



Flashlight

"Going Forward in Love"



March 2026
Volume 36, Issue 2

Vice President District Administration ABC District — Sherley Hearty

Going Forward in Love

But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3

Do you need to change your thoughts to enable you to go forward in love? Is there a voice in your head that steers your inner thoughts in a God-pleasing direction? Or do you need to take captive your thoughts, so that in love, they obey God. All thinking is measured against our God-given standard, His Word, the Bible and when we test our thoughts against God's Word, we know the truth and the truth will free our thoughts and declutter our mind.

When, with the help of God, we listen to the authoritative voice of God spoken through scripture we can go forward in Christ's Love. By the Grace of God, what an amazing place that is. I was privileged to be a part of the mission team that went to the Philippines the end of November, first part of December. We were the recipients of our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Lutheran Church in Philippines going forward in Love. As honored guests we were given the place of honor, we received many gifts of Love. Often our arrival, after convention, as we travelled throughout the four districts, was welcomed by a warm and heartfelt song of greeting. How honored and humble we all felt. What a celebration they offered, as we came together in our unity of faith in Christ. Holding captive their own thoughts, despite their own circumstances these people of God in the Philippines received us with an abundance of food and open arms as we stood together in worship and prayer.

Thanks be to God who blessed us through their actions of Love.

The theme of the Philippine Lutheran Women's League convention was "Women of Faith, Bearers of Hope" based on Romans 15:13. We watched these women go forward in Love. Our prayer is that all women, together, continue to go forward in Love, remaining steadfast in our commitment to God's Word as we shine Christ's Light into the dark corners of despair and troubling thoughts replacing those thoughts with the hope and joy and peace by the power of Holy Spirit.



July 15-17, 2027, may seem far ahead on the horizon, but I anticipate with hopeful joy that many of you will plan to join us in convention in Regina under the theme, "Go and Tell" based on Mark 16:15.

The Board of Directors continue to go forward in love, lifting our LWMLC sisters in prayer as we walk together boldly travelling the road God has placed us on, paved with His mercy and grace sufficient for every step we take.

Thankful to be In His Service,
Sherley Hearty,
VPDA ABC, LWMLC, Inc

Christian Growth Committee Member — Pauline Huth

Going Forward in Love

Did you know that the Bible has well over 100 passages with the word love. That's a lot of love!



The Bible tells us about "Agape" love; that is the way God loves us.

Agape is a descriptive word derived from the Greek. This kind of love denotes a selfless, unconditional love, and

is the purest highest form of love, that is all encompassing and unconditional. This is the way God loves us as we see in 1 John 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are!"

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 5:1. God sent us Jesus as an example to show us how to love. In John 15:13 Jesus tells us "Greater love has no one than this: that He lay down his life for His friends. Jesus does call us His friends, and we know how deeply He loves us. Jesus gave up His life for us out of pure love for His Father and His love for us. Jesus gave us a command in Matthew 22:37-39 to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it; love your neighbor as yourself."

Going forward in love, we should heed Jesus's words to love God first and love others as ourselves with that same compassionate love.

We as Lutheran women can continue growing in God's word and praying that God will help us to love and give love as we serve Jesus by serving others.

The LWMLC Christian Growth Committee continues to write devotions and prayer calendars for the web site each month. They can be downloaded by going to the website at www.lutheranwomen.ca and can be found by clicking on "Growing."

The 2026 Prayer Service is also available to download from the website and is entitled "Hark Jesus is Calling." based on the hymn "Hark the voice of Jesus Calling."

Remember, that if you have a need to order a small gift for your Confirmation students, you can purchase the little booklet "Messages from God" for \$10.00 each from the Resource center online.

Look for the Bible Study in the Spring Tapestry about "I am Jesus' little Lamb." It was my contribution to the Bible Study from the ABC District. Our committee also contributes to the monthly blog that you can also find online. We as a committee are also looking forward in love to plan for the 2027 Convention. Please pray for us as we all go forward in love.

In His Service,
Pauline Huth
Christian Growth Committee Member for the ABC District



Communication Committee Member — Becky Wandio



Bursary Given

Marilyn Witte and Sherley Hearty present an LWMLC Inc. bursary to Nicholas Goerz, student at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton.



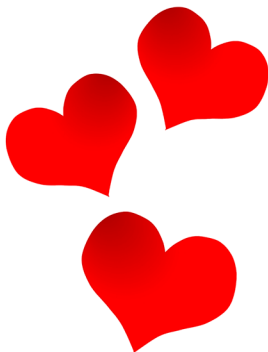
2027 LWML—Canada CONVENTION
July 15-18, 2027 Regina, Saskatchewan
“Go and Tell” (Mark 16:15)

DESIGN A LOGO OR WRITE A HYMN BASED ON THE THEME

Submissions for a logo and convention hymn to be received by April 30, 2026

Requirements and copyright information found at: <https://lutheranwomen.ca/national-convention/>

Send submissions to the Vice-President, Communication at vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca



The theme for the June 1st 2026 issue of the Flashlight is

“Growing in Service, What Can I Do?”

Please remember to submit Zone and Society news!

Email submissions by **May 15, 2026.**

Please send to

flashlight.abc.lwmlc@gmail.com

Finance Committee Member — Rachel Abrahamson

Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada Revenue Report to January 31, 2026

Revenue	Current Jan. 1 - 31,2026	Trienium April 1, 2024 - Mar.31, 2027	Proposed Budget April 1, 2024 - Mar.31, 2027
Growing in Faith			
Sale of LWMLC Resources	\$ 13.23	\$ 8,987.32	\$ 18,900.00
Sale of 2024 Convention Video	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
Putting Faith into Action			
** Mites	\$ 15,521.58	\$ 218,395.31	\$ 270,000.00
Gifts for Growth - Honourium/Memorial	\$ 225.00	\$ 13,868.75	\$ 10,000.00
★ Flexi GIC - Reinvestment	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
★ Flexi GIC - Interest Reinvested	\$ -	\$ 948.20	\$ -
★ GfG & Gertrude Pollex - Interest Reinvested	\$ -	\$ 14,067.15	\$ 7,425.00
★ Gifts for Growth & Gertrude Pollex - Bursaries	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
Encouraging One Another in Faith			
Advertising Income - Tapestry	\$ 115.00	\$ 7,621.55	\$ 16,000.00
Subscription Income - Tapestry	\$ 380.00	\$ 17,206.12	\$ 70,000.00
Working Together in Faith			
Convention 2024 Registration	\$ -	\$ 48,890.00	\$ 104,000.00
Convention 2024 Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 2,150.00	
** Convention 2024 Offerings	\$ -	\$ 13,045.01	\$ 22,000.00
Convention 2021 Revenue - deferred	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,666.00
GST Rebate (50%)	\$ -	\$ 5,713.41	\$ 3,300.00
Investment Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46,150.00
TOTAL (including deferred)	\$ 16,254.81	\$ 360,927.47	\$ 581,441.00
Bank Statement	\$ 16,254.81		
Prepared by Penny Bobier, Financial Secretary			
* 2024 Convention Registration - Deferred	\$ 6,900.00		
* 2024 Convention Offerings - Deferred	\$ 40.00		
* 2024 Convention Mite Offerings - Deferred	\$ 20.00		
Total Deferred	\$ 6,960.00		
** Year to date Mites (Convention #1 and Mites to date)	\$ 218,395.31		
Convention Offering # 1 and Mission Movement	\$ 13,835.93		
Mite offerings to date	\$ 204,559.38		
2024 Convention Report			
2024 Convention Registration	\$ -	\$ 48,890.00	
2024 Convention Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 2,150.00	
2024 Convention Offerings 2, 3 and ingatherings	\$ -	\$ 13,045.01	
Offering #1 Mites (including Mission Movement pledges of \$7,349.85)	\$ -	\$ 13,835.93	
Total Convention	\$ -	\$ 77,920.94	

★ Not included in Deposits

Finance Committee Member — Rachel Abrahamson

Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada Inc. Working Expense Budget 2024 - 2027

	<u>Current Expenses</u>		<u>YTD Expenses</u>		<u>Current Budget</u>	
	Jan. 1, 2026 - Jan. 31, 2026	-	Apr 1, 2024 Jan. 31, 2026	-	April 1 2024 Mar 31 2027	-
<u>Growing in Faith</u>						
Christian Growth Committee	\$	-	\$	42.00	\$	2,500.00
Resource Centre Stock	\$	-	\$	6,822.19	\$	10,500.00
Resource Centre Administration	\$	<u>1,016.20</u>	\$	<u>1,800.34</u>	\$	<u>4,000.00</u>
Subtotals	\$	<u>1,016.20</u>	\$	<u>8,664.53</u>	\$	<u>17,000.00</u>
<u>Putting Faith Into Action</u>						
Christian Mission Committee	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,500.00
Gifts for Growth Fund	\$	-	\$	11,145.00	\$	7,500.00
Flexi GIC	\$	-	\$	20,000.00	\$	6,991.00
Mission Grants	\$	-	\$	109,631.78	\$	251,200.00
Bursary & Sem. Student Support	\$	-	\$	5,000.00	\$	7,500.00
Convention Offerings Payout	\$	-	\$	<u>13,045.01</u>	\$	<u>20,000.00</u>
Subtotals	\$	-	\$	<u>158,821.79</u>	\$	<u>295,691.00</u>
<u>Encouraging One Another in Faith</u>						
Communication Committee	\$	-	\$	115.00	\$	2,500.00
Tech Support & Education	\$	33.13	\$	8,658.60	\$	20,000.00
Member Development Committee	\$	-	\$	2.00	\$	2,500.00
Tapestry	\$	-	\$	<u>26,754.91</u>	\$	<u>64,000.00</u>
Subtotals	\$	<u>33.13</u>	\$	<u>35,530.51</u>	\$	<u>89,000.00</u>
<u>Working Together in Faith</u>						
Advertising	\$	-	\$	2,716.00	\$	5,000.00
Bank Charges/Visa/MC	\$	42.28	\$	1,573.93	\$	3,000.00
Convention Expenses - 2024	\$	-	\$	85,454.75	\$	94,150.00
Convention Expenses - 2027	\$	500.00	\$	634.55	\$	-
Board Directors Expenses	\$	-	\$	8,720.76	\$	7,500.00
Board Directors Meetings	\$	-	\$	4,713.01	\$	10,000.00
Inter Committee Meeting	\$	-	\$	14,574.33	\$	30,000.00
GST	\$	2.32	\$	4,377.30	\$	3,500.00
Liability Insurance	\$	-	\$	2,185.00	\$	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$	100.00	\$	1,928.70	\$	-
Professional Fees	\$	40.00	\$	9,182.45	\$	8,300.00
Resource Centre Rent	\$	-	\$	1,000.00	\$	3,000.00
District Support from LWMLC	\$	-	\$	<u>693.80</u>	\$	<u>15,000.00</u>
Subtotals	\$	<u>684.60</u>	\$	<u>137,754.58</u>	\$	<u>184,450.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$	<u>1,733.93</u>	\$	<u>340,771.41</u>	\$	<u>586,141.00</u>

Prepared February 9, 2026

Linda Horton - LWML—Canada Inc., Treasurer

Finance Committee Member — Rachel Abrahamson

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - CANADA
FINANCIAL POSITION
January 31, 2026

CIBC Bank Balance as at November 30, 2025	\$ 79,141.70	General Funds	\$76,417.95
Gifts For Growth Fund & Pollex Bursary	\$ 117,328.65	Designated Funds	\$2,723.75
CIBC Flexi GIC	\$ 32,911.03	Gifts F.Growth Fund & Pollex B.	\$117,328.65
Total:	<u>\$229,381.38</u>	CIBC Flexi GIC	<u>\$32,911.03</u>
		Total:	<u>\$229,381.38</u>

Change In Cash Position

Previous GL Balance as at Dec. 31, 2025	\$ 64,620.82
Deposits Jan. 1, 2026 to Jan. 31, 2026	\$ 16,254.81
Expenses Jan. 1, 2026 to Jan. 31, 2026	\$ (1,733.93)
G/L Balance as at Jan. 31, 2026	\$ 79,141.70

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Flexi GIC 12 mo. @ 2.25% (Net balance @ May 20, 2025)	\$ 32,911.03
Interest Earned May 20, 2025 to May 20, 2026	\$ -
Deposits	\$ -
Less: Withdrawals	\$ -
CIBC Flexi GIC as at May 30, 2025	\$ 32,911.03

Gifts For Growth Fund & Pollex Bursary:

Net balance as at April 1, 2024 (Gifts For Growth \$61,911.36 and Pollex B. \$35,828.41)	\$ 97,739.77
Deposits-Gifts For Growth Fund from CIBC-Apr.1/24-Mar.31/27	\$ 11,145.00
Investment Returns: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2027	\$ 14,230.67
Unrealized Gains & (Losses): April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2027	\$ 755.23
LFC Administration Fee (0.60% of fund per year) Mar.31/27	\$ (932.88)
Investment Management Fee: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2027	\$ (609.14)
Withdrawals-Bursary & Sem Students (Apr.1/24-Mar.31/27)	\$ (5,000.00)
Gifts For Growth & Pollex B. Balance October 31, 2025 (Gifts For Growth \$81,615.65 and Pollex B. \$35,713.00)	<u>\$ 117,328.65</u>

Less:

Designated Funds:

Convention Offerings	\$ -
Gifts For Growth	\$ 2,723.75
TOTAL Designated Funds:	\$ 2,723.75

TOTAL General Funds: \$ 76,417.95

Prepared by:

Linda Horton - LWML-Canada Inc., Treasurer
 Feb. 10, 2026

News from the Zones and Societies

FRASER VALLEY ZONE

The Fraser Valley Zone LWMLC, met Saturday, November 22, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Chilliwack for the annual Fall gathering. The theme for the day was "Prepare in the Living Hope" 1 Peter 1:13. 43 members from five Societies began the day with coffee and muffins and were later welcomed by the host Society.

The Zone Counselor, Reverend Lucas Albrecht, opened with prayer followed by a devotion, sharing statements made that are not what Jesus said; "Nothings wrong if it makes you happy", (Jesus said "Be right as much as you can."), "God created you to be happy", (Jesus said "if you are happy in the Lord, you will be content and joyful") "I don't need to go to Church, God is with me everywhere", (Jesus said "It's a privilege and blessing to go to church.")

The Guest Speakers from Fraser Valley Gleaners, based on Psalm 115:1, shared how food recovery from farmers, green houses, frozen food distributors and bean producers help to provide

food that is unmarketable. The vegetables are cleaned, diced and dehydrated and packed into dried soup mix that is sent all over the world to provide food for the hungry. The processing at the Abbotsford plant is all done by volunteer labor.

Members from Trinity Lutheran Church in Abbotsford issued an invitation to attend the Spring gathering in 2026.

The hosts provided a lovely lunch that all enjoyed.

Reverend William Mundt led the worship service based on Hope, Faith and Love. The service ended with singing Cornerstone-"My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame. But wholly trust in Jesus' name".

All returned home refreshed and renewed, looking forward to the 2026 Spring Gathering.

Shirley Wisdahl
Fraser Valley Zone Communication



UPCOMING EVENT

Saturday April 25, 2026 - Fraser Valley Zone Spring Renewal

The Spring Renewal will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Abbotsford on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at which time a Convention delegate will be chosen. The theme for the renewal will be "Growing Together, by Grace", based on 1 Corinthians 3: 6-9.

There will be a Bible Study led by Reverend I. Albrecht, our Zone counselor, and Reverend Teklemariam, photos to be shown about Eritrea.

An ingathering supporting Cyrus Center (a 24-hour shelter, support and service for youth 12-24) will be taken.

News from the Zones and Societies

FOOTHILLS SOCIETY, CALGARY

Advent Tea at Foothills Manor

In the first week of Advent, we visited the Manor for our annual Advent Tea. Pastor Bode led the residents in singing carols, while Deaconess Miriam accompanied us on the piano. We certainly made a joyful noise. The spread of goodies that we brought for the occasion was enjoyed by all, and while we were eating, Jutta Colhoun gave everyone an M & M candy and read the following story:

M & M Christmas Story

As you hold these candies in your hand and turn them, you will see ...

The M becomes a W, an E, and then a 3.

They tell the Christmas story – it's one I'm sure you know.

It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

The E is for the East where the star shone oh so bright.

The M is for the Manger where the baby Jesus slept that night.

The 3 is for the Wisemen bearing gifts, they say they came.

W is for Worship, Hallelujah

Praise His name.

So, as you eat these candies or share them with a friend,

Remember the meaning of Christmas, it's a love story that never ends.



Epiphany/LWMLC Sunday January 4, 2026

At Foothills Lutheran, it has become a tradition to celebrate LWMLC Sunday on Epiphany Sunday. Pastor Bode officiated a very uplifting worship service, with the congregation joining us in reciting the LWMLC Pledge and singing "Called to Serve".

It is an opportunity for us to tell others about the LWMLC mission grants and our local society projects. Designating LWMLC Mites as Mission of the Month for January facilitates awareness of LWMLC Grants and monetary contributions to them. We are so grateful for the congregational support, their prayers and participation in our initiatives.

Following the worship service, we hosted a luncheon, with help from our Board of Fellowship and "finger food" contributions from congregational members.



Called to Glory



*"My deepest prayer for you my dear family
and all of you present,
is that, if you haven't already done so,
you will ask Jesus into your hearts
and homes and let Him be Lord of your life."*

*"He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
No one comes to the Father but through Him"*



Edna Rosena Abel led a life devoted to her faith and her family. She was a lifelong learner, an excellent cook and seamstress, meticulous in all things. She was intelligent, determined, and generous with her gifts and her time. With love and gratitude for her long and full life, the family of Edna Abel announced her peaceful passing at the age of 92, on February 11, 2026.

Edna had served at Grace Lutheran Church in Edmonton as a member since the 1950s. She held the position of Treasurer of Grace Society, LWMLC Concordia Zone, for over 20 years before handing the position over in 2021.

As a mother of one daughter and four sons, and a grandmother of 9, she will lovingly be remembered and missed dearly. Edna will be warmly remembered by her extended family and the many people who knew her as a kind and caring friend.

We will take to heart her final words of prayer, and hold fast to "The Way, the Truth, and the Life" until we meet again.



Dora Theresia (nee Baron) Goerz was called to glory on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Dora was blessed with 101 years of life on this earth. Dora delighted in being in God's house and was a lifelong member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Stony Plain. She was actively involved in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for many years. Dora will be lovely remembered by her family and friends, especially those who were her LWMLC secret sisters, and by those who served with her at LWMLC functions. Dora, like many others from St. Matthew Society, LWMLC Evergreen Zone, that have been called on to glory, were great mentors and examples of faithful servants. To God Be the Glory!

Respectfully submitted by Sherley Hearty, LWMLC VPDA ABC