



LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
78 Years*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Fall I attended the Anthracite Zone Event in Hop Bottom, PA on October 2nd. The entertainment was the Traveling Choral Group from the Lutheran Academy in Scranton, PA.

I also attended the Buffalo Zone Fall Event in Eden, NY on November 5th. Sharon Wolff was elected as Zone President.

In the Spring I am looking forward to attending many zone events, getting to know the ladies in your groups, and finding out how the district can support each zone.

The Assembly of Leaders Training sessions were held in St. Louis, MO. Rev. Carl Emberger, Margaret Klees, and I were in attendance. Kathy Ippolito was unable to be with us. It was a thrilling and motivating experience. We are looking forward to sharing our knowledge with you in 2023.

On March 3-4, 2023, we will have our Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom. The meeting notice will be sent to you in January.

Have you received your Winter 2022 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly? In there is the information and registration materials needed for the 40th Biennial LWML Convention, "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations", on June 22-25 in Milwaukee, WI. Housing Reservations and Early Discounted Registrations begin on January 9, 2023. When you are ready to register, go to lwml.org/2023-convention. After registering you will receive a link to choose your hotel. I look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee!!!



I hope you had a wonderful Advent season preparing for Christ's birth and a beautiful Christmas with family and friends.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at d_e_grzyb@msn.com or 716-901-4167.

Dee





COUNSELOR'S

BORN IN US



An interesting theme of **Born in Us** was the basis for the mid-week services in our congregation this Advent season. I thought it would be good to share my thoughts on Jesus born in us bringing us guidance as we await His coming.

There are a few ways that we can categorize guidance. If you are a techie you might think of maps, GPS apps, or wiki pages. If you are talking in terms of people you might think of a mentor or someone who provides wisdom. Of course mentoring may prompt memories of times you were asked for your wisdom or guidance

and then the person just did what they wanted regardless of your good counsel. That can be pretty frustrating, especially when the choice makes the situation worse. I'm sure we have grieved Jesus when we have strayed from His good counsel.

What if good counsel was already laid out for you, perfect guidance to move you through life? A complete set of instructions to live by. If you did not have free will, you may live an absolutely perfect life.

What would your life experiences be like if you did not follow those instructions? Picture this analogy that is too close to the truth for me personally. If you are like me you sometimes doubt the directions your GPS app provides, and go in a direction other than advised. Sometimes I get lucky and it works out as I expected or even to my advantage. Other times I end up in traffic and become a bit frustrated. Perhaps angry would be a better description.

In life we sometimes steer our own path because we think we know better or follow advice that is questionable. As many of us can attest there may be some short-term joy in those bad choices, but the long-term consequences may not be what we intended or worse they could be disastrous.

Let's consider **Ps 31:3** "*Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.*" In terms of guidance Ps 31:3 has some deeper meaning that we need to explore about the guidance that God provides.

In Ps 31 King David is praising God, "*You are my rock and my fortress. Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.*" More in tune with modern English, David is saying for your purpose Lord, lead me and guide me. An important distinction here is that it is for the Lord's purpose that he leads us.



You may be thinking this sounds familiar. You would be correct. The same Hebrew root to lead or guide to a watering place, or bring to a place of rest is in Ps 23

Ps 23:2 "*He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*"

David has hit on an important characteristic of God. For those who trust in Him, His purpose is to lead us to a place of rest, a place where we are refreshed, that there is no more worry, there is only the looking forward to being in His very presence.

God's plan to get us from our struggling worldly life to a life of assurance in His good purpose is shared by Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:32 "*...this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel ..., says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*"

This prophecy is pointing to a Messiah who's good purpose is to gather the people to God, to save the world. This is the covenant of a Savior to come into the world, to dwell in us.

God's good purpose was to fulfill the law that only leads to our condemnation and death. Because of His good work, His good purpose, we can live with Him for eternity. Jesus himself reminded us in Matthew, "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*" (**Matthew 5:17**)

(Continued on Page 3)

Counselor's Article continued:

Jesus took the law, He fulfilled it, and raised the bar for us. He taught that the law was not just about our actions but also about our impure thoughts, the failings of the heart. He took all of those actions, things already done, and added the exposure of impure thoughts that lead us to death. He took all of this upon Himself to fulfill the law in our stead.

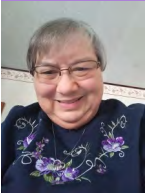
The law that was put in our minds, and written on our hearts is part of the good purpose that Jesus has for us. The Law may condemn us, however it has three good purposes for our well-being. It is a curb to help us from going astray, to hold us back from the temptation to chase after short term gains that can have tragic consequences. The law is also a mirror for us to reflect on our current state, to show us that we are not the perfect beings He intended so that we may turn back and follow Him. And of course the law is meant to guide us, to be the instructions for a perfect life, to encourage us to make good decisions that are pleasing to God.

Jesus came into the world to bring guidance, to dwell in us, and always pointing us to the way of truth. He not only fulfilled the prophesy of Jeremiah, he added good news to the law, not by abolishing the law but fulfilling what we cannot. The good news is the grace He added to the prophesy through His own sacrifice. This grace, His good purpose, leads to a place of rest, a place where we are refreshed, where there is no more worry, there is only the path forward to being in his very presence.

Lord make us ever mindful of the guidance born in us through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Carl Emberger, Junior Counselor

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS—LINDA BAHR



During the time of Advent and Christmas many people reflect on the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the New Testament. I encourage you to take time to read the Prophecies and Fulfillments in the Bible of the birth of Jesus Christ our Messiah

Prophecies of Jesus Birth--Old Testament Messianic Prophecies Literally Fulfilled by Jesus of Nazareth.

PROPHECY

Genesis 3:15
Isaiah 7:14
Psalm 2:7
Genesis 22:18
Genesis 21:12
Nehemiah 24:17
Genesis 49:10
Isaiah 11:11
Jeremiah 23:5
Micah 5:2
Psalm 72:10
Jeremiah 31:15



FULFILLMENT

Galatians 4:4
Matthew 1:18, Matthew 1:24-25
Matthew 3:17
Matthew 1:1
Luke 3:23, Luke 3:34
Luke 3:23, Luke 3:34
Luke 3:23, Luke 3:33
Luke 3:23, Luke 3:32
Luke 3:23, Luke 3:31
Matthew 2:1
Matthew 2:1, Matthew 2:11
Matthew 2:16

Serve the Lord With Gladness

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES – SUSAN BELL



The work of the Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department is to engage, encourage and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior, with people of their community and the world.

The 2022-2024 Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department
 Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell
 Mission Grants Chair – Susan Morris
 Mission Grants Co-Chair – Margaret Klees
 Leader Development Chair – Rebecca Fuddy
 Leader Development Co-Chair – Vacant
 Structure Chair – Terry Hoffman
 Structure Co-Chair – Darleen Garcia
 Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon
 (Contact information on page 9 of this LINK)



Dear LWML Sisters in Christ: As I compiled the evaluations of our fall Retreat, I learned that we need to make a bigger effort to inform new attendees where things are and how to get there! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Retreat 2023 at Pioneer on the Lake!

Please know God is a God of comfort as stated in 2 Corinthians 3-4: *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

As members of the LWML, we willingly respond to His great gifts to us! Our department has been tasked by you, to help in the coordination of that response.

Susan Bell, VP Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources

NEW STAMP COORDINATOR



Karen Blackmon from the Buffalo Zone has agreed to be our new stamp coordinator. She will start collecting stamps at various district events. Please make sure your stamps are trimmed before you give them to her. Her contact information can be found on page 9 of this LINK.



MISSION GRANT NEWS

Anita Getty, President of the Central New York South Zone had the privilege of presenting The Heart of Tioga a check in the amount of \$5,000. This was Grant 1 approved at the 2022 LWML Eastern District Convention. This grant will go to support Medical supplies for testing, video streaming, literature, and other miscellaneous items for The Heart of Tioga.

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



In past LINK articles, the Special Focus Committee has highlighted the Heart to Heart – Sisters of all Nations. This month, we want to introduce other special ministries and resources that are available to you. On the LWML national website three special ministries are highlighted: Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visibly Challenged, and Intellectually and Developmentally Challenged. Who in your church or community can you connect with? Check out this link: www.lwml.org/special-ministries for resources. Diane Olmstead, Pittsburgh Zone, has joined the Special Focus Committee. Welcome aboard! For our contact information please see page 9 of this LINK.



LWML 2023 RETREAT AT PIONEER ON THE LAKE WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 22-24

We are excited to inform you that we have been able to secure a contract with Pioneer on the Lake for the 2023 Fall Retreat. There are some new specifications that they will be implementing and wanted to make sure you were informed of these in advance.

Please see the information below:

- ◆ You will need to bring your own linens; comforters will be provided
- ◆ The retreat is for three days – Friday afternoon to Sunday, no part time attendance
- ◆ You will have a choice of cabins or cottages, all at the same price
- ◆ There will be a golf cart on premises for those who have mobility issues

MORE INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE SPRING OF 2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO MAKE A BANNER FOR THE 2023 LWML CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE



The Banner Procession at LWML conventions sets the tone for the convention as it beautifully expresses the convention theme and highlights the God-given talents of our districts. As 2022 was the 80th anniversary of establishing the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, you are being offered the opportunity to participate in a visual way to celebrate this anniversary. You may choose to use a vintage banner designed for a previous national LWML convention or you may create a new banner using the 2023 convention theme and the banner specifications noted below.

- Finished banner size is to be 3' x 5'. Added fringe may be longer. You may not use the convention logo on your banner, but do base your design on the convention theme, "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations." You may use the convention colors (note the letter-head) or other colors if you wish. Heavy fabric or bulky items are discouraged, as your banner should be easy to manage when carried.
- Your district's name must be on the front of the banner, though it may be abbreviated. Use any size letters you wish. Place a small identifying tag naming your district on the lower left corner on the backside of the banner, to help identify your district banner when it is rolled up.
- Attach two ties to the back of the banner. One of the ties is to be at the center of the banner width, about 10-12" from the top. The second tie is to be at the center of the banner width, about 10-12" from the bottom. These ties should be long enough to tie a bow around a 2" pole. Note: Do NOT use Velcro to hold banner to the pole, as it has proved ineffective. Please use ties as described.
- A dowel used at the bottom of the banner must be tacked in place to prevent it from slipping out of the casing.
- At the top attach the banner to a 1" dowel with an eye screw on each end of the dowel. Please use a strong quarter inch or 8mm cord. Make a small loop at the center for hanging. Secure the cord through each eye screw, laying the cord flat along the dowel, with the small loop at the center of the banner. Knot the cord on the outside of each screw. Be sure to attach the cord tightly because it will stretch when the banner is hung. Please hang your banner before sending it to the convention, to allow time for stretching.



Practice carrying your banner before arriving at the convention. The Host Committee will provide poles and stands for the banner. In the future, we will provide information regarding registering your banner.

Please contact me at d_e_grzyb@msn.com or 716-393-3670.

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

The Buffalo zone had their fall event on November 5th with 20 women in attendance. We had a Bible study, luncheon, elections and installation of officers. Our President is Sharon Wolff, Treasurer is Karen Blackmon, Publicity is Isabel Dettmer, and our Secretary is Ann Marie Sheehan (filling the remaining year left by Sharon Wolff). We are thrilled to add all the groups/churches in the Cattaraugus/Allegheny Zone to the Buffalo Zone. We officially merged and will continue to hold our 4 yearly events throughout the area now. Sharon Wolff, as VP of Communication, made contact with all the churches and with Robin Swanson. They held an informative meeting and voted to dissolve the Cattaraugus/Allegheny Zone and merge with Buffalo. The ED and BOD both approved their decision. The new Directory will reflect those changes.

At the event we collected over 80 items for the local food pantry as part of "What's Your 80".

Our groups in our churches have been busy with Advent and Christmas events and preparations. We hope you all had a joy filled holiday season.
Sharon Wolff, President of Buffalo Zone.



Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kenmore, NY



The Esther Circle ladies assembled gift bags of "goodies" to be delivered to members of the church who are unable to come to service. One gift is a box of assorted items that the kids from "CAMP JOY" decorated this past Summer. Camp Joy is a Summer program that is run by Our Savior Lutheran Church in Buffalo, NY. They welcome volunteers!

J-ESUS; O-THERS; Y-OU!
Carol Obot,

CNY-SOUTH

The ladies of Trinity Lutheran Wellsboro are giving back to our community and making a few Trinity Lutheran School families happy this Christmas season. We will be having a Bring a Snack and join us at our Wrapping Party. It's where we give back to the school families gifts that they have on their wish list. The ladies and others from our congregation join together and get the gifts and we have a party wrapping them. All the head teachers have to do is give the gifts to the parents on the last day of school and they get to be Father Christmas at their homes.

We started this about 6 years ago and we love doing it. We also have a community Angel Gift giving tree in our church for those who would like to do more for the community.



Trinity, West Seneca's Ladies' Bible Study Group Sends Christmas Cheer to Needy Family

What's Your 80?

The ladies and the congregation, friends and families came together to fulfill wish lists of a

family of 7 children and 2 parents. It all started when a good-hearted woman came into the LADD Thrift Store and told of a family for whom she was purchasing items. She shared the circumstances. Some of our Bible Study members volunteer at the store and brought up the idea to give Christmas gifts to this family at the group meeting. The good-hearted woman acted as liaison between the family and the ladies' group and asked for a wish list from each member of the family, which ranges in age from a 22 year old college student to a 7 year old and the parents. Nancy H., who leads the bible study and is also a LADD volunteer, organized the items on the lists and asked the members to donate items of their choice. When other congregation members and friends and family heard about the project, they wanted to help as well. We received a Thrivent Action Grant to fill in any items that were not donated and extras, like groceries. On December 12, we gathered the donated gifts, organized and wrapped them. The wrapped gifts were then packed in large plastic sacks for each family member and stored until December 22, at which time they were delivered to the family home. **We collected more than 80 gifts packed in 28 garbage bags.** At the end of our session, we all gathered in a prayer circle to give thanks to the Lord God who enabled us to share our blessings with those in need. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts to bring them to a strong faith in Jesus our Savior.

Linda Meissner



GENESEE ZONE

St. Paul, Hilton

**"What's Your 80"**

The St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Hilton, NY ladies collected 80 bars of soap recognizing 80 years that the Lutheran Women in Mission have celebrated serving the Lord with gladness. The collec-

tion was shared with the local food cupboards and the packing of the Christmas Child boxes.

PHILADELPHIA ZONE

Orphan Grain Train ✝ The Philadelphia Zone fall event was held at Christ Memorial, Malvern, PA under the theme You are my Sister! We learned about the Orphan Grain Train ministry and assembled 80 hygiene kits. Beth Quinn, district leader for the Heart to Heart — Sisters of all Nations program spoke about ways we can come along side women in our churches and communities to support and encourage them.

We had our first planning meeting for the Fall 2023 retreat. The theme is Encourage One Another, Verse is **Hebrews 10:25** "Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Dates are September 22-24, 2023 at Pioneer on the Lake, Angola, NY.



Happy New Year! A new year gives fresh opportunity to respond to all of God's gifts, applying them to every circumstance and relationship in the hope of sharing Jesus. All of life is about using God's gifts for doing God's things. That is true for our estate plans as well. Our estates are full of God's gifts. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you consider this perspective.

Contact Rebecca Bessell
Gift Planning Advocate

rlb54@rochester.rr.com or 585-415-6368.

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

LWML 2023 PRAYER SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

MY SOUL REJOICES: A SERVICE OF SONG AND PRAYER

This year's prayer service was written by Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, who was our keynote speaker at the 2022 LWML Eastern District Convention last June, should be a great one.

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy ... (Psalm 5:11a).



The 2023 LWML Prayer Service, written by former LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler of Clarinda, Iowa, will bless your heart and life as you join with your sisters and brothers in singing songs of prayer and praise to the Lord who continues to bless you daily. Singing familiar hymns, joining together in the Word, and spending time in prayer, individually and corporately, will help you recognize and give thanks for your God-given blessings. "My Soul Rejoices" is filled with hymns, the Word, and prayer. You can look forward to a joyous and uplifting worship service whether it is used in the congregation or the LWML district, zone, or group.

More information and all downloads are available at this link <https://www.lwml.org/prayer-service>

Report of the Financial Secretary—Barb Williams

**Report of the Financial Secretary
September 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022
Mites: \$ 4,339.24**

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory Of:	Given By:
Naomi Barrow	Susan Bell
	Beth Quinn
Eileen Wohlers	Ladies of LWML
	Hope, Brockport
Joy Belasic	Chris and Bev Wicher
Linda Erwin	Susan Bell
Claire Carlson	Jackie Blank
	Hazel Brownell
	Dorothy Koschmann
	Beth Quinn
	Kathy Pavelock
	Gretchen Putzman
	Ernelle Ponivas
	Sue Gifford
	James & Mary Greig
	John and Marianne Aldrich
	Salem Lutheran Church -
	LWML
	Frederick & Barbara Bartz
	Ruth Wurster
	Mark and Christine Johnson
	Alvin & Judith Hoffman
	Elinor Jentsch
	Karen Devan
	Noreen Nagel
	David Carlson
	Dawn Corbin

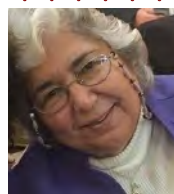
Legacy of Love – In Memory of Claire Carlson

Sharon Wolff
Susan Bell
Linda Bright
Rebecca Bessell
Barbara Williams

Treasurers are asked to forward money from their zone on a monthly basis so that mission grants can be paid in a timely manner. Reminder to Zone treasurers to please remit your money to the **Financial Secretary, Barbara Williams, 6132 Prospect Street, Newfane, NY 14108.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 3-4	EC/BOD Via Zoom
June 22–25, 2023	National Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Sept. 22, 2023	EC Meeting Pioneer on the Lake
Sept. 22-24, 2023	Fall Retreat Pioneer on the Lake
Feb/March 2024	EC/BOD Pittsburgh PA
June 14-16, 2024	LWML ED Convention Pittsburgh, PA



In Memoriam



Our dear friend and sister-in-Christ Judy Grimm (from the Anthracite Zone) was called home into the arms of Jesus on December 21, 2022 at home with her family after fighting her battle with breast cancer.

Judy was active in the LWML and a former Zone President of the Anthracite Zone. We all have fond memories of her scooting around in her scooter at retreats and her joyous spirit. She is at peace with her savior.

Cards can be sent to her husband Rev. Gerald Grimm, 9 Glendale Ave, Mountaintop, PA 18707.



ON YOUR MARK! GET SET! OPEN YOUR BIBLES!

Many Christians have considered challenging themselves to read through the Bible in one year. Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is offering you that very opportunity! The Gospel Outreach Committee has created a monthly reading plan to guide you.

You can access the monthly calendars here <https://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/read-through-the-bible-in-one-year>

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**Next Deadline**

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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716-913-4140

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is March 1, 2023

The Link is published four times each year.

April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

2023 Convention**Date:** June 22–25, 2023**Location:** Milwaukee, Wisconsin**Theme:** Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Scripture Verse: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man* (Psalm 33:12–13).

Goal Statement: As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.

Objectives: Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will:

- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

START YOUR PLANNING NOW. PICK YOUR DELEGATES, PLAN YOUR TRAVEL. REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 9. YOU CAN FIND ALL REGISTRATION AND CONVENTION INFORMATION IN THE WINTER QUARTERLY OR ON THE WEBSITE HERE lwml.org/2023-convention.

Bev Wicher
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LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
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78 Years*



Greetings,

In January 2023, I attended the President's Assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was an amazing experience to be with all the other district presidents. We toured the Milwaukee Convention Center and saw the areas where meetings, exhibits, worship, etc., will take place at the upcoming LWML National Convention. The Convention Center is a spectacular structure that is approximately 188,000 square feet in size. I know you will enjoy everything that is being planned, including the Friday Fest in Milwaukee!

In approximately 2½ months we will be in Milwaukee for the LWML 40th Biennial Convention. I am very excited to attend, along with 10 delegates representing our 8 zones, 2 Young Women Representatives (Meg Klees, Anthracite Zone and Sarala Vunnam, Philadelphia Zone) Pastoral Counselor Rev. Carl Emberger, Heart 2 Heart trainee Roselyn Kamara, and many others attending as alternates and guests. Did you know Rebecca Bessell, Legacy of Love Co-Ordinator for our district, is running for a national office, VP of Organizational Resources? Congratulations to Rebecca for making the national election ballot; it is an honor.

We held our Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings via Zoom on March 3 and 4. According to Judy Morrison, our treasurer, we will shortly be able to pay grants three and four. We appreciate all your Mite gifts that go toward funding our grants.

The Philadelphia Zone is busy making plans for our 2023 Retreat at Pioneer on the Lake in Angola, NY. The theme is "Encourage One Another", Hebrews 10:25. The Speaker will be LCMS Eastern District President, Rev. John Pingel.

I encourage anyone who is going to the convention to contact me at d_e_grzyb@msn.com or 716-393-3670 (home), or 716-901-4167 (cell) so I will know who will be attending. Have a safe journey as you travel to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I look forward to seeing you there.

"In this season of rebirth, may you feel your faith renewed and your heart made new with the hope Easter brings."

Dee Grzyb
LWML Eastern District President





COUNSELOR'S CORNER

"What Is Love?"



According to those who track these things, "What is love?" was the most popular religious search term on the internet in 2022 (7.48 million searches). That more than doubled the 3.35 million searches for the same term in 2019, when it also was number one.

If you type "What is love?" into your browser, you get lots of dictionary definitions, song lyrics, Youtube and music videos, movie quotes, pop psychology, neurobiological answers, advertisements, and proffered links to nefarious websites that offer substitutes for love. Google gives 14,130,000,000 answers in 0.55 seconds – about 2 answers for every person on the planet!

Buried somewhere in that morass, if you refine your search, you might come across what God says about love in the Bible (or you might go to a Bible-believing church to find out!) The Triune God has much to say about love, and much to show about it.

In the Old Testament we find God constantly exhibiting His "steadfast love and faithfulness" and gracious mercy to those whom He loves, even when they (or we) are less than loving and faithful to Him.

In the Gospel of John we find Jesus describing how God shows His love towards us: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." Christians refer to the latter part of this passage as the "Gospel in a nutshell" because Jesus summarizes the good news of who He is and why He came to heal, teach, suffer crucifixion and death, and rise again to life, all to save us.

In his first letter to the believers in Corinth, probably about 55 A.D., the Apostle Paul describes the nature of love in Christ:

"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging symbol. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

"Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast. It is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way. It is not irritable or resentful. It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

"Love never fails. As for prophecies, they will pass away. As for tongues, they will cease. As for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away."

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

"So now faith, hope and love abide, these three, but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 12:13

By so completely describing love's divine qualities, Paul reveals our immaturity. Yet he alludes to God the Father – who knows His children all too well – and *still* loves us, reaches out to us with His Word, and embraces us eternally because of Jesus, who offered Himself up for us all. You can believe it!

Rev. Jeff Nickel, LWML Eastern District Senior Counselor



UPDATE ON AMAZON SMILE

In doing some research about a recent inquiry regarding Amazon Smile, this is an excerpt from their original communication.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change. Please note that AmazonSmile is no longer available. Thank you.



LWML ASSEMBLY OF LEADERS TRAINING SESSIONS

The LWML has a tradition of organizing a training event every four years as part of its commitment to providing excellent leadership training and communication to carry out its mission statement. Under the theme of "Adventures in Equipping Leaders," a cooperative effort was made in October to present helpful leadership advice, motivation, and practical exercises that district leaders can use to connect with women and church workers in their zones and congregations and convey their enthusiasm for the LWML's important work. The following sessions have been selected for you to choose from by the LWML Eastern District AOL Team, which consists of Kathy Ippolito, Meg Klees, Rev. Carl Emberger, and Dee Grzyb.

MISSION GRANTS – A GLOBAL ADVENTURE

We are going to take you on a global adventure focusing on the role that supporting mission grants have had on the history of LWML and on its future. The program includes history about national grants as well as the Eastern District grants. There will also be a review of the district grant application process, and our leader development chair and grant writer Cathie Geske will share her knowledge in writing grants.

*DOCTRINAL REVIEW—KEEPING THE ADVENTURE ON COURSE

Having attended the recent LWML Presidents Assembly meeting, where we listened to a session on the topic of doctrinal review, we became very aware of why this is so necessary. As we prepare devotionals and write Bible studies, our pastoral counselors review each one to ensure they focus on God's Word and point us to our Savior and to all He has done for us. For those who are looking at resources like devotions, Bible Studies, litanies, prayers, etc., for use at your workshops, events, retreats, conventions, etc. this course would be good for you.

**TREASURE HUNT FOR LWML RESOURCES

We are going on an adventure! Become a treasure hunter as we search for a variety of resources available from LWML. Be acquainted with the vast variety of treasure resources LWML has to offer and how to find them on LWML.org. A valuable resource for finding devotions, Bible Studies, litanies, prayers, etc. that are doctrinally approved by LWML.

***Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources** - can be presented with **Doctrinal Review – Keeping the Adventure on Course**.

**THE QUEST TO BROADEN OUR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

This session will provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about the cultures of women in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We will learn that the way different cultures or groups of people do things is not "right or wrong" but just another way. We will rejoice in our oneness in Christ and celebrate our many and various ways of doing things, recognizing that in all things we put Jesus first.

**WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

What can we do to get more women involved with LWML? Maybe the question is, how did I get involved? Also discusses the acronyms that we use – LWML, YWR, H2H, etc. which is a cultural thing for those involved in LWML that can be confusing for those who are not LWML members.

****What's Your Why** - Can be presented with **The Quest To Broaden Our Cultural Understanding**

Scheduled Dates for the AOL Team:

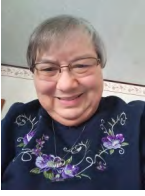
Saturday, April 22 at the Genesee Zone

Saturday, May 6 at the Philadelphia Zone

Please contact Dee Grzyb to schedule your training session(s) at de_grzyb@msn.com or 716-901-4167

Serve the Lord With Gladness

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS—LINDA BAHR

**LENT****LENT, the Spring season, the lengthening of days:**

In the first centuries after Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church, 40 days of the Spring season (excluding Sundays) were set aside as a time of preparation for the Easter Festival. The 40 days were in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, enduring the temptation of the devil. And so the emphasis for the early Christians, as they prepared for Easter, was upon penitence and fasting. As early as 325 AD, the early Church declared Lent as a 40 day fast prior to Easter Sunday.

Fasting is still a part of the Lenten season, but not mandated as it was for the early Christians. For us, fasting, giving up something for Lent can be of spiritual benefit, helping us to focus on true repentance for our sins, and our need for Christ as Lord and Savior.



"God, be merciful to me a sinner." LUKE 18:13
"The blood of Jesus, God's Son cleanses us from all sins." 1 JOHN 1:1

Ash Wednesday, the Imposition of Ashes

In the Bible, ashes symbolize death and repentance. Ashes on our forehead, in the shape of a cross, marks us as a repentant sinner, trusting in Christ as Savior.

"You are dust and to dust you shall return." GENESIS 3:19

For Lutherans and many other churches, the forty days of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and ends on Holy Saturday.

*"Jesus, I will ponder now. On Your holy passion.
 With Your Spirit me endow, For such meditation.
 Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish.
 Of Your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish."*

Written by: Rev. Edward Meyer, Pastor Emeritus

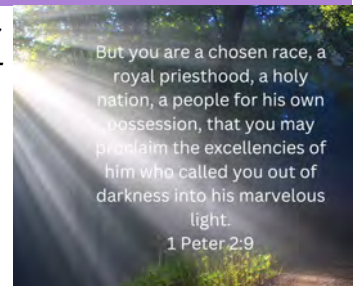
NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE—CAROL OBOT, CHAIRMAN



"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood...God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9)

This Bible verse speaks about making a difference. During this time of Lent, welcoming Spring, reflecting on Jesus death on the cross for our sins and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Let's share Jesus "The Light of the World" to others !

Material for Bible studies & devotions can be found on the LWML website under "The Word" tab <https://www.lwml.org/all-spiritual-growth>



NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE—BETH QUINN, CHAIRMAN



Roselyn Kamara, Christ Assembly, Philadelphia Zone has willingly agreed to be trained as a Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations (H2H) District Leader at the upcoming national convention this June. She is a native of Liberia. She serves as the President of the Usher Department and teacher assistant for Sunday School at her local congregation. Roselyn is married with two daughters. She has a BA in Liberal Arts and is employed as an administrative assistant, Human Resources and Communications Department at Multicultural Community Family Services, Roselyn loves listening to music. Beth Quinn, current H2H District Leader, is looking forward to partnering with Roselyn as they serve the district together.



NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES – SUSAN BELL



The work of the Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department is to engage, encourage and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior, with people of their community and the world.



The 2022-2024 Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell

Mission Grants Chair – Susan Morris **Co-Chair** – Margaret Klees

Leader Development Chair – Cathie Geske **Co-Chair** – Vacant

Structure Chair – Terry Hoffman **Co-Chair** – Darleen Garcia

Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon

(Contact information on page 13 of this LINK)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS



At the March LWML Eastern District Board of Directors meeting the following women were announced to serve on the *Nominating Committee* for the 2024 Pittsburgh Convention. They are:

Bev Wicher, Buffalo Zone

Anita Getty, Central NY South Zone

Margaret Klees, Anthracite Zone

Chris Gasslein, Philadelphia Zone

The LWML Eastern District is thankful to God for these women and the important work they will be doing for the district. The *Nominating Committee* will be seeking nominees for the following LWML Eastern District offices.

Vice President of Communication
Financial Secretary

Recording Secretary
District Pastoral Counselor

All offices serve a four-year term. Any LWML member may nominate a candidate for office. For *Nominating Forms* please e-mail Susan Bell at sbell_7238@comcast.net

APPLY NOW FOR
MISSION GRANTS

MISSION GRANT NEWS

Mission Grant guidelines and application forms are now available from your Zone President.
Deadline to submit application is October 23, 2023.

Mission Grants 1 & 2 have been paid. We are close to being able to pay grants 3 & 4, which need to be paid together due to a tie vote. Please give generously to Mites so we can pay our grants in a timely manner.



NEWS FROM THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE



Zones, please review your bylaws periodically. If you need to make changes, please send a copy to Terry Hoffman so Darlene Garcia and I can review them for you. The contact information is listed below:

Terry Hoffman – Chair

4181 Church Road

Lockport, NY 14094

716-255-2612

terryhoffman1979@gmail.com

Darlene Garcia – Co-Chair

105 Entwood Lane

Butler, PA 16002

garciadarlene48@gmail.com

Updated District Bylaws are on our website. They can be found at the following link: www.east-dist-lwml.org and clicking on **2022 LWML Eastern District Bylaws**.



LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat September 22-24, 2023 Pioneer on the Lake, Angola NY



The ladies of the Philadelphia Zone are hosting the 2023 Fall Retreat under the theme "Encourage One Another" based on Hebrews 10:25 *'not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.'* (Hebrews 10:25 ESV)
We are excited to be returning to Pioneer On The Lake this fall for our LWML Retreat. It will be great to see the sunsets on Lake Erie, walk the trails, breathe in the fresh fall air, and worship in the outdoor chapel. As you probably know, Pioneer is under new management and here comes change.

WHAT IS NEW:

New name: - Pioneer on the Lake

Full-time only registrations (NO PART-TIME)

One price for all accommodations no surcharge for refurbished cabins

Need to bring towels and linens (pillows and blankets provided)

No Zipline

What has NOT changed

Awesome Speaker

Interest Session Variety

Cooks parade

Quiet place to unplug

Sunday worship in the outdoor chapel (weather permitting)

Fantastic fellowship

Opportunity to learn and grow

As registration is different this year with only full-time and one price for all accommodations a 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice method is being used to accommodate all registrants' housing preferences. Detail instructions are on the registration form. Also note that Pioneer on the Lake charges a surcharge (\$40) for single occupancy. Minimum occupancy requirements are noted on the registration form. Cabin configurations are included in this LINK issue.

Registrations accepted starting May 1st – must have a postmark of May 1st or later.

Registration deadline is August 25th (postmarked by August 25th).

RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS



SPEAKER:

We are pleased to have an opportunity to meet our newly elected Eastern District President **The Reverend John L. Pingel**. He will speak three times throughout the weekend and has agreed to have a meet and greet as one of our interest sessions. President Pingel previously served as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in South Buffalo and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. A native of Long Island, New York, he attended Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y., and then Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri (Master of Divinity, 1983). He then attended Geneva College in Pennsylvania, obtaining his Masters in Professional Psychology/Counseling degree in 1996. While serving as pastor he also served part time as a mobile therapist.

President Pingel is married to Diane (Giddens) for 31 years. Diane, whose father was a police officer, grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. She was baptized into the faith by her pastor, Dr. Arnold Kromphardt. John and Diane were married by Rev. Dr. David Belasic. Their marriage was blessed with two sons: Bryan, who is an engineer for Chrysler, currently living in Ann Arbor, MI; and Timothy, who works for a firm in Depew, NY. To learn more about Pastor Pingel and his interests come to the retreat at Pioneer on the Lake, Angola, NY, September 22-24, 2023.

THE INGATHERING is monetary donations for furnishings at Pioneer on The Lake.

INTEREST SESSIONS - can attend more than one

ED President Rev. John Pingel – meet and greet

Servant Event at Pioneer – still finalizing activity

Grants Tune up – review of mission grant proposals before October 15, 2023 deadline

Tai Chi on the beach – tentative – see want ad in the LINK

Free Time—Naps, walk the trails



LWML Totes – how many do you have in your collection? The tote bags may be from national or district conventions, special trainings like Assembly of Leaders, or LWML district retreats or Zone events. Plan to bring a tote with you to retreat this fall. The host committee will be providing totes for first timers and others who do not have an LWML tote.

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT



Ladies First Quartet is a female acapella singing quartet. They sing 4-part harmony in the barbershop style and do a wide range of songs from classic love songs from the 1940s to jazzy, contemporary upbeat songs. They are members of the Buffalo Gateway Chorus which is currently ranked 10th world-wide of over 550 choruses within Sweet Adeline's International. Their quartet competes annually on a regional basis and has been singing all over Western New York for 10 years.

You know two of their members from LWML – Sharon Wolff from Batavia, NY sings bass and Bonnie Sugrue from Williamsville, NY sings lead. Their tenor is Kim Hooker from Akron, NY and Bonnie King from Warsaw, NY sings baritone.

LWML RETREAT CAMPSHIP—APPLICATION

A few full-time camperships are being offered for the Fall 2023 retreat to first-time attendees or for those individuals having financial need. If you have received a campership in the past you are no longer eligible. The value of the campership is the full cost of the retreat at the full-time registration fee. If you desire a campership and need only consideration for part-time status, please indicate that in your application. An impartial committee will select from those eligible campers who submit a timely application. Notification will take place after the deadline date. Don't delay, act now!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Dee Grzyb
 E-mail _____
 Zone _____

LWML Member? _____ Yes _____ No

Please write a brief narrative (50-100 words) on why you would like to attend the LWML Retreat.
 Attach your written statement to this application and mail by **August 1, 2023** to:

Mrs. Dee Grzyb
 56 Hanover St.
 Lancaster, NY 14086

All recipients names will be kept strictly confidential

CABIN CONFIGURATION FOR RETREAT

Schroeter's Circle Dorm Housing		Woodland Cottages All have pull out sofa		Family Court Some have a/c		Founders Court		Karkau Lodge	
Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep
1	20	9 Q + 2 bunksets	8	14 1 Q + 2 bunkbeds	6	25 1 single	1	0 1 Q + 2 bunkset	6
2	20	10 Q + 2 bunksets	8	15 1 F + 2 bunksets	5	26 2 twins	2		
3	20	11 Q + 2 bunksets	8	16 1 Q + 2 bunksets	6	27 2 twins	2		
4	20	12 Q + 2 bunksets	8	17 1 Q	2	28 2 twins	2		
5	18	13 Q + 2 bunksets	6	18 4 twns (2 bunkset)	4	29 2 twins	2		
6	20			19 1 Q	2	30 2 twins	2		
7	20	9-12 HAVE SOFA BEDS		20 4 twns (2 bunkset)	4	31 2 twins	2		
8	20			21 1 Full	1	32 2 twins	2		
				22 4 twns (2 bunkset)	4	33 2 twins	2		
ALL ABOVE ARE SINGLE				23 1 Q + bunk t/d	5	34 2 twins	2		
BUNKS – 2 BATHROOMS				24 1 Q + bunk t/d	5	35 2 bunksets	4		
IN EACH DORM AREA		WINTERIZED		23 and 24 UPGRADED &		36 2 bunksets	4		
				WINTERIZED		37 – NOT A CABIN			
ALL NEW MATTRESSES		ALL NEW MATTRESSES		ALL NEW MATTRESSES		38 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4	ALL NEW MATTRESSES	
						39 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4		
		FULL SERVICE KITCHENS		SMALL FRIDGES IN ALL		40 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4	FULL KITCHEN & A/C	
		APPLIANCES, COOKWARE				41 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4	APPLIANCES, COOKWARE	
		DISHES, GLASSWARE, ETC				42 1 Q + sofabed	4	DISHES, GLASSES, ETC.	
		#13 has no SOFABED		1 Bunk set = 2 twin beds		43 1 Q + sofabed	4		
				2 Bunk set = 4 twin beds		44 1 Q + sofabed	4		
						45 1 Q	2		
				17-22 connecting rooms		25-36 NO FRIDGES			
						38-45 HAVE FRIDGES			
TOTAL	158	TOTAL	38	TOTAL	44	TOTAL	56	TOTAL	6

1 Bunk set = 2 twin beds 2 Bunk set = 4 twin beds 1 Bunk t/d = a twin bed is over a double bed

LWML Eastern District Retreat 2023

Pioneer On the Lake

September 22-24, 2023



"Encourage One Another" Hebrews 10:25

Speaker: ED President John Pingel

Hosted by Philadelphia Zone

Name:			LWML Zone:		
Address:			Home Church:		
City:			Church City & Zip:		
State:	Zip:	Phone: ()	Email:		

If this is your **FIRST TIME** attending Eastern District Retreat, please check here: _____ Yes! I'm very excited!

FULL - TIME ONLY	FULL TIME (NO PART-TIME)		
	> Registration Per Person includes: Registration Fee, 2 Nights Lodging, 5 Meals, Blanket, Pillow Need to bring linens, pillow case and towels, pillow optional		\$190.00 \$ \$ 25.00 \$ \$ 40.00 \$
	> Late Fee if postmarked after Aug 25, 2023 > Single Occupancy - One person in minimum 2 person cabin		\$ 25.00 \$ \$ 40.00 \$
	NOTE: A \$50.00 minimum deposit is required with Full-Time Registration		Payment Enclosed \$ Balance Due \$
ADDITIONAL NOTI	> If single occupancy is requested, an additional fee of \$40 is required (set by Pioneer) +++ notation > Canine Policy - the person/family must contact Pioneer on the Lake to request policy and pay the fee (\$100) for the canine that is accompanying the person/family to retreat. > If this applies to you - note it under Special Needs later on this form. > Mini Fridges are noted below with MF notation > Woodland Cottages and Karkau Lodge have full kitchen		
	1 Bunk Set = 2 twin beds, 2 Bunk Set = 4 twin beds, 1 Bunk Set T/D = twin on the top, double on bottom Please select 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice on lodging below. If preference isn't given decision made by registrar.		
	Standard Cabins: Founders Court Cabins 26 - 36 (2 Twins, 2 Occupants +++) Schroeter Circle 1-8 (Each Cabin has 10 Bunk Set with exception of #5 - 9 Bunk Set, 18-20 occupants +++) Deluxe Cabins: Founders Court 38-41 (Queen Bed & One Bunk Set, 4 Occupants +++) + MF Founders Court 42-44 (Queen Bed & One Sofa Bed, 4 Occupants +++) + MF Founders Court 45 (Queen Bed, 2 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 14 (Handicap Accessible - Queen Bed, 2 Occupants +++ , Medical) + MF Family Court 15 (Double Bed, & 2 Bunk Set, 5 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 16 (Queen Bed & 2 Bunk Set, 6 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 17, 19 (Queen Bed, 2 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 21 (Full Bed, 1 Occupant) + MF Family Court 18, 20, 22 (2 Bunk Set, 4 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 23, 24 (Double Bed & Bunk Set T/D, 5 Occupants +++) + MF Woodland Cottages 9-13 (Queen Bed, 2 Bunk Set, living room, dining room, kitchen, pull out sofa in 9-12 +++) Karkau Lodge (Queen + 2 Bunk Sets kitchen, AC, Living Room, microwave, fridge, 6 occupants +++)		
	ROOMMATE(S): CHURCH/GROUP:		
SPECIAL NEEDS	Special Needs: _____ Lower Bunk: _____ Hearing Impaired: _____ Other: _____ Dietary: _____		
	NOTES: > Registration deadline August 25, 2023 (Postmarked no later than Aug. 25) > Balance due must be paid (postmarked) by Aug. 25, 2023 or incur \$25 late fee > All requests are on a first come, first served basis. > No registrations accepted before May 1, 2023. Must be postmarked no earlier than May 1st.		
CANCELLATIONS: THE \$50 Full-time Deposit is Non-refundable. Cancellation for MEDICAL REASONS will be reviewed based upon a written letter of notification to the Eastern District President.			
PAYMENT ***Make checks payable to: LWML Eastern District*** NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS FEE: A charge of \$25.00 will be assessed on all checks returned by the bank.			
*MAIL completed REGISTRATON FORM, PAYMENTS & SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE (for return confirmation) Sue Morris 3301 Hartford Court, Newtown Square, PA 19073 morrissusan68@gmail.com 215-514-8678 (m) *Registrations sent without stamped envelope will receive an email confirmation*			

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE



The LWML Buffalo Zone gathered on February 4 for a great time of devotion, fellowship and service. We made

walker bags to be distributed to a local nursing home; there was some way for everyone to participate, whether sewing, cutting, ironing or coloring. In each bag we included a colored prayer card, book mark and a Mustard Seed devotion.

Holy Cross Women in Mission, Clarence NY—The Holy Cross Women in Mission gathered to put together boxes of cookies to be distributed on Valentine's Day to first responders who helped during the December Buffalo blizzard. As part of the "What's Your 80" challenge we encouraged the congregation to make 80 dozen cookies to be distributed. These were distributed to 6 fire companies, the Highway Department, County Sheriff's office and New York State troopers.

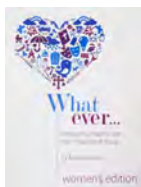
Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone President



NIAGARA ZONE

Much has been happening in the Niagara Zone:

- ◇ In May of 2022 St. Paul hosted a diner with Susan Bell to hear information concerning LWML Eastern District.
- ◇ In August of 2022 St. Mark hosted a Summer Garden Party. The guest speaker was Timothy Fink from Friends of Pioneer. There was a bible study, fellowship and the sharing of plants.
- ◇ In April of 2023 St. Mark will be hosting a Spring Gathering with a guest speaker Kathy Ganley who will share her recent mission trip to Uganda with us. More details will be posted on the Niagara Zone Facebook Page.
- ◇ Julie Tapp will be representing the Niagara Zone at the National Convention in June 2023
- ◇ The Niagara Zone is continuing the Monday Night Bible Studies; our current bible study is "Whatever. . . Keeping Your Heart in Tune With Whatever Life Brings" by Anneke Hudson. This is a free download bible study located at ["https://www.lwml.org/posts/long-bible-study/whatever-keeping-your-heart-in-tune"](https://www.lwml.org/posts/long-bible-study/whatever-keeping-your-heart-in-tune)



Currently there are only three active officers for the Niagara Zone

President Shellie Knupp

Recording and Corresponding Sec. Alice Pfonner

Treasurer Kathy Burkett

On the Niagara Zone Facebook page we have 55 members. Weekly emails are sent to 32 persons concerning Bible Studies and upcoming events. Since October of 2022 to January of 2023 the Niagara Zone raised \$1,300 in mites.

Something positive from our Zone. St. Mark's Women's Ministry help fill the rooms at the YWCA in North Tonawanda with cleaning supplies from dust mop's to buckets, and soap to help assist women to get back on their feet. The YWCA has several apartment available for women in need.

Shellie Knupp, Niagara Zone President

PHILADELPHIA ZONE

The Philadelphia Zone continues to plan for an awesome fall retreat on Pioneer on the Lake. We have some exciting interest sessions for you to enjoy. See details on page 6 in this LINK.



The Zone is happy to welcome Dee Gryzb, LWML District President, and other AOL attendees for our Spring Rally, Saturday May 6th at Holy Cross, Philadelphia. Dee will be sharing The Quest to Broadening Our Cultural Understanding presentation. This is timely as we convene in convention in June with sisters and brothers across the US under the theme Celebrate the Nations.

Rally Theme - God Loves our Differences, Bible Verse - **Galatians 3:28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* Our ingathering is for Stenton Family Manor – Homeless Shelter for Women and Children, Philadelphia. We will be assembling our meal prayer cards for our afternoon activity.

HELP WANTED!



Interest Session Help Needed

– One of the suggestions for interest sessions from last year's retreat was to have Tai Chi or Yoga. The host committee

like the idea of Tai Chi on the beach. Are you certified to lead Tai Chi? Know of someone in the local area that is certified willing to lead some sessions Saturday afternoon September 23rd? Please contact Beth Quinn with name and contact information of certified individual – 610-761-0263 or bethkquinn@gmail.com.

PITTSBURGH ZONE

Last October at our Fall Rally



Our speaker for this event was just AMAZING! God has given him a heart to share the Good News and help others to do the same. His name is Curtis Wilson and serves at Child Beyond. You may recognize the organization since they received a LWML National Grant a few years ago. Yes, that grant was paid in full and now they have a school bus they are transforming into a medical bus as just another part of the mission in Guatemala. His power point presentation and small videos were able to show us all that this mission does for families in PROVERTY stricken area(s) of Guatemala. In addition to giving children a Christ filled house, they work with other homes in the area with the families so they can be reunited if possible or get adopted by local families. They build safe ovens for the families to have and even have built

with family help housing that is better protection for their families. In addition to the medical bus that will be running, this mission in Child Beyond is sharing God grace, which is for certain. He shared they are hoping to complete a new area of homes that have the best well around to continue to serve even more families. In addition, Curtis Wilson was amazed at the 160 or 80 x 2 suitcases of dresses that the sewing ladies of St. Luke, Cabot gave as gifts to the girls.



I thought it would be a good idea to reach out to the ladies of my zone to ask what service in HIM, they were doing personally this past winter. I received a few servant stories.

- First, I did not do this service project myself, but others for my family. My LWML sisters here have not known me for long but have been a great witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One gave me a hug when she saw me and asked how my family was doing...yes just the simple asking helped me see Jesus.
- Another one watched my son so I could go the dentist.
- Another sister who winters in Florida has started a Bible study, to share God's Word with other ladies in Florida. This is a great way to serve and be more in His Word.

We can serve the Lord with gladness in so many ways, look around you for the simple ways you can show Jesus to others around you.

Looking ahead to Spring and Summer

I am sure we will be serving at the Sonshine Ministries. I know our zone has done in-service gatherings of lotions at previous zone rallies. I hope in the future I will be able to help or serve in any way I can to help with Sunshine Ministries!

In June, St. Luke will be sending their 3rd Mission Team to Madisonville, Kentucky to continue to help in the rebuilding of Dawson Springs, which lost 75% of their homes and the lives of 27 of their residents in the December 2021 tornadoes."

BethAnn Salinas, 2nd VP Pittsburgh Zone

NEWS FROM THE VP COMMUNICATION—SHARON WOLFF

Do you have your Easter decorations out? Do you put up lights, color eggs (who can afford them this year?) set out colorful baskets, preplan Easter breakfast at church or a dinner at your home? Is it a quiet time, or joy filled



family time? As you look at the cross what do you see??? Can you see good as well as bad; can you see ugly as well as beauty? The ugliness of the crucifixion created the beauty of grace, mercy, forgiveness and the promise of a glorious eternity in heaven. The bad decisions made by others replaces the good that Christ came to earth for...to help all of his Father's creation be forgiven, and saved and made new in the likeness of himself. I love the ushering in of spring that Easter is part of that brings to us new life in the green grass, the budding trees, maple syrup, return of certain

species of birds and bugs, and critters! May each day be a reminder of the newness of life that Christ brings to our lives when we worship, praise, and give our hearts to Him.

On the horizon....retreat September 22-24, 2023 spread the word!!! It is at Pioneer on the Lake. Reservations begin May 1, 2023! Also on you calendar should be District Convention in Pittsburgh June 14-16, 2024! You will not want to miss it! Changes in quarterlies should have been emailed to me. The Church group and member reporting should be sent to me no later than May 15, 2023.

Changes to the ED Directory can be emailed to me at any time. Please feel free to share 'going-ons' in your zones, churches, and groups, as well as prayers of thanksgiving, and needs.

Sharon Wolff, VP of Communication

Report of the Financial Secretary Barb Williams

Report of the Financial Secretary December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

Mites: \$7,582.14
Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Judy Grimm

Given By: Rebecca Bessell
Dawn Corbin
Dorothy Koschmann
Friends and Family of St. Peter's
LWML, Wilkes-Barre, PA

In Memory of Joy Belasic

Given By: Dorothy Koschmann
LWML – St. Luke Lutheran
Church, Cheektowaga, NY

In Memory of Ceil Eckstein

Given By: LWML – Immanuel Lutheran
Church, Tonawanda, NY

Legacy of Love – In Memory of Claire Carlson

Given By: Bev Wicher
LWML – Buffalo Zone
LWML – St. Luke Lutheran
Church, Cheektowaga, NY
Dee Grzyb

Legacy of Love – In Memory of Judy Grimm

Given By: Susan Bell
Barbara Williams

Legacy of Love –

In Memory of Katherine Norris

Given By: Carolyn Loch

Legacy of Love – In Memory of James Loch

Given By: Carolyn Loch

Legacy of Love –

in Honor of Gretchen Putzman

Given By: Dee Grzyb

Legacy of Love - Donation

Given By: LWML – Buffalo Zone

Treasurers are asked to forward money from their zone on a monthly basis so that mission grants can be paid in a timely manner.

Reminder to Zone treasurers to please remit your money to the Financial Secretary:

Barbara Williams
6132 Prospect Street
Newfane, NY 14108

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22–25, 2023	National Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Sept. 22, 2023	EC Meeting Pioneer on the Lake
Sept. 22-24, 2023	Fall Retreat Pioneer on the Lake
Feb/March 2024	EC/BOD Pittsburgh PA
June 14-16, 2024	LWML ED Convention Pittsburgh, PA



Memorials/Legacy of Love

Memorials/Honorariums Legacy of Love Endowment

Do you ever think about how you could honor someone while they are still with us besides when they are called home? There are two options.

Eastern District Memorial Fund **Eastern District Legacy of Love Endowment**

The **Memorial Fund** is currently dedicated for use in funding the District's Young Women Representative Program (YWR).

The **Legacy of Love Endowment** makes a lasting impact on the ministry of the LWML Eastern District. Your gifts of love are building a fund for the future which will provide for scholarships, leadership training, and District ministries.

Questions, please contact
Rebecca Bessell,

RLB54@roadrunner.rr.com or 585-415-6368



NEW COLORING ITEMS

Please check out the new Baptism cards on the www.lwml.org web site.

Search coloring cards

Select Assorted Baptism Cards

Open link. You will find designs to print. Many of the design creations originated by our own Bev Wicher. Check them out and watch for more to come.

Rebecca Bessell, National Christian Life Committee



Do you have computer, website and Social Media skills? We are in need of a new Webmaster to maintain our Website, Kathy Pavelock has served us for many years and we thank her for her time and service. The job description is listed below, please contact Dee if you are gifted in this area and willing to help in this position.

LWML Webmaster – Volunteer Position

The Webmaster serves as the primary contact for all aspects of the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms, handling a range of responsibilities that may include website and social media post design and development, routine site and content maintenance, and various updates to ensure the sites align with the mission, goals, and objectives of the LWML Eastern District. The webmaster serves on the Website & Social Media Committee with the Public Relations Director acting as chairman.

General Duties

- Serves as the primary contact for all aspects of the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms.
- Develops and maintains the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms in accordance with the organization's policies; collaborates with the Public Relations Director, VP of Communication, and other district officers for website and social media content.
- Monitors social media platforms for appropriate commentary and interactions.
- Encourages and facilitates consistent, creative, and unified design across the district website and social media platforms.
- Maintains and coordinates internet domains.
- Periodically evaluates website and social media effectiveness. Recommends changes to the Public Relations Director.
- Assists Eastern District Lutheran Women in Mission with use of the website and social media platforms through one-on-one support, user guides, and training sessions.
- Ensures compliance with LWML Eastern District policies, procedures, doctrinal reviews, and ethical standards; software licenses; and applicable state and federal laws and regulations including data security and privacy.
- Maintains current knowledge of best practices and emerging developments in web design, web development, and social media technology.

Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required Skills/Abilities:

- Working knowledge of web design, website management, and social media platforms.
- Knowledge of website and social media current best practices and standards.
- Proficient with HTML/CSS and graphic design of images used on websites and social media.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and image manipulation applications or related software.

Strong analytical, troubleshooting, and problem-solving skills.

If you are interested please contact Dee Grzyb – [d e_grzyb@msn.com](mailto:de_grzyb@msn.com) or 716-901-4167.

Executive Committee**President**

Dee Grzyb, 56 Hanover St., Lancaster NY 14086
716-393-3670 d_e_grzyb@msn.com

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Sharon Wolff, 9926 Francis Rd., Batavia, NY 14020
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Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources

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Vice President of Christian Life/Special Focus

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Junior Pastoral Counselor

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Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355 (610) 644-4508 (church)
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**Leader Development Co-Chair,
Vacant****20202 District Convention Liaison**

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610-761-0263 bethkquinn@gmail.com

Pittsburgh Zone

Linda Bright, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412-271-1119 iamweebs@hotmail.com

**Next Deadline**

Please send all news articles and
information for publication to:

Bev Wicher
19 Vernon Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-913-4140

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is June 1, 2023

The Link is published four times each year.

April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1



Lutheran Women's Missionary League
40th Biennial Convention

June 22–25, 2023

Wisconsin Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12–13).

Convention attendees, understanding that we are all His children, will

- Celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament.
- Honor God by serving our neighbors.
- Proclaim His message to the nations.

REGULAR REGISTRATION CLOSES MAY 10TH, BUT IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YET, REGISTER NOW! ALL DOWNTOWN HOTELS ARE FULL, BUT THEY HAVE ADDED ADDITIONAL HOTELS AND A SHUTTLE. YOU CAN FIND ALL REGISTRATION AND CONVENTION INFORMATION IN THE WINTER QUARTERLY OR ON THE WEBSITE HERE lwml.org/2023-convention.

Bev Wicher
Eastern District LWML Editor
19 Vernon Drive.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
E-mail lwmlink@gmail.com



LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
79 Years*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man;” Psalm 33:12-13

In June, I attended the LWML 40th Biennial National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. along with 32 members from the LWML Eastern District. The theme was “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”.

I had always enjoyed attending national conventions as a delegate, but being there as the President of the LWML Eastern District added a new dimension to my experience. The beautiful Eastern District Banner was designed and made by Kathy Pavelock. It was an emotional and proud moment when YWR Sarala Vunnam carried the banner and YWR Meg Klees and I accompanied her down the aisle. The Flags of the Nations procession included Roselyn Kamara, Meg Klees, Sarala Vunnam and Beth Quinn.

The Bible Studies, Mission speakers, Mite Walk, and exhibits were amazing. A \$2,350,000 mission goal was adopted for the 2023-2025 biennium. This goal will fund 31 mission grants.

I had the honor of presiding over the Pinning Ceremony for our Young Women Representatives Meg and Sarala. I was also invited to the Heart-to-Heart Luncheon and Pinning Ceremony where Roselyn Kamara was named as our second Heart-to-Heart District Leader from the Philadelphia Zone. I ask you to pray for these women as they “serve the Lord with gladness”!

The Philadelphia Zone is busy with preparations for the Fall Retreat which will be held at Pioneer on the Lake, September 22-24. Eastern District President John Pingel will be our speaker. If you are planning to attend, reservations must be postmarked by August 25.

Kathy Ippolito and I attended the Genesee Zone Spring Rally and presented sessions from the Assembly of Leaders materials. Pastor Carl Emberger and I attended the Philadelphia Spring Fling on May 6th and also presented training sessions from the Assembly of Leaders materials.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or email.

Blessings to you,

Dee E. Grzyb
LWML Eastern District President



“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11



COUNSELOR'S

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I'm fortunate that I have the opportunity and the privilege to fill in at vacant congregations getting to know the people and participate in special events.

In June I was privileged to serve at Faith Easton and to perform the Rite of Confirmation for four youth. The gospel reading for that week was from Matthew 9:9–13, this is when Jesus invited Matthew to follow him.

To bring the awesome power of an invitation into perspective I drew parallels between Matthew and Ebenezer Scrooge. Yes, my mind works in strange ways.

Scrooge was a miserly old man who had no problem with underpaying his workers. Matthew most likely had no problem overcharging people the amount owed for taxes. Both had a love for money, both had a position of authority in which they could serve others, however, they both most likely only served themselves.

As we know from the story, Scrooge was not liked, although his nephew Fred did try to reach out to him and invite him to Christmas dinner, no one was interested in being in his presence. We can be assured that Matthew was not liked as well. The obvious reason was gouging the people when collecting taxes. It was a well-known practice of tax collectors in Roman times. He was also a Jew serving the Romans in an official position. Perhaps for this he would have been even more despised, a collaborator with the occupying Romans. To the Jewish authorities Matthew may have been considered a chief of sinners, worst of the worst.

The third parallel we could draw between Scrooge and Matthew would be an amazing change of heart because of an invitation. An invitation to surrender everything that was evil in their life. An invitation to surrender essentially everything they had loved, that would hinder them from being of worthy service to others. An invitation to surrender everything that could not be carried over into Christ's Kingdom.

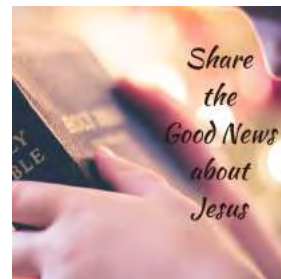
In calling Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him, Jesus demonstrates that He had come "*not to call the righteous, but sinners*" (Matt. 9:9, 13). As a good physician, He comes not to verify their sinfulness, but to heal them with His grace, calling them to repentance, faith and a new life (Matt. 9:12). The same invitation is extended to each of us.

While waiting for our flight home from the LWML Convention I overheard an invitation. I could hear one of our sisters sharing about the LWML and what makes the LCMS distinct.

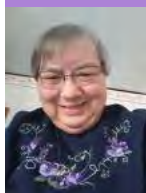
It's exciting and uplifting to know that we have bold women in Christ willing to share the Good News of the Gospel when the opportunity arises.

May God continue to bless the women who engage with the mission and stand firm in the faith. Emboldened to reach out with an invitation to experience the life changing love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Carl Emberger, Junior Pastoral Counselor



NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS—LINDA BAHR



Dear Followers of Christ,

During this Pentecost Season many of us are preparing to be renewed and refreshed by the Spirit. By now we have returned from the 40th Biennial LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on June 22-25, 2023. We celebrated the Lord of the Nations through worship, prayer, song and fellowship.

Let us pause and meditate on the Words of Christ: "*I am the vine; you are the branches*" -- **John 15:5**. We come together in His name, and as His followers we can be extensions of His love to others throughout our lives. May we branch out both at the convention and at home and glorify His name as the Lord of the Nations.



Linda Bahr—VP of Christian Life/Special Resources

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES – SUSAN BELL



The work of the Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department is to engage, encourage and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior with people of their communities and the world.



THE 2022-2024 GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell

Mission Grants Chair – Susan Morris; Mission Grants Co-Chair – Margaret Klees

Leader Development Chair – Cathie Geske; Leader Development Co-Chair – Vacant

Structure Chair – Terry Hoffman; Structure Co-Chair – Darlene Garcia

Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon; Nominating Committee Chair – Susan Bell

(Contact information is on page 13 of this LINK)

MISSION GRANT NEWS

**LWML National Mission Grant Update**

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has announced that the mission goal of \$2,150,000 has been reached...and surpassed! As of March 2023, the mites collected totaled \$2,436,121.35! To God goes all the glory that we can pay all the grants that were selected in Lexington, KY. The Lutheran Women in Mission voting body adopted a \$2,350,000 mission goal for the 2023–2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 31 mission grants, as women and men respond in prayer and mite offerings during the next two years. Check out the 2023-2025 Mission Grants Selected at the 2023 LWML Convention on the LWML website lwml.org

LWML Eastern District Mission Grants Update

The LWML Eastern District has collected enough mites to pay grants 3 & 4 (due to a tie in voting at convention are being paid simultaneously)! Acknowledgement of Intent letters have been sent to each requestor for them to fill out and return prior to distribution of funds. We have received the necessary paperwork and have paid Grant 4, we are still waiting for the paperwork from Grant 3. As a reminder, LWML Eastern District Grant #3 is for \$5,000 to purchase & install a stair lift to assist the disabled and elderly to reach the 2nd floor for Worship & Fellowship at Christ Assembly Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA. Grant #4 is for \$5,000 to purchase food items for the Rose Café and the weekly outreach food pantry truck at the Lighthouse Women & Children Center, Niagara Falls, NY.

2024 LWML Eastern District Mission Grant Applications

Mission Grant Chairman Susan Morris and Co-Chairman Margaret Klees have been updating the *2024 Mission Grant Application Form and Guidelines*. It is time for each of us to begin praying for prospective district mission grants. The *Mission Grant Application and Guidelines* have been emailed to all Eastern District Board members, which included all Zone Presidents. The application and guidelines will also be posted on the LWML Eastern District website www.east-dist-lwml.org. Individual members, pastors, and ministries may request a copy of the application and guidelines by emailing Susan Morris at morrissusan68@gmail.com. There will also be an opportunity at the Fall Retreat for assistance with your grant.

Most importantly, the deadline for submission is October 15, 2023.

APPLY NOW FOR MISSION GRANTS

NEWS FROM THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE



Zones, please review your bylaws periodically. If you need to make changes, please send a copy to Terry Hoffman so Darlene Garcia and I can review them for you. The contact information is listed below:

Terry Hoffman – Chair

4181 Church Road

Lockport, NY 14094

716-255-2612

terryhoffman1979@gmail.com

Darlene Garcia – Co-Chair

105 Entwood Lane

Butler, PA 16002

724-841-7697

garciadarlene48@gmail.com

Updated District Bylaws are on our website. They can be found at the following link: www.east-dist-lwml.org and clicking on **2022 LWML Eastern District Bylaws**.

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN—CATHIE GESKE



We were excited to have two Young Women Representatives representing the LWML Eastern District at the national convention in Milwaukee. Our YWRs were Meg Klees from the Anthracite Zone and Sarala Vunnam from the Philadelphia Zone. Watch the next issue of the LINK for more detailed information about them and their time at convention.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS



The Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for the following offices of the LWML Eastern District to be voted on at the June 2024 convention in Pittsburgh, PA:

Vice President of Communication
District Recording Secretary
District Financial Secretary
District Pastoral Counselor

All offices serve a four-year term. Any LWML member may nominate a candidate for office. For Nominating Forms please e-mail Susan Bell at sbell_7238@comcast.net. You are encouraged to contact your nominee before you send us a Nominating Form, however the Nominating Committee is also ready to serve by making the initial contact. Nominees, except the Pastoral Counselor, should be members of the LWML and have served on the LWML Board of Directors (this includes district committees and zone presidents). Members of the Nominating Committee are: Susan Bell, Chair; Bev Wicher, Margaret Klees, Anita Getty and Chris Gasslein. Thank you for your service, ladies!

NEWS FROM THE VP COMMUNICATION—SHARON WOLFF



Today as I sit and write this article, it is Holy Trinity Sunday. I love singing songs that include all three persons of the Holy Trinity and hearing the verses in the Bible that speak to each of them. I love knowing that I have a Father, who is GOD, who loves me unconditionally and that Jesus came to this earth as man and of God to rescue us from our sinful natures and all the sins that we commit and have committed and will commit. The Holy Spirit speaks to me and guides me as I discern God's word and as I try in all my humanness to follow the pathway that God has set me on. This coming July I will end my 2nd 2-year term as President of my congregation here in Batavia and next June I will

have completed my 4-year term as your VP of Communication of the LWML Eastern District. I wonder now where He will lead me. Where will I be most useful and be able to still grow in my faith and service to our Loving Lord?

- ♦ I had the opportunity to attend and have returned from the convention in Milwaukee! There were so many opportunities to worship, go to Bible study and to just create new connections with others!
- ♦ And then of course there is Fall Retreat.....I encourage you to get your registrations in! **Our Eastern District President of the LCMS, Pastor Pingle, is our speaker!** And there are plenty of opportunities to reconnect with those we don't see on a regular basis and also to create new connections! **Deadline for registration is August 25.**
- ♦ If you have any changes in the LWML Eastern District Directory, please email me those changes. Please feel free to email me any prayers of concerns or thanks that can be shared in the District.
- ♦ I will close with Paul's advice to the church in Corinth in his second letter "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Sharon Wolff, VP of Communication

*May the grace of the Lord
 Jesus Christ and the love
 of God and the fellowship
 of the Holy Spirit be with
 you all.
 2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV*

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE—DIANE OLMSTEAD

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING MINISTRY

In past LINK issues, the Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations, has been shared. In this issue we are highlighting another Special Focus Ministry – Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



One of the mission grants of the LWML Eastern District 2018-2020 biennium has enriched worship at Trinity Deaf Lutheran Church, situated ten minutes from Pittsburgh PA. Funds enabled the purchase of audiovisual equipment such as a laptop computer, projector, and sound equipment. Vicar Vincent Mroz uses this equipment to provide visuals for songs, parts of the worship service and Biblical teaching. The music that is produced with the audio equipment is louder with a lower range that allows the worshippers to feel the music. Rev. Ronald Bright states, "It is a wonderful setup. The worshippers have responded very favorably to the new equipment. Thanks be to God and the generous ladies at LWML."

The LCMS Ministry to and with People who are Deaf notes that "People who are deaf may have supportive families and friends; however, they are often the only person in the family with a hearing disability. This may lead the person to feel alone, even among so many individuals. Ministry that invites and involves the community of people who are deaf can bring a sense of belonging to the deaf person."



Visit the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society at <https://deafjesus.org/html/about.html> if you are interested in more information about this important ministry.

Also check out the LWML national website for resources <https://www.lwml.org/special-ministries>. Scroll down to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing section. Learn how you can reach out to those Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

MISSION GRANTS—
A GLOBAL ADVENTURE

Dear Member of the Eastern District,

Soon it will be October 15, 2023, and your applications for Mission Grant Proposals will be due.

- Is anyone in your zone or church looking for grant funding?
- Do you know of an organization that you believe would qualify for a grant?
- Have you asked your pastor for ideas for mission grant ideas?
- Have you started writing a grant and are unsure how to word it?

The Eastern District is willing to assist you!
Join us as we take you on the "Mission Grants—A Global Adventure." Trip!
You need this program!

We will emphasize the impact supporting mission grants have had throughout LWML's existence.

A review of the district grant application process, advice on writing a grant, and a Q&A session will all be included.



Join us via Zoom on August 10th at 7:00 PM.

Susan Morris, the chairman of Mission Grants. Margaret Klees, Mission Grants co-chair, and grant writing expert Cathie Geske, the chair of Leader Development, will present the event.

Any questions and to RSVP (BY AUGUST 3) please contact,
Margaret Klees at <mailto:margaretklees@gmail.com>



LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat September 22-24, 2023 Pioneer on the Lake, Angola NY



The ladies of the Philadelphia Zone are hosting the 2023 Fall Retreat under the theme "Encourage One Another" based on Hebrews 10:25 *'not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.'* (Hebrews 10:25 ESV)

We are excited to be returning to Pioneer On The Lake this fall for our LWML Retreat. It will be great to see the sunsets on Lake Erie, walk the trails, breathe in the fresh fall air, and worship in the outdoor chapel. As you probably know, Pioneer is under new management and here comes change.

WHAT IS NEW:

New name: - Pioneer on the Lake

Full-time only registrations (NO PART-TIME)

One price for all accommodations no surcharge for refurbished cabins

Need to bring towels and linens (pillows and blankets provided)

No Zipline

What has NOT changed

Awesome Speaker

Interest Session Variety

Cooks parade

Quiet place to unplug

Sunday worship in the outdoor chapel (weather permitting) Fantastic fellowship Opportunity to learn and grow

As registration is different this year with only full-time and one price for all accommodations a 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice method is being used to accommodate all registrants' housing preferences. Detail instructions are on the registration form. Also note that Pioneer on the Lake charges a surcharge (\$40) for single occupancy. Minimum occupancy requirements are noted on the registration form. Cabin configurations are included in this LINK issue.

Registration deadline is August 25th (postmarked by August 25th).

Thank you all who have registered for the upcoming fall. Currently we have 48 people registered. Our goal is 100. Things to keep in mind if you have not registered yet:

- All the Woodland Cottages and Karkau Lodge have been taken
- Make sure to identify 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices
- A registration form is needed for each person (even your spouse if he/she is coming)
- August 1st is the deadline to submit a campership application (see page xx in this LINK)
- August 25th is the registration deadline
- August 25th is the deadline to pay your balance if applicable



SPEAKER:

Retreat Highlights



We are pleased to have an opportunity to meet our newly elected Eastern District President **The Reverend John L. Pingel**. He will speak three times throughout the weekend and has agreed to have a meet and greet as one of our interest sessions. President Pingel previously served as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in South Buffalo and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. More details on President Pingel can be found in the 2023 Spring LINK.

THE INGATHERING is monetary donations for furnishings at Pioneer on The Lake.

INTEREST SESSIONS - can attend more than one

ED President Rev. John Pingel – meet and greet

Servant Event at Pioneer – still finalizing activity

Grants Tune up – review of mission grant proposals before October 15, 2023 deadline

Tai Chi on the beach – tentative – see want ad in the LINK

Free Time—Naps, walk the trails



LWML Totes – how many do you have in your collection? The tote bags may be from national or district conventions, special trainings like Assembly of Leaders, or LWML district retreats or Zone events. Plan to bring a tote with you to retreat this fall. The host committee will be providing totes for first timers and others who do not have an LWML tote.

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT



Ladies First Quartet is a female acapella singing quartet. They sing 4-part harmony in the barbershop style and do a wide range of songs from classic love songs from the 1940s to jazzy, contemporary up-beat songs. They are members of the Buffalo Gateway Chorus which is currently ranked 10th world-wide of over 550 choruses within Sweet Adeline's International. Their quartet competes annually on a regional basis and has been singing all over Western New York for 10 years.

LWML RETREAT CAMPSHIP—APPLICATION

A few full-time camperships are being offered for the Fall 2023 retreat to first-time attendees or for those individuals having financial need. If you have received a campership in the past you are no longer eligible. The value of the campership is the full cost of the retreat at the full-time registration fee. If you desire a campership and need only consideration for part-time status, please indicate that in your application. An impartial committee will select from those eligible campers who submit a timely application. Notification will take place after the deadline date. Don't delay, act now!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Dee Grzyb
 E-mail _____
 Zone _____

LWML Member? _____ Yes _____ No

Please write a brief narrative (50-100 words) on why you would like to attend the LWML Retreat.
 Attach your written statement to this application and mail by **August 1, 2023** to:

Mrs. Dee Grzyb
 56 Hanover St.
 Lancaster, NY 14086

All recipients names will be kept strictly confidential

CABIN CONFIGURATION

Schroeter's Circle Dorm Housing		Woodland Cottages All have pull out sofa		Family Court Some have a/c		Founders Court		Karkau Lodge	
Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep	Cabin #	Can sleep
1	20	9 Q + 2 bunksets	8	14 1 Q + 2 bunkbeds	6	25 1 single	1	0 1 Q + 2 bunkset	6
2	20	10 Q + 2 bunksets	8	15 1 F + 2 bunksets	5	26 2 twins	2		
3	20	11 Q + 2 bunksets	8	16 1 Q + 2 bunksets	6	27 2 twins	2		
4	20	12 Q + 2 bunksets	8	17 1 Q	2	28 2 twins	2		
5	18	13 Q + 2 bunksets	6	18 1 twins (2 bunkset)	4	29 2 twins	2		
6	20			19 1 Q	2	30 2 twins	2		
7	20	9-12 HAVE SOFA BEDS		20 4 twns (2 bunkset)	4	31 2 twins	2		
8	20			21 1 Full	1	32 2 twins	2		
				22 4 twns (2bunkset)	4	33 2 twins	2		
ALL ABOVE ARE SINGLE				23 1 Q + bunk t/d	5	34 2 twins	2		
BUNKS – 2 BATHROOMS				24 1 Q + bunk t/d	5	35 2 bunksets	4		
IN EACH DORM AREA		WINTERIZED		23 and 24 UPGRADED &		36 2 bunksets	4		
				WINTERIZED		37 – NOT A CABIN			
ALL NEW MATTRESSES		ALL NEW MATTRESSES		ALL NEW MATTRESSES		38 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4	ALL NEW MATTRESSES	
						39 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4		
		FULL SERVICE KITCHENS		SMALL FRIDGES IN ALL		40 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4	FULL KITCHEN & A/C	
		APPLIANCES, COOKWARE				41 1 Q + 1 bunkset	4	APPLIANCES, COOKWARE	
		DISHES, GLASSWARE, ETC				42 1 Q + sofabed	4	DISHES, GLASSES, ETC.	
		#13 has no SOFABED		1 Bunk set = 2 twin beds		43 1 Q + sofabed	4		
				2 Bunk set = 4 twin beds		44 1 Q + sofabed	4		
						45 1 Q	2		
				17-22 connecting rooms		25-36 NO FRIDGES			
						38-45 HAVE FRIDGES			
TOTAL	158	TOTAL	38	TOTAL	44	TOTAL	56	TOTAL	6
TOTAL CAMP CAPACITY		approx. 302							

1 bunk set-2 twin bed 2 bunk sets—4 twin beds 1 bunk t/d—twin bed over a double bed

Serve the Lord With Gladness

LWML Eastern District Retreat 2023**Pioneer On the Lake****September 22-24, 2023****"Encourage One Another" Hebrews 10:25****Speaker: ED President John Pingel****Hosted by Philadelphia Zone**

Name:			LWML Zone:
Address:			Home Church:
City:			Church City & Zip:
State:	Zip:	Phone: ()	Email:

If this is your FIRST TIME attending Eastern District Retreat, please check here: _____ Yes! I'm very excited!

FULL - TIME ONLY	FULL TIME (NO PART-TIME)		
	> Registration Per Person includes: \$190.00 Registration Fee, 2 Nights Lodging, 5 Meals, Blanket, Pillow Need to bring linens, pillow case and towels, pillow optional		\$
	> Late Fee if postmarked after Aug 25, 2023 \$ 25.00 > Single Occupancy - One person in minimum 2 person cabin \$ 40.00		\$
	NOTE: A \$50.00 minimum deposit is required with Full-Time Registration		Payment Enclosed \$ Balance Due \$
ADDITIONAL NOTI	> If single occupancy is requested, an additional fee of \$40 is required (set by Pioneer) +++ notation > Canine Policy - the person/family must contact Pioneer on the Lake to request policy and pay the fee (\$100) for the canine that is accompanying the person/family to retreat. > If this applies to you - note it under Special Needs later on this form. > Mini Fridges are noted below with MF notation > Woodland Cottages and Karkau Lodge have full kitchen 1 Bunk Set = 2 twin beds, 2 Bunk Set = 4 twin beds, 1 Bunk Set T/D = twin on the top, double on bottom Please select 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice on lodging below. If preference isn't given decision made by registrar.		
	Standard Cabins:		
	Founders Court Cabins 26 - 36 (2 Twins, 2 Occupants +++) Schroeter Circle 1-8 (Each Cabin has 10 Bunk Set with exception of #5 - 9 Bunk Set, 18-20 occupants +++) Deluxe Cabins: Founders Court 38-41 (Queen Bed & One Bunk Set, 4 Occupants +++) + MF Founders Court 42-44 (Queen Bed & One Sofa Bed, 4 Occupants +++) + MF Founders Court 45 (Queen Bed, 2 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 14 (Handicap Accessible - Queen Bed, 2 Occupants ++, Medical) + MF Family Court 15 (Double Bed, & 2 Bunk Set, 5 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 16 (Queen Bed & 2 Bunk Set, 6 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 17, 19 (Queen Bed, 2 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 21 (Full Bed, 1 Occupant) + MF Family Court 18, 20, 22 (2 Bunk Set, 4 Occupants +++) + MF Family Court 23, 24 (Double Bed & Bunk Set T/D, 5 Occupants +++) + MF Woodland Cottages 9-13 (Queen Bed, 2 Bunk Set, living room, dining room, kitchen, pull out sofa in 9-12 +++) Karkau Lodge (Queen + 2 Bunk Sets kitchen, AC, Living Room, microwave, fridge, 6 occupants +++)		
	ROOMMATE(S): CHURCH/GROUP:		
SPECIAL NEEDS	Special Needs: _____ Lower Bunk: _____ Hearing Impaired: _____ Other: _____ Dietary: _____		
	NOTES: > Registration deadline August 25, 2023 (Postmarked no later than Aug. 25) > Balance due must be paid (postmarked) by Aug. 25, 2023 or incur \$25 late fee > All requests are on a first come, first served basis. > No registrations accepted before May 1, 2023. Must be postmarked no earlier than May 1st.		
CANCELLATIONS:	THE \$50 Full-time Deposit is Non-refundable. Cancellation for MEDICAL REASONS will be reviewed based upon a written letter of notification to the Eastern District President.		
PAYMENT	***Make checks payable to: LWML Eastern District *** NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS FEE: A charge of \$25.00 will be assessed on all checks returned by the bank.		
*MAIL completed REGISTRATON FORM, PAYMENTS & SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE (for return confirmation) Sue Morris 3301 Hartford Court, Newtown Square, PA 19073 morrissusan68@gmail.com 215-514-8678 (m) *Registrations sent without stamped envelope will receive an email confirmation*			

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

The Buffalo Zone met April 29 at Salem, Springville, NY for their Spring event. After a delicious breakfast provided by the ladies of Salem we gathered to hear about the work of Stephen Ministries followed by a presentation on maintaining boundaries by Jennifer Klein, a local counselor in the area. We also enjoyed singing with Salem's praise band.

Look for information coming out on our Summer picnic and our Fall event.

Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone President



STEPHEN
MINISTRY

2ND ANNUAL MITE WALK



The Holy Cross Women in Mission from Holy Cross, Clarence NY held their 2nd annual Mite walk supporting the mission work of the LWML. On a lovely Sunday after church 21 adults and children walked the parking lot and

raised \$1,046. What an easy and fun way to raise money for to support our Mission Grants.

Bev Wicher, Holy Cross



PITTSBURGH ZONE

Spring Rally / JOYSHOP/ 80th Anniversary SAVE the DATE



The Pittsburgh Zone gathered at Prince of Peace, Freedom April 22, 2023 for their Spring Rally/JOYSHOP. The ladies enjoyed a wonderful bible study led by the Rev. Sean Walters on the book of Esther. It gives us might that even though the book of Esther doesn't mention God's name or have any direct words or prayers from Him, you can see God's work through the whole encounter. We see how Esther trusted God to save her family. We too can be strong with God as we continue to serve Him today!

The ladies of Prince of Peace served a wonderful spread of delicious food for us. The tables were decorative and inviting. The conversation was God pleasing and uplifting!



Our In-Gathering that day was for Choices Pregnancy Services. We prayed and offered many gifts for them that day. The total monetary gift was \$165. Also we collected two 3 and 1 baby thermometers, eight packages of different sized diapers, two small boxes of diapers, one large box of diapers, twenty-six bibs, thirteen books, eight totes, one pack of 3 onesies and four outfits. The great thing about the items collected is that the parents, not just the mom, can earn points through



the education classes that are offered. Then can use the points they earned to get the baby items. This helps the parents grow in the knowledge of how to care for a baby and helps them with the financial means to help support their precious child.

After the quick and informative meeting session we got to do what we all really love about LWML being the 'hands and feet of Jesus!' JOYSHOP was another time the Pittsburgh Zone would meet to do a special project to bring Christ's name to others around us! These two events are now done at the same time. So it was decided since we had an in gathering for Choices Pregnancy Services we could write encouragement notes to mothers! We also added a St. Luke Encouragement Baskets that is then given out to a family with new bundles blessing in the Butler Health System. These baskets come with a large blank notecard to say a few words to them. This is a quiet event, they quietest event I have ever seen for a group of talkative ladies. We were focused on getting the correct wording. So people like me needed the example words that were provided! Thank you Diane and Mary for these example pages you provided!



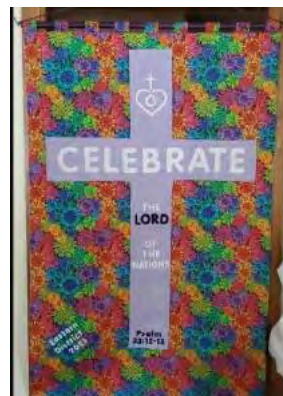
Save
the
Date

PLEASE mark your calendars, set your phone to alert you, tell someone....the LWML Eastern District Convention is set! JUNE 14-16, 2024. It will be the 80th year anniversary; do you know what to give someone on the 80th anniversary? Well you will find out next time. STAY TUNED for more info in the next LINK!

May God be your strength and guide until next time!

**BethAnn Salinas, 2nd Vice President,
Pittsburgh Zone LWML**

CONVENTION BANNER



The beautiful convention banner made by Kathy Pavelock expressing the theme of the convention "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" with the cross as the focal point. The banner was carried in by YWR Sarala Vunnam accompanied by President Dee, along with YWR Meg Klees.

PHILADELPHIA ZONE NEWS

The Philadelphia Zone welcomed Dee Gryzb, LWML Eastern District President, and Jr. Counselor, Pastor Carl Emberger to our Spring Rally, Saturday May 6th at Holy Cross, Philadelphia. Dee and Pastor Carl shared "The Quest to Broadening Our Cultural Understanding" presentation. We



also had an update from BEE Liberia (Olivia and Olive) and the progress they are making on the school in Liberia. The highlight was indoor plumbing! These topics are timely

as we convene in convention in June with sisters and brothers across the US under the theme Celebrate the Nations. The Rally Theme was God Loves our Differences, Bible Verse - Galatians 3:28. Our in-gathering was for Stenton Family Manor – Homeless Shelter for Women and Children, Philadelphia. Everyone was very generous. In the afternoon we assembled meal prayer cards for the retreat. Awesome workers in the field!

Beth Quinn, Zone President



Memorials/Legacy of Love

Memori-

**als/Honorariums
Legacy of Love Endowment**

Do you ever think about how you could honor someone while they are still with us besides when they are called home? There are two options.

Eastern District Memorial Fund Eastern District Legacy of Love Endowment

The **Memorial Fund** is currently dedicated for use in funding the District's Young Women Representative Program (YWR).

The **Legacy of Love Endowment** makes a lasting impact on the ministry of the LWML Eastern District. Your gifts of love are building a fund for the future which will provide for scholarships, leadership training, and District ministries.

Questions, please contact
Rebecca Bessell,
RLB54@roadrunner.rr.com
or 585-415-6368



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 22, 2023	EC Meeting Pioneer on the Lake
Sept. 22-24, 2023	Fall Retreat Pioneer on the Lake
Feb/March 2024	EC/BOD Pittsburgh PA
June 14-16, 2024	LWML ED Convention Pittsburgh, PA

Report of the Financial Secretary—Barb Williams

Report of the Financial Secretary March 1, 2023 – May 31, 2023

Mites: \$ 7,237.59

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Diane Caster

Given By: LWML – Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Tonawanda, NY

In Memory of Esther Lexow

Given By: LWML – Buffalo Zone

Legacy of Love – In Memory of David Beehler

Given By: Susan Bell
Barbara Williams

Legacy of Love – In Memory of Eunice Gardner

Given By: Sharon Wolff

Legacy of Love – in Honor of LWML and Eastern District

Given By: Board of Directors
Sharon Wolff

Legacy of Love - Donations

Given By: LWML – Buffalo Zone
Salem Lutheran Church, Springville, NY
Special Outreach Event

Thrivent Choice Dollars – Allocated By:

Linda Breight
Don and Linda Gage

In Need of Mite Boxes for your Society?

They are available at any time by contacting Barbara Williams at brwcpa421@aol.com or by phone 716-417-4373.



Convention Highlights

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man
Psalm 33:12-13*

40TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, welcomed over 3,500 people to their 40th biennial convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023, under the theme "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations." The convention theme was based on Psalm 33:12–13.

New Mission Goal \$2,350,000

2023–2025 MISSION GOAL AND MISSION GRANTS

The Lutheran Women in Mission voting body adopted a \$2,350,000 mission goal for the 2023–2025 biennium. This goal, by the grace of God, will fund 31 mission grants, as women and men respond in prayer and mite offerings during the next two years. The delegates also voted for new officers for the next biennium.



PINNING OF YWRS



BANNER PROCESSION



EASTERN DISTRICT CAUCUS



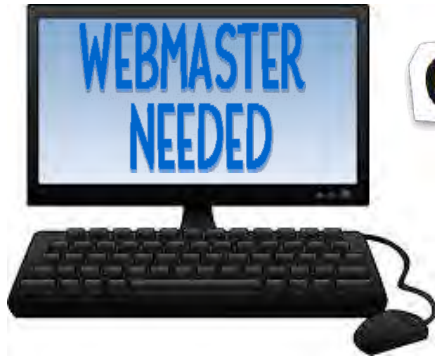
CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS



MITE WALK



NEW DISTRICT H2H LEADER
ROSELYN KAMARA



Do you have computer, website and Social Media skills? We are in need of a new Webmaster to maintain our Website, Kathy Pavelock has served us for many years and we thank her for her time and service. The job description is listed below, please contact Dee if you are gifted in this area and willing to help in this position.

LWML Webmaster – Volunteer Position

The Webmaster serves as the primary contact for all aspects of the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms, handling a range of responsibilities that may include website and social media post design and development, routine site and content maintenance, and various updates to ensure the sites align with the mission, goals, and objectives of the LWML Eastern District. The webmaster serves on the Website & Social Media Committee with the Public Relations Director acting as chairman.

General Duties

- Serves as the primary contact for all aspects of the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms.
- Develops and maintains the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms in accordance with the organization's policies; collaborates with the Public Relations Director, VP of Communication, and other district officers for website and social media content.
- Monitors social media platforms for appropriate commentary and interactions.
- Encourages and facilitates consistent, creative, and unified design across the district website and social media platforms.
- Maintains and coordinates internet domains.
- Periodically evaluates website and social media effectiveness. Recommends changes to the Public Relations Director.
- Assists Eastern District Lutheran Women in Mission with use of the website and social media platforms through one-on-one support, user guides, and training sessions.
- Ensures compliance with LWML Eastern District policies, procedures, doctrinal reviews, and ethical standards; software licenses; and applicable state and federal laws and regulations including data security and privacy.
- Maintains current knowledge of best practices and emerging developments in web design, web development, and social media technology.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required Skills/Abilities:

- Working knowledge of web design, website management, and social media platforms.
 - Knowledge of website and social media current best practices and standards.
 - Proficient with HTML/CSS and graphic design of images used on websites and social media.
 - Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
 - Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and image manipulation applications or related software.
- Strong analytical, troubleshooting, and problem-solving skills.

If you are interested please contact Dee Grzyb – d_e_grzyb@msn.com or 716-901-4167.

Executive Committee**President**

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716-393-3670 d_e_grzyb@msn.com

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Appointed By the President**Parliamentarian**

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Appointed By the Executive Committee**Editor**

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Stamps for Missions Coordinator

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Appointed by Board of Directors**Christian Life Chair**

Carol Obot 259 Zimmerman Blvd., Buffalo, NY 14223
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Special Focus Chair

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Mission Grants Co-Chair

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Structure Chair

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Structure Co-Chair

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Leader Development Chair

Cathie Geske 341 Greenwood St., Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-862-4120 mrspastor1977@yahoo.com

Leader Development Co-Chair

Vacant

20202 District Convention Liaison

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Eastern District Recycling Fundraiser Chairman

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Niagara Zone

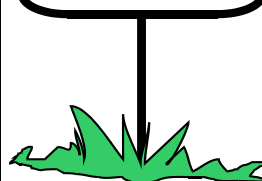
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610-761-0263 bethkquinn@gmail.com

Pittsburgh Zone

Linda Bright, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412-271-1119 lamweebbs@hotmail.com

**Next Deadline**

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

Bev Wicher
19 Vernon Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-913-4140

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is September 1, 2023

The Link is published four times each year.

April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

LWML PRAYER SERVICE

MY SOUL REJOICES: A SERVICE OF SONG AND PRAYER



*But let all who take refuge in
you rejoice; let them ever sing
for joy ... (Psalm 5:11a).*

The 2023 LWML Prayer Service, written by former LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler (who spoke at our last LWML Eastern District Convention) of Clarinda, Iowa, will bless your heart and life as you join with your sisters and brothers in singing songs of prayer and praise to the Lord who continues to bless you daily. Singing familiar hymns, joining together in the Word, and spending time in prayer, individually and corporately, will help you recognize and give thanks for your God-given blessings. "My Soul Rejoices" is filled with hymns, the Word, and prayer. You can look forward to a joyous and uplifting worship service whether it is used in the congregation or the LWML district, zone, or group.

You can find all the information on the prayer service at this link <https://www.lwml.org/prayer-service>

DID YOU SEE THE DEVOTION ON THE LWML WEBSITE [LWML.ORG](https://www.lwml.org), WRITTEN BY KATHY PAVELOCK?



VACATION TIME

Last Wednesday was the first day of summer. Many of us take vacations at the end of June or the beginning of July. My husband and I normally spend the first two weeks of July at our cottage in Canada and that is our plan for this year, too! The break from the day-to-day routine is needed to rest, relax, and refresh. God knows we need to rest as He tells us, *And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done* (Genesis 2:2). Vacation also includes spending time in God's Word each day to refresh us as we rest and relax. As you prepare for your vacation, take along some printed [devotions](#) from the LWML website or have the daily Mustard Seed Devotions sent to your email by signing up [here](#). If you are vacationing away from home or having a "stay-cation," please take time to rest, relax and refresh — especially in God's Word!

Kathy Pavelock



**Vice President of Communication
Lutheran Women's Missionary League**

Bev Wicher
Eastern District LWML Editor
19 Vernon Drive.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
E-mail lwmlink@gmail.com



LWML
Eastern District

LWML

LINK



Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
79 Years



Happy Autumn! The leaves are changing from green to brilliant red, yellow, purple, orange, and magenta hues, while the sunflowers are still in bloom. Tall and magnificent flowers, brilliant and joyful, they are a crowd pleaser.



This is the time of year when some of our societies and zones hold their elections. Many times, it is the same people running again because no one else will. Can you help in some way? *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.* (1 Peter 4:10) How will you use your talents to help your society, zone, or our district?

We held our Fall Retreat at Pioneer on the Lake beginning Friday, September 22 to Sunday, September 24, 2023. Our speaker was LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel. His message to us in a turbulent world is to keep on encouraging one another. The weather was perfect, and it was a wonderful time spent visiting old friends, making new ones, attending interest sessions, wandering the beach, and being in the Word at a place in the Son! Thank you to the Philadelphia Zone for all your efforts in making this a memorable event.

National News: As you know, Kathy Pavelock of the Central New York North Zone was elected in 2021 as the VP of Communication. We are blessed that she is on the national level as well as the Public Relations Coordinator for our district. This summer two women from the Eastern District were appointed to the national level as well – Rebecca Bessell – Mission Grant Committee and Linda Bright – Special Focus Committee. A job well done!!!

We are eagerly looking forward to our **80th LWML Eastern District Convention, June 14-16, 2024 at the DoubleTree Hilton, Cranberry, PA., hosted by the Pittsburgh Zone. WILL YOU BE THERE?**

I have chosen *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* (Jeremiah 29:11) for the rest of my term in office. I seek His wisdom daily to let me know the plans that He has for me to fulfill my role as LWML Eastern District President.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact me. I would love to talk with you – d_e_grzyb@msn.com, 716-901-4167 mobile or 716-393-3670.

Blessings,

Dee E. Grzyb
LWML Eastern District President

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)



COUNSELOR'S

"Now I Rejoice in My Sufferings"

O
R
N
E
R**Why does a Christian rejoice in one's sufferings? And just as importantly, how?**

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians, he writes: *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship of God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints.* (Colossians 1:24-26 ESV)

Why does Paul rejoice in his suffering? Because he knows that God is working **through** his affliction... not in spite of it but **because of it**, even through it. Does that mean that Paul understood it completely and in every detail? No, but he knew that it was for the sake of the church, for the sake of other believers (perhaps including you and me), and potentially (probably) also for the sake of unbelievers who may yet come to knowledge of, and faith in, the saving power of Jesus Christ. That's why.

Will we always understand the "why" of our suffering? No, at least not on this side of glory. We are not promised that. However, in His grace and mercy, sometimes the Lord does reveal some of it to us in this life – such as to Joseph when he forgave his brothers and told them how his suffering at the hands of his brothers was for God's saving purpose (Genesis 50), even though neither he nor they thought of it at the time of Joseph's suffering.

In the midst of our suffering, it is often very hard to see God's purpose in it. **Very hard!** Did the disciples understand the cross as they saw Jesus suffer in His crucifixion, even though He told them multiple times, in advance, that the Son of Man must suffer at the hands of sinful men? It's hard to see past the pain – one's own, or that of a loved one.

No, the disciples could not see past Jesus' pain, nor their own fear, in the moment. Not even for three days; not until Christ's resurrection. What was God's purpose in Christ's suffering and death on the cross? Nothing less than the full atoning for all OUR sin.

So, what is God's purpose in my suffering or your suffering? We don't always know, we don't even usually know at the time. We do know that Jesus is with us in our suffering, suffering with us since we are members of His body... and *if one member suffers, all suffer together.* (1 Corinthians 12:26a ESV) And we hear the words the Lord told Paul when he pleaded repeatedly for the Lord to relieve one particularly burdensome affliction, *My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.* (2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV)

This doesn't mean that we earn anything through our afflictions and suffering, but rather that the Holy Spirit is working through our afflictions and suffering – often for the sake of **others** who may see: a witness of our faith in Christ as we look to Him in the midst of affliction (inspiring faith in them), an opportunity to experience Christ-like empathy as they see our suffering (softening and molding their heart), and an opportunity to offer care, support and Christ-like service (Gospel-inspired good works).

You know that whatever God is doing, it is good, and it is a part of His plan of salvation for the world. So your afflictions DO mean something, because Christ is IN YOU, and by Christ's afflictions He is reconciling the world to Himself. Ultimately, that's how Paul, and we, can rejoice in suffering.

We have His promise that our sufferings and afflictions will end. By the power of Christ, you and I will stand before God, perfect and blameless on the Last Day. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Rev. Jeff Nickel, LWML Eastern District Senior Counselor

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE—CAROL OBOT, CHAIRMAN

I welcome Susan Beltran as the vice chair on this committee. She has been a blessing to work with. For those who could not attend the Fall Retreat, I'd like to share the vespers we presented. Both can be found on the LWML website <https://www.lwml.org/program-helps-devotions>. Friday was a litany on outreach "Who Is Our Neighbor?" It was a responsive reading where the zones could share who they have reached out to in mission. We sang the song "Hear I am Lord". Saturday vespers was a skit on "A Light for My Path" based on the Bible verse Psalm 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.* The song was "Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet". Enjoy the beautiful colors the Fall brings. ✨ God Bless!

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES – SUSAN BELL



The work of the Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department is to engage, Encourage, and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior with people of their communities and the world.

**THE 2022-2024 GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell
Mission Grants Chair – Susan Morris; **Mission Grants Co-Chair** – Margaret Klees
Leader Development Chair – Cathie Geske; **Leader Development Co-Chair** – Vacant
Structure Chair – Terry Hoffman; **Structure Co-Chair** – Darlene Garcia
Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon; **Nominating Committee Chair** – Susan Bell
 (Contact information is on page 11 of this LINK)

MISSION GRANT NEWS

MISSION GRANT DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

The Mission Grant application submission deadline is quickly approaching! Please have your grant applications submitted to Mission Grant Chairman Susan Morris (morrissusan68@gmail.com) **no later than October 15, 2023.**

**GRANT 3 HAS BEEN PAID!**

Grant #3 in the amount of \$5000 has been paid to Christ Assembly Lutheran Church, Philadelphia PA. This grant will help to fund the purchase and installation of an Acorn Stair lift to assist disabled and elderly to the 2nd floor for worship and fellowship.

NEWS FROM THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE



Zones, please review your bylaws periodically. If you need to make changes, please send a copy to Terry Hoffman so Darlene Garcia and I can review them for you. The contact information is listed below:

Terry Hoffman – Chair
 4181 Church Road
 Lockport, NY 14094
 716-255-2612
terryhoffman1979@gmail.com

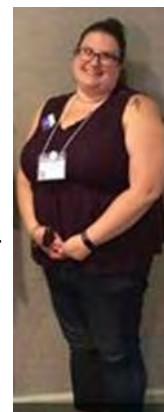
Darlene Garcia – Co-Chair
 105 Entwood Lane
 Butler, PA 16002
 724-841-7697
garciadarlene48@gmail.com

Updated District Bylaws are on our website. They can be found at the following link: www.east-dist-lwml.org and clicking on **2022 LWML Eastern District Bylaws**

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN—CATHIE GESKE



Meet Margaret Klees, one of our two YWRs who joined me at the National Convention in June. Margaret is also part of the congregation where my husband serves as pastor and a dear friend of mine. Margaret is an amazing young woman who serves in our congregation Grace Lutheran Church in Hop Bottom, PA as our vice chair. Besides that position, Margaret helps with our youth group and is affectionately known as "Auntie Meg" by the children both in and out of our church. Her skills working with these rambunctious youngsters cannot be topped! When I asked Margaret what she thought of the convention in June, she replied that it was, "A great experience. I got to meet with many new people and catch up with people I haven't seen in a while. During the convention, I was able to talk with her about the voting process, and how things worked from an administrative perspective in terms of how manuals with grants are given ahead and how voting was done with the keypads." My personal hope is that she might go as our zone delegate next time around! In addition to being a YWR, Margaret is our Zone President and actively participates as a vendor in our local farmer's market held at our church. Margaret makes beautiful jewelry and hymn picture frames. Please feel free to see her crafts on Facebook at Bugs & Boots (her cute nicknames for her nieces). Margaret also enjoys kayaking, fishing and going geocaching. Make sure to say hi to her next time you see her!



Check out the reflections on convention from our two YWRs on page 5 of this LINK.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for the following offices of the LWML Eastern District for vote at the June 2024 convention in Pittsburgh, PA:

**Vice President of Communication
District Recording Secretary
District Financial Secretary
District Pastoral Counselor**

All offices serve a four-year term. Any LWML member may nominate a candidate for office. For ***Nominating Forms*** please e-mail Susan Bell at sbell_7238@comcast.net. You are encouraged to contact your nominee before you send us a Nominating Form, however the Nominating Committee is also ready to serve by making the initial contact. Nominees, except the Pastoral Counselor, should be members of the LWML and have served on the LWML Board of Directors (this includes district committees and zone presidents).

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Susan Bell, Chair; Bev Wicher, Margaret Klees, Anita Getty, and Chris Gassein. Thank you for your service, ladies!

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE

CONVENTION 2023 – MILWAUKEE



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League 40th Biennial Convention was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was fortunate to attend, and be a part of this incredible group in the body of Jesus Christ. I had the opportunity to be trained as a LWML Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations representing the LWML Eastern District. The Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations program, recognizes that the body of Christ grows and is strengthened when all women are welcomed, mentored and encouraged to play an active part in sharing the mission of the LWML. The purpose of this is to bring faith, fellowship, and services to women of all cultures in each district within the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Through the brilliance and intelligence trainers of the program I have been taught the skills on how to engage women of all cultures to join the mission work. Actively educating the LWML community of groups and members about the gifts they have to contribute to the Lutheran Church.



I also learned that the diverse cultures of women participation in the Lutheran congregations will intensify the spreading of the Gospel to all races. The training was impactful on how we deal with other cultures in the body of Christ. During the training I was able to meet some wonderful, loving women from several districts. I can never forget their laughter, smart remarks, sharing of gifts, and their warm feeling of sisterly love.

During the Flags of the Nations procession on Saturday morning I had the honor to proudly carry my native land, Liberia's flag accompanied by Evelyn Seton Boltmann, one of our Heart to Heart Sisters who happen to be a Liberian from West Africa. The Bible studies, mission speakers and Mite Walk were wonderful to experience.



The morning devotions were very fulfilling and inspiring. I can't forget the beautiful music, joyous singing and the fantastic organist. She kept the congregation engaged during all the services with those familiar worship songs. It was incredible to see the work of the LWML foreign missions around the world. The missionaries work is incredible to see in the videos and listen to testimonies of God's provisions to his people from all around the world.

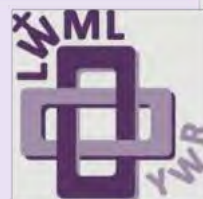
I am blessed to be a part of the LWML Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations. Thank you.

Roselyn Kamara/CHRIST ASSEMBLY LUTHERAN CHURCH – EASTERN DISTRICT

Serve the Lord With Gladness

Young Women IN MISSION

Reflections from our YWRs



Reflections from Margaret Klees

I had the amazing opportunity to attend the LWML National Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a Young Woman Representative (YWR). While there, I made many new friends and ran into people I knew from the Assembly of Leaders last October. The first service Thursday night was unbelievable. I had never heard so many people singing a hymn at the same time, and the sheer number of people there was amazing. I have been to district conventions in the past, so the business meetings are usually about the same, except national is about 100 times larger! Every day started with breakfast with all 75 of the YWRs and ended with a YWR debriefing. Within the 75 YWRs five of the ladies were pregnant and one of the YWR committee ladies! They took a group picture to document that memory. Friday morning Sarala, the other Eastern District YWR, and I were in the opening procession with our District President, Dee. Sarala carried the beautiful banner that Kathy Pavlock made. Friday Fest was a blast, after dinner, the exhibition booths had games, cornhole, chair volleyball, karaoke, and so many other things going on. Saturday morning, Sarala and I were in the flag procession that includes all the countries that LWML has members or have had some impact in. Sarala carried the name card, and I carried the flag for Turkey. The Saturday lunch

session I chose was with Rev. Doua Xiong where he spoke about his turning to Christ and his ministry to the Hmong. His organization received a grant from the 2021-2023 biennium to purchase Christ-centered materials for the Hmong language school and outreach. I thoroughly enjoyed his talk; he told us he almost didn't make it to the convention because his flight was cancelled and so he and his family drove nonstop from California in order to make it to the Convention. Saturday night's entertainment was a blast! The Lutheran Ladies Lounge Podcast did a live show. Those four ladies were a hoot and had the whole audience continuously laughing. One of my favorite parts was Lutheran Lady Feud, where some top officers joined teams with two of the podcast ladies. The first question, that had surveyed Lutheran ladies, asked what the best addition to Jell-o was. The top answer was vodka, the fact of which had people laughing hysterically. I unfortunately had to leave Sunday morning before the last meeting was over and service was held. Overall, this was a whirlwind weekend where I made many new friends and got to hear some great speakers. I would like to thank the LWML Eastern District for giving me this opportunity. I will cherish these memories forever.

Margaret Klees, Anthracite Zone

Reflections from Sarala Nunnam



My name is Sarala Vunnam, I am from Malvern, PA. I was blessed to represent Eastern District Philadelphia as YWR in 2023.

This is my first convention ever. Convention was so encouraging and helped me to get closer to God through Bible studies and fellowship. While listening to Mites in Action speakers and keynote speakers my heart was moved by how wonderful and amazing things are happening through LWML. All praises and glory to God. Also, I had a great time with my fellow YWR sisters in Christ. We prayed together and shared our testimonies which helped me to strengthen my faith. I got an opportunity to meet many wonderful women who are serving

God with gladness.

I am thankful to my church and district president for this opportunity. Thank you so much for all your support.

Regards

Sarala Vunnam, Philidelphia Zone





40th Biennial
LWML Eastern District Convention
June 14-16, 2024
Double Tree by Hilton
Mars, PA



*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,
rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,
just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving (Colossians 2:6-7).*

The Pittsburgh Zone invites you to an inspirational weekend walking in our faith, rooting in Jesus Christ and abounding in thanksgiving with our fellow sisters and brothers. We will be celebrating our 80th Anniversary in the Eastern District! Pittsburgh has much to offer in history and tourism. Please join us.

The Committee has been meeting both virtually and in person. What a great group of dedicated women!



Diane Olmstead, Convention Co-Chair; Rebecca Bessell, District liaison; Linda Bright, Convention Chairman.

Gifts from the Heart Ingathering—Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Mission Statement

To serve our aging community with a continuum of high-quality caregiving options, provided in a Christian environment, and to serve those with limited funds to the best of our ability.

Vision Statement

Serving the Triune God by providing for the needs of His people.

A Mission of Caring

As one of the largest, most financially secure senior care providers in the country, Concordia offers a lifetime continuum of care that includes adult day services, home care, hospice, medical and rehabilitation services, memory support, personal care/assisted living, respite care, retirement living, skilled nursing, spiritual care and medical equipment.

The roots of Concordia Lutheran Ministries go back to 1881 when western PA religious leaders began exploring options for how to address the growing orphan population in the region. Since that time, the organization has evolved from a small, safe haven for orphan children to one of today's premier nonprofit Aging Services Network in the nation. It's a remarkable story filled with practicality and leaps of faith; discord and harmony; tragedy and joy; uncertain finances and unexpected providence.

<https://concordialm.org/about/>

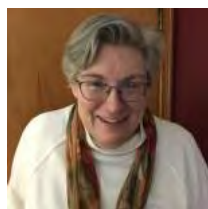
Wish List of Items for Concordia Lutheran Ministries Activities Department

New Items	Monetary donation by Check
Small pocket Kleenex ChapSticks Handkerchiefs Word Search puzzles (regular and large print) 100-piece puzzles	Make payable to: <u>LWML Eastern District Convention</u> Memo line: <u>2024 ingathering</u> Look for the "Gifts of the Heart" table display. A place will be provided to receive your monetary donations.

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

The Buffalo Zone ladies gathered for their annual summer picnic in August. We made tied blankets and Visual Faith® Ministry Seed packet encouragement cards to be distributed to the Jericho Road Ministries refugee center. We also collected items and donations for Camp Joy ministry of Lutheran Church of Our Savior. We had a great time of service, fellowship, devotion and some delicious food too!



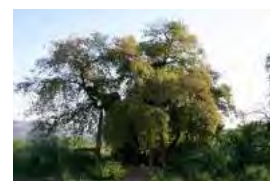
Our **Fall Event will be Saturday, October 7, 9-noon** at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Eden. **Guest Speaker**—Ann Werk speaking about “JOY RESTORED” based on Psalm 51

Hands on Project—We will be assembling Fabric Kits and packing them up. These kits will be given to Lutheran World Relief.

PITTSBURGH ZONE



Welcome back, Ladies and Pastors, too...The Pittsburgh Zone is excited as it is getting ready to welcome you to the 40th Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention, June 14-16, 2024 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Mars, PA celebrating 80 years in the LWML under the theme “Rooted in Christ” (Colossians 2:6-7)



Oak and olive at Kibbutz Tzuba – 15 minutes west of Jerusalem

What is the 80th anniversary gift...OAK! In case you were wondering. The following statement was taken from bristol-treeforum.org “There are many different types of trees in Israel, including **oak trees**. Oak trees are a common sight in Israel, and they are known for their

strong wood and beautiful leaves. Oak trees are also a symbol of strength and stability, which is why they are often used in construction. *Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.* (Amos 2:9)

God’s word mentions oak/oaks 28 times but in the Old testament only. The word tree/trees 258 both testaments 208 in OT and 50 NT, in addition, to our theme verse word root/rooted/rooting 66 both testaments 46 in OT and 20 NT. Wow!

Yes, what a huge 80th anniversary gift from God, who will lead our wonderful, strong, and rooted organization to our next Eastern District LWML Convention, which has a combined theme of oak, tree, and rooted!

We would LOVE to have you join us as we root ourselves even deeper in the LIVING Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

BethAnn Salinas, 2nd Vice President of Pittsburgh Zone LWML

PHILADELPHIA ZONE



Encourage One Another - what an awesome retreat we had, glory be to God! We were blessed with favorable weather, delicious food, and the best fellowship with our Christian sisters and brothers. President Pingel inspired us to expand our view on

encouragement towards others. It was great to meet him. We enjoyed new activities on Saturday afternoon like chair yoga. Looking forward to seeing you at next year's retreat.

Beth Quinn
Philadelphia Zone



WANTED

PHOTOS



As we look forward to celebrating our 80th anniversary of the LWML Eastern District at the upcoming convention in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania lets dig out those photos!

Photos of past district, zone, church ladies' groups and any LWML event we are looking for. You can mail, email, text, give to your zone president or bring to the Fall Retreat. If these are photos and you would like back, please indicate your name, address and zone.

We look forward to sharing past memories at our upcoming convention in June.

Thank you,
Rebecca Bessell, RLB54@rochester.rr.com
585-415-6368



RETREAT BY THE
NUMBERS

5 SPOUSES ATTENDED

7 SUSANS

26 FIRST TIMERS

107 ATTENDEES

\$7,130 INGATHERING
FOR PIONEER ON THE LAKE





below, please contact Dee if you are gifted in this area and willing to help in this position.

Do you have computer, website and Social Media skills? We are in need of a new Webmaster to maintain our Website, Kathy Pavelock has served us for many years and we thank her for her time and service. The job description is listed

LWML Webmaster – Volunteer Position

The Webmaster serves as the primary contact for all aspects of the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms, handling a range of responsibilities that may include website and social media post design and development, routine site and content maintenance, and various updates to ensure the sites align with the mission, goals, and objectives of the LWML Eastern District. The webmaster serves on the Website & Social Media Committee with the Public Relations Director acting as chairman.

General Duties

- Serves as the primary contact for all aspects of the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms.
- Develops and maintains the LWML Eastern District website and social media platforms in accordance with the organization's policies; collaborates with the Public Relations Director, VP of Communication, and other district officers for website and social media content.
- Monitors social media platforms for appropriate commentary and interactions.
- Encourages and facilitates consistent, creative, and unified design across the district website and social media platforms.
- Maintains and coordinates internet domains.
- Periodically evaluates website and social media effectiveness. Recommends changes to the Public Relations Director.
- Assists Eastern District Lutheran Women in Mission with use of the website and social media platforms through one-on-one support, user guides, and training sessions.
- Ensures compliance with LWML Eastern District policies, procedures, doctrinal reviews, and ethical standards; software licenses; and applicable state and federal laws and regulations including data security and privacy.
- Maintains current knowledge of best practices and emerging developments in web design, web development, and social media technology.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required Skills/Abilities:

- Working knowledge of web design, website management, and social media platforms.
 - Knowledge of website and social media current best practices and standards.
 - Proficient with HTML/CSS and graphic design of images used on websites and social media.
 - Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
 - Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and image manipulation applications or related software.
- Strong analytical, troubleshooting, and problem-solving skills.

If you are interested please contact Dee Grzyb – d_e_grzyb@msn.com or 716-901-4167.



Memorials/Legacy of Love

MEMORIALS LEGACY OF LOVE DISTRICT ENDOWMENT

Life is full of starts and stops, but the Lord looks at all our lives in one grand design. Our estate plans dwell in the grand design vision, instead of focusing only on the moment. Every single day you went to work and earned money preparing you for the grand privilege when someday you get to bless family and ministry with those gifts through inheritance. There are so many thoughts and plans go into this grand design which there is free help available for your through the LWML.

Questions, please contact Rebecca Bessell,
RLB54@rochester.rr.com or 585-415-6368

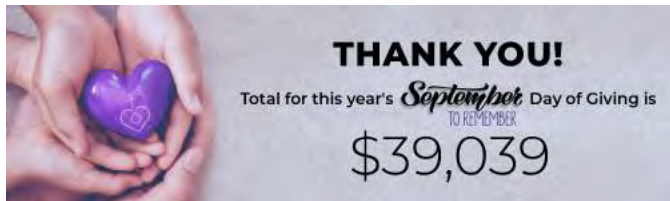


CHANGES TO THE LWML RECYCLING PROGRAM

Due to other obligations, Alice Pfonner is stepping down as the Eastern District Recycle Fundraising Chair. She has sent me an email with another option for continuing the recycling program.

YOUR CHURCH OR ZONE CAN RECYCLE DIRECTLY

Each church in the Eastern District can assist LWML with recycling directly from their home churches. Please contact your zone president or zone treasurer for instructions.



LWML SUNDAY
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CELEBRATE
MATERIALS CAN BE ORDERED
FROM THIS LINK

<https://www.lwml.org/lwml-sunday>



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1-2, 2024	EC/BOD Pittsburgh PA
June 14, 2024	EC/BOD Pittsburgh, PA
June 14-16, 2024	LWML ED Convention Pittsburgh, PA
September 2024	EC Meeting
September 2024	Fall Retreat

Report of the Financial Secretary—Barb Williams

Report of the Financial Secretary
June 1, 2023 – August 2023

Mites: \$ 4,002.02

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of Ruth Brighton

Given By: Beth Quinn

In Memory of Kristine Eggleston

Given By: St. Paul Adella Society, Hilton, NY

In Memory of Janet Havens

Given By: St. Paul Adella Society, Hilton, NY

In Memory of Elizabeth Holland

Given By: St. Paul Adella Society, Hilton, NY

In Memory of Esther Lexow

Given By: LWML Buffalo Zone

In Memory of Joan Ziegler

Given By: Susan Bell
Dorothy Koschmann

In Honor of Women of Philadelphia Zone

Given By: Beth Quinn

Legacy of Love – In Memory Milda G. Bell

Given By: Susan and Charles Bell

Legacy of Love – in Honor of Helen Harmon – 90th Birthday and Thankfulness for establishing the LWML Society of Zion

Given By: Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid, Accident, MD

Legacy of Love – in Honor of Dee Gryzb

For Faithful Leadership & Sharing the Love of Christ

Legacy of Love – Donation

Given By: LWML Buffalo Zone

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April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

NEWS FROM THE VP COMMUNICATION—SHARON WOLFF



Here I sit on Labor Day, a very warm and breezy Monday this year. God's creation is turning a bright yellow, orange, and red along with the various shades of green and brown! Autumn approaches and soon the apples and pumpkins will appear everywhere! Funny how we relate certain things to certain seasons! And so we can do the same in our seasons of life! Especially our life with Christ. We all have mountain and valley experiences that help to shape our walk with Jesus and the journey that God has planned for us. What do we notice along the way?



My most recent valley was a long 6 weeks, but along the way I was able to remember and witness how "still" things can seem when things are moving all around you. How God promises to be with us no matter what and sometimes conversations with our "healer" is the only thing we can cling to. I can appreciate the true sounds of music and voices as I struggled with the various "tunes" in my right ear, and how through it all I could still sing. Covid helped me to see all the wonderful advantages that modern day medicine provides, of course by God's hands as well. So even though it seemed like a long season, God's provisions along the way were witnessed in full.

Please continue to send me any prayer concerns or thanks to be shared with prayer warriors all across the District.

Please continue to send any changes in the directory to swolff3@rochester.rr.com.

Have a blessed fall and approaching Advent season!!!!

Sharon Wolff, VP of Communication ED

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

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