

Orphan Grain Train News

Donations to the MT 42nd LWML Convention

The theme for the Convention in Lewistown on April 24th – 26th was "Rooted in Christ". We were encouraged through our Bible studies, worship services, speakers, and mission opportunities to share the message of salvation in Jesus, we were truly blessed! What a joy it is to report to you about the collection of mites and donations.

This year the donations from our church for the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) included over 150 boxes of donations and one bicycle. We had 49 quilts, 40 school kits, 8 teacher kits, 52 layette kits, and 62 hygiene kits. Also included were boxes of backpacks, towels, bedding, clothing, shoes, underwear, misc. school supplies, stuffed animals, women's personal care items and socks, hats, and gloves, etc. All churches represented at the convention loaded the 53' semi-truck within 6' of the back door. A very special thank you goes out to the Dickson family for the use of their truck and trailer to deliver the donations to the Convention.

We jumpstarted our mission grant goal through various means by almost \$6,000. The grant for shipping assistance to the OGT submitted by First Lutheran Church LWML was the number one mission grant selected!

We are "Rooted in Christ" to do this work through the power of the Holy Spirit as we continue to serve. These donations will be shared in Jesus' love and care in Montana, across the nation, and the world wherever needed. Praise be to God!

Joyful yours,
LWML

Orphan Grain Train

LWML District Convention News

ROOTED IN CHRIST—2026 LWML CONVENTION

On a windy, rainy, icy, snowy, blustery weekend in April, Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) members met at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, the center of Montana, for our convention.

Participants prepared 300 “Blessing Bags” and 199 “Necklaces with Cards” to distribute to the homeless and brought 75 packages of diapers and 25 packs of wet wipes for the “Ingathering.”

When the Orphan Grain Train semi arrived, we were able to fill it nearly full with quilts, kits, clothes, medical and sports equipment, household goods, and 21 bicycles. We heard from Rev. Ray S. Wilke, who in 1992 “conceived the idea to share the Gospel and give care to the people” which has led to such growth for this ministry.

Between inspirational messages, we took care of business, electing officers, approving by-law changes, and selecting Mission Grants of \$25,800.00 for the next biennium:

Orphan Grain Train—Shipping Assistance	\$6,500
Educating and Equipping Our Youth—Y4Life	\$5,000
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op—Freezer	\$5,000
Beyond Books: Creating a Welcoming Space for At-Risk Kids	\$4,000
Worker Wellness for Chaplain Wives and Families	\$1,500
Lutheran Books for Little Children Around the World	\$2,000
Changed Lives, Shared Word: Restoring the Bible Printing Fund	\$ 900
Care Packages & Cards of Hope—Nurturing Whole Person Care	\$ 900

In addition, we set aside \$5,000 for Scholarships for students going into fulltime work for the Lord, as Pastor, Teacher, Director of Christian Education, Deaconess, or Music Ministry within the LCMS. Our convention offerings provided \$1,281 for Mission Grants, \$1,705 for the Memorial Scholarship Fund and \$1,895 for MT missionaries.

No convention is all business. The Mission Ladies reminded us that we need to be “Rooted in Christ” if we want to grow and Junior Counselor “Farmer” Jonathon Schultz introduced us to Henrietta and her nest eggs, while serving as auctioneer during the banquet. The auction brought in \$1,560 which added to \$4,800.75 from sales and donations at the LWML store, Lewis & Clark Trading Post, “in Memory of ... ‘Mites’” and the Silent Auction.

The weather outside may have sent the scavenger hunt indoors, but we were able to enjoy our fellowship, gain inspiration from the speakers, and remember that we are “rooted and built up in him (Christ) and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:7