

REMEMBERING ELOISE

It is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Eloise Schaan on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at the age of 88. Beloved wife of Lloyd (deceased). Loving mother of Barb and Suzanne (Dominic). Devoted grandmother of Alex (Kareina) and Lauren (Garrett), and great-grandmother of Amara. Sister of Ruth Germeroth and Connie Davis (deceased).

Eloise is recognized for her leadership and service to the Church, as the first president of Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada, Inc., as an organist and choir director in numerous congregations and on various boards and committees of Lutheran Church–Canada.

For the women of Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada, she is best remembered for her service to the league as it was formed and began life as a Canadian organization. Even before the formation of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) in 1988, the four Canadian districts of International Lutheran Women's Missionary League were encouraged follow the church's lead and work toward forming an organization independent of their American sisters. In 1983 the presidents of these districts gathered for discussion and in 1984 a Task Force was formed to consider what a Canadian organization would look like.

With the formation of LCC, the Canadian women moved from a Task Force to a Founding Committee that same year. Edna Ullrich (Manitoba and Saskatchewan District), Elsa Neuner (Alberta-British Columbia District), Dorothy Brophy (Laurentian District) and Mary Tuomisto (Canadian societies in Minnesota North District) continued to serve as they had on the Task Force. Living in Toronto at the time, Eloise Schaan replaced the Ontario LWML District representative. In 1990 Eloise moved to Ottawa and became the Laurentian District representative, replaced by Deborah Pakrul in Ontario. Eloise commented that by this time the committee had re-set its focus from east vs west: "The focus seems to have shifted to thinking Canada-wide... we have learned to work together for the common good... we have learned to be a team, not individual players." A great deal of this learning was done around the Schaan kitchen table described by Anne Taylor in the following.



Eloise Schaan
Oct 9, 1937 - Aug 25, 2026
CALLED TO SERVE

LEAGUE MOTTO EXEMPLIFIED



The motto of LWML-Canada exemplified the life of Eloise Schaan. She lived out this motto. I met Eloise prior to her moving to Ottawa, but I was privileged to know her after she and Lloyd relocated to Kanata.

The house they purchased was rather a large house and when

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Remembering Eloise, conginued

I commented on the size of the house for just two people, she remarked that this home was intended to be used to the glory of God. That intent was realized as her guest rooms were always ready to receive anyone needing a “home away from home.”

Their home became the central location for many LWML/LWMLC meetings. LWMLers from Canada and the United States gathered around her dining room table on many occasions to discuss the formation of LWML–Canada. Laurentian District officers met to develop and revise bylaws, plan conventions, retreats and seminars. No matter who sat at her table we knew that at lunchtime we would be served a hearty lunch of soup and bread followed by a homemade dessert.

Music was a large part of her *call to serve*. Not only serving as organist and choir director at her church, Christ Risen Lutheran, Kanata, Ont., she was involved in the Kanata Community Choir. Some years ago, Eloise and Rev. Dr. David Somers organized a children’s choir from all the Lutheran churches within the Capital area. These children sang in French, English and Spanish and entertained Laurentian District LWMLers at numerous functions throughout the years.

Eloise was instrumental in organizing Bible studies and social events for the women of her congregation, inviting as well, women from the other congregations to join in fellowship.

Not only was Eloise *called to serve* within LWMLC and her home congregation, she served Lutheran Church–Canada as a member of the CTCR from 1996-2008. In honour of her service “to the local congregation, the community, the synodical district, the church at large, church service organizations, and educational institutions” she was awarded the Delta Chi (servant of Christ) award from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ont., in 2002. This “highest and most distinguished award” is “presented to an individual, either clergy or lay, whose life exemplifies service to Christ in his/her everyday living and vocation.

Eloise will be missed by all who knew her and had the privilege of serving along with her, but her legacy will live on. Those of us who knew her saw her servant-heart; she was and is our inspiration as we, too, have been “Called to Serve.”

