LCMS boards may submit grant proposals. The application is available at www.orlwml.org or you may contact Janet Schultz at janet.h.schultz@gmail.com.

Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

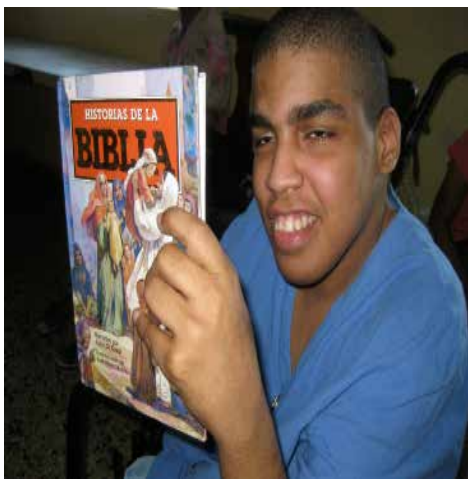
Bethesda Auxiliary has arranged a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, November 3-10, to work in the government institution for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thirty-three people live in horrible conditions in one ward of the psychiatric institution. Members of the Dominican Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Missionaries have been visiting in this institution for over a year, sharing the love of Jesus in word and deed; visiting, singing, reading



Bible stories, feeding people, and bringing smiles and joy to this dismal place. The team will join in this ministry and have a VBS type program for four days. Opportunity will also be given to visit the group home for six children with disabilities, which was built with LWML mites; a national LWML grant. We'll see how the love of Christ has completely changed the lives of these kids. They are thriving as members of their congregation, community and schools.

Seven people are already committed to the trip and there is room for five more team members. Inquiries are coming in, so if you are interested, please contact Terry Putnam at terryatnetarts@gmail.com as soon as possible.



Adopt-a-Home/Adopt-a-Resident Program

For many years Oregon congregations and Oregon LMWL societies have faithfully shared the love of Christ with people Good Shepherd Lutheran Home (GSLH) and now Bethesda Lutheran Communities (BLC) support. The Auxiliary's Adopt-a-Home and Adopt-a-Resident program was one way this was coordinated. However, with the merger of GSLH and BLC, follow-up on this program has been inefficient. Bethesda Auxiliary and the Bethesda Religious Life Department are working to re-tool this program, so that timely and effective communication will take place between those extending Christ's love in word and deed, and those receiving it. Please be watching for this revised program, and the opportunity to be involved in sharing Jesus' love in this way with people who are so often over-looked and underserved.

A big THANK YOU, to those of you, as congregations and societies, who have continued to send cards and gifts to your adoptee. For those who go into the homes to help where needed, or to have devotions and Bible study, God bless you. If you are still involved in this program, please let Terry Putnam (terryatnetarts@gmail.com) or Mona Fuerstenau (mona.fuerstenau@mailblc.org) know who your adoptee is, or what home you and your congregation is serving. This will help Bethesda and Bethesda Auxiliary to acknowledge your ministry and help with the communication in your ministry. Thank you for your continued service in Jesus' Name.

Bringing Joy to Others

What joy you LWML members have brought to the people Bethesda supports in the vocational program in Portland. Staff member, Margaret was overjoyed to receive the large flannel graph set to use in the Three times weekly Bible study/devotion times. Faces lit-up with smiles as individuals were able to place the brightly colored figures on the flannel graph board and be part of telling the Bible story. Mona Fuerstenau, Bethesda's Director of LCMS Ministry Partnerships said, "These materials will provide much needed, hands on, beautiful, visual, experiential components to their spiritual activities. It will make the Bible stories come alive! What a blessing the women of the LWML have been and continue to be for the people supported by Bethesda. THANKS SO MUCH!"

At our last LMWL convention in Portland, the flannel graph set was purchased with funds from a Thrivent Action Team grant, and you helped cut out the figures. Thank you to all who grabbed scissors and cut while they visited. Also, former Oregon District LWML President Cynthia Behrens finished the cutting project as she recovered from her hip replacement/broken leg/hip replacement. Thank you to Cynthia and Rachel, who also helped, and to Pastor George Putnam who filed all the figures.

Caring for the Caregiver

The LDA (Lutheran Deaconess Association) offers a one-time, 90-minute mini-retreat for caregivers over Skype. These retreats are open to anyone providing in-home, full-time, part-time, even facility-based care. These are free, and interactive, with no more than 3 caregivers in the same mini-retreat.

The retreat is facilitated by deaconesses trained in listening and reflecting, and is appropriate for all Christians. It is a one-time commitment and stress-free in that assistance will be given setting you up on Skype.

To register, visit www.thelda.org or send an email to deacserv@valpo.edu. Include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and Skype name (if you have one). We will contact you to make arrangements.

CLIP-N-SAVE



IMPORTANT DATES IN 2015-2016

LWML Convention, Des Moines, IA...June 25-28, 2015
Oregon District EC/BOD Meeting...September 25, 2015
Oregon District Retreat, Macleay Christian Retreat...September 25-27, 2015
Oregon District LWML Convention, Hilton Hotel, Eugene...June 3-5, 2016

Officer Contact Information

District President: Carolyn Stucky
e-mail: ORPRESIDENT15@comcast.net
VP Christian Life: Anita Eller
e-mail: ajeller@gmail.com
VP Gospel Outreach: Janet Schultz
e-mail: janet.h.schultz@gmail.com
VP Human Care: Char Kolzow
e-mail: ckolzow@gmail.com

VP Servant Resources: Debra Schlueter
e-mail: dachlu49@msn.com
Leaguer Editor: Pam Knepper
e-mail: pknep@frontier.com
Recording Secretary: Marianne Dolson
e-mail: Psalm101.1@Q.com
Financial Secretary: Glenda Dougherty
e-mail: Gfdougherty2@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Karen Danielson
email: Karenprince63@msn.com



Linda Larson, Utah - Idaho President, Marie Chow, Washington - Alaska President and Carolyn Stucky - Oregon President at the Northwest District LCMS convention, June 11-13.

Willing Writers Wanted

Has God given you the gift to write? Are you willing to use that gift in service to the Lord through LWML?

The LWML is looking for Bible studies (preferably 20 to 30 minutes long), devotions (one page), sketches (preferably four participants or less), litanies, readings, retreats/workshops, and brief icebreakers/mixers that will enable today's women to grow in the Lord and impact their world for Christ, as well as add meaning and interest to their gatherings and meetings. Submissions go through an extensive review before being used by LWML. Please prayerfully consider how our Lord might use you in this important way. Thank you in advance.

Please send your items to depcl@lwml.org along with your name, address, and phone number.

Fall 2015 Leaguer Deadline

If you have an item(s) you would like to submit for the Fall 2015 Leaguer, please send your submission(s) by September 1 to:

Pam Knepper, Leaguer Editor
997 NE Hood Street, Hillsboro, OR 97124 or
pknep@frontier.com

Convention Coverage

Check out online coverage of the 36th Biennial LWML Convention, June 25-28 in Des Moines, Iowa, at www.lwml.org and scan this QR code for live video streaming.

