



LWML PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONVENTION June 7-9, 2024 • Rosemead CA

You are a Child of God and have Hope in Jesus!

The 2024 Convention Hosting Zones 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, cordially welcome you to the 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML Pacific Southwest District!

The Host Committee selected "We are all God's children and celebrate the Hope we have in Jesus" as the mission statement for our convention. The mission goals adopted are:

- Be encouraged to share our Hope in Jesus with others
- Learn a new way to proclaim our Hope in Jesus
- Unite with and support other Christian ministries in sharing our Hope

The convention will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Rosemead, California. They have a wonderful space for all the various activities you will be hearing about. The closest airports are Burbank, Long Beach, and LAX (all about 25 miles) or Ontario, 32 miles via I-10W.

Our celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 7, with the opening communion worship service. Everyone is invited to attend whether

registered for the convention or not. You will not want to miss the pre-convention sessions which begin at 1 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

We are blessed to experience our keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. John Mehl, and Melissa Salomón as our Bible Study leader.

The Mission Walk will combine the opportunity to raise funds toward our district mission grant goals with prayer stations along the path through the hotel grounds on Saturday morning.

We are continuing last convention's added feature of the Men's Breakfast to be held on Saturday morning for all those gentlemen who support the work of the LWML women.

We look forward to greeting all of you, our sisters in Christ!

Debbie Okubo
Host Committee Chairman
Debo.LWML@gmail.com

Registration Information and Instructions



REGISTRATION FOR THE CONVENTION WILL BE ONLINE ONLY.

Log on to www.psdlwml.org, select the "2024 District Convention" tab, and "Register Here." The registration form will lead you through the selections. You may select Pre-Convention sessions, order a Mission Walk T-shirt, purchase meals, and submit your payment. Confirmation of your registration will be sent to you via email.

You must have an email address to register.

If you do not have email, ask your church secretary, a friend or family member who is willing to use their email address to receive information about the convention for you. The same email may be used for more than one attendee.

Know the name and number of your District Zone, e.g., Estrella Zone 29. Delegates are voting members and generally selected by your group or zone. **Voting credentials must be submitted to Anna Baker by no later than April 6, 2024.**

Review the Pre-Convention Sessions which are held on Friday, June 7, in order to make your selections as you register. There is no additional charge to participate. Select only one session for each time slot.

REGISTRATION DATES:

(Early Registration) **January 4–March 31, 2024: \$135**

April 1–April 30, 2024: \$160

May 1–convention: \$185 (Note: meals and Mission Walk t-shirts may not be available after May 1.)

REGISTRATION PAYMENT:

At the end of the online registration form, payment may be made online by credit card. **No cash or checks will be accepted.** Your credit card information will be required.

A \$25 cancellation fee will be charged for all approved refunds. NO refunds after May 16.



OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE:

Everyone is invited to attend the Opening Worship Service on Friday evening, even without registering for the convention.



CONVENTION MEALS AND SPECIAL MENU PRICING:

Meals are subject to availability after May 1.

We are offering a 5-Meal Package which includes Friday Dinner; Saturday Breakfast, Lunch, and Banquet; and Sunday Breakfast. Meals may also be purchased on an individual basis as listed on the form and extra meals may be purchased for your non-registered guests.

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET AND ENTERTAINMENT:

Spouses or friends may purchase any of the meals without being registered for the entire convention. Payment for additional guest meals is in the Meals section of the registration form.

We are very happy to announce that Mariachi San Pablo will be our entertainment Saturday evening and will participate in our worship service Sunday morning. This group is an outreach and care ministry of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, in El Paso, Texas (ylm.org). They proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ "Mariachi Style" through Care Serenades, mission events, prison visits, and in communities throughout the U.S. and Mexico. If you attended the LWML Convention in Albuquerque in 2017, you will definitely remember them. They perform traditional hymns, Christian and popular Mariachi music in both Spanish and English in order to serve, unite, and reach others through music. The current group of nine members is very active, rehearsing once a week, year round, and has performed at churches, community events, conferences, and conventions in eighteen states (105 cities) since it was formed in 2001.

Attention to All Young Women

You are warmly invited to join us at the 40th Biennial LWML Pacific Southwest District Convention. Discover more about the powerful message of our theme, "**Jesus — the Hope of all Nations**" based on our theme verse: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead* (1 Peter 1:3 NIV).

Join us for a delightful time of fellowship and joyful moments with a diverse gathering of Christian women across all generations, featuring a vibrant community of young women! Embrace the opportunity to share experiences and engage in valuable conversations with these inspiring young women! Most importantly, come and learn how Jesus Christ, has chosen YOU to be a cherished child of God, offering Hope in the face of the challenges of this life.

We understand that the cost might be a burden for some young attendees. Scholarships are available for those interested to attend the convention as a Young Woman Representative (YWR). If you apply for a scholarship, **PLEASE wait to register until your scholarship response is received**, and early bird pricing will be honored. If you aren't applying for a scholarship, online registration will begin in January 2024 at www.psdlwml.org.

For more information or YWR questions, contact Onja Raelison at davidsononja@gmail.com.

We look forward to your valuable presence at the convention!

Convention Hotel Reservation Instructions

DoubleTree by Hilton

888 Montebello Blvd. Rosemead, CA 91770

HOTEL LOCATION AND AIRPORTS:

The Hotel is located directly off Pomona/60 Freeway at the San Gabriel Blvd. exit.

Airport transportation will **NOT** be provided — those flying will need to arrange a ride or purchase a taxi/Uber/Lyft. **PLEASE ALLOW FOR FRIDAY TRAFFIC DELAYS!**

The nearest airports are:

- Burbank Airport is 25 miles via I-5 and CA-60E.
- Los Angeles International Airport is 29 miles.
- Long Beach Airport is 25 miles via 710 fwy.
- Ontario Airport is 32 miles via the 10 and 60 fwys.

ABOUT THE DOUBLE TREE:

Rates: \$149 per night, plus state and local taxes (10%). Note, this rate is available 3 days before/after, for those attending the convention.

Rooms include free WiFi, microwave, refrigerator, flat-screen TV, iron/ironing board, hairdryer, and a coffee maker. All the double rooms include two queen beds.

Hotel amenities include free parking, an ATM machine, on-site restaurant, fitness center, and outdoor heated swimming pool and whirlpool spa.

Check-in time: 3 pm • **Check-out time:** 12 pm

In the event a guest checks out prior to the reserved checkout date, Hotel will add an early checkout fee to the guest's individual account.

HANDICAPPED ROOMS:

There are only NINE handicapped rooms at the hotel. If you are in need of handicapped access, please reserve your room as soon as possible. For handicap rooms, book "KING" in the booking website link, provide the hotel with the confirmation number, and they will swap your king room reservation to an accessible handicap room at no additional charge. We also suggest you let the Hospitality Committee know that you may need assistance with transport back and forth to your room.

BOOKING A ROOM:

Reservation Deadline: May 6, 2024

Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations by calling Hilton's Reservations Department or booking on-line no later than May 6, or until no vacancy is remaining.

Be prepared to provide:

- Full name
- Dates of stay
- Type of room
- Credit card to guarantee the reservation



By Phone:

Reservations Department:
1-800-559-5362

Front Desk: 1-323-722-8800

If you have difficulty you may also call the sales department at 1-323-201-3456.

Attendees NEED to identify themselves as LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT 2024 when you call.



Online:

Online hotel registration information may be found at **psdlwml.org** under the "2024 Convention" tab.



Or go directly through a special website set up for our group:
tinyurl.com/yy388dzf

OR Scan the QR code with your phone to go to the hotel website.

Booking Code: LWM0606

Convention Information

CONVENTION SCHEDULE (tentative)

Friday, June 7

8 a.m. ————— Registration Open
10 a.m. ————— District BOD Meeting
1–4 p.m. ————— Pre-Convention Sessions
4 p.m. ————— Delegate Orientation
mandatory for all delegates
4:30 p.m. ————— Choir Rehearsal
5 p.m. ————— Dinner
7:30 p.m. ————— Opening Worship Service

Saturday, June 8

6:30 a.m. ————— Mission Walk
7 a.m. ————— Men's Bible Study
8:30 a.m. ————— First Business Session:
Bible Study and Keynote Address
12 p.m. ————— Lunch
1:30 p.m. ————— Second Business Session:
Bible Study, Mission Grants,
and Election of Officers
7 p.m. ————— Dinner Banquet & Entertainment

Sunday, June 9

8:15 a.m. ————— Third Business Session
10:30 a.m. ————— Closing Worship Service



OPENING WORSHIP PROCLAIMER *Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson, LCMS Pacific Southwest District President*

Rev. Mike is engaged globally in China, Southeast Asia, and India. His missional passion includes helping the Body of Christ understand the shift of Christianity to the Global South and the beneficial influence it can bring to the church in the post-Christian Global North. "My purpose is to awaken within the Body of Christ a local and global perspective on the Mission of God and to influence organizational systems so as to free and empower them for mission fulfillment."



BIBLE STUDY LEADER *Melissa Salomón*

A faithful and effective servant, Melissa Salomón brings to the LCMS and LWML a special love for and commitment to the promotion of cross-cultural ministries on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. She is a highly respected leader in the LCMS Hispanic community and has been instrumental in the LWML Heart to Heart—Sisters of all Nations, our intentional focus on intercultural engagement.

She has been serving her Lord in border ministry since 1986. In 1998 she was part of a team that opened the first Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) office in Mexico. Currently, her work with 1000 Generaciones Ministry and Concordia Church and School in Chula Vista, California, allows her to engage in mission and mercy projects along the border and beyond. Melissa has served on the Board of Mission Nation Publishing since 2020 and was honored to have her life and service story memorialized in one of the Mission Nation Publications in 2021.

Scholarships



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS (Pastors or General Attendees)

Scholarships are available to help cover the registration fee and meal packages. If you are applying for a Pastor's Scholarship or General Scholarship, **submit your application to Barb Virus by the March 31, 2024, deadline.**

Scholarship applications are located at:

- www.psdlwml.org
- "2024 Convention,"
- "Scholarships"

Do not complete your online registration until you have received confirmation that the scholarship has been funded.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER *Rev. Dr. John Mehl*

Rev. Dr. John Mehl became the second Executive Director of Mission of Christ Network on January 1, 2017.

Dr. Mehl began his ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Kansas where he served eight years as a parish pastor, before being called by LCMS Board for Mission Services as a church planter in Moscow, Russia, in 1993. He served as the pastor of two different congregations in Moscow and supervised the "Moscow Seminars," an ongoing theological education program for Russian Lutheran pastors. In 2004 he and his family moved from Moscow to Frankfurt, Germany, while serving with LCMS World Missions as the Regional Director for Eurasia. In 2006, the family moved to Hong Kong, where Dr. Mehl served as the Regional Director for Asia until 2013. While in Asia he was a member of the leadership team that started Concordia International School, Hanoi. From 2014 to 2016 he served as the Director of Mission Partnerships and Church Relations at Concordia University, Nebraska.

Pre-Convention Sessions

Session Selection

Friday, June 7th

1:00–1:45pm

A. Prayer

Rev. Nader Hanna

B. Christian Identity Amidst Society's Confusion about Sexuality

Dss. Dr.

Tiffany Manor

C. Prison Ministry

Rev. Art Stevens

2:00–2:45pm

D. Be Encouraged — God's Got This!

LWML President

Eden Keefe

E. Sharing God's Love; Your Faith Story

Rev. Mike Hall & Michelle Fritz

F. Active Military

Thank Card Workshop

Women of the LWML PSD

3:00–3:45pm

G. Lutheran Border Concerns

Rev. Ramon Contreras

H. Heart to Heart

Sisters of All Nations

Maria Espinoza

I. First Timers

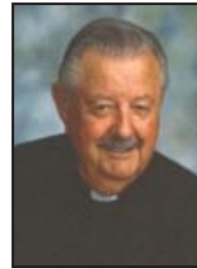
District LWML President

Nila Rodriguez



Rev. Nader Hanna,
Executive Director of Salam Ministries

Rev. Hanna is known for equipping followers of Jesus to minister across cultures. In partnership with Lutheran Hour Ministries, Rev. Hanna



Rev. Art Stevens,
PSD Coordinator for Prison Ministry

Rev. Stevens was ordained two years ago from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the inner city of Los Angeles. Responding

partners with over 70 churches to proclaim the Gospel to the unreached in the Pacific Southwest District and beyond training churches in evangelism, spiritual formation, cross-cultural ministry, apologetics, and discipleship of Muslims.

Session A: Prayer

Rev. Hanna will give instruction and inspiration from the Word of God to help you develop Spirit inspired, effective prayers that release God's power to awaken the church and change the world. It is time we repair the altar and our personal, family, church, and nation altar of prayer.



Dss. Dr. Tiffany Manor,
Managing Director of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Office of National Mission Human Care and Ministerial Support, Director of LCMS Life Ministry.

Dr. Manor provides leadership for the development of human care initiatives and programs for nearly 6,000 U.S. congregations, over 1,500 educational institutions, and four international regions. She regularly speaks publicly on topics related to human care, sanctity of human life, and health and family issues.

Session B: Christian Identity Amidst Society's Confusion about Sexuality

The Christian confession of God's creation of each person as male or female has never wavered. Many in our society have been deceived and confused by false humanistic teaching. Come to this breakout session to learn how to stand strong on God's Word as you interact with friends, neighbors, and loved ones.

to God's call he graduated from Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis this past January at the age of 77. He serves as the PSD Prison Ministry Coordinator sharing God's grace and loving-kindness to the incarcerated.

Session C: Prison Ministry

God sent his Son to rescue and restore his beloved creation. Come and learn the importance of being receptive to opportunities God brings to you and the importance of stepping out in faith to get God's message out to a needy world.



Eden Keefe,
LWML President

Eden Keefe serves as LWML President and desires to encourage others. When time permits, she enjoys "taking tea," being creative with Visual

Faith@ Ministry resources, playing with her grandsons, and napping.

Session D: Be Encouraged — God's Got This!

Do you face obstacles or challenges in your LWML service? Be encouraged to move forward with both resolve and joy. God calls and equips us!

Continued ...

Pre-Convention Sessions cont.



Rev. Mike Hall, LWML PSD Pastoral Counselor, 2022 EQUIP team and Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church and School, Lancaster, CA



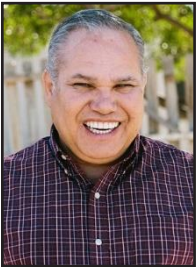
Michelle Fritz, LWML PSD EQUIP team and member of the Young Women Committee

Session E: Sharing God's Love; your Faith Story

God's Word instructs us to Go and Tell, and to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Together we will discover ways to share God's love and grace, along with Jesus' salvation in our everyday mission world, whether across the street or across the globe.

Session F: Military Thank You Card Workshop:

Please join us in blessing our service men and women with hand-made and hand-written Thank You cards!



Rev. Ramon Contreras, Pastor Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LBCM)

Originally from Mexico, Rev. Contreras graduated from Concordia University Irvine with a Masters in Theology. After his ordination in 2004, he planted churches in the Los Angeles area for six years. Over the last 13 years he has been the coordinator for LBCM to provide material and spiritual support to people on the CA/MX border.

Session G: Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry

Learn how we raise funds, collect items, and involve brothers and sisters on this side of the border to help those in need on the southern border. He will share the many exciting opportunities available to advance God's kingdom through LBCM ministry to both communities.



Maria Espinoza, Heart to Heart—Sisters of All Nations

Maria, a retired educator, serves as secretary and Sunday School and Youth Director at Immanuel First Lutheran in West Covina. She completed the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations training at the Milwaukee, Wisconsin national

LWML Convention. Active with LWML, Maria's vision is to motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for multicultural women to serve others, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Session H: Heart to Heart— Sisters of All Nations

The body of Christ grows and is strengthened when all women are welcomed, mentored, and encouraged to be active partners in the shared mission of the LWML. Come and learn how to share your unique God-given gifts to support global mission and serve the Lord with gladness.



Nila Rodriguez, President LWML Pacific Southwest District

Nila has been involved in LWML for many years and loves to share about LWML. She currently attends First Lutheran in Burbank. She wants every woman to know she is a child of God!

Session I: First Timers

Meet with your District President for an opportunity to ask questions about the Convention and about LWML programs. We may have a surprise guest!

Heart to Heart—Sisters of All Nations



Come meet other multicultural women in our Pacific Southwest District for good fellowship time!

- Come hear how you are part of the sisterhood and global outreach of the LWML.
- Come share how you are spreading the Gospel and get other ideas to encourage one another as we use our gifts, skills and talents for the Lord's work.

A limited number of scholarships are available. The convention registration and scholarship application (if needed) are available after January 1, 2024, at www.psdlwml.org.

Contact Maria Espinoza: cuatro-esp@msn.com

Looking forward to seeing you at the Pre-convention session.

Service and Fellowship



Gifts from the Heart

Gas gift cards: \$25 or \$50

Walmart gift cards: \$10, \$25 or \$50

Visa gift cards: \$25, \$50

Please bring gift cards for donation and mark your donated gift cards with the dollar value in permanent marker.

Your Gift from the Heart will go to serve these three ministries:

Shepherd's Pantry in Irwindale, CA

Our mission is to provide food, resources and services from a faith-based perspective to those in need. We value the dignity of all individuals and strive to promote their independence.

Elizabeth House in Pasadena, CA

Our mission is to empower pregnant and parenting women in need to reclaim their lives and build successful family legacies.

1000 Generaciones in Tijuana, Mexico

Our mission is to serve children, single mothers, the elderly, and families in outlying areas of Tijuana. We also assist in planting mission churches and beginning new ministries.

Join the Mission Walk

AS WE SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT
JESUS IS THE HOPE OF ALL NATIONS!

Raise money toward our mission goal and stroll the grounds of the Doubletree with fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

Pick up your shirt upon arrival at the convention and encourage others to proclaim that Jesus is the Hope of all Nations!

Two shirt styles available!

All Mission Walk participants receive this special t-shirt as part of the Mission Walk registration fee.

If you do not intend to participate in the Mission Walk, you may still order a shirt.



Unisex Crew Neck

Feminine Cut: The feminine cut style runs smaller. Consider ordering one size higher than your actual size.



Come Join the Convention Choir

Friday night Worship • June 7th

If you love to sing, sign up for the 2024 PSD LWML Convention Choir (Men are also invited to join the convention choir!)

Click the Choir box when you register

Cost is \$2 to cover the music

Rehearsal will be Friday afternoon at 4:30 pm at the hotel. You will receive more information and the music after your registration has been received.

We look forward to joining together in song!



Saturday Night Entertainment

We are very happy to announce that Mariachi San Pablo will be our entertainment Saturday evening and will participate in our worship service Sunday morning! Learn more about this Lutheran outreach ministry on page 2.