

1-2-1 Relationship Building

Technology has changed the definition of friendship. With the click of a button, we can add a “friend” but having hundreds of online friends is not the same as having a friend you can spend time with in person. As women, we know our most important connections happen when we’re face-to-face. There’s nothing quite like those LWMS hugs.

How can you make new friends, you might ask? Does your congregation have coffee and fellowship time every Sunday? Start a conversation with a woman you don’t normally speak with. Pick a woman not from your age group. Be sure to show genuine interest in what is going on in her life not just small talk about the weather. When you’re truly interested in someone else’s thoughts, feelings, experiences, and opinions, it shows. If an LWMS event is coming up, talk to her about it and invite her to go with you. Tell her why you love LWMS. Continue to follow up each Sunday with a little more conversation. Here are some ideas beyond Sunday church:

- ❖ Invite her to meet you at your favorite local coffee house. Don't have one? Now is your chance to give one a try! Then schedule to meet there on a regular basis.
- ❖ If you live close to each other, invite her to walk with you. Many friendships have been built during nightly walks. And imagine how much time you will have to tell her about the last convention!
- ❖ If you discover you both enjoy the same hobby, incorporate that into your meetings. Think outside the box. Photography? Painting? Do you both enjoy cooking? Look for a cooking or painting class you can attend. Are you a fitness fanatic? Invite her to join you at the gym or on a bike ride.
- ❖ Start a book club at your home and invite her and other women from your congregation to join. Choose a book (it’s okay for it to be secular) that delves into the culture of one of our world missions countries or multi-cultural home missions. Share LWMS information about that mission. Remember WELS mission blogs are a great resource.
- ❖ Host an LWMS “home party” a month or two prior to the next rally.
- ❖ Invite her (and your other guests) to join you for the next LWMS rally. Offer to drive. You will have fun driving and enjoying the rally together.

Relationships always take time to build, but that time spent is worth the effort as you watch a new friendship develop and shared interests, such as LWMS, unfold. As you get to know your new friend better, point out how she could use her specific talents with LWMS.