



Braille ministry: Sharing the Gospel in a unique language

Rachel Potts serves with Lutheran Braille Workers as the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Ministry Relations. Lutheran Braille Workers exists to bring the Word of God to 338 million people throughout the world who are blind or visually impaired, completely free of charge, in Braille and Specialized Large Print.



Rachel is deployed to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she lives with her husband and three children. She was a speech-language pathologist for five years in a public school district in Tucson, Arizona. When their family moved to Ann Arbor, she became the Director of Admissions and Enrichment Programs at St. Paul Lutheran School. She served at St. Paul Ann Arbor

for 11 years until God called her to the ministry at Lutheran Braille Workers in August 2023. She is honored to share the good news of Jesus and the mission of LBW with churches and individuals as she travels throughout the eastern part of the country.

Check-in for the **Spring meeting at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Clinton Township** begins at 9:15 a.m. with opening devotions at 9:45 a.m. The business meeting includes election of officers and updates from CLW committees and member inter-congregational organizations. Lunch at noon (free-will offering) and the speaker's presentation follow the meeting.

Please encourage your congregation to join you in supporting Lutheran Braille Workers or other partners with financial gifts and donations of ingathering items for our mission partners (see www.clwmichigan.com under Opportunities for Participation tab).



Thirty-four Women of the Year Honored at Annual Luncheon

Mistress of Ceremonies Kathy Dunbar and 514 Council of Lutheran Women members and guests celebrated our 2026 Women of the Year at The Mirage in Clinton Township, MI. CLW Past President Doris August introduced honorees and highlighted service to their churches and communities. Proceeds from this year will fund scholarships for seminarians from member congregations and graduates from each Metro Detroit Lutheran high school pursuing church work programs in Fall 2025.

Rev. Dan Ramthun, pastor of Guardian Lutheran Church in Dearborn, gave a moving tribute to the Women of the Year. President Barb Collins reminded guests about the shortage of pastors and the need to support seminarians with encouragement, prayers, and financial gifts. She shared stories about CLW checks coming at just the right time to cover travel costs for a family funeral for one seminarian and car repairs for another seminary family. **Watch for the date of next year's Council of Lutheran Women Annual Luncheon in an upcoming newsletter.**

Ministry partners accept donations and CLW accepts in-kind and cash donations for the food bank, layettes, and seminarian scholarships throughout the year. Find Information on the CLW website (www.clwmichigan.com) under the Opportunities for Participation and Support Us tabs.



514 guests honored and celebrated the service of 2026 CLW Women of the Year.

A final tribute to a beloved Council of Lutheran Women leader and mentor

Joanne Ruth Werner was born to William and Viola Schmaltz on December 28, 1930 in Detroit. She died on February 11, 2026 surrounded by her loving family.

Joanne grew up on Detroit's east side where her father was a Detroit police officer and the ladies in her family were strong and independent role models.

She met John Werner at Wayne State University and they were married on June 14, 1952. As a young mother of four sons and an active member of Mt. Calvary Lutheran church in Detroit, she led that congregation to become one of the

founding churches in the Council of Lutheran Women of Detroit. She served as vice president for many years and chairperson of the annual Lutheran Woman of the Year banquet.

Joanne was a teacher and one of the first women District Representatives of Aid Association for Lutherans. She established Lutheran Travel and organized over 70 trips to raise money for the Detroit Lutheran Center.

We thank and praise God for Joanne's legacy of service that was instrumental in sustaining CLW for 62 years.

CLW Spring 2026 Meeting: Registration information

The Spring meeting will be at St. Luke Lutheran, 21400 S. Nunneley, Clinton Township, MI, 48035. Register by replying to the Call Letter or calling Kathy Dunbar at (248) 622-8774 by April 24, 2026.