



A Responsive Reading on the LWML Mission Statement

- ALL:** **The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League**
- Group 1:** We are members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. We are Lutheran Women in Mission.
- Group 2:** We have a mission. We are sent to do special jobs and to perform special services.
- Group 1:** We are God's women. He has redeemed us and made us His own. He sanctifies us and consecrates us and sends us out into the world on His mission.
- Group 2:** The words Jesus spoke to His disciples apply to us, too: *As the Father has sent me, I am sending you* (John 20:21). As St. Paul wrote: *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us* (2 Corinthians 5:20).
- ALL:** **is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**
- Group 1:** We are Lutheran Women in Mission, to ALL the women of our congregation(s).
- Group 2:** As sisters in Christ, we are called to help and encourage one another. *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers* (Galatians 6:10) . *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...* (1 Thessalonians 5:11).
- Group 1:** We are to be in mission to the women of our congregation(s) – young, old, and in between – whether or not they are members of our LWML groups.
- Group 2:** Lord, show us those Lutheran women in our midst You would have us assist, affirm and encourage. Help us reach out in Your name and with Your love to all women of every age.
- ALL:** **in affirming her relationship with the Triune God**
- Group 1:** As Lutheran Women in Mission, we are concerned first with strengthening our relationship with God. It is He who gives us identity. It is He who is the source of our power. Without God, we are nothing.
- Group 2:** To be able to carry out our mission, we first must *fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2) and *in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ* (Ephesians 4:15).
- Group 1:** We encourage each other to avail ourselves of the gifts God offers us in Word and Sacrament. We study God's Word together, pray for each other, talk to each other

about the way God is working in our lives, and encourage each other to grow in faith and love toward God.

Group 2: We provide opportunities to grow in one's personal relationship with God, through devotions and Bible studies, sketches and publications, workshops and retreats, conventions and worship opportunities.

Group 1: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we also look for ways to assist ALL women in our congregation(s) in strengthening their relationship with the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Group 2: Lord, open our eyes to ways we may include and reach out to all the women of our congregation(s) and provide them with opportunities and resources to strengthen their relationship with You.

ALL: **so that she is enabled to use her gifts**

Group 1: God has given each of us unique gifts. *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good* (1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 7).

Group 2: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we are called both to discover and use our own gifts and to help all our sisters in Christ discover and use their unique gifts.

Group 1: As members of Christ's body, we all have a role to play. The gifts God gives us help us fulfill our unique function

Group 2: When we all use our gifts as God intends us to use them, *the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work* (Ephesians 4:16).

Group 1: Lord, help me be aware of the unique gifts You have given me. Enable and empower me by Your Spirit to use these gifts as You would have me use them.

Group 2: Lord, open our eyes to ways that we, as Lutheran Women in Mission, can help ALL our sisters in Christ discover and use their unique gifts, and that the whole body of Christ in this place may grow and be built up in love.

ALL: **in ministry to the people of the world.**

Group 1: God gives us gifts for a purpose. We are to be using our gifts to serve those around us.

Group 2: *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms* (1 Peter 4:10).

- Group 1:** Our mission does not stop at the boundaries of our LWML group or local congregation. As Jesus sent His disciples into the world, so He also sends us. *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you* (Matthew 28:19-20a). *As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world* (John 17:18). As members of His body, we are to reach the world for Him.
- Group 2:** God makes us His daughters through Christ and empowers us by His Spirit so that we can show His love to the world. He wants us to use our gifts in service to all, for *God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.* (1 Timothy 2:4).
- Group 1:** We are Lutheran Women in Mission, helping make God's love in Christ known to the world through our local and global mission grants, our service projects, the ministries supported by our mite offerings, and our personal witness and caring.
- Group 2:** We are Lutheran Women in Mission, assisting other Lutheran women in affirming their relationship with the Triune God so that they, too, will be enabled to use the unique gifts God has given them in service to those around them.
- Group 1:** Lord, open our eyes to the opportunities for service that are all around us. Show us where and how You would have us use our gifts in Your service today and throughout the year.
- Group 2:** Show us also how we can involve more women in using the gifts You have given them in Your service to those around them, that all the world may come to know Your love.
- ALL:** **Lord God, heavenly Father, thank You for making us Your daughters through the redemptive work of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and for sanctifying us through Your Spirit and consecrating us to be Your women in mission to the world. Help us always to remember our identity as Your daughters who are on a mission for You. Keep us mindful of our mission in every facet of our daily lives. Strengthen our relationship with You, that we always may use our gifts to show Your love to all the people of the world. Help us also find ways to assist all women in our congregation(s) in affirming their relationship with You – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – that they, too, may be enabled to use their gifts in service to others. You have given us a mission; grant us grace and power to fulfill it. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version