



LWML

LINK

Message from the President



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

HAPPY FALL - Autumn's beauty lies not in what is growing, but in what is fading, showing us the grace in endings."

Abound In Hope – Romans 15:13 was this past September's retreat theme. Terri Bentley, our speaker, guided us in studying God's Word with an emphasis on our HOPE in Jesus. It was an awesome retreat – beautiful weather, walking on the beach, being in the Word, fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ! Thank you to the Niagara Zone Retreat Committee.

EASTERN DISTRICT GRANT NEWS – I am happy to announce that we have enough monies in our Grant Fund to pay for our first grant! Imagine living where there is no clean water! The request to construct a new well for clean water for The Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberia by the Philadelphia Zone for \$5,000 will be happening soon. Praise God for the wonderful news!

In August, my husband and I attended the Celebration Service for St. John's Lutheran Church, Ambridge, PA (Pittsburgh area) as they were officially welcomed as part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Eastern District. Never having attended an event like this before it was very special to watch the members of St. John as they were very excited and thankful to be part of the Eastern District.

LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION YWR – The 41st biennial LWML National Convention will be held June 26-29, 2025, Omaha, Nebraska. The theme is Growing in God's Grace. We will be looking for young women to apply to be a Young Woman Rep to that convention. Leader Development Chair Sharon McGuan will be getting those applications out to our Zone Presidents soon.

LWML RESOURCES – Are you looking for Bible studies, programs resources, devotions, spiritual growth resources, scripture doodles? Go to LWML.org.

SAVE THE DATE: LWML Retreat will be September 19-21, 2025 at Pioneer on the Lake!

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)



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
80 Years*



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

This year has had some interesting twists for me and my family. As many of you know my grandson and I had an opportunity to go to Kenya this year. Upon return I was informed by the firm that I worked for that they no longer had employment for me. However God provided, and in a strange turn of events I ended up working for the same client where "I wasn't needed." As always God provided and my wife and I actually ended up in a better situation than we were in previously.

On the truly upside of life we had a family join our congregation with two daughters of youth age. Now our youth group has grown to eleven young people that potentially could be with us every Sunday morning and at our youth group events.

Another great moment for me this summer was serving at a congregation I had not visited in the past. A congregation that was overwhelmingly welcoming and in a bit of distress. This was a good kind of distress, their HVAC system needed work and that work expanded into renovating the entire sanctuary. So we had to meet in their fellowship hall and even in the summertime there were over one hundred people at the service. It was a bit cozy to say the least.

In the Bible study that followed the service a discussion developed about the declining attendance in churches. One gentleman was truly distressed as he talked about it. However a woman offered her opinion on what is occurring that makes a lot of sense. Her thought was that people were attending prior to COVID because they felt pressure to attend when they really didn't want to attend. COVID gave them the opportunity to not attend so what we have today are the people who really want to be in worship and fellowship. An interesting perspective with some threads of truth to it.

Perhaps the underlying cause is a trend that started to occur in the 1950's. The message should soft peddle or leave out the more difficult incrimination of sin thus Christianity would be more palatable. As a result more people should attend because they did not have to be exposed to the Law. In fact that has actually weakened the church for a number of reasons.

It is obvious to us today that many denominations have stumbled down that path causing divisions and perpetuating false teaching. Not to mention the harm this has done to society at large.

I am thankful and I hope you are too that the LCMS has stood firm on the foundation of scripture and the cross. I am also very thankful to be involved in the LWML. To see the strong faith you ladies have and your commitment to helping others is like a breath of fresh air.

As Saint Paul states *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it."* (1 Cor 9:24). You are in the race to win. To win a prize so precious that only God himself can give it. No matter the trial or obstacle we can be confident that Jesus Wins!!

Rev Carl Emberger, Senior Pastoral Counselor



NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION—SUSAN MORRIS



Hello & welcome to Fall! My name is Sue Morris and am the newly elected VP of Communication. My prayer is to be able to serve the Eastern District in this new capacity as faithfully as those that served before me. I am also serving as President of our local society at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, Malvern, PA.

Directory Changes: To keep the Eastern District LWML directory up to date, please send any changes, including names, addresses, phone number, and emails as soon as they are known. Directories are published in February and September and distributed to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. My email address is ED.VPComm@gmail.com.

Sue Morris, VP of Communication

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 2024-2026 GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell**

Mission Grants Chair – Margaret Klees
Leader Development Chair – Sharon McGuan
Structure Chair – Vacant

Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon, **Nominating Committee Chair** – Susan Bell

We will announce the Co-Chairs for these committees in the next LINK!
All contact information can be found on page 9 of this LINK



◆ We welcomed **15 first-timers at the 2024 LWML Eastern District retreat!**

- ◆ There was a new **Time and Talent Sheet** distributed at Retreat – If you did not hand one in, please mail it to Susan Bell. If you were not at retreat and are interested in helping out at a District level, please contact Susan for a form. Please prayerfully consider how you can help the LWML Eastern District with your time and talents!

Susan Bell, VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. Psalm 28: 7

MISSION GRANT NEWS



GRANT 1 READY TO BE PAID

We are excited to share that we have collected enough Mites and are ready to pay Grant 1 for \$5,000 for The Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberia to construct a new well for clean water. This grant was submitted by the Philadelphia Zone.

GRANT REQUESTS FOR 2026—It is never too soon to start researching and looking for missions that might be in need of assistance through an LWML Eastern District Mission Grant for our 2026-2028 biennium. Contact Margaret Klees for the guidelines and necessary forms.

NATIONAL GRANT REPORT

Mite Report

The 2023–2025 fiscal period is July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025.

Mite Offerings Received

Amounts as of July 31, 2024

Mission Goal for 2023–2025 Biennium: \$2,350,000.00

Amount Received: \$1,903,657.07

Total Mite Offerings Still Needed: \$446,342.93



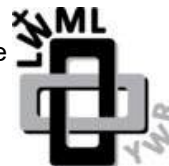
Give generously to Mites so that we can pay our grants in a timely manner

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT NEWS CHAIR – SHARON MCGUAN



It is time to begin to prayerfully seek out and invite young women from your congregation to apply to serve as Young Women Representatives to the 2025 National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. The convention will take place from June 26 to 29 under the theme: Growing in God's Grace. The LWML Eastern District will sponsor two Young Women Representatives to attend the convention.

Early October, the Leader Development Committee will send YWR Packets including deadline information, Application Forms and Guidelines to all Eastern District Zone Presidents. Zone Presidents will then email the Packets to the societies in their zones. If you have any questions regarding the National YWR Program please contact Sharon McGuan, Leadership Development Chair, at salmc23@gmail.com.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS SINCE THE LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION JUNE 14-16, 2024

NEWLY ELECTED:

Financial Secretary—Beth Scholl
Recording Secretary—Terry Hoffman
VP Communication—Susan Morris
Junior Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Michael Dobler



NEWLY APPOINTED:

Treasurer—Cindy Cwynar
Co-Chair of Special Focus—Alexas Wolf
2026 Convention Liaison – Rebecca Bessell

CONTINUING IN APPOINTED POSITIONS:

Archivist/Historian – Chris Gasslein
Editor – Bev Wicher
Parliamentarian—Anita Getty
Planner—Teri Devan
Public Relations Director – Kathy Pavelock
Legacy of Love Coordinator – Rebecca Bessell

CO-CHAIRS WHO HAVE MOVED UP TO CHAIRMAN POSITIONS ARE:

Christian Life – Sue Beltran
Special Focus – Diane Olmstead
Mission Grants – Margaret Klees
Leader Development-Sharon McGuan

Thank you for your willingness to serve

**We are actively seeking chair and co-chair of Structure;
co-chairs of Leader Development, Mission Grants**

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS



We continue to collect cancelled stamps for the Canadian Bible Society, who use them to supply Bibles to prisons. Make sure to trim 1/4" around the cancelled stamps. Karen Blackmon, our Stamp Coordinator will collect them at our events and get them to the Canadian Bible Society.

Serve the Lord With Gladness



LWML EASTERN DISTRICT RECYCLING FUNDRAISER



Each church in the Eastern District can support LWML by recycling directly from your church. There is **NO CHARGE** for printing labels, shipping and mailing! All packages need to be taken to FedEx—No boxes with lids—taped securely. If your church wants to participate select a designated person to be your churches contact and contact **Beth Scholl** with the name of your contact.

See www.recyclingfundraiser.com for what is acceptable to recycle.

DIRECTIONS FOR SHIPPING:

Pack the box with the items to be recycled. Tape box securely. Go to the website www.recyclingfundraiser.com

- Cell Phones
- Smart Phones
- Inkjet Cartridges
- iPads

- **Find the shipping tab**—click on SHIPPING LABELS SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS
- **Enter the organization name:** Eastern District Lutheran Women Mis
- **Enter Organization address:** PO Box 459, Sylvan Beach, NY 13517
- **Enter Contact Name:** Beth Scholl
- **Enter Contact E-mail:** gbds2000@yahoo.com
- **Enter Contact Phone:** 315-264-2591
- **Enter Package Weight**—Just enter 12 lbs—Fed Ex will weigh it when you drop it off
- **Click on CREATE MAILING LABEL**—print the label; keep a copy of the label for yourself, place label on box
- **Take to Fed-Ex for shipping.**

THANK YO FOR ASSISTING LWML WITH THIS FUNDRAISING EFFORT

Legacy of Love

The Five “P’s” of Christian Gift Planning

Prayer

Ask for God’s guidance in putting together a plan that will transfer the blessings entrusted to you to the people you love and the ministries you care about in a way that will bear fruit that will last.

People

Discuss who will be included in your plans — family, heirs, friends and others. Consider any special needs they may have that will be important to your planning.

Property

Record the assets that God has entrusted to your care to determine the size of the estate, how assets will transfer, and understand how laws affect your plan.

Plans

Talk about the plan that God has placed in your heart for your family and the Lord’s work.

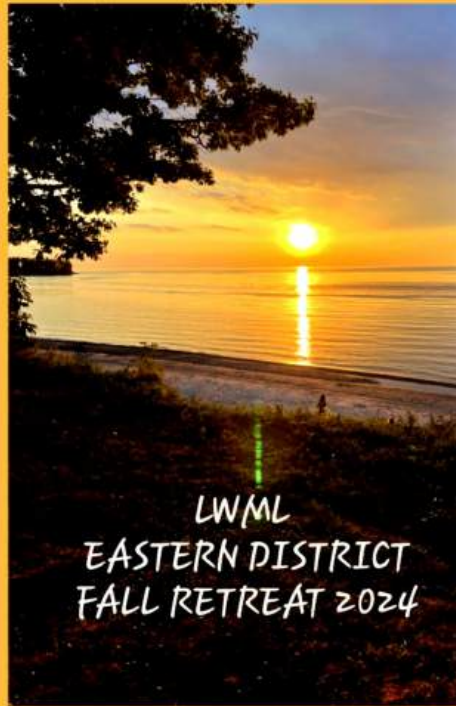
Planners

List those who may assist you to complete your plan, such as an attorney, CPA, and other advisors.

Contact Rebecca Bessell, RLB54@roadrunner.rr.com or 585-415-6368



Speaker Terri Bentley



Friendship Circle



Sessions
Music
Break-Outs



Worship

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

The Buffalo Zone had a very successful picnic at Evangola State Park in August. For our in-gathering we gathered school and art supplies for five (5) of our Lutheran schools in the area. Kathy Fretthold, Director of Education for the LCMS Eastern District was present and shared about our schools and was appreciative of the items that were collected to be delivered to the schools!



We were blessed to have Alexa Wolf, YWR from the Genesee Zone and President Dee Grzyb in attendance. Alexa talked about her experience as a YWR at convention. President Dee spoke about upcoming events in the zones, district and national.



We enjoyed a great devotion by Jackie Blank and time of fellowship as well as great food of course!!

Our next gathering is November 2, 2024 at Trinity West Seneca, where Pastor Knowles and our

Buffalo Zone YWR Margaret Walsh will talk about their mission VBS trip to upper Canada! We will also have elections that day as well.

We continue to meet via zoom to plan our quarterly events, that are well attended.

Sharon Wolff President

FROM KATHY FRETTHOLD, LCMS EASTERN DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



The women of the Buffalo Zone LWML recently gathered at Evangola State Park for Christian fellowship and food in a beautiful setting. These generous women also sponsored an ingathering of school supplies for our Buffalo/Rochester area Lutheran day schools and two pre-schools. So many supplies were donated that five schools got three grocery bags each, stuffed full of supplies, and a filled backpack, too. Two more filled bags and assorted paper and other items were given to the preschools. I had the privilege of sharing information about our Lutheran schools, their workers and their congregations both in the Eastern District and nationally. It is always a joy to raise up our schools and the amazing work that they do in sharing the name of Jesus with so many students and families. Thank you and God bless you, Buffalo Zone LWML!

PITTSBURGH ZONE

There has been lots going on in the Pittsburgh Zone.

Go back with me to last March. Our Zone had a wonderful Zone Rally at the mighty and beautiful Bethel Lutheran Church! They were wonderful hostesses and we had a fabulous in-gathering for ladies at local Pittsburgh Homes just overflowing with toiletries, make up, etc. The ladies had a wonderful and delicious meal and much needed fellowship. A solid and meaningful devotion from our Pastoral Counselor rounded off the Rally!




Move with me later spring time!

I know myself and all from our host convention site loved seeing you at the "Rooted in Christ" convention in JUNE!



It was a blast and I am sure that there was some profound growth from our God for those who attended. There are so many highlights from our convention and I can attest to this; God was there keeping us rooted in him through every detail! We appreciated all the faithful servant convention board/workers; the ladies, pastors, and guest in attendance; and also you the ladies who did not attend and offered up prayers for our convention and mission grants.

Rooted in Christ, BethAnn Salinas



**KEEP US
UPDATED**

We love to see
what your Zone
is doing

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Please remember to share with us the events going on in your Zone. It's great to share ideas and to see how other Zones are "Serving the Lord with Gladness" here in the Eastern District. A short article with one or two pictures is always welcome and our readers love to read about your activities.



Find us on Facebook

Are you following us on Facebook®?

Have you checked it out lately?

Bev Wicher has been added to the account and we are trying to keep it up to date with zone, district and national updates. If you have information to share contact Bev at lwmlink@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Feb/March 2025	EC/BOD Date and Location TBD
June 26–29, 2025	LWML National Convention Omaha, Nebraska
Sept. 19, 2025	EC Mtg. Pioneer on the Lake
Sept. 19-21, 2025	Fall Retreat Pioneer on the Lake
June, 2025	EC—BOD Dates and location TBD
June 12-14, 2025	LWML ED Convention To Be Determined



UPDATE ON FALL RETREAT

What an awesome retreat we had! As we focused on “Hope Abounds” based on Romans 15:13, we had beautiful weather, amazing sunsets, great fellowship, Bible study and worship.

We were blessed as our guest Terri Bentley led us in Bible study based on our Hope in Jesus.

Our ladies collected \$1869 to support Pioneer on the Lake with their purchase of AEDs for camp. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Thanks to the Niagara Zone for an amazing week-end!

**Report of the Financial Secretary—
Rebecca Bessell**

**Report of the Financial Secretary
June 1, 2024 – August 2024**

Mites: \$ 6,950.37

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS GIVEN BY:

In Memory of Betty VanNess
Sharon Wolff

In Memory of Fern Suckow
Rebecca Bessell

In Honor of Christ Memorial Confirmands
Beth Quinn

Legacy of Love – Memorial
Barbara Williams by Beth Quinn
Fern Suckow by Sharon Wolff
Janice Koch by Rebecca Bessell

Legacy of Love – in Honor of Rev. Jeff Nickel & all LWML Counselors
Rebecca Bessell

Legacy of Love – Gift
Sharon Wolff


In Honor of Dorothy Koschmann to Mites
Susan & Jim Bell

Donation to Mites from convention book sales
Heidi Goehmann

Donation to 2024 Convention Mite Walk
Carolyn Loch

LWML SUNDAY

Did your church celebrate LWML Sunday “Ready to Serve” based on Luke 1:38? You can celebrate LWML Sunday anytime. Talk to your pastor and see if he is willing to highlight the work of LWML.



All materials are available in the LWML Shop at <https://lwml.cph.org/lwml-Sunday>

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Next Deadline

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:



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E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is December 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

Please remember to send all LINK related email to the lwmlink@gmail.com address and not to my personal email. Mail can sometimes get lost in my personal email and this will make sure everything gets into the LINK as requested. Thanks **Bev Wicher**



**Lutheran Women's Missionary
League
41st Biennial Convention
Omaha, Nebraska**

Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: Growing in God's Grace



Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

Scripture Verse: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen* (2 Peter 3:18)



FREE printables for worship or Bible study! Scripture Doodles are designed to assist anyone, of any age, to focus on the message and walk away with details of the worship service that can be further studied throughout the week. 9 different templates for taking sermon or Bible study notes can be downloaded from the LWML website under the coloring Scripture tab.

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