

LWML District Endowment Funds

Through the Years, Sustaining One Another

LWML wants to equip your district to carry out the LWML mission statement today and for generations into the future. A biblically-based, well-structured endowment fund is an important means of doing this.

An endowment fund can be the lifeblood of a nonprofit organization's longevity, but there are differences between secular endowment funds and biblically-based endowment funds. Secular endowment funds prioritize money. Biblically-based endowment funds emphasize biblical stewardship and faithful commitment to the Lord and His promises.

The purpose of this packet is to provide you with the tools to establish a district endowment, or review the current district endowment, with an eye toward being sure the district endowment is biblically-based and well-structured.

The LWML women of the district you serve – each one a baptized child of God – pledge themselves to generously dedicate their earthly blessings, their silver and their gold, to the great task of bringing the lost and erring into eternal fellowship with God. In creation, God planted His heart of generosity into people – the Crown of His creation. In Baptism, Christ restores harmony between us, who are broken by sin, and our perfect heavenly Father. Transformed by the Holy Spirit's renewing breath, minds are reversed, and lives, marred by a selfish nature, give way to God's generous nature. With this heritage, Christ motivates His people to transfer the blessing of faith in order to fulfill God's plan for the world through His people.

LWML women serve the Lord with gladness during their lifetime. Connecting these women with a biblically-based, well-structured LWML district endowment fund can be a powerful way for them to continue having an impact into the future!

What is included in this packet?

This packet contains the following:

1. **Bible Study** – A biblically-based endowment fund begins with Bible study. The enclosed Bible study, Christian Stewardship – A Study of the Biblical Basis of Endowments, reviews essential stewardship principles and sets out the biblical basis for endowment funds.
2. **Endowment Fund Best Practices Tip Sheet** – This sheet sets out the basic requirements of a biblically-based and well-structured endowment fund.
3. **Endowment Fund Template** – A well-structured endowment fund begins with a good model. The enclosed template is a sample for districts that do not yet have a true endowment fund. The template is also a good comparison tool for districts that already have some type of gift fund or policy but want to know what can be done to improve the existing fund or create a new fund.

*LWML Mission Statement:
The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.*

LWML Pledge: In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

LWML Motto: "Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010, St. Louis, Missouri 63105
www.lwml.org lwml@lwml.org
800-252-LWML Fax: 314-268-1532



4. Ministry Endowment Funding booklet – This booklet from the LCMS Foundation provides additional in-depth information about endowment funds.

What are my next steps?

Establish a committee in the district you serve to review your district’s current gift acceptance policy, special fund gift policy, endowment fund agreement, or other documents that you have. If you do not have these documents, or if they need to be updated, follow your district’s procedure for updating or creating these documents. Keep in mind that if you are creating a new endowment fund policy, your district bylaws may also need to be updated to acknowledge and accommodate the new fund and new duties for your district officers.

Who can I contact for help?

If your LWML district has a Gifts of Love Advocate, contact her. If your LWML district does not have a Gifts of Love Advocate, contact LWML Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage. LCMS Foundation attorney Paul Geidel is also available to review your endowment fund policy and make recommendations.

Linda Gage
 LWML Gift Planning Counselor
 Linda.Gage@lfnd.org
 800-741-4138, ext. 1

Paul Geidel, J.D.
 Vice President Gift Review and Design LCMS Foundation
 Paul.Geidel@lfnd.org
 314-996-1455

LWML Gifts of Love Advocates:

Lois Anderson loisandersonlwml@gmail.com	Phone: (208) 733-6599 Cell: (208) 954-3534	LWML Utah-Idaho
Ruth Ann Arbeiter arbeiterra@egyptian.net	Phone: (618) 763-4635 Cell: (618) 615-7696	LWML Southern Illinois
Rebecca Bessell rlb54@rochester.rr.com	Phone: (585) 964-7844 Cell: (585) 415-6368	LWML Eastern
Marge Bruning mabruning79@gmail.com	Phone: (804) 798-6503 Cell: (804) 543-9367	LWML Chesapeake
Sandy Hardies hardiessandy@gmail.com	Phone: (734) 338-9410 Cell: (231) 250-1518	LWML Michigan
Peg Henderson peghender@aol.com	Phone: (407) 482-2892 Cell: (210) 860-2160	LWML Florida-Georgia
Cheryl Keithly ckeithly@keithlywilliams.com	Phone: (928) 726-2566 Cell: (928) 581-9299	LWML Pacific Southwest
Mary Kay Mages marykay_schuft@hotmail.com	Phone: (507) 794-3540 Cell: (507) 276-9015	LWML Minnesota South
Beth Marth bmarth@columbus.rr.com	Cell: (614) 282-7143	LWML Ohio
Mary Rinda marymazurk@att.net	Phone: (630) 832-5809 Cell: (630) 518-0801	LWML English
Pat Bilow pat.bilow@lfnd.org	Phone: (800) 741-4138 Cell: (419) 392-2656	LWML Gift Planning Counselor

LWML Gifts of Love Gift Planning Supporters:

Bonnie Karch sunflower.nana2015@gmail.com	Phone: (702) 258-8642 Cell: (702) 743-3258	LWML Pacific Southwest
Cheryl Keithly ckeithly@keithlywilliams.com	Phone: (928) 726-2566 Cell: (928) 581-9299	LWML Pacific Southwest
Linda Koch lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com	Phone: (858) 271-6852 Cell: (858) 414-4618	LWML Pacific Southwest
Pat Schutte pbschutte@aol.com	Phone: (619) 444-6089 Cell: (619) 992-4214	LWML Pacific Southwest
Barbara Virus bvirus@juno.com	Phone: (714) 639-1970 Cell: (714) 801-5252	LWML Pacific Southwest

LWML Song: With Joy We Come Together v. 2

This verse of our newest LWML song by Jean Hansen Kammerer (sung to the tune of “O Savior, Precious Savior”) beautifully captures how LWML is not limited to this generation.

*We celebrate the women,
Who’ve served You through the years,
Sustaining one another
Through vict’ry, trials, and fears.
We follow now their service,
Devoted, Christ, to You.
No matter what Your errand,
We’ll strive to follow through.*

The words evoke memories of our mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and dear sisters in Christ of earlier generations. The LWML we know and love today is built on the foundation laid by these dear women over the past 75 years. District endowments afford us the opportunity in this generation to continue building on that foundation and secure LWML’s future for our daughters, granddaughters, and future generations! How sweet it will be to hear these words sung in the future, knowing that we are sustaining one another across the generations.



Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010, St. Louis, Missouri 63105
www.lwml.org lwml@lwml.org
800-252-LWML Fax: 314-268-1532

