



# LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS

## WHAT IS LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS?

**LGP is a Christ-centered youth program for girls of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church and those in fellowship with WELS. Our purpose is to provide an informal educational experience for the girls in Christian fellowship with one another. It is our desire to inspire youth to realize the joy of a Christ-centered life, while building strong Christian character and values.**

Lutheran Girl Pioneers strives to help each girl become a happy, confident and useful member of her church, school, home and community.

A leader's job then is to help make these aims come true as they work with the girls week by week. They help the girls learn new things that will make their lives more enjoyable and more useful to others. They will help the girls as much as possible live up to our motto "**Loyal to Christ.**" In fact, a leader will find that her life is enriched, as well, as she shares her time and talents.

**In a nutshell, Lutheran Girl Pioneers strives to see young girls grow up to be Christian women serving our Lord in their daily lives.**

## WHY LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS?

As parents we are given the awesome responsibility of helping our children learn how to think and act like Christians. We are instructed to lead them and train them up in the Lord... a tall task these days when every where we look it seems to be more of an example of what NOT to do. Leading them to God is easy when they are little but as they get older their peers become more important and more influential.

We need to encourage Christian friendships. We can't pick their friends, but we can improve our odds by giving them groups to pick from.

How can we be sure that the advice they receive is directing them to their Savior? God knows: "**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...all the believers were together and had everything in common...**" Acts 2:42

**Encourage the ministry of Lutheran Girl Pioneers in your congregation.  
The benefits can be "out of this world!"**

### Lutheran Girl Pioneers

Christine Bohn, Executive Director

W10376 Buttercup Lane, Wautoma, Wisconsin 54982

608-781-5232 [girlpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:girlpioneers@gmail.com) [www.lgp.org](http://www.lgp.org)



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEES** are the backbone of our not-for-profit organization as we receive no synodical dollars. The membership year for Lutheran Girl Pioneers runs from October 1 to September 30 of each year. Annual membership fees are due at the National Office by October 1. These fees help us to maintain our office and develop and improve training and teaching materials.

**The National fee is \$20.00 per girl per year.**

**There is not a congregational fee for Lutheran Girl Pioneers**

**CARAVAN FEE** When you are working out the cost of LGP for each girl in your caravan, you will want to remember to include not only the national fee per girl but also your projected operating expenses in your caravan. This amount will be determined by activities you are planning, the cost of handbooks for each girl (recommended) etc.

**DISTRICT FEES** In some areas, not all, the districts require a small fee to help with expenses of newsletters and district events. Your District Counselor will be able to help you with this.

**REFER TO THE “SOURCES OF FUNDING” PAGE  
TO HELP YOU DETERMINE HOW TO FUND EXPENSES.**



**NOTE: Lutheran Girl Pioneers and Lutheran Boy Pioneers are  
two separate organizations.  
Each organization has their own budget and fee structure.**

# WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE?

As a Caravan (the name of the group of Lutheran Girl Pioneers in a congregation), you will receive:

- **A LEADER LIBRARY** for your use. The library contains devotional information and leaders' manuals that have information about planning a program and teaching the skills involved.
- **NAME RECOGNITION:** The Lutheran Girl Pioneers is known throughout the WELS and ELS as a Christ-centered program for girls. The material produced by the organization is doctrinally sound and correct and has been developed with the help of teachers and pastors.
- **ASSISTANCE FROM EXPERIENCED LEADERS:**  
Volunteers are available in many areas to come in and assist you with getting your program started. The National Office is available to answer questions and assist you whenever possible.
- **MERCHANDISE:** Your national membership entitles you to purchase items from the National Office at reasonable prices. Items available are clothing, teaching materials, awards, jewelry, pens/pencils, and more!
- **TRAINING:** Leader's Training Clinics are offered with presenters coming from the ranks of experienced leaders who share their knowledge and ideas.

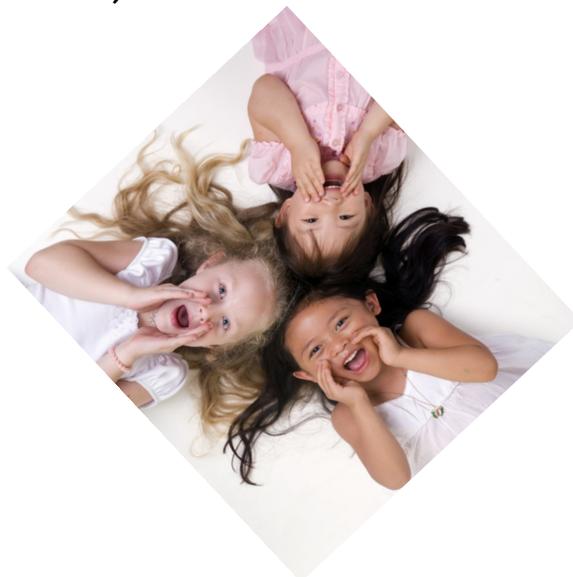
- **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES:** While all of our National Activities are self-supporting, they are only available to girls and leaders from Caravans who have paid their yearly membership fee. The activities include a National Camp and National Pinocar Derby.
- **NEWSLETTERS:** We publish two newsletters.

For the leaders—a bimonthly newsletter called “The Guide”

For the girls—“The Prairie Schooner News” published monthly.

The National Organization,  
therefore, exists to serve the  
**CARAVANS.**

It is there to serve the girls,  
leaders, parents, and the  
congregation who support the  
program with their  
time, talents and treasure.



# HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

There are five possible levels in the total Lutheran Girl program.

<b>SUNBEAMS</b>	For first and second graders (some Caravans include kindergartners) The girls participate in fun activities through the “Explorer”, “Friends”, “Helpers” and “Funmaker” categories.
<b>TRAVELERS</b>	For third and fourth graders
<b>TRAILBLAZERS</b>	Generally fifth and sixth graders
<b>HOMESTEADERS</b>	Generally seventh and eighth graders
<b>SPINNERS</b>	Mainly high school age girls
<b>JUNIOR LEADERS</b>	Girls at least 12 years of age who have met the requirements listed in the LGP Girls Handbook.

The activities and/or requirements for the Sunbeam, Traveler, Trailblazer and Homesteader levels each take approximately two years to complete. As a new caravan you will receive a library which will contain suggestions for meeting schedules, teaching aids, resource materials and devotional helps which will aid you in helping the girls to achieve this.

## **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

Over and above the level requirements, special achievements can be worked on by the girls in several areas. Some examples would be Babysitting; Ecology; Drama; Sewing; Handicrafts; Gardening; Art; etc.

**The level requirements and special achievements are outlined in the LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEER HANDBOOK.**

## **RECOGNITION and AWARDS**

Awards and recognitions for completing level requirements and special achievements are also available through the National Office. Your caravan may choose to use one or all of them or in some cases, none. The choice is really yours. The options are:

- **Charm Bracelet** with corresponding level and achievement charms.
- **Framed Certificate** with decals.
- **Certificate of Achievement** which you fill in when requirements have been completed.

## **WHEN DO WE MEET?**

Some Caravans meet on Sunday afternoons every week; some meet twice a month on a Tuesday; others still meet once a month. Whatever works for your girls, leaders, and congregation is fine! We would recommend at least two hours per meeting— that gives you enough time to do a lesson, play a game or do a craft, with out being rushed.



## HOW DO I GET STARTED?



Listed below are steps you should follow as you consider chartering or reactivating a Lutheran Girl Pioneer Caravan in your congregation. You may have already completed some of these steps. Others may not be appropriate for your congregation. The steps are meant to be a guide.

- Read through the information and share with other interested members of your congregation.
- Get the permission & support of your Pastor and responsible congregation board or committee.
- Contact your District Counselor—She can answer questions and guide you through the steps of introducing the program to the congregation.
- Hold an information meeting for interested adults and girls.  
Have your District Counselor present if possible.  
Show the “Pioneer Ministry” video. Your District Counselor or the National Office can supply you with a copy to use.
- Assess the interest of the girls and adults. Recruit adult help for the program.
- Hold a second meeting of adults willing to serve as leaders or Caravan Council members.
  - Have your District Counselor present if possible.
  - Make a decision on whether to proceed with chartering or reactivating a Caravan.
  - Decide on a method of funding your program.
- Submit a “Membership Form” to the National Office.
- Estimate the number of girls you will have. You can update later.  
List all leaders, even potential ones. You can update the list later.  
When your membership form with fees (a minimum of 5 to get started) are submitted to the National Office, a Caravan Library will be sent to you.
- When the Caravan Library arrives, meet with the potential leaders to go through the materials.  
Plan your first meeting and activities with leaders and the caravan council.

**You are not alone!**

**Call the National Office or your District Counselor when you have questions or concerns!**

# SOURCES OF FUNDING

Once you know the costs involved, you will need to look at what sources of funding exist for your Caravan. Each congregation will differ in how they approach this funding. Be sure to check with your congregation leaders to see what is available and how your Lutheran Girl Pioneer Caravan will fit into the funding procedures.

Following are some ideas that other Caravans have used successfully.

## **CONGREGATION BUDGET**

In many congregations, the National Membership fee is paid as part of the yearly congregational budget. The Pioneers are listed as a line item in the budget. In these cases the congregation sees the Caravan as an integral part of the church's ministry to its youth and recognizes the need to fund it. In some congregations all of the costs for the year are taken care of through the church budget.

## **CONGREGATION GROUPS**

Another alternative is to approach various groups in the congregation to see if they might be able to assist with the funding of the Caravan. You may want to talk with the Men's Club, Ladies Aid, LWMS, Thrivent, Parent/Teacher Organization, etc.

## **PARENTS**

In some congregations, parents are asked to pick up the cost of the Lutheran Girl Pioneer program entirely or in part. In this case the budgeted costs of the Caravan would be divided by the number of girls and a fee per girl set to be paid by the parents.

## **DOOR OFFERINGS**

Another method used by some congregations is to have a free-will offering in which any member of the congregation can donate. This can take place after a church service or at some type of meal or other gathering.

## **FUND RAISING PROJECTS**

Some congregations will allow groups to conduct fund-raising projects. (You may want to check with Thrivent for matching funds.) This might include:

- Meals with a free-will offering or set charge.
- Car washes
- Candy sales
- Pizza sales
- Pumpkin sales
- Garage sale



## **PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **BROCHURES** (Sample enclosed)

These will give the parents some general information on Lutheran Girl Pioneers

### **BULLETIN INSERTS** (Samples enclosed)

### **DISTRICT COUNSELOR**

She is a local representative who would visit with you and present the program. Please contact the National Office for your District Counselor's contact information.

## **RECRUITING GIRLS**

- Sending a letter to parents informing them of the Lutheran Girl Pioneer program with a schedule of events and activities that are planned is a good start. If your congregation has a school, your teachers may be willing to hand this information out at registration.
- Write a personal invitation to girls in the congregation.
- Hold an information night inviting the girls and their parents. Let the girls do a simple craft to take home with them and give them a schedule of events. .
- Have interesting activities, crafts and events planned.

## **RECRUITING PARENTS TO HELP**

- Invite parents to attend a meeting to see what goes on.
- Issue a list of special events scheduled along with a sign-up sheet so they can choose what they could help with.
- Invite parents or other congregation members with special talents to share that particular skill
- Keep parents informed of your activities.
- Be sure to properly thank anyone who helps out.

## **RECRUITING LEADERS AND HELPERS**

**LISTED ARE SOME QUALITIES YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR WHEN CONSIDERING SOMEONE AS A LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEER LEADER:**

- A leader is someone who loves the Lord and loves children
- A leader likes variety in the things they do and the resources they work with.
- They are creative in their use of the handbook and teaching requirements.
- They are democratic in their approach to leadership.
- They solicit ideas and suggestions from the girls.
- They find it easy to praise and encourage the girls.
- Their focus is on cooperation and relationships. They are team players.

*Pray for God's guidance and direction. With His help you will be led to the right people. It is important that you commit your plans to the Lord. Once leaders are recruited continue to pray for God's direction.*

## **KEEP LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS VISIBLE IN THE CONGREGATION**

- Have photos displayed on a bulletin board in the school or church corridor of various activities.
- Keep the congregation informed through newsletters or in the bulletin.
- Hold a Pioneer Sunday where the girls sing or hand out bulletins etc. Host a coffee/brunch between services.
- Show a slide presentation.
- Hold a paper or aluminum drive. Members will feel good about helping out.
- Sponsor a food bank.
- Compile a list of members with special talents that can help with teaching lessons.
- Adopt a friend.
- Help keep up the church grounds.

## A TOOL FOR REACHING OUT

- **Friendship Evangelism** Girls inviting unchurched friends to join them in the Christ-centered activities in Pioneers provides a wonderful outreach tool. Pioneers is less structured or formal than Sunday school or worship and may attract the interest in a less threatening way. Talk to your Evangelism Committee and work with them to come up with ideas to include children in the community or neighborhood who do not have a church home.



- **Serve the Lord publicly with joy in community service projects.** Have materials available at a booth at a local fair or event. Participate in a parade or local service projects: food drive; roadside cleanup; collecting school supplies for those families who are struggling financially; donating gifts at Christmas; visiting nursing homes or shut-ins. Sponsor a Run/Walk for a specific cause.
- **Not only does the Pioneer program provide an opportunity for children it also presents itself as an avenue to bring adults to hear God's Word.** Parents that accompany their children to events and activities or even someone who is an "expert presenter" on a particular subject will have the opportunity to hear God's life saving message.
- **It often happens that the members of the congregation who have not been involved or active in the church and become leaders have grown in their commitment to God through Pioneers.**

*The comfortable setting of the Pioneer programs and activities lend themselves to building relationships and creating opportunities to talk about your life and your Savior. Children often do this naturally. Leaders should not hesitate to be just as welcoming and then "be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...with gentleness and respect."*

**Thank you for your interest in the Lutheran Girl Pioneers ministry. We welcome your questions at any time!**  
**Please call Christine in the National Office**  
**at 608-781-5232**  
**or email [girlpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:girlpioneers@gmail.com)**  
**or visit our website at [www.lgp.org](http://www.lgp.org).**