



LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
80 Years*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year 2025! May the New Year bring you joy, peace, and abundant blessings. Let's reflect on the last year with appreciation and look forward to new beginnings. ***See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*** (Isaiah 43:19).



The LWML 41st National Convention will be held June 26-29, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska, under theme "Growing in God's Grace". We have the opportunity to send up to 10 delegates, several Young Women Representatives and our Junior Pastoral Counselor, Reverend Michael Dobler. Have you received your Winter 2024 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly? In there is the information and registration materials needed for attending this event. In late January I will be attending the Presidents Assembly in Omaha, Nebraska, at the convention site and I'm sure I will have a lot more information to pass on to you.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT ZONE BOARD:

I am happy to announce two appointments to the Board of Directors:

Rebecca Bessell as Structure Chair - Rebecca is from the Genesee Zone and is the present Legacy of Love Coordinator and has been a past President of the District.

Megan Migyanko as Co-Chair of Leader Development - Megan is from the Pittsburgh Zone and was one of the YWR's to the 2024 Eastern District Convention.

Please pray for: the LWML Eastern District – as a whole and the board of directors; the Presidents' Assembly January 23-25, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska; and the National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025.

Thank you.

Blessings,

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 C O R N E R

GOD'S PERFECT GIFT-CELESTE CUMMINS-Published by LWML 2017

Due to the busyness of the holiday we did not receive a Counselor's article, below is a devotion taken from LWML website

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8).

At this time of the year, our minds can focus on the brightly colored packages with shiny bows tucked neatly underneath the Christmas tree. We wonder, "What is in those packages that we see?" Regardless of our age, we all enjoy receiving Christmas gifts.

What is the best Christmas gift you have ever received? The best gift I was thinking of was not wrapped and waiting for me under the Christmas tree, but it was a Christmas gift, of sorts. My gift came a little before Christmas when my first child, a daughter, was born on December 2.

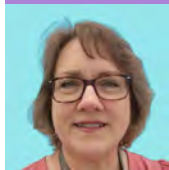
Even though my daughter was a wonderful gift, she was not the perfect gift. There is one gift that fits all sizes, all ages, all nationalities, all races. It is a gift we can all share. Once you have discovered this gift, you will not want to return it. That is why it is the perfect gift for everyone. My baby was not this perfect gift, but another baby was. That baby, that perfect gift, is Jesus.

Many do not think they need the gift of Jesus. Many ask, "At Christmas, why do we need to talk about a baby who was born over 2,000 years ago?" Romans 3:23-24 answers that question. That passage states, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Our sins separate us from God. To save us from the eternal death our sins cause, God sent Jesus, the perfect gift, to redeem us through His death and resurrection. Jesus has bought us back and made us righteous (perfect and sinless) before God, so that God now views us as justified. That means God declares us innocent and sees us just as if we have never sinned. How does Jesus do this? It is only through grace, which is undeserved love. This is the essence of this perfect gift. It is something we do not deserve, but is freely given to us by our loving heavenly Father!

I had thought waiting almost nine years for my daughter was a long time, but people waited, and waited, and waited for many centuries for Jesus, the perfect gift, to arrive. Today some are still waiting to hear of Jesus. The work of the LWML is so important to all those people still waiting in darkness. The LWML produces Christ-centered materials we can use to share the Good News of Jesus. The LWML raises funds to support missionaries throughout the world. The Holy Spirit works through the Word we and those missionaries share so that those sitting in darkness will be able to join Jesus, the perfect gift, for eternity in heaven. At Christmastime, we celebrate when this perfect gift came to earth. Jesus is our gift. He is the perfect gift for everyone

Prayer: Lord Jesus, at Christmastime and always, help us to proclaim to all the world that You are the perfect gift. May the Holy Spirit work through Your Word of truth that we and missionaries proclaim so that those in darkness may come to know You as their Lord and Savior. In Your name we pray. Amen.

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION—SUSAN MORRIS



It's hard to believe that another year has ended and new one is beginning! I can't say that time flies all the time, but it does seem to at the busiest times (or when I'm not looking). At Christ Memorial here in Malvern, PA, we been studied as a congregation "Red Letter Advent" with 25 days of unboxing the HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE of Advent. Pastor's message each week had been based on these four gifts. My prayer for each of us is that we have these gifts and can share these gifts with others.



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 28, 2025.**

Sue Morris
VP Communications
(215) 514-8678

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 – Rebecca Bessell

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



I compiled the results of the Retreat Evaluations. Most people really enjoyed their time at Pioneer on the Lake this year!

There will be a new Time and Talent Sheet at Retreat – I sent them to President Dee to help her fill the co-chair positions.

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



Praise God! Grant 1 has been paid! Susan Bell, VP of Gospel Outreach and Beth Quinn, former Philadelphia Zone President on behalf of The LWML Eastern District presented Olivia Sarnor and Olive Massaquoi, BEE Liberia, a check for \$5,000 to dig a well at the Olivia S. Washington School in Liberia on Sunday November 17, 2024, at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA. This is the first mission grant paid for the LWML Eastern District 2024-2026 biennium. Olivia left November 21, 2024, for a multiple month visit to the school and plans to have the well dug while she is there. Pictured from left to right: Olive Massaquoi, BEE

Liberia Director and Olivia's daughter, Olivia Sarnor, Susan Bell, LWML District VP of Gospel Outreach, and Beth Quinn, former Philadelphia Zone President. Our Mighty Mites at work!



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.

GIVE GENEROUSLY TO MITES SO THAT WE CAN PAY OUR GRANTS IN A TIMELY MANNER

Serve the Lord With Gladness

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**From the Leader Development Committee****Sharon McGuan** - Chair**Megan Migyanko** - Co Chair

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Our committee has three items to share with you this quarter:

*** WELCOME MEGAN!**

I am excited to introduce our new Leader Development Co Chair, Megan Migyanko. Many of you know Megan through her involvement with the Pittsburgh Zone. Others may remember her as one of our talented and faith filled Young Women Representatives to the 2024 District Convention. Megan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville, PA. She is a social worker at a rehabilitation facility who has found her purpose assisting families in difficult circumstances. Megan is a wife and mother. She enjoys playing in her church's bell choir and teaching Sunday school. For Megan, leadership begins when we prayerfully put Christ in the center of all we do. To contact Megan with leadership ideas, find her contact information on page 11 of this LINK.

*** FINAL CALL FOR NATIONAL YWR APPLICATIONS!**

If you are a young woman between the ages of 22 and 35 years of age, who is a member of the LCMS, has not previously attended a national convention, and would like to submit an application to attend the 2025 National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, please contact your zone president immediately. Application deadline is fast approaching. Two YWR's will be selected by the district to represent the LWML Eastern District by the end of January.

*** CHECK OUT LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION FOCUS ON JESUS!**

For Christ Centered Leadership Ideas For You and your Society - Log on to LWML.org; tap the menu bars; click on Service; then tap the Leader Development line. Now scroll down to Featured New Resources. The first resource listed is "Lutheran Women In Mission FOCUS on Jesus", click that and you will find many leadership ideas to ponder alone, or discuss with your group. Categories FOCUS on

- * Who We Are
- * How We Equip
- * Why We Go
- * We Proclaim Christ Near and Far
- * How We Help

We pray FOCUSing on Christ centered leadership will help you grow in faith and love for one another.

May God bless you in 2025! Sharon McGuan



WE NEED YOU!
BOARD POSITIONS TO BE FILLED



There are several Co-chair positions open.

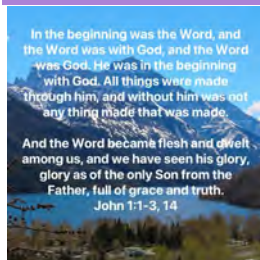
Christian Life Co-chair – to work with Sue Beltran, Chair

Mission Grants Co-chair – work with Meg Klees, Chair

Structure Co-chair – to work with Rebecca Bessel Chair

If interested, please contact Dee Grzyb, 716-901-4167 (cell), 716-393-3670, de_grzyb@msn.com for further information.

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made... The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."
 John 1:1-3, 14

God chose to be one of us. How amazing!

As we ponder John's words may God bring blessings to us all through this New Year.

Linda Bahr

VP of Christian Life/Special Focus

**(THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE SHOULD HAVE APPEARED IN THE FALL ISSUE
 MY APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY)**

On July 16, 2024, a tornado ripped through the downtown of the City of Rome, NY, and moved east causing massive damage to buildings, homes, trees, electrical wires and poles. We were stunned by the damage. We rarely, if ever, get tornado warnings much less an actual tornado. Many people were without power, some for days. My husband and I were spared damage as we live west of the city. Other family households were also spared. Many stores and businesses were directly hit. Two of our historic churches lost their steeples which crashed onto their roofs crushing the interior of the sanctuaries. St. Mary's Catholic Church was demolished and will be taken down. First Presbyterian Church was badly damaged but has been ruled as rebuildable. No-one was injured or killed. We were astounded by how quickly workers came from all over the state and other states to help with the power and cleanup after the storm. The Community of Schools and the Red Cross, among others, were out the next morning with breakfast and supplies for those who were left homeless. I imagine many folks felt hopeless as they toured the city and saw the destruction.

Our Retreat theme of "Abound in Hope" paves the way for so many who feel hopeless. May we pray for all those who have suffered from storms, disease and other maladies. We pray the words of verses taken from Psalm 42, an anthem of hope:

"As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for You, O God.

Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled?

I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise Him."

Taken from Psalm 42: 1, 2, & 5.

SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



New Year's greetings from Diane Olmstead and Alexa Wolf! We are both educators in LCMS Schools and this year the theme is ENDURE based on Hebrews 12:1-3, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."*

I believe these verses also resonate with one of our committee's tasks, to encourage zones/societies to plan servant events in their area. We are blessed with many LWML sisters who serve the Lord with gladness and reach out to others to share His love with those in need. Many may be looking for a new way to meet the needs of God's people. We would like to know more about your plans for service projects or unique in-gatherings in the upcoming year so that we can ENDURE as we run this race together.

Another resource for a new way to reach out with Christ's love in service to people in need would be suggestions or financial assistance possibilities provided by Thrivent Action Team grants. Get more information here

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams>.

Diane Olmstead and Alexa Wolf—Special Focus Committee

Legacy of Love Endowment

The Legacy of Love Endowment was established approximately 10 years ago. The purpose is 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.

- A. Scholarship Assistance
- B. Leadership Development
- C. Other Ministry Areas

Our dear sister in Christ, Barbara Williams, saw the purpose and plan for the future needs of her fellow women of the LWML Eastern District by leaving us a generous gift in her will. We truly thank God for Barbara in so many ways which include this reminder of her love for our organization. May we continue to be reminded of her planning and legacy by her gift.

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.

For more information on the Legacy of Love Endowment Fund please contact Rebecca Bessell, RLB54@roadrunner.rr.com or 585-415-6368



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)

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2025

Convention Information and Registration: You can find out all the details about the 2025 Convention, in the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Winter 2024 insert.

Or at this link: [2025 Convention Information and Registration PDF](#)

SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 12-14
2026

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE ANTHRACITE AND PHILADELPHIA ZONES



DoubleTree Resort
by Hilton Hotel Lancaster
In beautiful Lancaster, PA

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE



Wow we have been a busy group. We had our Fall event at Trinity West Seneca with 30+ women and men attending. Pastor Knowles, his son and Margaret Walsh were our guest speakers. They talked about their individual experiences in going up north to do VBS with some indigenous people and children. We colored cards for those on the weekly Eastern District Prayer list and sent them out and have

enough to do perhaps 2 or 3 mailings again. We also gathered many items for the local food pantries as well.

President Sharon Wolff has been working hard to connect to the churches from the former Cattaraugus/Allegheny Zone. She traveled to Erie PA, to connect with the sister churches there and was well received and our summer event will most likely be held in that area. She spoke about mites, delegate funds, and grants. They have a grant written and are waiting for the new grant paperwork!

President Sharon has sent witness bracelets to those churches that we have not been able to visit along with more Lutheran Women in Mission informational pamphlets. The churches in Silver Creek, and Angola met for an ornament exchange Dec 8th. The event was rescheduled from December 1st so Gowanda and Fredonia women could attend. Trinity Silver Creek will host our spring event on May 3rd.



Our goal is to remain connected closely with all the churches and congregations in the entire Buffalo Zone. We are making great strides in doing just that along with promoting Lutheran Women in Mission, mites, and grants and all that the mission work accomplishes. President Sharon continues

to encourage our churches and women's groups to send her those events that they are having with pictures as well, so that they can be shared and posted to our Facebook page and in the LINK.

We pray that you all had a blessed Advent and Christmas season, and we wish you all a very Happy and joy filled New Year!

Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone

Central NY North

LWML Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica, NY



This fall we celebrated LWML Sunday. The LWML Sunday supplies on lwml.org were very helpful. We used the special service, and I used the talking points to tell the congregation about LWML and invite them to fill

mite boxes and be involved with our activities. After I spoke, our society performed a skit about mites. We also provided refreshments after the service, which included cookies I made using the LWML logo cookie cutter I just bought! It was a great event. It's never too late to celebrate LWML Sunday at your church.

Allison Young, Society President, Trinity Lutheran Church



PHILADELPHIA ZONE

MISSION GRANT 1 PAID

As shared in the Mission Grant article a check for \$5,000 was presented to Olivia Sarnor and Olive Massaquoi, BEE Liberia, to dig a well at the Olivia S. Washington School in Liberia. The check was presented at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA.

LWML COMBINED FALL RALLY PHILADELPHIA ZONE EASTERN AND ENGLISH DISTRICTS:



On Saturday, November 2, 39 women and men gathered to enjoy a day of worship and fellowship as well as a delicious luncheon. The English District graciously hosted at Bethany Lutheran Church in Ewing, NJ. The theme was "A Path of Hope", I

was sick and you looked after me (Matthew 25:36). The ingathering and activities were for Phil's Friends, a non-profit organization that sends care packages and Cards of Hope to cancer patients around the US. We learned more about Phil's Friends via a zoom call from one of their representatives and then colored Cards of Hope and made Fleece Blankets. If you want to support or get more info about Phil's Friends, or would like to request a care package to be sent to a cancer patient, visit their website: Philsfriends.org.

Susanne Ferro, Philadelphia Zone

GENESEE ZONE

THE GENESEE ZONE SPRING EVENT will be Saturday, March 29, 2025, from 9am-2pm at Pinnacle Lutheran Church, 250 Pinnacle Rd., Rochester, NY, 14623.

The theme is "New Beginnings"

There is a \$5.00 Registration Fee with lunch provided. More details will be shared. Please Save The Date and share with others. RSVP to Kathy Ippolito at 585-315-1651



ALPHA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE DEAF celebrated their 100-year Anniversary on December 8, at Pinnacle Lutheran Church in Henrietta, NY, with a shared worship service with both congregations and guests. Pastor John Rushton, Pastor of Alpha and Vicar

Al Boezi, Vicar of Pinnacle Lutheran Church officiated. Pastor Rushton's sermon was titled "Can Deaf Hear the Gospel?" Mark 7:32-37. There was special piano music, Christmas music (Come on, Ring those Bells) and music from the Lehigh Station Bones (trombones).

Alpha's mission is to lead deaf people to salvation in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through a language and through lives which their eyes can "hear". (Their eyes are their ears, and their hands are their mouths.) After the service, Alpha shared their history and the two congregations shared a delicious lunch and fellowship. Alpha has had their worship services, Bible Studies, and fellowship at Pinnacle since 2015 after selling their church on South Clinton Ave in Rochester, NY.



Kathy Ippolito, Genesee Zone



Eastern District LWML Retreat 2025!

The Genesee Zone has started planning the 2025 LWML Retreat. We had the first Committee meeting on November 2, 2024, with eleven ladies in attendance.

The retreat will be **September 19-21, 2025**. The theme is **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** from John 15:14-15: *You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.*

Our next Zoom Retreat Meeting is planned for January 18, 2025. Look for updates and more details in future LINK newsletters.

Kathy Ippolito
Retreat Committee Chair

GENESEE ZONE JOINT MISSION PROJECT



On October 12, 100+ Hygiene Bags for the House of Mercy and the homeless of the City of Rochester were packed during a fun packing party held at Pinnacle Lutheran Church. This was the culmination of a joint project between Pinnacle Lutheran Church in Henrietta, NY, and St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mendon, NY, that was 4 months in the making.

The House of Mercy is a shelter for the homeless in Rochester, NY. They provide 3 meals per day, beds for up to 76 guests, and additional accommodations during times of "code blue". They work to help their guests find more permanent housing if needed and provide other social service support.

The project stemmed from an idea from Vicar Al Boezi of Pinnacle when he wanted to do a sandwich bag ministry for the homeless. When we learned that the House of Mercy can provide 3 meals per day, we asked them if hygiene bags would be helpful and the idea was well received. The backpacks included basic hygiene products (such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, washcloth, razor, shave cream, deodorant, etc.), a deck of cards, note pad and pen, a snack, a gospel of John, and other devotional materials. In addition to completing the backpacks, we were able to purchase additional needs for the shelter including bed pads, flip flops, feminine hygiene products, men's and women's underwear, and masks. We had so many donations (which came in the form of "in kind" donations, cash donations, corporate donations, and Thrivent Action Teams) that we were able to also bring surplus items to a local food pantry and a local senior center. We also had items available for our churches to use for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes.



The backpacks were delivered on October 17, by Vicar Al and Barbara McHenry. The staff and guests received us graciously and gave us a tour of the building. We were even gifted with a signed copy of a children's book that one of the guests had written during COVID. We received a follow-up letter that the guests were so excited and grateful for all the "goodies" in the backpack.

This project could not have been completed without the grace of God and the willingness of others to share of their own blessings. It was truly a privilege to work to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of those in our local community.

In His Service,
Barbara McHenry and
Georgette Peterson



PITTSBURGH ZONE

LWML PRAYER SERVICE

In July, Zion Lutheran Church in Bridgeville hosted a LWML Prayer Service. Officiated by Rev. Edward Grimenstein, women gathered in the fellowship hall to socialize and make prayer journals before adjourning to the sanctuary for the service. Offerings were collected for The Foster Love Project, a Christian organization in Pittsburgh which supports foster families and children.

ZONE RALLY



Following our time together at the District Retreat, we met again in October for our Zone Rally. The rally was held at Zion

Lutheran Church in Bridgeville. Rev. Sean Walters, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Freedom and our current pastoral counselor, led us in prayer and worship. Following this, we listened to a wonderful presentation by Elizabeth Baldoni, Operations Manager of The Foster Love Project. We learned about the amazing work their organization does with both foster parents and foster children in Pittsburgh and as far north as Erie. A check was presented to the organization on behalf of our zone. After a delicious lunch and zone meeting, we adjourned to each of our homes and home congregations.

Tevia Grimenstein, Pittsburgh Zone



**Fall Retreat
September 19-21, 2025**

The theme is **What A Friend We Have in Jesus** from John 15:14-15: *You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends.*

Hosted by the Genesee Zone. Watch future issues of the LINK for updates and details.

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. |
| Sept. 19-21, 2025 | Fall Retreat |
| June, 2026 | EC—BOD Dates and location TBD |
| June 12-14, 2026 | LWML ED Convention DoubleTree Resort Lancaster, PA |

**Report of the Financial Secretary
No Report Received**

**Financial
Assistance
Available**

**ONE TIME OPPORTUNITY
\$250 SCHOLARSHIP
For First Time Attendee to
National Convention in Omaha
June 26-29, 2025**

Mark Daley, on behalf of his deceased mother Bea (LWML Gulf States Past District President), donated \$10,000 to LWML National "to help women who are not in a position financially to be able to attend the LWML convention." The Eastern District was granted \$250 and has decided to use the \$250 for a scholarship to help an LWML woman, who is a first time attendee go to the National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025. Your Zone President will be sending that information and details to you soon.

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Vacant

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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**

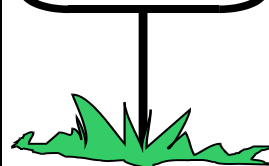
Alice Pfonner 136 Hamilton Blvd, Kenmore, NY 14217
716-873-9377 alicepfonner@aol.com
Marge Stoelting, 7426 Shawnee Rd, N. Tonawanda NY 14120
716-449-1688 mesandmds@yahoo.com

Philadelphia Zone

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

Pittsburgh Zone

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

**Next Deadline**

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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

The next deadline is March 1, 2025

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

2025 LWML PRAYER SERVICE**BLESSED ARE THEY ...**

The 2025 Prayer Service is based on the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:1–12. Written by The Rev. Brian Noack who currently serves as pastor of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sayville, NY. He also serves as the LWML — Atlantic District Senior Pastoral Counselor and Pastoral Counselor of the Suffolk Zone. Rev. Noack was a past National Pastoral Counselor from 2019–2023.

The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved words of Jesus. In them, Jesus highlights people in various situations of life, situations that are not always easy to endure — or even envision — as a child of God. Yet, our Lord calls the people in each condition “blessed” and assures each of them of their place in the kingdom of heaven. As you hear the precious Beatitudes from our Lord and pray for people in the various stages of life, may you indeed be blessed and encouraged in your life of faith. May your mind be drawn to the work of Christ, His life, and His death and resurrection which bless you each day until He brings you home to the kingdom of heaven forever.

The 2025 LWML Prayer Service is designed to be used at any time by large or small groups. This prayer service is copyrighted by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The use of this prayer service outside of LWML events requires permission from the LWML and other copyright holders.

**NEW DEVOTIONAL BOOK AVAILABLE NOW IN THE LWML STORE**

A collection of 20 devotions that demonstrate how God's grace prevails when life gives us lemons. This booklet makes a perfect gift for someone dealing with difficult life situations.

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



LWML

LINK



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The season of Lent begins the journey to the Cross. As we travel through Lent, let us examine and consider God's Word, allowing it to change us and align us with His purposes in preparation for the empty tomb on Easter morning. May your Lenten Journey bring you blessings!



In January 2025, I traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to attend the Presidents Assembly with the other 39 LWML district presidents. We spent a lot of time discussing the 2025 Convention and also toured the world class CHI Convention Center in downtown Omaha.

The 41st Biennial LWML Convention will be held in Omaha, NE, June 26-29.

We are pleased to have ten delegates, two YWR's (Megan Migyako and Alexa Wolf), our junior Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Michael Dobler, and myself representing the LWML Eastern District at the convention. Are you planning on being there? Registration is open now! Don't delay.

Sharon McGuan, our LWML Eastern District Leader Development Chair, is a candidate for a position on the National Nominating Committee. Congratulations to Sharon for making the national election ballot, it is an honor!

Plans are being made for the 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention, hosted by the Philadelphia and Anthracite Zones! We will be going to Lancaster, PA! Sharla Fritz will be our Keynote Speaker.



NOTE: The 2025 LWML Retreat that was scheduled to be at Pioneer on the Lake, has been relocated. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Board of Directors voted to have the retreat on September 19-21 at Lutherlyn Camp in Butler, PA.

*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
81 Years*

May the joy of Easter fill your heart with renewed faith and hope!

Blessings,

Dee E. Grzyb

LWML Eastern District President

lwml8_cm@aol.com, 716-901-4167 mobile
or 716-393-3670.



And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.' – (Mark 16:15)



COUNSELOR'S

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

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:19–20.

This year our elders and adult education have been focused on discipleship. Truthfully discipleship is looking for opportunities to share the Word in deeds so that people are open to hear the good news of the Gospel.

Thinking back over the last three years, not only does the LWML follow that directive, but truly exhibits it. I can give you two examples where God has actually shared opportunities for our congregation to reach out and share our love of Christ.

A few weeks ago our youth sponsored a spaghetti dinner and talent show to raise funds for the National Youth Gathering. As it turned out we were blessed with visitors attending to observe not only because they had children involved, but because they were looking for fellowship as well. Our hope is that the opportunity to meet them will encourage them and open dialog to share the Gospel. Internally it sparked discussion about inviting the talented young people to perform during services. An example of God using an event in unexpected ways to open channels for discipling to others.

The most exciting news to share is in missions. Christ Memorial has poured substantial support into the building of a school in the Lower Margibi region of Liberia. Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberia, that you may know better as BEE Liberia, was established to enrich the lives and education of hundreds of underprivileged Liberian children. The civil war has left the country with poor educational and medical infrastructure.

In a God moment it was clear to me that we need to take the next step. We helped build the school now let us work toward providing the type of support that Joel and Scarlet Holcombe have provided to Point of Grace Academy in Kenya.

God put an interesting opportunity before us. Scarlet and Joel don't have the bandwidth to add another mission project, however they offered to assist starting a similar effort for BEE Liberia. The hope is that in October, Scarlet can accompany me to Liberia on a vision trip to set up the organization for future trips to Liberia. Scarlet is also coming to Christ Memorial to present background information about starting up mission trips to Liberia. As you are well aware an endeavor of this scale requires prayers and support. Please pray for a successful launch and, if moved, providing support for this project.

We never know how God will use us in his plans. It may begin with a chance meeting at a church event or observing the magnificent work of ladies doing work to His glory.

I encourage you to continue in your fellowship with each other and being His hands and feet.

Blessings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Carl Emberger, Senior Pastoral Counselor

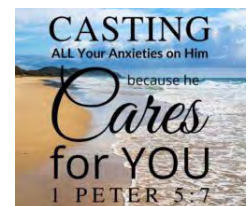
News from Christian Life Chairman—Susan Beltran

The Eastern District Board of Directors met March 7-8 and I was pleased to be able to provide a Friday evening devotion. I'd like to share the opening prayer I chose which is found in the great resource, the Lutheran Book of Prayer. I hope it guides you as we Serve the Lord with Gladness.

LUTHER'S PRAYER BASED ON "CAST ALL YOUR CARES UPON GOD FOR HE CARES FOR YOU" (1 Peter 5:7)



Heavenly Father, You are indeed my Lord and God who has created me when I was but nothing. In addition, You have saved me through your son. Now You have appointed me to this official responsibility and set this work before me. It does not proceed according to my will, and it is so great that it would otherwise weigh heavily on me and cause me great fear, that I of my own ability could find neither counsel nor help. Therefore, let everything be commenced unto You, give me counsel and help, and remain faithful in everything, as You have promised. Amen.



Sue Beltran, Christian Life Chair

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

Leader Development Co-Chair – Megan Migyanko

Structure Chair – Rebecca Bessell

Structure Co-Chair – Alice Pfonner

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

Right after the LWML National Convention in June 2025, I will be forming the Nominating Committee for 2026. We will be looking to fill the positions of: President, VP of Christian Life/Special Focus, VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources, Treasurer, and Pastoral Counselor. If you would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please let me know at: 610-937-1483 or sbell_7239@comcast.net.

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 2 PAID

We are on a roll! Grant 2 has been paid! This grant was given to Lutheran Braille Workers in the amount of \$5,000 to help pay for specialized paper and bindings for the books being produced. It will also help with any shipping-related costs as well as equipment costs. These books will be either large print or braille Bibles and other Christian related materials. On February 9th, LWML Eastern District President Dee Grzyb presented Rachel Potts, LBW Director of Ministry Relations with a giant check. It was presented at a celebration service at St. Mark Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda, NY, where a new production center has been opened. It is so great to see our tiny mites doing such big things around us. Thank you for all the mites given and keep them coming.



Available
Now

Mission Grant Proposal
forms for LWML
Eastern District
2026 Convention

GRANT REQUESTS FOR 2026- The grant packets have been sent to the Zone Presidents to be distributed as needed. Prayerfully consider projects that are on your heart or those that you heard may need help. Guidelines are included in the packets if there are questions as to what type of grant is allowable. **Grant deadline is October 15, 2025.** If you have any questions or would like the packet sent to you please contact me, Margaret Klees. My email is margaretklees@gmail.com and my cell is 570-877-2168.

May God bless this grant cycle mightily!

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 – Chair
Megan Migyanko – Co Chair

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Thank you to the zones and young women who submitted Young Women Representative applications for the 2025 National Convention in Omaha. The district is pleased to introduce the two women representing the Eastern District as YWRs to National Convention.



Megan Migyanko—Pittsburgh Zone, is currently serving as Co-Chair of the Eastern District Leader Development Committee and has served as a YWR to the 2024 LWML Eastern District Convention. Megan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Bridgeville, PA. She is a social worker at a rehabilitation facility where she finds purpose assisting families in difficult circumstances. Megan is a wife and mother. She enjoys playing in her church's bell choir and teaching Sunday school. Megan is looking forward to attending the National Convention in Omaha and getting to meet new friends "serving the Lord with gladness."



Alexa Wolff - Genesee Zone, is currently serving as Co-Chair of the Eastern District Special Focus Committee and has served as a YWR to the 2024 LWML Eastern District Convention. Alexa is a Called Teacher at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hilton, NY where she loves to share Jesus and her love of learning with her students. Alexa also enjoys directing her congregation's VBS, where over two hundred children learn how much Jesus loves each one of them. She plays flute, rings in the handbell choir, and currently seeks to participate in a Comfort Dog program. Alexa desires to serve as a National YWR and learn more about the mission work of the LWML.

Please pray for these young women that the Lord would bless their time at convention, and they may grow in faith and love for the Lord and His people.

Sharon McGuan, Leader Development Chair

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION—SUSAN MORRIS



QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTIONS: Thanks to all who sent in their Quarterly subscription updates, and as noted in my email to the Zone Treasurers and Presidents, the single copy as well as 2-9 copies would be \$8.00 and \$6.50 for 10 or more subscriptions. Most subscriptions remained the same as 2024 with offsetting additions and deletions.



LINK NEWSLETTER: The Executive Committee and Board of Directors voted to discontinue mailing copies of the Eastern District's LINK newsletter due to budget constraints. As with the cost most everything else today, the cost of mailing out copies of the LINK has become cost prohibitive resulting in this change.

**KEEP US
UPDATED**

DISTRICT DIRECTORY: Please keep sending in any directory changes to me at ED_VPComm@gmail.com, whether its Zone or Society, elected or appointed. It's important this is kept as up to date as possible.

Sue Morris
VP Communication

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE

My command is this: *Love each other as I have loved you.* John 15:12

How can your LWML Society or Zone serve others and reach out to those in need and show the love of Jesus to all? Alexa Wolf, Special Focus, co-chair shares one way her church, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Hilton, NY, did just that. Maybe this will encourage your LWML to reach out and serve as well.



Throughout the month of October, students and congregation members at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Hilton, NY partnered with a 5th grade school family (the Liotta family, originally from Asheville, NC) in a food drive as communities in NC lost a great deal as a result of hurricane Helene. Along with other organizations assisting, this food was directly brought to Asheville by the Liotta Family after it was collected in the areas of and around Hilton. It was then distributed to those helping the community recover. Families who experienced hurricane Helene in Asheville, NC were also provided with food from the food drive. An entire trailer was filled with food to be given to those who were hurting and in need.

During the month of November, St. Paul partnered with the Liotta family in a Christmas toy drive for families in need, who were unable to provide gifts for their children (many of these families lost their homes too). Students also created Christmas cards for the families. Julia Liotta coordinated the toy drive in this area for us with an organization in North Carolina (ABBCM) that was assisting the community and providing a large storage area for toys to be delivered to. Here, the toys were organized by age and type. Parents were then able to pick out the toys for their children and wrap them there.



This was an amazing blessing for them, as there still were many destroyed roads and stores. Also, people could not order online if they wanted to because they did not have a home with an address sadly. It started off with just a few places who were holding the toy drive. But as more people heard about the toy drive, more boxes were being filled. Surrounding businesses in the area as well as other churches, including another LCMS church, took large cardboard boxes to fill with toys until the Liotta family left for North Carolina to deliver the toys. Food and donations were also collected for those in need too. The estimated number in need was 3,500. By the end of the toy drive, there were more than enough toys for the community! On the Liotta's way to Asheville, they stopped in another part of North Carolina to deliver extra toys they had from their truck so others in need in that part could also receive toys to give to their children. They were met by those on ATVs and other off roading vehicles due to roads being washed out. All the families were able to receive Christmas gifts by Christmas Day too!

It was an amazing experience and blessing for all who participated in this to see the Lord working through the generosity and care for His people. He was able to use those who took part in the toy drive to help provide for those who were hurting and in need. This was a great reminder that the Lord continues to bless His children and how all can serve in any capacity through actively taking part in the task, praying, or listening to those in need first hand.

Serve the Lord With Gladness

JOIN US AT THE LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION CONVENTION

Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Remember you can find the most current information for the convention at LWML.org/News & Events/Convention Central.



Helpful Suggestions:

- Gather money for the Mission Walk over the BI-State Bridge – the one mile mission walk will do what no LWML mission walk has done before when we walk in not one, but TWO different states!
- Pack comfortable layers (sometimes hot outside versus cool inside).
- Pack comfortable walking shoes.
- Bring funds for special offerings or shopping (check or cash).
- The Convention Center is cashless so bring a credit card or debit card with or you can bring cash and use the Cash-2-Card machines, which function as reverse ATMs, allowing you to convert cash into a prepaid debit card.



FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR OUR MISSION GRANTS

AS OF APRIL 1, 2024 – JANUARY 31, 2025



We are excited to announce that we have paid our first two Mission Grants. Thank you for your Mite contributions!!

Below is the list of grants that were vote on ind June 2024

- GRANT 1 – OLIVIA WASHINGTON SCHOOL – 5,000 **PAID**
- GRANT 2 – LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS – 5,000 **PAID**
- GRANT 3 – BLESSING BAGS – 2,000
- GRANT 4 – LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION – 2,000
- GRANT 5 – DAKOTA BOYS & GIRLS RANCH – 3,000
- GRANT 6 – PINNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH – 4,900
- GRANT 7 – LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM – 3,550
- GRANT 8 – GLORIFY PERFORMING ARTS – 2,500



NOTE: The eight grants voted on June 2024 equal \$27,950.

After paying the first two grants which total \$10,000, we still need \$35,900 to pay our 2024-2026 Eastern District mission grants, fulfill our required payment to national, and cover our district operating expenses.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Dee Grzyb, LWML ED President

GIVE GENEROUSLY TO MITES SO THAT WE CAN PAY OUR GRANTS IN A TIMELY MANNER



LWML 2025 Eastern District Fall Retreat



Join us Friday to Sunday, September 19-21, 2025, at Lutherlyn Camp, 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler PA 16001, www.lutherlyn.com, for the Eastern District Retreat, hosted by the Genesee Zone. The Theme is **What a Friend We Have in Jesus** based on **John 15:14-15** *"You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends"*.

The Retreat Committee has planned a weekend that you will want to attend! The Speaker is Ethel Chadwick who has hosted a radio ministry called "Bagels and Blessings" in Rochester, NY for 26 years. Some of you may remember that in 2014 Ethel was our Retreat Guest Speaker. Ethel has also written a book entitled "Mama Ethel's Guide to Love and Happy Relationships".



We will have breakout sessions, a Worship Service on Sunday, time for fellowship, being in God's Word, relaxing, and renewal. Come and enjoy being in God's outdoor creation!

Our Gifts from the Heart donations are for their children's programing at Lutherlyn Camp: embroidery floss, new washable markers, new colored pencils, paint brushes, construction paper, colored tissue paper, glue sticks, and gift cards from Amazon, Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart.

PLEASE NOTE: There is a new directive from National LWML that everyone must sign the Transportation Release. It will be on the Registration Form.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1, NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BEFORE THEN

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


LWML Eastern District Retreat 2025 September 19-21, 2025
What a Friend We Have in Jesus John 15:14-15

Hosted By: Genesee Zone

Lutherlyn Camp 500 Lutherlyn Lane Butler, PA 16001

www.lutherlyn.com


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|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name: | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| City: | | Church & Zip | |
| State: | Zip: | Phone: () | Email: |
| If this is your FIRST TIME attending Eastern District Retreat, please check here: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I'm very excited! | | | |
| FULL TIME | | | |
| >Registration Per Person Includes: Registration Fee, 2 Nights Lodging, 5 Meals | | \$200.00 | \$ |
| > Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025 | | \$ 45.00 | \$ |
| NOTE: A \$45.00 minimum deposit required with Full Time Registration | | Payment Enclosed | \$ |
| | | Balance Due | \$ |
| PART-TIME | | | |
| NO LODGING > Saturday Only-- Saturday lunch & dinner & all Saturday programming (Includes \$45.00 Registration Fee) | | \$ 90.00 | \$ |
| WITH LODGING | | | |
| Friday-Saturday > Friday lodging, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and all programming w/ Reg Fee | | \$140.00 | \$ |
| Saturday-Sunday > Sat. lodging, Sat. lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast and programming w/Reg Fee | | \$140.00 | \$ |
| > Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025 | | \$ 45.00 | \$ |
| Note: A \$45.00 minimum deposit required with Part-Time Registration | | Payment Enclosed | \$ |
| | | Balance Due | \$ |
| Commuter: >5 meals and programming (Includes: \$45.00-Registration Fee) | | \$120.00 | \$ |
| > Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025 | | \$ 45.00 | \$ |
| | | Payment Enclosed | \$ |
| CABINS: Cabins have 8 lower bunks, 4 upper bunks, 2 bathrooms with showers. Cabins can be separated into 2 rooms. NO LINENS WILL BE PROVIDED NO PETS ALLOWED SMOKING ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS IF YOU WANT TO BE HOUSED TOGETHER, PLEASE LIST GROUP | | | |
| Roommates: | | Church/Group | |
| Lower Bunk: | Upper Bunk: | Other: | Hearing Impaired |
| Dietary Needs: | Special Needs: | CHOIR PARTICIPATION ALTO or SOPRANO | Will Need Golf Cart for Transportation: |
| EVERYONE MUST SIGN TRANSPORTATION RELEASE: 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 my use of the golf cart for transportation services and/or travel to/from Retreat even if the liability, claim, demand or cause of action result from negligence of any of the above or from any other cause. | | | |
| SIGNATURE _____ | | DATE _____ | |
| Registration Deadline: August 18, 2025 (postmarked by August 18th) Registration not accepted before May 1st. **No registration forms will be accepted after August 18th **Balance due must be paid (postmarked) by August 18th or a late fee will be applied (\$45) Cancellations: \$45.00 deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations for MEDICAL REASONS will be reviewed based upon letter of notification to Eastern District President. Non-Sufficient Fund Fee: Charge of \$35 will be assessed on checks returned by bank. **Make Checks Payable to LWML Eastern District** Mail completed form, payment, and self-addressed stamped envelope (for return confirmation) to: Judy Morrison 7 Albano Drive Hilton, NY 14468 585-484-8138 juclkemo@gmail.com *Registrations without stamped envelopes will receive email confirmation* | | | |
| Retreat Use Only | Balance Paid: | Balance Due: | Date: Check#: |

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

Our planning board continues to plan our upcoming gatherings! Our next event will be May 3, 2025, at



Trinity Silver Creek! It will be a fun event with hands on projects and an ingathering to support CASA Chautauqua County, advocates for abused and neglected children in Foster care. We are looking forward to our speaker Kathy Park who will share with us more about this ministry.

- We will be having our annual summer picnic, hosted by our sister churches in Erie PA!
- We continue to have events in different areas of our zone, to include most women and encourage them to attend at least one event in their "area".
- We are happy to announce our delegates to conventions: Isabel Dettmer and Kristin Parkhurst and a one timer Marg Albert! Our alternate delegates are Ruth Wurster and Linda Meissner.
- Our last event was in February with 25+ women and 3 Pastors attending. We collected gift cards for the VBS that will be held at Pioneer in July and for Camp Joy, hosted by Our Savior in Buffalo. We made 'witness' pens...that the women took with them to share!
- Members of the Board will continue to visit churches once the great weather is here and encourage them as well as educate them on all the wonderful opportunities that Lutheran Women in Mission can share.
- We continue to pray for our sisters in Christ and our churches and pastors.



God is good all the time, all the time God is good!
Sharon Wolf, Buffalo Zone President

NIAGARA ZONE



LBW
 LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

We invite those who would like to order a Large Print Bible or Braille books from Lutheran Bible Translators to

do so by going to their website:

www.lbwloveworks.org/, choose "Order".

Donations to St. Mark production Center can be made by choosing "get involved", scroll down to production center and note our production code is #333 or send checks directly to Lutheran Braille Ministries, c/o St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1135 Oliver Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120, notate on the check #333. [At this writing, the lbwloveworks.org donation option is not working for our production center; we are working on this.]

Alice Pfonner, Niagara Zone Co-President

PHILADELPHIA ZONE

The Christ Memorial LWML Women's Guild served brunch for church preschool parents and teachers during Lutheran Schools week, March 7th and 8th.



Christ Memorial's LWML opened their February monthly meeting to the congregation and Glorified Performing Arts gave a wonderful performance.

Glorified Performance Arts will be the entertainment at the 2026 LWML Eastern District convention in Lancaster, PA. The 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention committee, Philadelphia and Anthracite zones, is making great progress!

Susanne Ferro, Philadelphia Zone President

\$250 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

For First Time Attendee to National Convention in Omaha

June 26-29, 2025

Our District has awarded the \$250 from the Bea Daily (LWML Gulf States Past District President) scholarship to attend the Omaha Convention to Carmen Davis, from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA (Philadelphia Zone). Carmen is excited to learn more about Lutheran Women in Mission and the many ways they support missions. We will be reporting the impact of this gift to Bea's son, Mark Daily, and how this gift blessed a woman from each LWML district who attended her first convention.

WE NEED YOU! **BOARD POSITIONS TO BE FILLED**

There are several Co-chair positions open.



Christian Life Co-chair – to work with Sue Beltran, Chair

Mission Grants Co-chair – work with Meg Klees, Chair

If interested, please contact Dee Grzyb, 716-901-4167 (cell), 716-393-3670, lwmlcd8_cm@aol.com for further information.



APPAREL SALE

Check out our spring apparel sale, **available for pre-order until April 7**. The Bib Apron is available in purple and khaki and includes a spacious pocket. Polos are available in men's

and women's sizes. The Port Authority Large Tote Cooler is back by popular demand! Ladies can keep the chill away with our Knit Cardigans or our water- and wind-resistant Hooded Jackets.

Order yours today: <https://stores.inksoft.com/lwml/shop/home>



Lutheran Women in Mission President Eden Keefe joined The Lutheran Ladies' Lounge podcast for a lively chat

about faith, leadership, and the incredible impact of LWML! Don't miss this fun and insightful episode. You can listen on the KFuo website: <https://www.kfuo.org/.../lutheran-ladies-lounge-episode.../>

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| June 26–29, 2025 | LWML National Convention Omaha, Nebraska |
| Sept. 19, 2025 | EC Mtg., Lutherlyn Camp |
| Sept. 19-21, 2025 | Fall Retreat, Lutherlyn Camp |
| June, 2026 | EC—BOD Dates and location TBD |
| June 12-14, 2026 | LWML ED Convention DoubleTree Resort Lancaster, PA |

Report of the Financial Secretary—Beth Scholl

Report of the Financial Secretary January 1 – March 31, 2025

MITES - \$6,727.66

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS GIVEN BY:

In Memory of Marla Bennett
CNYN Zone

In Memory of Joann Klafehn
St. Paul Adella Society

In Memory of Lu Deen Schepler
St. Paul Adella Society

In Memory of Florence Germeroth
St. Paul Adella Society

Legacy of Love – Memorial
Sue Bethin by Buffalo Zone
Fern Suckow by Buffalo Zone

Legacy of Love
In Loving Honor of our EC/BOD by Sharon Wolf
Gift by Sharon Wolff

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

**GIVE GENEROUSLY TO
MITES SO THAT WE CAN
PAY OUR GRANTS IN A
TIMELY MANNER**



SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 12-14
2026

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE ANTHRACITE AND PHILADELPHIA ZONES



DoubleTree Resort
by Hilton Hotel Lancaster
In beautiful Lancaster, PA

Executive Committee**President**

Dee Grzyb, 56 Hanover St., Lancaster NY 14086
716-393-3670 lwmlled8_cm@aol.com

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215-514-8678 ED.VPComm@gmail.com or
morriussusan68@gmail.com

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Niagara Zone**Co-Presidents**

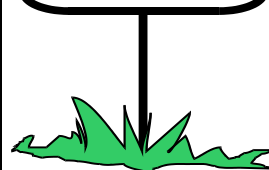
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919-452-0602 Susanneferro@comcast.net

Pittsburgh Zone

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

**Next Deadline**

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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

The next deadline is June 1, 2025

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



LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
81 Years*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy Summer to you! I hope you are enjoying this time spending it with relatives and friends.

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).

"Growing In God's Grace" was the theme for the 41st Biennial National Convention. Were you there or were you able to live stream the Convention?

It was a joy to be able to attend. This convention, like others, was awesome, inspiring, and energizing!

My time started on Tuesday, at the Presidents Assembly meeting. I was asked to present the devotion for the afternoon meeting. I thought about the months before and all the preparation for the National Convention. So many people involved, answering questions, trying to solve issues for those attending, and doing it in a timely manner. At times it must have been overwhelming. In looking for a devotion, I saw Debby Yocky's devotion "Woven Threads." No matter if it is a group, zone, district or national we are the threads, some beautiful threads which you see, and some are the plain colored threads that provide the stability in the fabric. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we are the Tapestry.

The convention began with the worship service, always an amazing and emotional event with the music and all those beautiful voices blending together.

The Banner Procession was an honor for me to carry the Eastern District banner with Megan Migyanko, Pittsburgh Zone and Alexa Wolf, Genesee Zone along with other District Presidents representing the other 39 districts. The "YWR Pinning Ceremony" took place at our Eastern District Caucus.

The Flag Procession – Megan Migyanko carried the Canadian Flag, Alexa Wolf the Angola Flag, Rebecca Bessell the Cameroon Flag, and Linda Bright, the Ethiopian Flag.

Bible Study Leader, Christina Hergenrader was amazing. Her message of grace and trusting in our loving Father's timeline for us. You may remember that she was our Guest Speaker at the 2022 Eastern District Retreat,

The new Mission Grant Goal is \$2,622,270 for the 2025-2027 biennium. The preliminary amount raised on the Mission Mite Walk that took place on the Bob Kery Pedestrian Bridge which connects Nebraska and Iowa, was \$73,610.04.

If you could not be with us in Omaha, NE, the next National Convention will be held July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City, OK. Hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Dee E. Grzyb, LWML Eastern District President
lwml8_cm@aol.com, 716-901-4167 mobile or 716-393-3670



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...(1 Peter 4:10)



COUNSELOR'S

ORNER



"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

I am excited to attend the LWML National Convention as a Pastoral Counselor for the first time. Following 2 Peter 3:18, the theme of the Convention is "Growing in God's Grace."

It is a lifelong process of depending fully on God's provision and the gifts He gives through Jesus Christ. Every opportunity to hear His Word and receive His gifts is truly an occasion to give thanks for His continuing care for the abundant life that is ours in Christ. I count the opportunity to witness the national organization of Lutheran Women in Mission

growing together in grace in Omaha as one further occasion to give glory to God for the richness of his gracious provision.

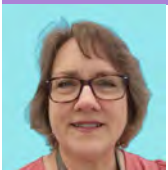
In my congregational ministry, it has been six months since the congregation to which I am called (Immanuel Tonawanda) has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Redeemer Lutheran in North Tonawanda to allow me to serve both congregations as pastor. This partnership has been yet another occasion to give thanks to God for his rich provision. The congregations have held joint services in the season of Lent; the opportunity to worship together seems to be particularly inspiring to all involved, and I give thanks to God for how smoothly he has orchestrated this new arrangement. The most noticeable fruit of this partnership for the Summer will be the return of a Vacation Bible School program for elementary school age children in August—something neither congregation has offered in recent years. There are also discussions of having a joint Confirmation class in the Fall for our confirmands to learn alongside a group of peers. Thanks be to God for the fruit that he continues to bear, as He continues to distribute his gifts to each one, just as he determines (1 Co. 12:11)!

"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." (1 Co. 12:12-13)

May this Summer be a time of refreshment and growth in God's grace for you personally and for Christ's Body collectively!

In Christ,
Pastor Michael Dobler, Eastern District LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION—SUSAN MORRIS



We recently had bad weather along with a tornado warning! We don't get many of those and it makes you think twice about what you should be doing (head to the basement). On my way to the basement, I opened the front door to take in the rolling clouds, the buckets of rain, and the fierce winds. Ok, maybe that wasn't a good idea to reminisce about my childhood and dancing in the rain in our bathing suits! I recently "weathered" job cuts at work. I could have stepped up and volunteered my position in order to keep another, but I wasn't quite ready - something was holding me back. My younger son is enjoying, thriving really, his 2nd wind with his higher education at the University of Mississippi. A school that wasn't even on his horizon until mid-December 2024. Matt's path toward a bachelor's degree is certainly not traditional and has had a couple starts and stops at the beginning, but now he sees his future unfolding and he likes what he sees! While I have a bit more planning to do before retirement, I will follow Matt's lead and look ahead.

Our society recently met with a Thrivent representative who talked about retirement options and how to plan for that! How to make the most of our savings and spending out of the right bucket. One thing I can cross off my to do list is salvation - no planning needed. **Take time each day, perhaps multiple times a day, to give thanks for His saving grace.**



REMINDERS!

Please send in any Directory changes that you may have to ED_VPComm@gmail.com. If you have not done so, please send your checks into your ZONE Treasurers for the Quarterly subscriptions.

Sue Morris, VP Communication, (215) 514-8678

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



Right after the LWML National Convention in June, 2025, I will be forming the Nominating Committee for 2026. We will be looking to fill the positions of: President, VP of Christian Life/Special Focus, VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources, Treasurer and Pastoral Counselor. If you would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please let me know at: 610-937-1483 or sbell_7239@comcast.net.

MISSION GRANT NEWS

MISSION GRANTS UPDATE



We are pleased to share that **GRANT 4** has been paid. **GRANT 4** will fund printing costs for 400 copies of "How Can I Understand?" for Southeast Asian Families through the **Lutheran Heritage Foundation**. Submitted by Grace Lutheran Church, Hop Bottom, PA, Anthracite Zone.

GRANT 3 was moved to the bottom of the list, according to our guidelines, since they were not ready to move forward with the project.



We still have 6 grants to fund this year totaling \$21,989.53 in order to reach our Grant Goal of \$33,989.53 to fund all the Grant Proposals approved at the 2024 LWML Eastern District Convention. Please give generously to Mites in order to fund all our grants for this biennium.

*Grant applications
now available*

GRANT REQUESTS FOR 2026- The grant packets have been sent to the Zone Presidents to be distributed as needed. Prayerfully consider projects that are on your heart or those that you heard may need help. Guidelines are included in the packets if there are questions as to what type of grant is allowable. **Grant deadline is October 15, 2025.** If you have any questions or would like the packet sent to you please contact me, Margaret Klees. My email is margaretklees@gmail.com and my cell is 570-877-2168.

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](#)



<https://www.lutherlyn.com/>

LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat 2025

September 19 - 21, 2025

Lutherlyn Camp, Butler, PA

Hosted by the Genesee Zone

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. John 15:14-15 (ESV)



Lutherlyn is 40 miles north of Pittsburgh off Route 422 between Butler and Prospect. "Lutherlyn offers a natural setting for an intentional Christian community committed to experiencing and affirming our interrelationship with all of God's creation."

Guest Speaker Ethel Chadwick- Host of the Radio Ministry called Bagels and Blessings



Ethel Chadwick grew up in a Jewish home in Richmond, VA, and came to faith in Yeshua (Jesus) in 1976 after a coworker shared the Gospel with her. Ethel was very excited to learn about her Messiah. After her first husband left her with 3 small children, Ethel joined a Messianic Congregation in Buffalo and became the Worship Leader there. She met Daniel and together they raised the children to love the Lord. Today Ethel is the Director of Worship at Congregation Shema Yisrael in Rochester, NY. In her spare time, she plays piano, sings at nursing homes and hosts the radio show Bagels and Blessings, on air since 1997. In June 2023, she published her first book, "Mama Ethel's Guide to Love and Healthy Relationships." Ethel and Daniel have three adult children and two grandchildren and reside in Scottsville, NY.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A Registration Form is attached. Registration Deadline-Must be postmarked no later than August 18, 2025.

All Registrants must sign the LWML Transportation Release on the Registration Form

INGATHERING for Lutherlyn Children's Summer Camps

Embroidery floss, construction paper, colored tissue paper, new washable markers, new colored pencils, paint brushes, glue sticks, Gift cards to Amazon, Lowes, Home Depot, Walmart, checks payable to Lutherlyn Camp

Interest Sessions

Visual Faith Project with Bev Wicher
Assemble Thrivent water kits with Barbara McHenry
Meet the Speaker Ethel Chadwick
Prayer Walk
Free Time

Entertainment

Join in the fun as teams play LWML Jeopardy
The winning team gets in the Sunday breakfast line 1st!
Hosted by Calvary Lutheran Church

Highlights of the weekend activities

FRIDAY Afternoon and Evening

Arrival / Registration / Check-in Dinner
Opening / Welcome / Music / Mixer
Devotion / Speaker Session 1 / Vespers
Fellowship & Pre-Packaged Snacks / Bonfire / Music

SATURDAY Morning

Breakfast / Music / Singing
Welcome / Lutherlyn Welcome / District Moments
Devotion / Speaker Session 2 / Lunch

SATURDAY Afternoon

Music / Devotion / Speaker Session 3
Ingathering Dedication / 2026 Convention Invitation
Interest Sessions / Choir Practice / Dinner

SATURDAY Evening

Entertainment / Vespers
Fellowship & Pre-Packaged Snacks / Bonfire / Music

SUNDAY Morning

Breakfast
Bible Study / Worship / Friendship Circle
Check Out of Cabin / Safe Travels Home

Things to Know

No Linens are provided: bring bedding for twin bed, towels, pillows, toiletries. No refrigerators in rooms (one is in the Medical Building for medicines. Each cabin has 8 lower bunks, 4 upper bunks, 2 full bathrooms with shower in each. Cabins are sleep only: beds, no chairs, can be separated in half. There are buildings available for fellowship and gathering times.

Things to Know

No smoking except in designated areas, **No Pets**, except service animals. No wi-fi in the cabins, it is strongest in the dining room. **Lutherlyn is a NO Alcohol Facility-they have given us permission to have wine and beer (BYOB) at designated place and time Friday and Saturday night.** **The ground is uneven with gravel, we will have golf carts available to transport people.**


LWML Eastern District Retreat 2025 September 19-21, 2025
What a Friend We Have in Jesus John 15:14-15

Hosted By: Genesee Zone

Lutherlyn Camp 500 Lutherlyn Lane Butler, PA 16001

www.lutherlyn.com


| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| Name: | | | |
| Address: | | | |
| City: | | Church & Zip | |
| State: | Zip: | Phone: () | Email: |
| If this is your FIRST TIME attending Eastern District Retreat, please check here: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I'm very excited! | | | |
| FULL TIME | | | |
| >Registration Per Person Includes: Registration Fee, 2 Nights Lodging, 5 Meals | | \$200.00 | \$ |
| > Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025 | | \$ 45.00 | \$ |
| NOTE: A \$45.00 minimum deposit required with Full Time Registration | | Payment Enclosed | \$ |
| | | Balance Due | \$ |
| PART-TIME | | | |
| NO LODGING > Saturday Only-- Saturday lunch & dinner & all Saturday programming (Includes \$45.00 Registration Fee) | | \$ 90.00 | \$ |
| WITH LODGING | | | |
| Friday-Saturday > Friday lodging, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and all programming w/ Reg Fee | | \$140.00 | \$ |
| Saturday-Sunday > Sat. lodging, Sat. lunch & dinner, Sunday breakfast and programming w/Reg Fee | | \$140.00 | \$ |
| > Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025 | | \$ 45.00 | \$ |
| Note: A \$45.00 minimum deposit required with Part-Time Registration | | Payment Enclosed | \$ |
| | | Balance Due | \$ |
| Commuter: >5 meals and programming (Includes: \$45.00-Registration Fee) | | \$120.00 | \$ |
| > Late fee if postmarked after Aug. 18, 2025 | | \$ 45.00 | \$ |
| | | Payment Enclosed | \$ |
| CABINS: Cabins have 8 lower bunks, 4 upper bunks, 2 bathrooms with showers. Cabins can be separated into 2 rooms. NO LINENS WILL BE PROVIDED NO PETS ALLOWED SMOKING ONLY IN DESIGNATED AREAS IF YOU WANT TO BE HOUSED TOGETHER, PLEASE LIST GROUP | | | |
| Roommates: | | Church/Group | |
| Lower Bunk: | Upper Bunk: | Other: | Hearing Impaired |
| Dietary Needs: | Special Needs: | CHOIR PARTICIPATION ALTO or SOPRANO | Will Need Golf Cart for Transportation: |
| EVERYONE MUST SIGN TRANSPORTATION RELEASE: 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 my use of the golf cart for transportation services and/or travel to/from Retreat even if the liability, claim, demand or cause of action result from negligence of any of the above or from any other cause. | | | |
| SIGNATURE | | DATE | |
| Registration Deadline: August 18, 2025 (postmarked by August 18th) Registration not accepted before May 1st. **No registration forms will be accepted after August 18th **Balance due must be paid (postmarked) by August 18th or a late fee will be applied (\$45) Cancellations: \$45.00 deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations for MEDICAL REASONS will be reviewed based upon letter of notification to Eastern District President. Non-Sufficient Fund Fee: Charge of \$35 will be assessed on checks returned by bank. **Make Checks Payable to LWML Eastern District** Mail completed form, payment, and self-addressed stamped envelope (for return confirmation) to: Judy Morrison 7 Albano Drive Hilton, NY 14468 585-484-8138 juclmemo@gmail.com *Registrations without stamped envelopes will receive email confirmation* | | | |
| Retreat Use Only | Balance Paid: | Balance Due: | Date: Check#: |

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT RETREAT CAMPSHIP—APPLICATION

A few full-time camperships are being offered for the Fall 2025 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 for part-time status please indicate this below. 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 _____
 E-mail _____
 Zone _____

LWML Member? _____ Yes _____ No
 Part-time Registration: Yes / No (*please circle choice*)

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, 2025** to:

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

All recipients names will be kept strictly confidential

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE

For the past year or so, my husband and I have been listening to the Lutheran Hour by using their app. As we ride to church on Sunday mornings we listen to the Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. His interesting sermons uplift us and teach us basic teachings usually related to the readings for the day. We have come to really like the ride to church (20 min.)

We have also subscribed to the KFUE Radio App and it's sister station KXFN. Here we are pleasantly inspired by worship services and podcasts. We especially enjoy and appreciate the spiritual music offered to us by our Seminary choruses, our Concordia University Choruses and Concordia Chicago Wind Symphony and others. For me it uplifts me greatly as it brings back memories of when I sang with two travelling choruses during my tenure at CUNY Tour Choir and CU Chicago Kapelle.

If you haven't already subscribed to these apps, I strongly encourage you to do so. Go to lhm.org and KFUE Radio App. Subscribe on your favorite podcast app. I think you will enjoy it.

Linda Bahr, VP Christian Life/Special Focus

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM SUE BELTRAN, CHRISTIAN LIFE CHAIRMAN



Summer is finally here. This reminds me of an LWML Devotion by Marie Chow, Past VP of Organizational Resources, you can find this and many other devotionals on the LWML website lwml.org.

SUMMERTIME!

It is the middle of summer and I hope you are enjoying it! When I think of summer, I think of sunshine. Then, it leads me to think of the Sonshine! Isn't it wonderful to know that our Jesus, the **Son** of God, brings us from darkness into light!

In thinking of the **Sonshine** and summer, look at the resources LWML has for the summertime theme. There are devotions and mission service activities, so you can keep on remembering the Son and His people while enjoying the summer.

Enjoy your summer in the **Sonshine**!

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).



The 41st Biennial Convention of the LWML was held June 26-29 in Omaha, Nebraska.

What a great convention it was! 3,774 participants joined together to "Grow in God's Grace." A Mission Grant Goal of \$2,622,270 was approved to support 33 mission grants selected by the convention delegates. New officers for the next biennium were also elected, along with the new nominating committee.

In addition to convention business, the attendees enjoyed beautiful worship services, many Bible studies, inspiring mission speakers, fellowship with so many, wonderful exhibits and so much more.



LWML President Eden Keefe carrying LWML banner

More than 1,627 men, women, and children raised the \$73,610.04 (preliminary amount) as they trekked across the beautiful Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge in the 95 degree heat. The bridge connects Nebraska and Iowa — making this a historic mission walk taking place in two states!

Full convention details along with archived copies of the livestreamed events are available on the LWML website under Convention Central. <https://www.lwml.org/convention>

More details will be shared in the LWML e-News, if you don't already receive it, you can sign up on the website or access it on the LWML app.

The next convention will be in Oklahoma City, July 8-11, 2027.



NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT NEWS CHAIR – SHARON MCGUAN

YWR CONVENTION REFLECTIONS



Thank you Eastern District! What a blessing it is to serve as Leader Development Chair and be blessed by the beautiful faith of our YWRs.

We were excited to have two Young Woman Representatives (YWR) attending the 41st Biennial Convention of the LWML in June in Omaha, Nebraska. Alexa Wolff, from the Genesee Zone and Megan Migyanko from the Pittsburgh Zone. To God be the glory!

Both Megan and Alexa "extend their thanks and gratitude to the LWML Eastern District for selecting them and sending them to the Omaha Convention. They are looking forward to sharing our experiences with others."

Here are some of their initial impressions and memorable moments at national convention.

♦ Alexa:

I was encouraged and blessed to be surrounded by so many Lutheran men and women, chosen by Him as His forgiven and beloved. Children set apart to serve and care about spreading the Gospel. What a blessing knowing we are all truly here for each other. There is that common support system, being sisters in Christ. We are a reflection of Him.

Regarding missionaries: It is amazing to see how the Lord continues to work in and through others, especially the mission organizations and missionaries. Then He calls us to serve, support and be a part of them through our Mites.

As it was emphasized in every session, the worship services, Bible studies, and experiences we shared with others; God is continually at work, blessing us, filling us with His Holy Spirit as we continue to grow in His Grace and the knowledge of God.

♦ Megan:

An LWML national convention is truly a unique experience. I enjoyed seeing all the ways our mites help to support various ministries across the nation and the world. It made me excited to go back to our district and my home church to share all the ways that we can get involved. The banner and flag processional was beautiful. I enjoyed singing and worshipping with over 3000 Lutheran women. Being a YWR was full of joy. I am excited to see how the LWML meets their mission, grant goals in the years to come and how God is going to use all these women to grow His kingdom.





Eastern District Caucus



Mite Walk



Eastern District Banner



79 YWRs attending convention



President Dee and YWR
Alexa carrying banner



Flags of Nations supported by LWML



Convention Floor



Megan Migyanko-Canada



Rebecca Bessell, Cameroon



Alexa Wolff, Angola



Linda Bright, Ethiopia

Parade of Nations

41st Biennial Convention of the LWML

JUNE 26-29 2025 OMAHA, NE

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

On May 3, 2025, we held our Buffalo Zone Spring event at Trinity Silver Creek. We had 35 attendees including Pastor Grubbs, Pastor Knowles and Pastor Browne. Refreshments were provided by Silver Creek and the Buffalo Planning committee. A devotion was led by our Christian Life Chair - Jackie Blank.



We enjoyed a presentation by Kathy Park, Executive Director of CASA Chautauqua. They have been in existence since 2003.

They are part of a National organization. CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA helps children in need and assistance. CASA Chautauqua has instituted the idea that each student should have a LIFE BOOK, which is a beautiful scrap book filled with their own 'history', likes, places, pictures. Each CASA for the child does the research and helps either the parents, or foster parents, or guardians create this book that they receive when they age out of the program, which is between the ages of 18-21. Once they are aged out, they also provide the "game of life" where those students can learn how to apply to college, or start a career, fill out applications, use a budget, much like the actual game of Life. They also do major fundraising every year, creating a budget to work with for their children.

We were happy to present Kathy with some small items and our in-gathering of \$725. Our hands on project was coloring cards and bookmarks, which we also gave to her for the life books, helping these children remember that they are prayed for and loved. It truly was a delightful day, with so many women and Pastors with such giving and serving hearts! What better way to spend a rainy Saturday than with a room filled with the Holy Spirit, our Lord, and God overflowing joy!

Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone President

NIAGARA ZONE

We are so grateful for our growth in our Zone. Our Spring Gathering Hosted The Rev. David Keating, our Pastoral Counselor, the office has been vacant for about 4-5 years. God blessed us. Dee Gzyb, our LWML Eastern District President gave us an update on District and National news. We also introduced our Christian

Life Chair, Joy Debernay. Marge Stoelting and Alice Pfonner will be visiting our Zone churches this summer to reach them with our Zone, District and National news. Our in-gathering mission was to collect goods for the Ministry of Lockport Cares.



While at the gathering at St. Mark, North Tonawanda, we saw and experienced the Lutheran Braille Large Print Production Center ministry firsthand. Many questions were asked including how to receive a large print Bible.

Log on to <https://www.lbwloveworks.org> and click on the Order, and click on the form, specific to your need.

You can sign up to help with this LBW ministry at St. Mark. We hope to have LWML members hosting at least one day a week or once a month. If you are interested, please notify Terryhoffman1979@gmail.com or alicepfonner@aol.com

Alice Pfonner, Niagara Zone co-president

PITTSBURGH ZONE



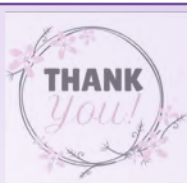
The Pittsburgh Zone held its Spring Zone Rally on April 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Millvale. After a time of fellowship and a light breakfast, Rev. Dan Hahn presented a Bible

Study entitled "The Importance of the Resurrection." This was followed by a presentation from LWML Eastern District President Dee Grzyb updating the zone on the status of the current mission grants and offering suggestions for further mite collection and fundraising ideas. The women of St. John's served a beautiful homemade lunch, and the traditional salads and desserts were enjoyed by all in attendance. A brief zone meeting followed lunch.

A rally ingathering was collected for Genesis Pregnancy Center of Pittsburgh. The ingathering consisted of diapers, diaper wipes, baby bottles, and other infant care products. Following the zone meeting, LWML members made handcrafted cards of encouragement and Christian love for the many women served by Genesis.



Tevia Grimenstein, Pittsburgh Zone 2nd VP



THANK YOU DELEGATES

You were given both the privilege and responsibility to vote for mission grants, new officers, and perhaps by-law amendments and the opportunity to enrich your personal and spiritual growth. Thank you for your time and willingness to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Margaret Klees – Anthracite Zone, Voting only for Mission Grant Goal and Mission Grants

Isabel Dettmer and Ruth Wurster – Buffalo Zone

Patricia Viereck – CNYN

Anita Getty – CNYS - Voting only for Mission Grant Goal and Mission Grants

Kathy Ippolito – Genesee Zone

Dr. Joy Staggers-Deberny – Niagara Zone

Carmen Davis – Philadelphia Zone

Linda Bright and Barbara Gillette – Pittsburgh Zone

Serve the Lord With Gladness

PHILADELPHIA ZONE

LWML Philadelphia Zone Spring Rally - Hospitality: A Mission for Everyone



The Philadelphia Zone Spring Rally, hosted by Hope Lutheran Church in Levittown, PA, was a wonderful day of inspiration and fellowship. The day started with worship, followed by our speaker Major Kim Harris. She gave a very interesting and informative talk about the role of the Salva-

tion Army in the Levittown, PA area. The ingathering was craft supplies for their summer camps.

We were treated to a "LWML Ladies Tea" which included delicious homemade scones, sandwiches and desserts and a Get to Know your Neighbor Quiz.



Six women from the Philadelphia Zone, attended the LWML 41st Biennial National Convention in Omaha, NE!

Susanne Ferro, Philadelphia Zone President



Missions

**By Pastor Carl Emberger
LWML ED Senior Counselor**

At Christ Memorial there has been an effort to see whether we can help support the OSW Schools of Liberia (**BEE Liberia**) through mission trips. I'm thankful that many attended the meeting with Scarlett Holcomb to discuss some of the nuances of mission trips. I wanted to share some information on developments as a result of the presentation in April.

The first item that was addressed was finding an organization name and claiming a domain on the Internet. I invite you to visit the website, Missions of Care (missionsofcare.org), where you can read about our mission and vision for this organization.

The next step was determining dates that were suitable to visit Liberia. Of main concern was not arriving during the rainy season and yet be there during the normal school year. So we have settled on the date of November 18th through the 25th for this trip. Our goal for the trip is to establish connections with people on the ground that we can trust, identify safe and reasonable housing for future trips, and determine whether volunteers will have safe food and water for future trips. In short, you could call this a vision trip or perhaps a reconnaissance trip.

If we can determine that volunteers can safely be onsite in the future, we can open up opportunities to serve the community in a number of ways. You could be working on a VBS program, perhaps teaching a class, help with maintenance or building in the community, or be part of a clinical group to treat the children and community. These are just a few opportunities that may arise in the future.

The school community is a place where the gospel message is truly needed. The efforts of hands and feet can make an impactful difference in the lives of that community.

I hope that you would prayerfully consider helping us with the cost of sending a team of four people for this initial visit to Liberia. We have been blessed by two donors each offering \$1000 matching gift challenges to assist in fundraising.

Above all please keep this mission effort in your prayers.

Report of the Financial Secretary—Beth Scholl**July 2024 – September 2024****Total Mites - \$ 4,692.72****MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS:**In Memory of Betty VanNest

Sharon Wolff

In Memory of Fern Suckow

Rebecca Bessell

Legacy of Love – Donation

Gift-Sharon Wolff

Memory of Fern Suckow – Sharon Wolff

Memory of Janice Koch – Rebecca Bessell

In Honor of

Dorothy Koschmann – Susan & Jim Bell

Donation to Mites

From Convention Book Sales – Heidi Goehmann

Thrivent Choice Dollars-Given By

Sharon McGuan

Donald & Linda Gage

Karen Strussenberg

October 2024 – December 2024**Total Mites - \$ 6,551.16****Memorials and Honorariums Given By:**In Memory of Laurie Baxter

Adella Society, St. Paul Lutheran – Hilton, NY

In Memory of Ruth Ann Falkner

Adella Society, St. Paul Lutheran – Hilton, NY

Legacy of Love – Donation

Memory of Sue Bethin – Buffalo Zone

Memory of Barbara Williams – Estate of Barbara Williams

January 2025 - March 2025**Total Mites - \$ 6,756.66****Memorials and Honorariums Given By:**In Memory of Marla Bennett

CNY North Zone

In Memory of JoAnn Klafehn LuDeen

Adella Society, St. Paul Lutheran – Hilton, NY

In Memory of Schepler & Florence Germeroth

Adella Society, St. Paul Lutheran – Hilton, NY

Legacy of Love – Donation

Gift-Sharon Wolff

Memory of Sue Bentin & Fern Suckow – Buffalo Zone

In Loving Honor of our EC/BOD – Sharon WolffThrivent Choice Dollars-Given By

Ruth Wurster

Terry Hoffman

Judith Nordell

April 2025 - June 2025**Total Mites - \$ 8,323.72****Memorials and Honorariums Given By:**In Memory of Midge Ball

Adella Society, St. Paul Lutheran – Hilton, NY

In Memory of Marla Bennett

Grace Lutheran Canastota – Mary Martha Society

Thrivent Choice Dollars-Given By

Susan Bell

Beverly Musso

Karen Strussenberg

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Sept. 19, 2025 | EC Mtg., Lutherlyn Camp |
| Sept. 19-21, 2025 | Fall Retreat, Lutherlyn Camp |
| March, 2026 | EC/BOD Date and location TBD |
| June, 2026 | EC/BOD Dates and location TBD |
| June 12-14, 2026 | LWML ED Convention DoubleTree Resort Lancaster, PA |
| July 8-11, 2027 | LWML 42nd Biennial Convention Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |

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

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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Vacant

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**Next Deadline**

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

Bev Wicher
19 Vernon Drive
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716-913-4140

E-mail: lwmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is September 1, 2025

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

SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 12-14
2026

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE ANTHRACITE AND PHILADELPHIA ZONES



DoubleTree Resort
by Hilton Hotel Lancaster
In beautiful Lancaster, PA



LWML

LINK



*Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
80 Years*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We are now in the Fall season, one of my favorite times of the year. As leaves change color and the air turns crisp: It is the time of the year for reflection and thanksgiving – *“Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!”* (Psalm 106:1)

Fall invites us to let go of the past burdens and negative thoughts, like trees shedding leaves, you can give up those beliefs or experiences that inhibit personal growth and renewal – *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”* (Hebrews 12:1)



We gather with family and friends during this season to strengthen community ties and foster a sense of belonging. *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”* (1Thessalonians 5:11)

Our LWML Retreats are always a time of renewal. This year the theme was “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”. There were 65 attendees who met at Lutherlyn Camp in Butler, PA, for an inspiring, uplifting, and rejuvenating time. We listened to Ethel Chadwick as she shared her incredible story of coming to know Jesus, spent time being with old friends and making new ones, and feeling the presence of God that surrounded us at Lutherlyn Camp.

Fall is also a time where many zones have their events that include elections. My prayer is that when your elections happen, you pray, look at the positions to see if it is something you can and want to do, and consider being a candidate.

The Anthracite and Philadelphia Zones are working hard planning our 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention on June 12-14 at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel, Lancaster, PA. More information is available in this issue of the LINK.

Please remember that there are many resources available for you from our LWML National including, Fall Resources, Bible Studies, Leader Development Information, Mission Service Activities, etc. at www.lwml.org.

Blessings as you celebrate the season of Fall knowing that we have a Friend in Jesus, who is always with us.



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

CORNER



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

This summer has been particularly busy for myself and my wife Linda. I was fortunate to take ten youth to the National Youth Gathering with the help of two adults that went along with us. Linda and I celebrated our 50th anniversary with a two-week trip that left us more tired than we had expected, but enjoyable none the less. Add to that assisting congregations that are vacant and filling in for a few well-deserved escapes for the brothers. Then last, but not least putting our plans in place for the trip to BEE Liberia in November.

The summer has truly been a roller coaster of activity. Of course there are other little duties that float to the surface that demand quick attention and then fade to the background.

This sounds like the life we all live, spectacular highs with day-to-day tasks packed in around these times. This can be an exhausting life if we let it.

I'm thinking about Jesus's ministry here. His time on earth was definitely a roller coaster of activity. And for one example in Matthew 14 we see that He made time for rest and prayer. We read that He was alone taking the time to pray after the death of John the Baptist. However, the crowds soon found him and out of compassion he spoke to them and then fed them because they were in a desolate place. And after that event he sent them away, even the disciples, to again have time to rest and pray.

Do we take time to be alone and to pray to our Father in heaven? In our crazy world I think often we don't stop to think about our time with God. We tend to just run from one task to another, wondering why we feel exhausted. We are expected to take that time of rest. But more importantly we need that time to look for guidance and wisdom in our day-to-day lives. Without such reflection we will burn out. We may even walk away. So we are encouraged especially by Saint Paul to persevere, to be wise in what we are doing, and using God's wisdom to be discerning. Perhaps we may find we expend a lot of energy on things we think are important but really have little value.

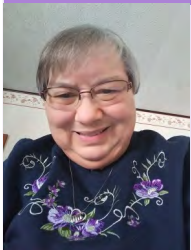
Our mission is not to get bogged down and grumble, rather to be like Jesus; to welcome, to invite, to lift each other up, to carry the message of mercy to those who are wandering in the dark.

Enjoy the rest we have in Jesus, listen to the wisdom He offers so that we may continue the mission we are called to do.

I encourage you to continue in your fellowship with each other and being His hands and feet.

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

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



Taken from "God's Grace in a Lemon-Filled World," by Aretta Gordish.

Article entitled: Unable to Pray

Based on **Romans 8:26-27**

I am sure you have heard the saying: "If life throws you lemons, make lemonade." Lately life has thrown me a bowl full of lemons. Lemons are sour, especially the lemons life hits us with every day. It is hard to make lemonade when you are in pain, when your heart is breaking, or when you are afraid life is sour. Sometimes it is even hard to pray.

Did you know that there are amazing health benefits inside a lemon? They are packed full of vitamin C, fiber, iron, and more. They are good for household cleaning, for making facials, and in recipes to make delicious foods, both sweet and savory.

Good can be found in our struggles as well. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. He intercedes for us and knows exactly what to pray, specifically asking for God's will for our lives. Our struggles, our trials, and our pain often keep us from praying as we should. Keep in mind that in addition to the Holy Spirit groaning to God on our behalf, Jesus has also provided a prayer we can use daily.

Prayer: Dear Father, we thank you for providing us with a prayer that is always perfect: The Lord's Prayer. We thank You for our sisters in Christ who keep each other in prayer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



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



I had the privilege of honoring our 1st timers at the LWML Eastern District Retreat in September. We currently had 5 first timers!

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

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE—SHARON MCGUAN & MEGAN MIGYANKO



For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10



Have you ever thought about Jesus being described as the best Leader Development Coach of all time? I say this with absolute respect for Jesus, the Holy Son of God. Think of how He called each of His disciples, individually, uniquely, lovingly and then challenged

them to lead as they learned to follow Him. He taught them to trust Him, the Way, the Truth and the Life. He led by invitation and example, teaching them *"it is better to give than to receive"* and *"whoever would be great among you must be the servant of all"*. May we ever look to Jesus, our Great Leader Developer, as we lead others, in our families, societies or wherever the Lord invites us to serve Him.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

The Leader Development Committee is asking you to consider leading others in a couple special ways:

- ◆ Pray that the Lord might lead you to seek out another sister in Christ and extend an invitation to church, Bible study or an LWML society or zone event. You may need to reach out several times, but trust God to lead you and let His Spirit do the work.
- ◆ Look around your congregation and ask God to lead you and your society to seek out a young woman that could attend our 2026 Eastern District Convention, June 12-14 at the Double Tree Resort in Lancaster, PA, as a Young Woman Representative (YWR). Each Zone may send one YWR, preferably between the ages of 22-35. Her transportation, registration, meals and hotel expenses will be paid by the district. Last biennium, our district was blessed with five beautiful YWRs, and they in turn were blessed by the convention, our fellowship and the message of Jesus' love for each of them.

Your Zone President will be emailing a copy of the Young Woman Representative Application and Guidelines to each society in your zone. You can also download a copy of the Application and Guidelines from our website <http://www.east-dist-lwml.org/>. Or if you have questions, you can email Sharon McGuan at salmcg23@gmail.com. I will be happy to answer any questions and forward the Application and Guidelines to you.

Once completed, please give your application to your society president. **All societies need to submit applications to their Zone President by January 30th.** Each zone will select one YWR to attend convention by February 15th.

God bless you—Sharon McGuan, Megan Migyanko.



The Nominating Committee for the 2026 LWML Eastern District Convention 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

Do you love LWML and the work that we do and the mission support that is accomplished through national, district and zones? That work can't work without willing volunteers. It is time to consider what your gifts and talents are and how you could help our LWML Eastern District to continue the work we do.

We are presently seeking names of people willing to run for positions on the LWML Eastern District Executive Committee/Board of Director that will be voted on at the 2026 LWML District Convention.

The positions that need to be filled are
President—VP of Christian Life/Special Focus—
VP of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources—Treasurer—Pastoral Counselor

JOB DESCRIPTIONS - These are general descriptions. The complete job descriptions as well as Nomination and Consent forms can be obtained from anyone on the Nominating Committee.

President - Oversees the work of the LWML Eastern District including presiding at the District LWML Conventions and meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She is responsible for appointing various committee members to the Board of Directors. Signs all vouchers for payment of authorized expenditures. Keeps in communication with the Board to make sure all necessary decisions are being made. Visits and helps promote the work of the LWML Zones. She also attends LWML National Board meetings when requested.

Vice President Christian Life/Special Focus - May perform the duties of the office of the President, in the absence or at the request of the President. Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Coordinator of the Christian Life/Special Focus Department. Responsible for issuing the membership charter to a new society; reports to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

Vice President Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources - May perform the duties of the office of the President, in the absence or at the request of the President. Coordinates the Gospel Outreach/Organization Resources Department. Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Serves as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Oversees the preparation of the convention manual with the assistance of the Vice President of Communication. Develops a list of eligible LWML members to serve in appointed positions to assist the President and performs other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

Treasurer - Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Is bonded at the expense of the LWML District. Receive deposit slips and monthly report from the Financial Secretary; receive and deposit all money in a financial institution approved by the Executive Committee; keep an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements; make all payments as authorized; serve as chairman of the Budget Committee; serve as member of the Legacy of Love Committee; submit records for financial review annually; performs other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

Pastoral Counselor - Attends Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. Serves the LWML District in an advisory capacity; attend all LWML District Conventions; attend the LWML National Convention as directed by the Executive Committee; submit articles to the Editor for publication in the Eastern District Newsletter, submit a written report for the Convention manual; serve as the spiritual leader for the Board and Executive Committee and help with services at retreat and convention when possible; and other duties as set forth in the Leader's Manual.

All officers serve a four year term. Any LWML member may nominate a candidate for office. If you know of anyone that meets the criteria as set forth in the by-laws of the LWML Eastern District, who you have spoken to and has indicated that they would be interested, please let one of the nominating committee members know.

For Nominating Forms or any questions, please contact Chairman Susan Bell, 814 Dover Court Place, Downingtown, PA 19335, 610-937-1483 at sbell_7238@comcast.net

MISSION GRANT NEWS



Does your preschool or school need new materials or computer? Does your church have a need that would help them with a project or mission? Do you have an organization near and dear to your heart that could use some funds for a project? Think about submitting a mission grant application! Grant requests can be up to \$5,000.

Want more information or a grant packet emailed to you?
Please feel free to contact Meg Klees at margaretklees@gmail.com or 570-877-2168.

Grants must be submitted via email or postmarked by October 15, 2025 to be considered for the 2026-2028 biennium.



GRANT UPDATE

2024-2026 BIENNIUM MISSION GRANT UPDATE

We are pleased to share that **GRANT 6** has been paid. **GRANT 6 for \$4,900** will fund the repair/replacement of the air conditioner unit in the Tiemann Chapel at Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY, which is used for different worship opportunities, including serving the Alpha Deaf Lutheran Church community. Requested by the Genesee Zone.

GRANT 7 will be paid shortly (when all the necessary paperwork, has been received) in the amount of \$3,550 to help fund the monthly "Lunch and Learn" program at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence NY. Requested by the Buffalo Zone.

GRANTS 3 and 5 were moved to the bottom of the list, according to our guidelines, since their projects were not ready to implement the projects.

We have paid out \$20,450 for Mission Grants so far this year (including the two above).

OUR TOTAL MISSION GRANT GOAL FOR THE LWML EASTERN DISTRICT IS \$33,989.53.

WE STILL HAVE 3 GRANTS TO BE PAID TOTALING \$13,539.53.

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE REQUIRED 25% TO NATIONAL AND 25% FOR DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES!

THESE GRANTS MUST BE PAID BY MARCH 31, 2026!

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO MITES TO ENABLE US TO PAY ALL OUR MISSION GRANTS

Serve the Lord With Gladness

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](#)

EASTERN DISTRICT LEGACY OF LOVE ENDOWMENT

The general purpose of the endowment is to receive gifts to be used for the mission and ministry of the LWML Eastern District. The Fund has three focused purposes.

- ***Scholarships** for LWML members to attend LWML National LWML 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.

This is a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on the mission of the LWML Eastern District by sharing your faith and supporting ministries.

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, 585-415-6368

I would love to speak with you.



Rebecca Bessell District Liaison
Meg Klees Co-Chair
Rev. Carl Emberger Counselor
Susan Bell Co-Chair



SAVE THE DATE



JUNE 12-14
2026

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

HOSTED BY THE ANTHRACITE AND PHILADELPHIA ZONES



DoubleTree Resort
by Hilton Hotel Lancaster
In beautiful Lancaster, PA

The Word of the Lord Remains Forever



LWML 2026 Eastern District Convention Logo

The logo was designed by Margaret Klees and was based on 1 Peter 1: 24-25, *“for all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”* It was finalized and approved at the Board of Directors meeting in March 2025.

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 Ingathering will be books, learning materials, non-perishable food items, crayons, colored pencils activity books and toys.**
- ◆ **The Servant Event will be filling backpacks with school supplies and making cards for residents of Luthercare.**
- ◆ **The entertainment will be Glorify Performing Arts, a Christian dance troupe from West Chester, PA!**
- ◆ **There will be a mite walk!**
- ◆ **There will be a convention choir!**

SEE YOU THERE!!

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



Did you know that Linda Breight, from our Eastern District, is on the LWML National Special Focus Committee? Linda, a member of Christ Lutheran Church in the Pittsburgh Zone, has a passion for all of God's children, especially for those who have diverse capabilities. She has personal experience with those who are deaf or hard of hearing and have intellectual or developmental needs. Linda's goal is to raise awareness that individuals with special needs experience challenges in daily life and may also encounter barriers within congregations and worship settings.



One of the questions the LWML National Special Focus Committee asks is “How do we welcome ALL people into the fellowship of believers?” They provide a wide variety of resources such as Disability Ministry Assessment Tool, Improving Ministry Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, and The Church is for EVERYONE to assist congregations in meeting the needs of all members. You will also find specific resources to minister to those who are blind and visually challenged, intellectually and developmentally challenged, and deaf and hard of hearing on their website <https://www.lwml.org/special-ministries>.

We are **ALL** *fearfully and wonderfully made* (Psalms 139:14a), **ALL** *precious in [God's] sight* (2 Kings 1:13b), and **ALL** *one body in Christ* (Romans 12:5), therefore, we strive, with God's help, to include women of **ALL** abilities as together we *serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalms 100:2).

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

We had a fun summer. Some of the Buffalo Zone ladies volunteered to help with VBS at Pioneer on the Lake! It was mostly supported by St. John's church in Angola, but other volunteers from the Zone were teachers, leaders, and helpers! What a blessing for almost 30 children! We ended that week with a church service at Pioneer and a picnic with invitations to all Lutheran Women in Mission and families, celebrating Susan Knowles' new position at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne!



Later that afternoon some of us attended the Ordination of Pastor Parkhurst. We wish both the Knowles and the Parkhurst families the best as they begin the journey that God has sent them on!!!!

Moving on to upcoming events, our November gathering will be on the 8th and we will be voting on officers and appointments. If you are interested in being an officer OR a member of our Board/Planning committee, please contact Sharon McGuan, our current Vice President and Chair of the nominating committee. Looking to the future, we are still trying to visit our outlying churches and educate them on LWML, mites, grants, and being active in some way as Lutheran Women In Mission. We look forward to the upcoming District Convention in 2026 and to what God has planned for the Buffalo Zone, District and National Lutheran Women in Mission.

Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone President

GENESEE ZONE

What a great LWML Eastern District Fall Retreat we had.

Thank you to those of you who helped us obtain the Thrivent water filtration Cause Kits for one of the Retreat Interest Sessions. Several churches in the Genesee Zone were involved in this project. We received 28 boxes which ended up totaling 83 completed water filtration kits. The majority of the kits were assembled at the retreat held in September and the rest got done shortly after. Each kit brings clean water to those in 57 countries around the world and can provide a household of up to 10 people with clean water for up to 10 years! Each kit was sent with a personal message to the recipient. It was a great service project to share with our fellow Sisters in Christ.



Kathy Ippolito and Barbara McHenry

CNY-SOUTH

We had our first "Let's Get Together and REJOICE!" gathering (rally) in July. President Dee was our guest speaker; she discussed and shared about Mites and what we do with our Mite money and how mission grants make a difference.



We also as a zone got to meet our new Pastoral Counselor Rev. Phillip Callahan from Faith Lutheran, Corning, NY. He is also active in the military and will be deploying out in October for 10 months to Europe.

We are blessed as a zone to finally receive Pastor Callahan for we have been without a Pastoral Counselor since 2019 when Pastor Grabenhofer was called to the Northwest.

Elections will be coming up in October for President and Secretary of our zone. And we will be chatting about and gathering a retreat committee together for the 2026 LWML Eastern District Retreat.

Anita Getty, CNYS Zone President

PHILADELPHIA ZONE



The June LWML National Convention in Omaha, NE, was wonderful and inspirational.

On Saturday November 1, 2025, LWML English and Phil-

adelphia Zones Joint Fall Rally will be held at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA, and will include impressions of the national convention from Carmen Davis, recipient of the first-time attendee LWML Eastern District Grant.

Susanne Ferro, Philadelphia Zone President

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 ED Retreat September 19-21, 2025, Lutherlyn Camp

Friday Devotion



Speaker
Ethel Chadwick



Ingathering Items for Lutherlyn
children's summer camps



Music



First time attendees



Baker Chapel



Water Filtration Kits
Interest Session



Visual Faith
Interest session



Saturday Evening
Entertainment



Sunday Worship
Pastor Emberger
and Pastor Dobler



Music



Sunday Worship Choir



PITTSBURGH ZONE



Each fall, at our
Fall Zone Rally,

the Pittsburgh Zone selects a Prayer Service offering recipient. It is our hope that throughout the year, our churches will schedule Prayer Services around the Zone, utilizing LWML's wonderful Prayer Service resources and collecting funds for the designated organization. The Zone's 2024-2025 recipient was Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center, an RSO of our synod. Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center helps pastors, missionaries, spouses, and other full-time Christian ministry workers reclaim the joy of life & ministry through week-long intensive counseling retreats.

In June, Zion Lutheran Church in Bridgeville, PA, held a Prayer Service and Luncheon. Deaconess Joanna Lee gave a presentation about Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center and her own personal experiences of care there. Together with other churches, our Zone collected over \$10,000 for this wonderful RSO. Praise be to God!

Tevia Grimenstein, 2nd VP, Pittsburgh, Zone

UPCOMING
EVENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| March 19-20, 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 |
| September 2026 | LWML ED Retreat Date and locations TBD |
| July 8-11, 2027 | LWML 42nd Biennial Convention Oklahoma City, Oklahoma |

Report of the Financial Secretary—Beth Scholl

Total Mites: \$ 5,782.14

Donation to Mites:

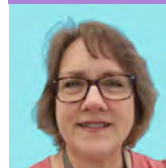
In Honor of Isabel Dettner's 85th Birthday
Given by the Sunday AM Coffee Group

Memorials and Honorariums Given By:

Legacy of Love – Gift
Sharon Wolff
Legacy of Love – Gift
Sharon Wolff

Thrivent Choice Dollars Given By:

Judith Morrison
Terry Hoffman
Sharon McGuan
Judith Nordell

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF
COMMUNICATION —SUSAN MORRIS

We are in the thick of Mission Grant application season! A great place to look for grant opportunities is in our societies and churches where there is usually a need. If you need inspira-

tion, check out the LWML Eastern District web site for current and past grant recipients. In the meantime, keep sending in your mite monies for our current Mission Grant recipients. Questions? Reach out to Meg Klees.

**REMINDERS!**

- Please send in any Directory changes that you may have to ED_VPComm@gmail.com
- If you have not done so, please send your checks into your ZONE Treasurers for the

Quarterly subscriptions.

Sue Morris
VP Communication
(215) 514-8678

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Vacant

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Pittsburgh Zone

Linda Bright, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221
412-271-1119 jamweebbs@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 December 1, 2025

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

Seek. Pray. Serve. 2025–2027 Planner

Seek. Pray. Serve. is the planner for 2025–2027. This planning resource includes over 50 devotions, Bible studies, and sketches to encourage your faith. This two year planner replaces the previous title, *Equipping Saints to Serve*.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture (Psalm 100:1–3).

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we seek our Lord in His Word, we come to Him with our prayers, and, in knowing Him, we serve Him with gladness by loving our neighbor and proclaiming the Good News of salvation in Jesus. The materials in this manual have been designed to help participants joyfully join their LWML sisters in Christ both to grow spiritually and to serve Him by spreading the Word. Each item in this manual has been LCMS doctrinally reviewed so you can use them with confidence, knowing that they truthfully proclaim God's Word.

You can download it at this link <https://www.lwml.org/posts/featured-program-helps/seek-pray-serve-2025-2027-planner>



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO CELEBRATE LWML SUNDAY

Traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday can be celebrated any time.

This year's theme begins a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025 we focus on Proclaiming Christ.

Everything we do as Lutheran Women in Mission begins with Christ's message of repentance and forgiveness. The Ascension text of "GO" (Luke 24:44–53) is the mission emphasis for Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025. On Ascension Day, Jesus gave his followers an assignment "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, have a responsibility to proclaim the message of Christ, to be that body which proclaims repentance and forgiveness, showing forth the merciful Christ in what we do and say. As Lutheran Women in Mis-

sion we continue to support, encourage and uplift missionaries, and also provide physical support and compassion to all people. It is the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name that motivates us to do this work. All Glory be to Jesus!

This year's service is written by Rev. Mark Maas, LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor.

You can find all the materials you need for LWML Sunday at this link <https://www.lwml.org/lwml-sunday>