



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
80 Years*

LWML

LINK



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent and Christmas will be over when you receive this edition of the LINK. I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior, spending time with family and friends, and sharing what God has given us with others.

We are now in the season of Winter. The peace and beauty at this time of the year offer a unique opportunity for spiritual growth. The season invites quiet introspection, and renewed connection with God even when the outside world may appear desolate and chilly.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Philippians 4:8

In 2025, I had the privilege of being at the LWML Buffalo Zone Fall Event and presented a check for Mission Grant #7 for \$3,550 to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence, NY. This was for their Lunch and Learn Program.

In June of 2025, I brought greetings to the LCMS Eastern District Convention from the LWML Eastern District and managed the LWML Display Table. It was a great opportunity to meet people from the Eastern District and also to share who we are as Lutheran Women In Mission.

It is hard sometimes for me to image that it is now 2026. This will be a busy year for us!

2026 LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION - The Anthracite and Philadelphia Zones are diligently preparing for our LWML Eastern District Convention on June 12-14, 2026, in Lancaster, PA. We will be electing new officers, selecting new mission grants for the next biennium and being with our Sisters in Christ, seeing old friends and making new ones. District conventions are an exciting, rejuvenating, inspiring time, and uplifting time!

I am thrilled to announce that Sharla Fritz will be our Keynote Speaker. Some of you may remember that Sharla was our speaker at the 2021 LWML Retreat.

Reverend John Pingel, President of the LCMS Eastern District will be the Proclaimer on Friday evening.

Our LWML National Representative will be Linda Guterres, the newly elected Vice-President of Communication. I am looking forward to having her with us.

2026 LWML EASTERN DISTRICT RETREAT - The LWML Board of Directors has approved the 2026 LWML Eastern District Retreat to be held on September 18-20, 2026, at Pioneer on the Lake, Angola, NY.

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

President Dee

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
CORNER****Merry Christmas and Blessed Epiphany**

There is one verse in particular that has brought me great comfort this Christmas season—and it may be even more fitting for the season of Epiphany. From 1 Peter 1:

"²⁰[Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

A great deal of Christian preaching and teaching is done to reveal how the plight of our sin and the sting of death and tyranny of the devil are all remedied, removed, and conquered through Jesus Christ. Whether intentional or not, such preaching and teaching can sometimes give us the impression that God is reacting to our actions with a kind of last ditch intervention. The sending and appearance of Jesus can seem like a late in time scramble for God to put back together all the things we had broken.

And yet—one consistent part of the good news of the Gospel (John 17, Eph. 1, Col. 1, 1 Cor. 2, 2 Tim. 1, Titus 1, Rev. 13) is that the hope of eternal life through the wisdom of God in Jesus Christ has been God's decree, plan and intention **from the beginning**. God always was to be Immanuel, God with us, and the grace of God in Jesus appeared in these last times "for you," Peter preaches.

So that the life you now live is lived by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave himself up for you (Gal 2), and the hope that you have is inspired by the Holy Spirit who pours the love of God in Jesus Christ into your heart (Rom 5). That your whole life would be illumined by the knowledge of the glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Co. 4). It is a daily wonder and a profound comfort to know that the voice from the throne in heaven says "Behold the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God himself will be with them as their God" (Rev. 20).

I have enjoyed one full year now, serving as Pastor at two congregations in the Tonawandas, Redeemer in North Tonawanda and Immanuel in Tonawanda. Many things have changed over the course of the 100+ years of each congregation's existence, and things seem to change every day I serve as Pastor.

Through the many and various changes, I count it as a tremendous honor and a marvelous gift to know that each small group Bible study, each gathering for worship, each phone call or letter of encouragement—any congregation of two or more brought together in the name of Jesus, is an occasion to give and receive the encouraging news of the plan God foreknew from the foundation of the world, made manifest even now in Immanuel, God with us! May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, and may each day be given as an opportunity for you to hear and to love hearing that the One foreknown from the beginning has appeared, for you!

Pastor Michael Dobler, LWML Eastern District Junior Counselor

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

Greetings,

One of my favorite Christmas carols is "Joy to the World." It reflects the joy I have in the coming of Christ our Lord. But did you know that Isaac Watts (1674-1748) actually wrote this poem to bring tidings of the second coming of Christ. The coming that we now prepare for. George F. Handel's (1685-1759) tune expresses joy throughout the poem. Isn't it amazing how we can set our hearts on both comings of Christ?

Verse 2 says: "Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy." Do any of these earthly events strike a bell?

What about verse 3? "No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found." Our world is both blessed and cursed and He will come again to make it right.

May we all prepare our hearts for the second coming of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Linda Bahr



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 Grant Chair – Margaret Klees Mission Grant Co-Chair – Barb Gillette

Leader Development Chair – Sharon McGuan Leader Development Co-Chair – Megan Migyanko

Structure Chair – Rebecca Bessell Structure Co-Chair – Alice Pfonner

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

The Nominating Committee for the LWML Eastern District Convention in 2026 has been formed. The members are:

Susan Bell-Chair-Philadelphia Zone

Bev Wicher – Buffalo Zone

Kathy Pavelock – Central NY North Zone

Rebecca Bessell – Genesee Zone

Linda Breight – Pittsburgh Zone

Your Nominating Committee has been busy!

The following people have been nominated and have agreed to be on the ballot in June, 2026!

President: Susan Morris – Philadelphia Zone

VP of Christian Life/Special Focus: Diane Olmstead – Pittsburgh Zone

VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources: Terry Hoffman – Niagara Zone

Treasurer: Cindy Cwyner – Pittsburgh Zone

Rev. Brett Witmer – Pittsburgh Zone

Nominations are not closed. If you are interested in a position, please let members of the Nominating Committee know.

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 7

GRANT 7 PAID—At the Buffalo Zone, Fall Event President Dee presented a check in the amount of \$3,550 to Sue Tichy of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in support of their monthly **Lunch N Learn** program.

GRANT 8 PAID—Susan Bell was pleased to present Grant 8 to Melody Mendoza with **Glorify Performing Arts** recently. Melody said they will use most of the \$2,500 for new costumes and lights to use for their liturgical dance presentation at the 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention in June, 2026. She was so excited to receive the funds now rather than later!



GRANT 8

NEWS FROM THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- Zones, please review your bylaws periodically.
- Send changes to Structure Committee for Review at rlb54@roadrunner.rr.com
- Our contact information is listed below:

Rebecca Bessell – Chair
585-415-6368
rlb54@roadrunner.rr.com

Alice Pfonner – Co-Chair
716-873-9377
alicepfonner@aol.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 COMMITTEE—SHARON MCGUAN & MEGAN MIGYANKO

**Young Women
IN MISSION****LOOKING FOR YOUNG WOMEN REPS FOR THE
UPCOMING CONVENTION**

The Leader Development Committee asks all society members and zone presidents to invite and encourage young women from their congregations to consider to apply to serve as a Young Women's Representative to the 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention, June 14-16, 2026, at the Doubletree Resort by Hilton in Lancaster, PA. YWR's meals, lodging and registration will be paid by the district. Candidates may procure an application and guidelines from LWML Society Presidents, Zone Presidents, or online on the Eastern District website east-dist-lwml.org.

Please note the following timeline.

- All applications need to be submitted to society presidents before **January 15th**.
- Society Presidents, please note item 7 on the application, asking you, or someone in your congregation, to write a statement endorsing your YWR candidate.
- Society Presidents please submit your YWR's application to your Zone President by **February 1st**.
- Zone Presidents and boards, please forward your YWR's name, application, and endorsement letter to Leader Development Chair, Sharon McGuan at salmcg23@gmail.com by **February 28th**.
- Each zone's YWR Candidate will be presented to the LWML ED District Executive Board for approval at the March LWML District BOD meeting.
- Sharon McGuan will contact all YWR's after the March meeting and continue to be their point of contact until convention.

If you have any questions concerning the YWR Program, Please contact Sharon McGuan. Please prayerfully consider inviting the young women of your congregation to consider this exciting way to be introduced to the LWML mission and join us in serving the Lord with gladness at the next Eastern District Convention.

Thank you. Sharon McGuan, Leader Development Chair And Megan Migyanko, Co chair.

**2024-2026 BIENNIAL
MISSION GRANT UPDATE**

We are excited to share the news that GRANT 7 has been paid for \$3,550 requested by the Buffalo Zone to support the monthly Lunch and Learn Program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence, NY. GRANT 8 has been paid for \$2,500 requested by the Philadelphia Zone to purchase sets, costumes and props for Glorify Performing Arts, to provide professional productions to encourage and empower Christians in their walk of faith. We are thankful for your generosity!!!

Our Mission Grant Goal was \$33,898.53 and we still have a remaining balance of \$11,039.53 which does not include our payment to National and any operating expenses that are in our general fund. The 2024-2026 biennium began as of April 1, 2024, and ends March 31, 2026. **Please continue to support our mission grants in this biennium.**

2024-2026 Mission Grants		
A mission goal of \$140,394 was adopted for the 2024-2026 biennium. \$33,989.53 will be provided for grants in support of the following projects for the Eastern District.		
Additional grants will be selected at a later time	Board of Directors	Mission Grant Goal \$33,989.53
Request to replace the gym floor at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Minot, ND campus.	5-\$3,000-	\$27,950
Funds are requested to purchase supplies for 50 Blessing Bags Ministry. St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Hilton, NY	3-\$2,000-	\$24,950
Request to purchase sets, costumes and props for Glorify Performing Arts, West Chester, PA.	6-\$2,000- PAID	\$22,950
Request to support monthly "Lunch and Learn" program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence, NY.	7-\$3,550- PAID	\$20,450
Request for the repair/replacement of the air conditioner unit in the Tiemann Chapel at Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY. \$4,900 requested by LWML Katherine Ippolito, Genesee Zone	6-\$4,900- PAID	\$16,900
Request to cover printing costs for 400 copies of "How Can I Understand?" for Southeast Asian Families (Lutheran Heritage Foundation). Grace Lutheran Church, Hop Bottom, PA.	4-\$3,000- PAID	\$12,000
Request to produce Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, N. Tonawanda, NY	2-\$5,000- PAID	\$10,000
Request to construct a new well for clean water for The Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberal Arts, Philadelphia Zone	1-\$5,000- PAID	\$ 5,000



**LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION
HOSTED BY THE PHILADELPHIA AND
ANTHRACITE ZONES
JUNE 12-14, 2026**

HAPPENINGS AT THE LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION!

Date: June 12-14, 2026

Hosted by Anthracite and Philadelphia Zones

Where: DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel

2400 Willow Street Pike

Lancaster, PA 17602



The Keynote Speaker will be Sharla Fritz

The Servant Event will be filling backpacks with school supplies and making cards for residents of LutherCare

There will be a Mite Walk

There will be a convention choir

The Ingathering will be books, learning materials, non-perishable food items, crayons, colored pencils activity books and toys

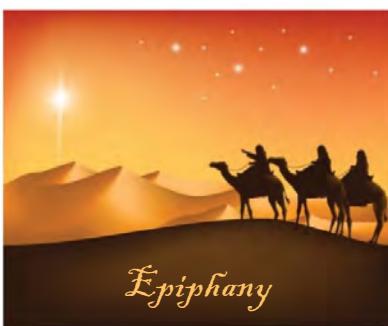


The entertainment will be Glorify Performing Arts, a Christian dance troupe from West Chester, PA!



SEE REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT 2 PAGES

SEE YOU THERE!!



Let's welcome in Epiphany January 6, 2026

Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season - yes, THIS is the 12th day of Christmas and commemorates the Magi's visit to worship the newborn king, Jesus. No one really knows when the Magi really visited Jesus, but they followed the star at night. *"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him"* (Matthew 2:2)

The LWML website has some great Epiphany devotions, and I encourage you to take a look at some of them this Epiphany season.



REGISTRATION FORM

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Eastern District

41st Biennial Convention--June 12-14 2026

DoubleTree Resort by Hilton-Lancaster

2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602

FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS phone 1-717-464-2711

ADVISE THE HOTEL YOU ARE ATTENDING THE LWML CONVENTION

NO LODGING RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Name: _____	LWML Zone: _____
Address: _____	Home Church: _____
City: _____	Church City & Zip: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____	Your Phone (home or cell): _____
Email: _____	

I will be serving as: (please circle all that apply)

Delegate	Alternate Delegate	Clergy	Exhibitor	Choir	Guest
Speaker/Special Guest	Young Woman Representative		Convention Committee		Board of Directors

REGISTRATION (Deadline: APRIL 24, 2026)

\$50.00 NON-REFUNDABLE Registration Fee (required for all registrations, except clergy)

\$60.00 Late Fee (ADDITIONAL fee for all registrations received after APRIL 24, 2026)

No Registrations will be honored after MAY 7, 2026 NO REFUNDS PROVIDED

MEALS & HOSPITALITY	Please note special dietary needs on p. 2.	
	Total due for registration	\$
Friday Dinner Buffet	\$35	\$
Saturday Breakfast	\$20	\$
Saturday Lunch	\$25	\$
Saturday Banquet & Entertainment	\$40	\$
Sunday Breakfast	\$20	\$
	Total due for meals	\$
	Total due for registration and meals	\$
	LESS amount paid by District (YWR/Speaker/Board only)	\$ ()
	GRAND TOTAL DUE	

Make checks payable to: LWML Eastern District Convention

*MAIL completed REGISTRATION FORM and FULL PAYMENT to:

Susan Morris, 3301 Hartford Court, Newtown Square, PA 19073 Phone (215) 514-8678

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERENCE FOR RECEIVING A CONFIRMATION NOTICE: EMAIL OR MAIL

If you select **mail**, please include a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope with your payment & registration.

Registration Chairman only: # Date received: Check(s): Amount:

	REGISTRATION FORM Lutheran Women's Missionary League Eastern District 41st Biennial Convention--June 12-14, 2026 DoubleTree Resort by Hilton-Lancaster 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 17602 FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS phone 1-717-464-2711 NO LODGING RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE		
	ON YOUR OWN LEISURE At the DoubleTree: Indoor pool, fitness center, and golf. See the list of restaurants and shops, as well as interesting sights, museums and tour companies in your packet.		
MITE WALK	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I would like to participate in the Mite Walk. (Details about the Mite Walk will be included with your registration confirmation.)		
SERVANT EVENTS	Both events are for LutherCare		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Filling backpacks w/school supplies		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Making cards for residents of LutherCare		
CHOIR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I would like to sing in the choir on Friday. I sing: <input type="checkbox"/> SOPRANO <input type="checkbox"/> ALTO		
SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS (Select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Session I National LWML Representative		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Session II Sharla Fritz (further details to come)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Session III Bev Wicher, Visual Faith Practices		
PASTORS' EVENT (for Pastors only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastors' Event to be led by Pastoral Counselor		
SPECIAL NEEDS	We would like you to be as comfortable as possible during your convention experience and hotel stay. Please indicate below any special needs by selecting the appropriate category:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical Condition(s) the convention committee should be aware of:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dietary Needs (such as food allergy, vegetarian, etc.). Specify:			
Interpreter needed for: <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impaired <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
OTHER:			
TRANSPORTATION	If you require transportation between an airport, train, or bus station and the convention, please indicate below your ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE information. Transportation details will be sent to you.		
AIRLINE INFORMATION		BUS / TRAIN INFORMATION	
Airport:		Station:	
Airline:	Departure Date:	Bus Company/Train Company:	
Arrival Date:	Airline:	Arrival Date:	Departure Date:
Flight Number:	Flight Number:	Bus/Train #:	Bus/Train #:
Arrival Time:	Departure Time:	Arrival Time:	Departure Time:
PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE			
Photographs will be taken by our convention photographer throughout the convention. I hereby give the LWML Eastern District the absolute right and permission to use my photographed likeness/image in its future publications. I understand that the photograph(s) may be used in publications, direct-mail pieces, or electronic media (e.g., video, CD-ROM, internet/WWW). I release the LWML, LWML Eastern District, the photographer, their offices, employees, agents, volunteers, and designees from liability for and violation of personal or proprietary rights I may hold in connection with such use.			
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> Signature		<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> Date	
DISCLAIMER			
I agree for (myself, heirs and personal representatives) not to sue, and I release, indemnify and hold harmless, LWML, LWML Eastern District, volunteers and designees from all liability, claims, demands and causes of action of any kind due to travel to and from Convention even if the liability, claim, demand or cause of action result from negligence of any of the above or from any other cause.			
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> Signature		<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> Date	



Save the Date LWML EASTERN DISTRICT FALL RETREAT

The CNYS Zone would like to invite you to the annual RETREAT

September 18-20, 2026

Pioneer on the Lake, Angola, NY

Theme: "My Trust is in the Lord"

Bible Verse: Psalm 56:3

Watch for updates



TIME FOR A CHANGE

Bev Wicher, Editor



In the fall of 2006, I took over the LWML LINK newsletter from Barb Williams, and now after 20 years, for several reasons I have decided it is time to step down and let someone new take over. It's time for you all to think about your gifts and talents and pray about if this might be something you are gifted for and interested in pursuing. This is an appointed position so it will be up to the next president to appoint someone, but if this is something you are interested and qualified for, I would encourage you to let President Dee know so that she can pass some possible names onto the next president.

I've worked in Microsoft Publisher the entire time which will be retired in October of 2026, which means only pdf files will be able to be passed on. The person who takes over this position can use whatever publishing program you are comfortable with.

Following is a summary of the duties of the editor; you can get a detailed job description from the president:

- The editor needs to be willing to communicate via email and needs to be able to establish and enforce deadlines and work with pictures, be able to create or find graphics to enhance articles and work with layout.
- Most articles are written and the editor just needs to edit and arrange layout.
- There are some articles that need to be written by the editor.
- The LINK is now sent out only by e-mail so there no longer is any printing or mailing that needs to be done.
- The editor is expected to be at all events to take pictures (I just used my phone) or have someone there to represent them and take pictures to be put in the LINK.
- The editor is a member of the EC and BOD and needs to attend all meetings.
- The editor also needs to keep up to date with the National website so you can keep the district up to date on national news.

Please pray over this and let Dee know as soon as possible if you would like to be considered for this position. Feel free to contact Bev Wicher with any questions as well.

LEGACY OF LOVE LWML EASTERN DISTRICT ENDOWMENT

The Legacy of Love Endowment was established to promote, encourage, receive, and manage special gifts for the benefit of the mission and ministry of the LWML Eastern District. This endowment will support a primary focus for mission and ministry in the following three areas.

***Scholarships** for LWML members to attend LWML National and LWML District events and conventions.

***Leadership Development** for LWML members to attend District and National training.

***Undesignated/Unrestricted** which will provide financial assistance to support the ministries of the LWML Eastern District.

Many individuals both past and present see the purpose and plan for the future needs of the women of the LWML Eastern District by leaving financial gifts in honor or memory of someone or group. We truly thank God for all these faithful individuals who share the love of the LWML. May we continue to be reminded of the need for future planning.

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.

All gifts are sent to the Eastern District Financial Secretary, Beth Scholl.

There are so many ways to do this. If you would like more information or have questions please contact me, Legacy of Love Endowment Chairman, [Rebecca Bessell, rlb54@rochester.rr.com](mailto:rebecca.bessell@rochester.rr.com), 585-415-6368

MINISTRY FOCUS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS



The Lord gives us so many gifts and talents that He calls us to use to serve others. He gives us His gifts of faith and His Holy Spirit to work through us in His Divine Direction to be lights and reflections of Him. Those who are serving in the Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry do just this. They humbly serve Him, reflecting His compassion in sharing the Word of God with those who are blind and visually impaired, providing the Bible and other Christian resources for free to them so they can be strengthened by His Word.

Do you know how the Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry began? When there became a shortage of Bibles printed in braille for Pastors who were blind in 1943 in Germany, Helene Khoeler seeing the deep need felt called to learn Braille herself. Over several months, her family and others in the church worked together to transcribe the Bible in German in braille, which began at her own house. It then expanded to larger spaces such as her church as more of the Bible was written. After this was finished and delivered, she received more requests and this ministry only grew by the Lord's direction from here to create more and write it in different languages (in Braille and in large print). Helene's brother created a Braille Press, which helped speed up the production of them.

It was a privilege to speak with Terry Hoffman about this ministry at St. Mark's where they have a large print production ministry. Twenty volunteers of all ages (17-93) meet six times a month on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as two Saturdays a month, as they prepare five sets of Bibles each month. They have blessed those in need locally as well as nationally (in Nigeria and Canada) as LBW in California sends them addresses of people who requested them on their website. Once their Bible is prepared, they pack and seal it to send to the recipient. Terry Hoffman shared when a Bible is finished to be sent to a recipient, their pastor prays a blessing with them over it that one receiving it is enlightened and can grow in His Word. She is happy to speak with anyone interested in this too.

Terry also said, "Volunteers feel excited and humbled to do this" as they extend God's Word to those receiving these. In prayer, we can lift them up by praying that they continue to all be healthy and do this for God's glory. As they do not charge those receiving large print Bibles printed in braille or large print, they do accept donations to offset costs as it is \$10,000.00 a year for all of the supplies and packaging involved. May God continue to bless all who partake in this ministry as they partake in helping the Lord's Word stay accessible to all in need.

Here is the National LBW's fall newsletter link that provides several ways in how the Lord touches those and how He is using LBW to be a blessing to others.

<https://www.lbworksw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/IlluminationsFall2025.pdf>

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

The Buffalo Zone held their fall event November 4th at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Clarence, NY. There were 27 people from 10 churches who attended. We were excited to install our new Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Christopher Browne, followed by elections of officers. Sharon Wolff was elected as President and Darlene Hinz was elected as Treasurer. Pastor Browne lead a small devotion, and then installed the new officers, and the returning officers. Following, Sharon Wolff led a devotion, then we heard from our guest speakers, Isabel Dettmer and Ruth Wurster, who were delegates at the National convention in Omaha this past summer.

Dee Grzyb also spoke and updated us about Mites and Mission Grants and the progress that has been made. There is still work to be done to get all the grants paid. She shared several ideas of ways societies and churches could be collecting more Mites. She also spoke about the upcoming District convention, June 12-15, 2026, in Lancaster, PA and the upcoming Fall Retreat at Pioneer on Lake Sept. 18-20, 2026.

During our meeting, we were able to present a check to pay Grant #7 for \$3,550 to Sue Tichy for the lunch and learn program at Holy Cross in Clarence.

For our ingathering, we collected gloves and hats to be donated to the Brunswick Block Club sponsored by Lutheran Church of Our Savior. Pastor Browne did a Blessing over all the gloves and Hats donated.

Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone President

GENESEE ZONE

Genesee Zone Spring 2026 Gathering Save the Date!

The Genesee Zone Spring meeting will be on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 320 S Pearl St, Canandaigua, NY. The program starts at 9:30 am with Registration. Planned activities include Bible Study with Genesee Zone Counselor Pastor Steve Geske, LWML and Genesee Zone updates, information about Good Shepherd's summer camp program, ingathering of supplies for the camp, and a craft activity. More details and a flyer will be sent!

Registration of \$5 at the door, includes lunch. Interpreter and childcare provided upon request. Contact Kathy Ippolito at kippolito.ki@gmail.com or 585-315-1651 with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Kathy Ippolita, Genesee Zone President

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL, HILTON

The St. Paul, Hilton ladies have been very busy this fall.



St. Paul, Hilton packed 100 school kits to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Also there is a display of their Blessing Bag Ministry.

St. Paul ladies recently held a Cookie and Candy Sale. They raised \$1200 for Spirit NYS an organization that helps local homeless students graduate.

Rebecca Bessell, St. Paul, Hilton



PITTSBURGH ZONE



The Pittsburgh Zone held its Fall Zone Rally on October 11th. Pittsburgh Zone President Linda Breight gave a presentation on her most recent mission trip to Ethiopia with Compassion International. While dressed in traditional Ethiopian clothing, she discussed her travels throughout the country. She also showed a slideshow of the schools she visited, the children she met, the coffee ceremonies she attended, and the people associated with Compassion International. She had a table of souvenirs for the Zone to admire, and she introduced us all to Kolo, which is a popular Ethiopian snack made of roasted grains like barley as well as chickpeas, peanuts, and spices.



That day, three new members of our Zone Board were installed. Shirley Freyer was installed as our new First Vice President, Ruth Miller was installed as our new Treasurer, and Rev. Kenneth Spence was installed as our new Pastoral Counselor.

We welcome each of them and pray that God would bless their work in the Pittsburgh Zone.

Tevia Grimenstein, Pittsburgh Zone

PHILADELPHIA ZONE

LWML COMBINED FALL RALLY PHILADELPHIA ZONE EASTERN AND ENGLISH DISTRICTS



On Saturday, November 1st, 32 women and men gathered to enjoy a day of inspiration and fellowship. The Joint

Rally was graciously hosted by Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA. The theme was "We will not leave you homeless", *Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless* (Isaiah 58:7a NLT). Our speaker, Tyrone Williams, from Bridge of Hope, Chester County gave an enlightening talk about homelessness in our area. Bridge of Hope, Chester County serves families, primarily single mothers and their children, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Families they partner with benefit from a network of Christian faith volunteers, rental assistance, and intensive case management as they work to achieve long term stability. Bridge of Hope started in a church basement in Coatesville, Chester County, PA in 1987 and now has 7 locations in PA as well as locations in another 11 states.



Pastor Carl Emberger led devotions and Carmen Davis, from Holy Cross, Eastern District first time attendee scholarship recipient, shared her experience from the LWML National Convention in Omaha, NE. She thoroughly enjoyed the convention, found it very inspirational and is passionate about continuing to be involved with LWML in the future.



After lunch and fellowship, our activity was putting together prayer cards and decorations for the LWML Eastern District 2026 Convention.

Susanne Ferro, Philadelphia Zone

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 13-14, 2026	EC/BOD Doubletree, Lancaster PA
June 2026	EC/BOD Dates and location TBD
June 12-14, 2026	LWML ED Convention DoubleTree Resort Lancaster, PA
Sept. 18-20, 2026	LWML ED Retreat Pioneer on the Lake
July 8-11, 2027	LWML 42nd Biennial Convention Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Report of the Financial Secretary—Beth Scholl

NO REPORT RECEIVED



Do You Have News to Share?

Post your news and activities on our Facebook page Eastern District LWML and share news and pictures with the Editor for the LINK. We know great things are going on in our district.

Check the websites often

Check out the LWML website often lwml.org for the latest news, devotions, and resources from LWML. Also don't forget to check our district website lwml-east-dist-lwml.org for the most up to date information on district events

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 VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION —SUSAN MORRIS

As I write this, we are preparing our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' birth! I find that preparing my heart is the easy part - but everything else, not so much. My focus is constantly taken away from the preparation (Advent), the celebration (Christmas, Epiphany), the repentance (Lent) and the joy (Easter) that I sometimes miss out on what's more important. My hope and prayer is that I/we can correct my/our "astigmatism" and turn toward what is most important -

JESUS!



**Focus
On
Jesus**

REMINDERS!

Please send in any Directory changes that you may have to ED_VPComm@gmail.com

Monies for quarterly orders that will be due late March are to be paid when the order is made. Send your orders into your ZONE Treasurers **no later than March 27, 2026**

**2026 PRAYER SERVICE
NOW AVAILABLE**

**P.R.A.Y.E.R. — PRAISE, REMEMBER, ASK,
YIELD, EXCITEMENT, REJOICE**

The 2026 LWML Prayer Service, based on the acronym P.R.A.Y.E.R. — Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice — is a classic, yet updated, service from over a decade ago.

Rev. Henke wrote that the service "prompts the participants to remember that God does not speak to His children in prayer. Rather, His children speak to Him, assured that He readily speaks to them in His Word and in the Sacraments, as the Holy Spirit gives His divine counsel through very clear direction or, sometimes, His 'nudging.'"



Did you see in the latest Winter Edition of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly there was an article written by Beth Quinn from the Philadelphia Zone? Her article entitled "New Campus New Ministry" tells about her new ministry teaching in the local prison. Check it out, it's on page 7 of the Quarterly.

Beth, as you probably know, is the daughter of former LWML Eastern District President, Dorothy Koschmann and has held several positions in the district and in her zone.



Executive Committee**President**

Dee Grzyb, 56 Hanover St., Lancaster NY 14086
716-393-3670 lwmled8_cm@aol.com

Vice President of Communication

Susan Morris, 3301 Hartford Ct., Newtown Square, PA 19073
215-514-8678 ED.VPComm@gmail.com or
[morisssusan6@gmail.com](mailto:morrisssusan6@gmail.com)

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources

Susan Bell, 814 Dover Court Place, Downingtown, PA 19335
610-937-1483 sbell_7238@comcast.net

Vice President of Christian Life/Special Focus

Linda Bahr, 7638 Gifford Road, Rome, NY 13440
315-339-1979 linda@gbahr.com

Recording Secretary

Terry Hoffman, 4181 Church Road, Lockport NY 14094
716-201-1080 terryhoffman1979@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Beth Scholl, 912 Birch Lane, PO Box 459, Sylvan Beach, NY 13157
315-264-2591 gbds2000@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Cynthia (Cindy) Cwynar, 104 Mowry Rd, Monaca, PA 15061
630-453-4847 cindycwynar@gmail.com

Senior Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Carl Emberger, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, 89 Line Road Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355 (610) 644-4508 (church)
610-350-7104 (cell), carlemburger@gmail.com

Junior Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Michael Dobler, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 107 Scott Street Tonawanda, NY 14150 716-692-6200 rev.michael.dobler@gmail.com

Appointed By the President**Parliamentarian**

Anita Getty, 318 North Rd., Middlebury, PA 16935
570-376-2143 amgemt@ptd.net

Planner

Teri Devan, 10 Homestead Ct., Clinton, NY 13323
315-734-1372 Flagdayld@aol.com

Appointed By the Executive Committee**Editor**

Bev Wicher, 19 Vernon Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-913-4140 lwmllink@gmail.com

Public Relations Director

Kathy Pavelock, 8200 State Route 13, Blossvale, NY 13308
315-245-1590 KMPavelock@aol.com

Archivist/Historian

Chris Gasslein, 112 Stillwagon Lane, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-6093 gasslein@comcast.net

Legacy of Love Coordinator

Rebecca Bessell, 7048 Benedict Beach, Hamlin, NY 14464
585-415-6368 rb54@rochester.rr.com

Stamps for Missions Coordinator

Karen Blackmon, 2228 Blakely Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052
716-712-7671 appleleafa@aol.com

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

Sue Beltran, P.O.Box 736, Lake Pleasant NY 12108
315-224-9544 beltrusan@yahoo.com

Christian Life Chair Co-Chair

Vacant

Special Focus Chair

Diane Olmstead, 1223 Complanter Rd., Cabot, PA 16023
724-991-2344 dolmsteadcu@gmail.com

Special Focus Co-Chair

Alexa Wolf, 17192 Roosevelt Hwy, Kendall, NY 14476
585-629-8296 alexawolf@stpaulhilton.org

Mission Grants Chair

Margaret Kees, 424 Pratt Road, Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-877-2168 margaretkees@gmail.com

Mission Grants Co-Chair

Barb Gillette, 107 Iseman Rd, Freeport, PA 16229
(724) 244-3585 Scheduler_blg@yahoo.com

Structure Chair

Rebecca Bessell, 7048 Benedict Beach, Hamlin, NY 14464
585-415-6368 rb54@rochester.rr.com

Structure Co-Chair

Alice Pfonner 136 Hamilton Blvd, Kenmore, NY 14217
716-873-9377 alicepfonner@aol.com

Leader Development Chair

Sharon McGuan, 77 Dorchester Rd., Buffalo, NY 14222
716-803-3767 salmcg23@gmail.com

Leader Development Co-Chair

Megan Migyanko, 77 Courtney St., Emsworth, PA 15202
412 518 2051, proverbs31meg@yahoo.com

2026 District Convention Liaison

Rebecca Bessell, 7048 Benedict Beach, Hamlin, NY 14464
585-415-6368 rb54@rochester.rr.com

Webmaster

Kathy Pavelock, 8200 State Route 13, Blossvale, NY 13308
315-245-1590 kmpavelock@aol.com

Zone Presidents**Anthracite Zone**

Margaret Kees, 424 Pratt Road, Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-877-2168 margaretkees@gmail.com

Buffalo Zone

Sharon Wolff, 9926 Francis Rd., Batavia, NY 14020
585-516-5544 swolff3@rochester.rr.com

Central New York North Zone

Linda Bahr, 7638 Gifford Road, Rome, NY 13440
315-339-1979 linda@gbahr.com

Central New York South Zone

Anita Getty, 318 North Rd., Middlebury, PA 16935
570-376-2143 amgemt@ptd.net

Genesee Zone

Kathy Ippolito 45 Schoolhouse Rd., Rochester, NY 14618
585-315-1651 kippolito.ki@gmail.com

Niagara Zone

Co-Presidents
Alice Pfonner 136 Hamilton Blvd, Kenmore, NY 14217
716-873-9377 alicepfonner@aol.com
Marge Stoeling, 7426 Shawnee Rd, N. Tonawanda NY 14120
716-449-1688 mesandmds@yahoo.com

Philadelphia Zone

Susanne Ferro 2551 Veronica Dr. Chester Springs PA 19425
919-452-0602 Susanneferro@comcast.net

Pittsburgh Zone

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



Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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

E-mail: lwmllink@gmail.com

The next deadline is March 1, 2026

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 lwmllink@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