

2020

MISSOURI DISTRICT LWML  
OFFICER CANDIDATES

VICE-PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE



**CRYSTAL LUECKENHOFF** was baptized and confirmed at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Belle. She is currently a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Jefferson City and a member of Faith LWML where she serves as Chairman of Gospel Outreach. She previously served as treasurer and president on the Society level and as Christian Life and Structure Chairman along with Treasurer and President at the Zone level. On the MO District level, she previously served as committee member and Chairman for Church Workers Study Grants and was Financial Secretary at the 2018 LWML MO District convention.

In her community, she is a volunteer at Runge Conservation Nature Center where she teaches the love of nature through art. At church she currently helps teach 3 year old Sunday school and is on the counting team. Once retired, she recently returned to work in a dental office she worked in 26 years ago. She helps at receptionist desk but spends most of her time sterilizing instruments.

This October she will be married to her husband, Mark, for 30 years. She enjoys reading, fishing, card making and crafting. Always wanting to learn new things, she has recently tried her hands at tying flies for fishing and pyrography (wood burning).

*Vision Statement: My vision is for our LWML members to be focused on the people around them, to keep our eyes open to the needs of others and to show Christ's love through actions like small acts of kindness. We need to continue to learn and grow by being in God's word. We also need to be mentors to one another, helping with encouragement and praying for one another and our organization.*



**DAWN NEIL** is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in La Grange, Missouri. She currently works as the church secretary and for a financial advisor.

Dawn is the current president of her society and the Northeast Zone Gospel Outreach/Mission Servant chair. She has served two terms as Northeast Zone President and has been a committee member of the Missouri District Christian Life Committee.

Dawn is currently a core member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Missouri District 2020 convention, acting as the committee secretary. Dawn and her husband Jeff live in Canton, Missouri and have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters.

*Vision Statement: That we all have a servant's heart to continue to help those less fortunate as we are directed in Matthew 25. The blessings and strength of the LWML are mighty!*

## PASTORAL COUNSELOR



**REV. DR. WILLIAM J P DOUBEK III** is retired and is currently filling a vacancy at Peace Lutheran Church, Shell Knob. He has served congregations at First Lutheran, Neosho; Mount Olive Lutheran Church, St. Louis and St. Paul Lutheran Church, St. Louis.

Pastor Doubek is very active in the community serving on various boards in the Neosho area. He is currently serving as mayor of the City of Neosho. He is a veteran serving in the United States Air Force from 1970-1977 and has served as chaplain for various veteran's service agencies.

Pastor Doubek is a graduate of Concordia College, St. Paul, MN, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO. He has served the LCMS Synod, District and Circuit in various positions and is currently serving as High School Peer Ministry Trainer for the Missouri District. He has served and is serving as LWML Missouri SW Zone Pastoral Counselor.



**REV. MICHAEL POTTSCHMIDT** joined the ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Concordia, Missouri, as Senior Pastor in February 2018. Prior to that, he served as Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia, from 2005 – 2009 and then as Trinity's Senior Pastor from 2009 – 2018.

Michael has served as a pastoral counselor of the Chesapeake District LWML and of the Old Dominion Zone. He has been a Rotary Club member and is a Past President of the Rotary Club of West Richmond.

He currently serves as a community liaison and member of the Board of Directors of the Whiteman Air Force Base Community Council. Michael is a graduate of Concordia College—Ann Arbor and Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis. He and his wife Vickie have two daughters, Evelyn Grace and Annika.

*Vision Statement: Strengthened by God's grace and equipped by the Spirit, Lutheran women in mission will continue to share the work and witness of God's church on earth: proclaiming and demonstrating the love of God in Jesus our Savior at home, in their congregation, in their community, nation, and around the world.*

## VICE-PRESIDENT OF SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES



**KATIE SMITH** having grown up in the church, she joined the Lutheran Church in 2014. She is a member of St. Matthews in Lee's Summit.

She joined a circle at her church when a fellow nursery worker encouraged her to come to a meeting in 2015. In 2017 Katie was selected as a Young Women Representative to the National LWML convention in Albuquerque.

Since then she has served on the committee for Young Women for the Missouri District; helping with the YWR's at two Missouri conventions. In her society she served on the Board of Directors, as co-leader and leader of the young women circle.

Katie and her husband have been married for eight years and have two young children. She graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a degree in Child and Family Development. She currently is a stay at home mom.

Vision Statement: *1 Peter 4:10 To be encouraging to women of all ages; to reach out to women of different cultural backgrounds and show them what this great group of ladies is all about. That we can all serve the Lord with Gladness together.*



**STEPHANIE SNYDER** grew up in St. Louis, attending LWML meetings at Concordia Seminary and Immanuel, Ollivette. She became a member of the LWML in Billings, MT while on vicarage, and continued LWML membership while living in Jasper, TX.

On the society level, she is a member of St. Matthew's Ladies' Aid in Ernestville, MO, where she is the Christian Growth Chairman. On the Zone Level, Stephanie was elected President of the Golden Triangle Zone of Texas. She attended the National Convention held in Kansas City in 1995 as a Texas district delegate and marveled at how many LWMLers fit into Bartle Hall. She moved to the Concordia Zone in 1999.

There she served as Gospel Outreach/Human Care Chair in the early 2000s, First Vice President, and filled in for the Zone President at the 2014 Convention. In February 2016, she assumed the Zone Presidency upon her predecessor's resignation. She has served as Gospel Outreach chair for the Concordia Zone since 2016. On the District level, she is assisting with online voting for this convention.

Stephanie has been an RN since 1979. She has lead the music and crafts for VBS and has sung with various choirs. She plays the guitar (marginally), organ (well enough to lead a service but not weddings) and sings with Sweet Adelines in the Kansas City Chorus. She is married to Walter, who is very supportive of LWML and her hobbies. She has two grown daughters and two grandchildren.

VISION STATEMENT: *My vision for LWML is reaching out to women in all seasons of their lives, so they can serve the Lord with gladness, through Bible Studies, service projects, prayer and mites. By mixing traditional meetings with technology, we can reach a variety of women in the church.*

## RECORDING SECRETARY



**DONNA HECHT** lives in Frohna with her husband, Dennis. They have 3 sons and 2 grandchildren. She is a member of Concordia, Frohna and has been a member of Concordia LWML for over 30 years. She has served her local society in the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Christian Growth Chairman.

On the Zone level, she has served in the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and Zone President. She, also, was on the 2016 District Convention Host Committee and the 2018-2020 District Nominating Committee.

She has been a member of her local congregation since 1980 and has served in the following capacities: Sunday school teacher, youth counselor, Financial Secretary, Kitchen Committee, Endowment Fund Committee, Evangelism Committee and audiovisual team.

Past community activities include Lutheran Braille worker, East Perry County Jaycee Women member, Frohna Community Betterment Committee, and Perry County Tourism Board. Currently, she is a member of the Frohna City Park Board, Friends of the Library, and East Perry County Fair Photography Committee.

Professionally, she has been an administrative assistant and practice manager in medical offices.

VISION STATEMENT: *Service to humanity is the best work of life so thereby, serving God by serving others, as God has commanded us in His Word, with joy in our hearts and wherever He has placed us.*



**HANNAH JACKSON** Hannah Jackson is a bit of a whirlwind: food lover, avid reader, problem solver, and crafter! She is active in choir, Life Team, and LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) at Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, MO; and within her community.

Thankful to serve as Assistant to the Editor at Concordia Publishing House, Hannah lives in St. Louis with her incredible husband, Eric. They moved back to the Midwest a couple of years ago and are glad to be closer to some family and dear friends.

While fairly new to St. Louis, Hannah is not new to LWML. Before she was even born, her seven-months pregnant mother took her to an LWML retreat. Much later, Hannah was blessed to serve as a YWR (Young Woman Representative) for two different districts (RMD and MOD) and at one National Convention. She also attended the last National Convention in Alabama, where her joyful service switched from YWR to a choir member, blood donor, and wherever else needed.

Very passionate about LWML, Hannah currently serves as her society (Katie Luther League) President; the St. Louis West Zone Recording Secretary; and is finishing the term as your District Recording Secretary. Thanks be to God for all the LWML sisters who become dear friends, LWML adventures, and other purple shenanigans!

Hannah enjoys cooking, hiking, and traveling. She embraces Mondays, challenges, and new adventures. Hannah's goal is that everyone who meets her leaves interactions with her happier, knowing how very loved they are.

*My vision for LWML is that we continue to serve as a resource for women of the LCMS to grow in faith—standing firmly rooted in God's Word—as we witness to others locally, nationally, and worldwide. We will build on our seventy-eight year history as we move forward—eyes, hearts, and lives focused with faith vision, walking by faith, not sight—into the next seventy eight years. [2 Corinthians 5:7]*

*The LWML, more than an organization, will equip its members to remain fiercely eager to boldly take Jesus to our hurting world; to sustain support for mission work and missionaries both near and far; to remain faithful to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and to joyfully serve the Lord. All glory be to God!*

## TREASURER



**ELAINE FROESCHLE** is a member of St. Matthew Society in Lee's Summit, MO where she has served as Recording Secretary, President and Treasurer. She has served on the KC South Zone Board as Treasurer, Recording Secretary, VP of Organizational Resources.

She is currently serving on the MO District BOD as Organizational Resource – Structure Chairman and served in the past as District Financial Secretary. Elaine also served St. Matthew as Treasurer for four years and is now Treasurer for the St.

Matthew Preschool.

She is retired with a 35-year background in Financial Reporting and Cost Accounting. She and her husband Caryl have two grown children and three grandchildren.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE



**RITA BRYANT** I'm a lifelong Lutheran, baptized and confirmed at Trinity Clinton, MO, and a farm girl from Henry County. I have an Associate Degree from Central Missouri State. I retired from Sherwin-Williams as the KC District Coordinator in August 2017. I met and married my husband, Martin, at Peace Lutheran, Kansas City, MO. We will be married 35 years in October and have three grown sons (one married, expecting our first grandchild in September).

My LWML exposure began very young as my mother was very active. I joined LWML at Peace in 1985. To take advantage of Calvary's Lutheran School, we transferred our membership in 1991, and I joined Sarah Circle. I have served as the Circle's Secretary, Treasurer, and President and Calvary's League Treasurer, and in June, will complete my third (two-year) term as League President. I have taught various Sunday school classes, help with the monthly congregation supported blind outreach luncheons, and keep up the church's Cradle Roll. Since retirement, I joined Calvary's Altar Guild and Quilters, deliver altar flowers to shut-ins, church counter and help at Immanuel's Food Bank. The last three years, I have served as LWML KC District's South Zone Treasurer.

I love to travel and have visited 49 states. Martin and I are planning to visit my 50th state, Alaska, as part of our 35th Anniversary celebration this summer. We enjoy biking, playing pickleball and going on bike tours at cities we visit. Other hobbies are baking and gardening.

**VISION STATEMENT** *Spreading the love of the Lord with other Lutheran Sisters through sharing His Word, our mites, and our service to others locally, nationally and around the world.*



**DEANNA CROSS** is a member of Timothy Lutheran Church, Blue Springs. Having grown up in a Lutheran church, Deanna was familiar with LWML from early on. It was her childhood church of Immanuel Lutheran, Lockwood that helped fund her and others to LYF camp and sent cards when she was in college. She recalls their servant hearts and the many ways LWML impacted others. She knew then she wanted to be a part of the LWML mission. Shortly after she was married, she became an active member of Timothy LWML, for which she has been a member for 27 years. She recalls the personal phone call from an LWML member inviting her to a circle meeting.

Deanna has served her society as Secretary, VP of Christian Life, VP of Servant Resources (Organizational Resources), nominating committee, and society President.

At the Zone level, Deanna has been Chairman of the Leader Development Committee and Nominating committee. In 2001, Deanna attended the 29th Biennial Convention in San Jose as a YWR from the Missouri District and was on the district YWR committee. She is the administrator for both the Timothy and KC South Zone Facebook groups.

Deanna has taught Sunday School and VBS. Deanna is active in her children's activities having served as 4H leader, Boy Scout leader, Booster Club officer, PTA, and can be found cheering at many sporting events.

Deanna is a surgical nurse at the Kansas City VA and an active member of her nursing professional organization, AORN. Deanna and her husband Eric have 4 children, 2 in college and 2 in middle school.



Vision Statement: *My prayer is that individually we grow in our faith and as a league of sisters in Christ, through LWML, we carry out our pledge to bring the lost and erring into fellowship with Christ. God will equip and use each woman as she lives her life to serve others joyfully and to love others as Christ has loved us.*



**CYNTHIA HARRIES** grew up on a farm in Kansas, in a large family, within a strong Lutheran community. She attended Lutheran grade school where the Dorcas-LWML met in the basement. She attended Concordia Teachers College, Seward, NE and had a 40 year career as a Lutheran educator.

LWML has been a part of her personal life for 30 years. She is currently retired and works various part-time jobs and volunteers where possible.

Vision Statement: *LWML is a great opportunity for women to use their gifts and passions to ‘serve the Lord with gladness’. The great missions our mites support are powerful in what each offering a person can bring working together. Personal gifts from God can be used in service in teaching a Bible lesson, cooking, leadership, sewing, writing encouraging notes – the list is endless. I pray we can share this vision with young women so they will want to join us in the Lord’s mission through LWML.*



**TWYLA HAZEN** has been a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Maryville, MO since 1958 when her family moved to town. She is married to Jim (49 years) and they have 2 adult sons, 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. At hope she has taught Sunday School for many years and in the past served on the Lutheran Campus Center Board.

Twyla graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in 1973 and started working as a nurse aide at St. Francis Hospital while her husband finished his education. At the end of March 2019, Twyla retired from SSM Health who owned the hospital after 46 years. She finished her career as an analyst supporting physicians and office staff in the use of the EPIC Electronic Health Record.

Twyla started her LWML journey at Hope and became involved at the zone level first as a member of the Christian Growth Committee. She has also served as Zone President and Zone Secretary. She received the convention bug from her father and has attended many District and National conventions.

*My vision statement is based on Philippians 4:11-13 – “Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Be content in whatever life experiences God places us. Use that contentment to encourage women to trust in God’s wisdom throughout our earthly journey. May the peace that God gives us, encourage women to use the talents He has given us to share the good news of the Gospel with those near us and throughout the whole world.*



**MARIAN HOEHNER** and her husband, John, live in St. Charles after moving from Valparaiso, IN in 1994. They are members at Holy Cross, O’Fallon, where Marian was introduced to LWML. She has served her society as Vice President and President and has chaired various committees, including Nominating Committee and Bylaws Committee.

After joining Holy Cross, she was elected Congregational Secretary, serving on the Executive Committee and the Council for two terms and recently served as

Stewardship Committee Chairman. She also served on the Bylaws Reform Committee and has coordinated numerous special occasion luncheons and breakfasts for Holy Cross events.

Marian is currently serving as President of the LWML St. Charles Zone, having served in the offices of Vice President and Secretary. She was honored to serve as the Mission Walk Chairman for the 2018 Missouri District Convention at Lake Ozark.

In addition to being active in LWML, Marian sits on the Board of Directors of the Concordia Seminary Guild as Corresponding Secretary.

*VISION STATEMENT: LWML has played an important role in my adult life. It has allowed me to witness God's grace and love in my personal world and in a broader world. I encourage the women of LWML to make LWML more visible, to let more people know what the mission of LWML is, and to use our gifts and open our hearts to joyfully serve God by serving others so they, too, will witness God's grace and love.*



**EILEEN SCHLICHTING** lives in Cape Girardeau, MO and she recently retired from the Communications Department at St. Francis Medical Center after 39 years of service.

She received AA Degree from St. Paul's College in Concordia, MO and a BS in Education from Concordia Teachers College-Seward. She taught for 3 years in El Monte, CA before returning to her Midwest roots.

As a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau, she sings in 3 choirs, plays hand bells, is Chairman of the Christian Care Board, in addition to being a member of the Altar Guild, Trinity Ladies Aid (LWML) and SEMO LWML Potters Clay. She also tutors at Trinity Lutheran School. Community involvement includes working at a local food pantry.

Past involvement at her church has included serving on the Board of Steward, teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. In the Cape Girardeau community, she has been an English as Second Language and literacy (ESL) tutor and a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children.

In her local LWML society, she has served as Chairman, Co-Chairman, and Secretary. On the Zone level, she has held the office of Zone President and Membership/Leader Development. She also served on the Host Committee for the 2016 District Convention. In addition, she has enjoyed being the "humorous interrupter" at numerous district conventions.

*Vision Statement: In response to God's gracious love for us, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League provides women the opportunity to use their time, talent and treasure to answer the call of Jesus to care for the physical and spiritual needs of others.*



**PATTY WALKENHORST** is a member of St. Paul Lutheran in Union, MO. She is a founding member of the St. Paul Women in Mission (S.W.I.M.) / LWML there. She and her husband have been married for almost 32 years and live in Gerald, MO. They have two grown sons.

Patty has grown up around the LWML. Her mom and grandmother were active members of the society at Pilgrim Lutheran in Freedom, MO; her home church. Patty was an active member there until she got married and moved to St. Charles.

Patty is now the President of the Washington Zone LWML and has served as the zone Vice President, Secretary, and Servant Resources chairman in the past. She has also served as the President, Vice

President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the S.W.I.M./LWML society. She served on the 2008 LWML District Convention Committee and the 2020 LWML District Convention Core Committee.

Patty has enjoyed working in the field of Early Childhood Education for over 20 years. This school year she is a substitute teacher at Owensville Elementary School. Her hobbies include reading, going to the St. Louis Zoo, visiting Hard Rock Café's while on vacation, and spending time with her family.

*Vision Statement: Being a member of the LWML has encouraged me to strengthen my faith, make new Christian friends, encourage other women, and be able to spread God's Word. My hope is that the LWML can continue to serve women all over the world through mission projects and mites mission grants. I feel this is one way to fulfill the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19a ... Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*



**MELANIE WEIBRECHT** lives in Imperial with her husband Jeff of 29 years. They have 2 children, Katelyn and Benjamin; and 2 grandchildren, Caroline and Presley.

Melanie works as a cafeteria manager at Fox High School. She is a member of St. Paul's Imperial, where she is the LWML Society President and Choir Director. She has also served as congregation Secretary and Treasurer, member of the Board of Education, and Board of Stewardship. Melanie is currently Zone VP of Special Focus Ministries and District Chair for Mission Servants. She has attended LWML

Conventions in Oklahoma City, Des Moines, Albuquerque, and Mobile. She has also attended the Assembly of Leaders in St. Louis.

*Vision Statement My Vision for the LWML is to encourage women of all ages to share their time, talents and treasures to carry out our mission of sharing the Gospel.*