

Ignite Your Congregation

How often have you said to yourself with a sigh of resignation, “I don’t understand why more of our women aren’t involved in LWMS? Why don’t they come to our meetings? We keep inviting them.” It might just be time to try something new, keeping in mind that sometimes it is simply timing. So be patient and give it a go! Here are some new ideas on ways you can raise mission awareness in your congregation:

- ❖ Ask your pastor if you can organize a mission Sunday with an LWMS focus. Plan to show the Rejoice video available on the LWMS website after the service. Include a school cultural fair and have families set up table displays for countries where WELS is doing mission work. Handout a “passport” to the countries. Event planning guide: <https://missions.welsrc.net/download-missions/cultural-fair-resources/>
- ❖ Set up attractive displays such as for Befriend A Mission and Send One Sister. Change the displays several times per year, but remember to focus on one subject at a time. If you live close to Milwaukee or are willing to pay the shipping, Central Office has a fabulous banner and a set of mission flags that are a great addition.
- ❖ Organize an LWMS focused “Spa Day” using the 3R Bible studies interspersed with spa treatments and a pot luck salad lunch.
- ❖ Host an international dinner by choosing a mission with a unique food culture. Have a freewill offering or charge a fee (Meals for Missions). Create and show a slide presentation on that particular mission. Remind the attendees to subscribe to the WELS Mission Blogs.
- ❖ Talk with your pastor and church’s secretary/administrative assistant about sending the WELS Mission Blogs out via e-mail to your congregation’s members.
- ❖ If your church has a Facebook page, ask to post something regularly about LWMS or share the LWMS Facebook page postings onto your congregation's page.
- ❖ Hold an international cooking class at church, selecting the cuisine from one of our missions and then sharing a presentation on that mission while eating the delicious food. Participants in the class leave with information on the mission and the recipe for the dish made that night.
- ❖ Advertise an “LWMS Girls Night In” instead of a “meeting.” Include fellowship, sharing the LWMS experience, yummy snacks, and a fun beverage. Invite all the women of your congregation and their daughters.
- ❖ Organize board game nights. Set up tables with several different board games. Charge a small cover charge (the money will go to missions), serve snacks, and set up some LWMS displays highlighting the mission projects your circuit is currently supporting.
- ❖ Schedule a seasonal event to raise awareness and support missions such as:
 - Hearts for Missions Bake Sale (Valentine’s Day) - get all ages involved in setting up and selling
 - Schools Back in Session Celebration Brunch for Moms—talk about kids c.a.r.e. and give out information
 - Pumpkin Carving/Painting Contest for the Congregation - sell pumpkins with proceeds going to missions

- ❖ Host a Mother/Daughter Painting Night - make BAM postcards or pass around cards to sign and send.
- ❖ Set up a Christmas Giving Tree with BAM donation envelopes tied to it. Have Lutheran Girl Pioneers, Sunday school, or school kids make decorations for the tree. Make sure you advertise it well with worship folder blurbs, e-blasts and a personal announcement after worship.
- ❖ Post live or recorded Ignite videos on your circuit's or congregation's Facebook page simply stating why you love being involved with LWMS. Make sure you include ladies of a variety of ages and backgrounds.

Don't forget—personal interaction and relationship building (making new friends) works best to create a passion for missions, so keep inviting and sharing your love for missions.

Ignite Your Congregation ideas I am excited to try:

