





Together Serving The Lord With Gladness For 78 Years



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Whatever their beliefs, many people view January 1 as a chance for a new beginning. They start over and wipe the slate clean, regardless of the mistakes or unfortunate events from the preceding year.

As Christians we are aware that fresh starts are available whenever we choose and not dictated by the calendar.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

The Eastern District Convention will be June 14-16, 2024 in Mars, PA. The Pittsburgh Zone is putting a lot of effort into organizing and getting ready for this convention. I am so thankful for them.

The theme is "Rooted in Christ" taken from Colossians 2:6-7.

Heidi Goehmann will be our Keynote Speaker. She is a licensed clinical social worker, mental health provider and a deaconess.

LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel will be our Proclaimer. Entertainment will be the Jazz Warriors from Pittsburgh, PA. National Representative will be Brenda Piester, Recording Secretary. We will be celebrating 80 years of serving the Lord with Gladness!

<u>Great News</u> - The LWML Eastern District Executive Committee has approved that we will hold our 2024 Retreat on September 20-22, 2024 at Pioneer on the Lake. It will be hosted by the Niagara Zone. The theme is "Hope Abounds" taken from Romans 15:13. We are very excited to return to Pioneer on the Lake!!

FOCUS – I found this on the LWML website and thought it might be of interest to you. Based on Jesus it is a series of presentations about Lutheran Women in Mission based on the mission statement of the LWML. This information can be shared with a woman new to your congregation, a woman in the congregation unfamiliar with Lutheran Women in Mission, or as a refresher at your local or zone events. You can find it on LWML.org.

<u>Facts</u> – Who We Are <u>O</u>ur Preparation for Service – How We Equip <u>C</u>hrist Centered – Why We Go <u>U</u>nified – We Proclaim Christ Near and Far <u>S</u>erving Others – How We Help

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.

Happy New Year – May the New Year fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter. May God bless you today and every day.

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. (Jeramiah 29:11)



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

In November I had the pleasure of participating in the LWML Prayer Service. It was interesting how the pieces fit together over a Zoom call. It reminded me of the perseverance of St. Paul to continue the work even across the great obstacle of distance between the churches.

Paul used the only technology he had available to him, messengers on foot carrying letters to the churches. It is hard to imagine the time between the writing of the letter

until it reached those it was intended to lift up. Then to await a response to the writing that may or may not come. In our day we just log-on to a screen and share what we need to share. Perhaps a day or two goes by before a reply is received. For better or worse we have this technology and an opportunity to share the Word instantaneously.

Paul's perseverance was a little different than what is experienced in the US. He endured violent opposition and great distances between the churches. In other countries Christians do meet with violent opposition. In the case of Finland and other countries in the West the use of prosecution under somewhat arbitrary laws is the process to stifle the church. In all cases the Gospel still proceeds despite the efforts to silence it. It continues to push against the gates of hell.

As we travel through the Advent season, we look to the coming of our Savior as a baby in a manger with immense joy that he endured all to come to our rescue. Persevering even to his death and resurrection in order to defeat death and save his people. We also look to His second coming as conquering King. In Revelation we read, "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! "This is certainly the church in general that we see today, lukewarm at best.

Thank God that lukewarm is not a description of the LWML and LCMS. In fact, ladies you are hot with the love of the Lord and it shows in your care for your members, your churches, and missions. The Holy Spirit is truly at work in the LWML lifting you up and those you care for. The sweet message of the Gospel is in everything you do. Continue spreading the message of hope that can only be found in the birth and works of God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

In my daily prayers I am thankful for your ministry and ask that you and all of the brothers and sisters that shepherd the flock may be lifted up, encouraged, and filled with wisdom from our loving God and Savior.

Blessings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ Rev. Carl Emberger, Junior Counselor





NEWS FROM THE VP COMMUNICATION—SHARON WOLFF

I am sitting in my little peaceful space with the Christmas lights all a glow, the tree is trimmed, and the shopping is finished and wrapped. How I love this Advent season, when we can reflect on the birth of Christ and also remember that He too will come again! It is a season to reflect on the year, what God has blessed us with and what God has gotten us through. Today one of my favorites scriptures was in one of my devotions: Psalm 118:24 *"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."* So very grateful for all the blessings and trials that God has brought me through this year and I look forward to whatever God has in his "journey planner" for me as we move through 2024.

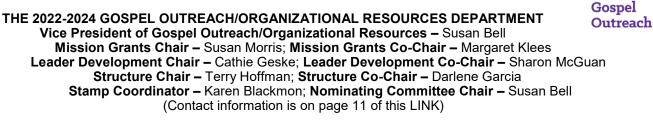
- The District Convention is in June in Cranberry, PA, just north of Pittsburgh, and that is sure to be a real blessing.
- Just a reminder that any changes for the directory come to me and also monies for quarterly orders that will be due late March are to be paid when the order is made. Please get your orders into your ZONE Treasurers no later than March 28.



Sharon Wolff, VP of Communication ED

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.





MISSION GRANT NEWS

Grants 1-4 have been paid. We still have 3 grants totaling \$10,500 that still need to be paid. Please give generously to Mites and submit them to your treasurer in a timely manner so that we can pay all our grants by the end of the biennium.

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: <u>www.east-dist-lwml.org</u> and clicking on 2022 LWML Eastern District Bylaws

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:

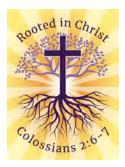
Vice President of Communication District Recording Secretary

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 Gasslein. Thank you for your service, ladies!

Good news from the Nominating Committee: We now have candidates for: Vice President of Communication – Susan Morris (Philadelphia Zone) District Recording Secretary – Terry Hoffman (Niagara Zone) District Financial Secretary – Cindy Cwynar (Pittsburgh Zone) We are still accepting additional nominations, especially for a Pastoral Counselor! Thank you to the Nominating Committee for all of their hard work so far! What a blessing!



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.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Convention Chair Convention Co- Chair Secretary Treasurer District Liaison Pastoral Counselor Banner/Logo Displays and Exhibits Entertainment Favors/Decorating Gifts From the Heart Hospitality

Linda Breight Diane Olmstead Diane Olmstead Linda Bogan Rebecca Bessell Rev. Ben Berteau Vacant Charlotte Sebold BethAnn Salinas Donna Heintz Vacant Carol Kagemann Housing Meals Mite Walk Music Photography Properties Publicity Registration Tote Bags Tours Transportation Ushers Darlene Garcia Barb Gillette Carol Kagemann Ruth Miller Vacant Vacant Vacant Darlene Garcia Mary Lehocky Diane Olmstead Vacant Marty Alsing



Keynote Speaker—Heidi Goehmann—Heidi is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health provider and also a deaconess. She loves walking with people to find the ways God has built restoration into our bodies and souls. She provides therapy, writes, and creates resources about mental health, genuine relationships, hope, and restoration at heidigoehmann.com. She loves her giant dog, Star Wars, hockey, adventures, and new ideas. She lives in Ludington, Michigan with her husband, four amazing kids, and dogs.



Proclaimer—LCMS Easter District President **Rev. John Pingel** will be our Proclaimer for worship on Friday night.



National Representative—will be Brenda Piester, Recording Secretary.



Entertainment—will be the **Jazz Warriors** from Pittsburgh a volunteer organization made up of roughly 30 musicians primarily from the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh who all share a common love of music.

Self - Guided Tours and Attractions—Think about coming early or staying late to see some of the sights in the Pittsburgh area! There will be more information in your convention packet with various activities and sites you may be interested in seeing while you are here.

Registration—The registraton form can be found on pages 7 and 8 of this LINK. **Registration deadline is April 24!** Please remember to make your housing reservation directly with the hotel. Information in on the form.

There will be two servant events, a Mite Walk and 3 interest sessions to choose from. Information is included on the registration form and will be included with your registration confirmation.

We hope you will join us for a June weekend of renewal, inspiration, faith, fellowship, and worship, to be strengthened by His word and use our gifts to support missions and serve others!

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	Make payable to: <u>LWML Eastern District Convention</u> Memo line: <u>2024 ingathering</u>
large print) 100-piece puzzles	Look for the "Gifts of the Heart" table display. A place will be provided to receive your mon- etary donations.



LET'S GET TOGETHER - SAVE THE DATE

EASTERN DISTRICT LWML RETREAT 2024

September 20-22, 2024

PIONEER ON THE LAKE, ANGOLA, NY

NIAGARA LWML HOST ZONE Theme "Abound in Hope" Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans ISB NIV

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE

by Carol Obot, Chairperson



Greetings in 2024! I pray you all have a healthy, joyful & Peaceful New Year, 2024. Do you believe in New Year resolutions? Check out the devotion, "NEW YEAR, NEW YOU" on the LWML website under Winter Resources. <u>https://</u> www.lwml.org/posts/devotion/new-

year-new-you?month=12&year=2021

It's a devotion on Comfort and Hope, from Colossians 3:16-27. In summary, this New Year we need to continue to let Christ's light shine within us so that other's can see Him! Whatever we do in word and deed, we do it in the name of JESUS! Thanks be to God! AMEN!

You can find this and many more resources on the LWML website.

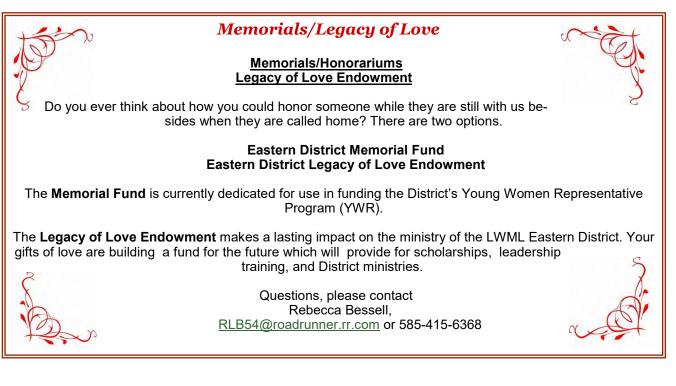
SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



SPECIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE One of the new committees at the national level is Special Ministries Committee. Linda Breight, Pittsburgh Zone, is one of the members. She shares what they have done so far. "We met in October at the Interdepartmental Meet-

ing in St. Louis. We are a new committee. The Special Ministries Committee encourages ALL to be seen, heard, and understood as we share in the mission of proclaiming Christ. We are contacting all LCMS Districts and LWML District Presidents to identify congregations within the district that serve Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually disabled and Intellectually Disabled. We strive to have an advocate from each LWML District to help encourage these members."

Download the brochure and check out this link for more information how you can educate your congregation. <u>https://www.lwml.org/special-ministries</u>.



Serve the Lord With Gladness

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Dietary Needs						
Medical Condi						
SPECIAL NEEDS						
PASTORS' EVENT (for Pastors only)						
SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS (Select one)	Session I Brenda Piester, National LWML Representative Session II Heidi Goehmann (futher details coming in Spring 2024 Session III Bev Wicher-Visual Faith Prayer Practices-Connecting Hearts and Minds to Jesus					
CHOIR		the choir on Friday. I sing:	_	ALTO		
SERVANT EVENTS	Both events are for reside Yes! Tying lap blankets Yes! Making small table fa	nts of Concordia Lutheran Mi vors	nistries.			
MITE WALK	At the DoubleTree: Indoor and outdoor pools and a fitness center. See the list of restaurants and shops, a well as interesting sights, museums and tour companies in your packet. Yes! Yes!					
ON YOUR OWN LEISURE						
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AND DESCRIPTION OF THE REAL	Lutheran W	omen's Missionary Leagu	e Eastern District			

Signature

Date

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

The Buffalo Zone had it's fall gathering in October,

where Ann Werk did a wonderful presentation on having **JOY** in your life based on Psalm 51:10-12 Create in me a clean heart. O God. and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of



your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. The event was well attended, We put together 14 sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief. Elections were held and we elected Sharon McGuan as our Vice President, and Ann Marie Sheehan as our Secretary.

Our next event will be February 24, from 9-12 noon at Pilgrim in Kenmore. We will be doing outreach to the

home bound from churches in our zone. We will be traveling to our rural congregations to meet and build relationships as we reach out to those in need of encouragement and share the knowledge of LWML.



Sharon Wolff - President

PHILADELPHIA ZONE



Pastor Carl Emberger, member 4KenyasKids of Christ Memorial, Malvern, PA and our LWML district junior counselor and his grandson,

Christian, are going on a medical mission trip in February to Kenya, Africa. They will specifically be working with Point of Grace Academy (POGA) in Kisumu, Kenya.

Pastor Carl first learned about Medical Mission Teams by a chance encounter with Scarlett Holcombe at the LWML national Convention over a chasuble she brought from Madagascar. After talking with Scarlett about their work, Pastor Carl realized pastors often join the trips along with family including children as young as 9 years old. This encounter matched a long-time interest to join a medical trip. Area churches are mak-

ing pillow case dresses for Pastor Carl and Christian to take with them. Please pray for Pastor Carl and Christian as they prepare for their medical mission trip. You can learn more about POGA at <u>4kenyakids.org.</u>



PITTSBURGH ZONE

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



We gathered together at Zion Lutheran Church – Lawrenceville on Oct 14 for our Fall Rally.

It was rainy; however, the warmth of the God's Son was definitely present around this beautiful church. We had a wonderful devotional service in the sanctuary lead by Rev.

Donn Woolweber.

The speaker was our very own Eastern District President, Mrs. Dee Grzyb. We had meaningful discussions "What's the why" and an LWML treasures hunt for resources. Both discussions had many insights for all women present. I think it got us thinking and gave us light bulb moments of how we can serve better and learn about our Lord and Savior.

All of us enjoyed the tasty meal served by some wonderful gentlemen. They were wonderful hosts and made sure we had plenty to eat with a smile!

It was nice to see that we indeed were the hands and feet of Jesus. We collected many items for Heritage Community Initiatives, a local service organization in the Braddock area. You can even visit if you want to learn more about service to our community. Their website is https:// heritageserves.org/



BethAnn Salinas 2nd Vice President LWML Pittsburgh Zone

> 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

Beth Quinn, President



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



LWML EC/BOD MEETING – March 1-2, Hilton DoubleTree, Mars, PA. Co-chairs are also invited to this meeting. Watch for further information in January. Any questions please contact Dee E. Grzyb.



CAN YOU RELP3 We are still searching for a new

Webmaster. Do you have computer, web-

site and Social Media skills. The Webmaster will maintain and update our LWML Eastern District Website. Kathy Pavelock has served us for many years and we thank her for her time and service. Contact Dee if you are gifted in this area and willing to help in this position and she can send you the complete job description.

UPCOMING
EVENTSMarch 1-2, 2024EC/BOD
Pittsburgh PAJune 14, 2024EC/BOD
Pittsburgh, PAJune 14-16, 2024LWML ED Convention

Pittsburgh, PA September 20, 2024 EC Meeting

Sept. 20-22, 2024 Fall Retreat

Report of the Financial Secretary— Rebecca Bessell

September 2023 – November 2023

Mites: <u>\$ 8,609.52</u>

Memorials and Honorariums Given By:

In Memory of Barbara Williams

Susan Bell Ruth Wurster Kathy Pavelock Grace Lutheran Church Mary-Martha LWML CNYN St. Paul Adella Society Rebecca Bessell Carol Williams Linda Breight Brenda Hurtgam Dorothy Koschmann

In Memory of Patricia Fulgham

Grace Lutheran Church Mary-Martha LWML CNYN

In Memory of Erma Hardcastle Susan Bell

In Memory of Joy Belasic LADD

September to Remember

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In Honor of Barbara Williams Rev Jeff Nickel

Legacy of Love – in Honor of Barbara Williams for her friendship Dee Grzyb

Legacy of Love – Donation LWML Buffalo Zone

Legacy of Love – In Memory Barbara Williams

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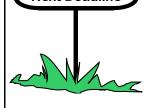
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Next Deadline

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:



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The next deadline is March 1, 2024

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



2024 PRAYER SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE GRACE, MERCY, PEACE GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE FROM GOD THE FATHER AND CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD (1 TIMOTHY 1:2; 2 TIMOTHY 1:2).

At some point you have probably heard a pastor begin his sermon by saying something similar to this verse from 1 Timothy. The 2024 Prayer Service is designed around those first three

words — those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior — Grace, Mercy, and Peace.

You can download the service and all the resources to help you have a successful prayer service from this link <u>https://www.lwml.org/prayer-service</u>



PHOTOS FROM MILWAUKEE CONVENTION ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

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