



LWML

LINK



Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
78 Years



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Dee





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

There are a few ways that we can categorize guidance. If you are a techie you might think of maps, GPS apps, or wiki pages. If you are talking in terms of people you might think of a mentor or someone who provides wisdom. Of course mentoring may prompt memories of times you were asked for your wisdom or guidance and then the person just did what they wanted regardless of your good counsel. That can be pretty frustrating, especially when the choice makes the situation worse. I'm sure we have grieved Jesus when we have strayed from His good counsel.

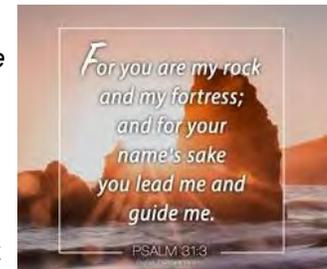
What if good counsel was already laid out for you, perfect guidance to move you through life? A complete set of instructions to live by. If you did not have free will, you may live an absolutely perfect life.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Continued on Page 3)

Counselor's Article continued:

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

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

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

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

Pastor Carl Emberger, Junior Counselor

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

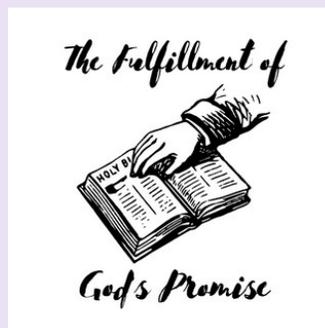


During the time of Advent and Christmas many people reflect on the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament and their fulfillment in the New Testament. I encourage you to take time to read the Prophecies and Fulfillments in the Bible of the birth of Jesus Christ our Messiah

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

PROPHECY

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



FULFILLMENT

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

Serve the Lord With Gladness

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



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

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



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

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

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

Susan Bell, VP Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources

NEW STAMP COORDINATOR



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



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

NEWS FROM THE SPECIAL FOCUS COMMITTEE



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



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

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

Please see the information below:

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

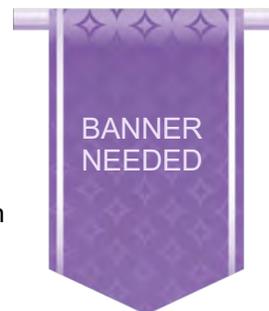
MORE INFORMATION AND SPECIFIC DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE SPRING OF 2023

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



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

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



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

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

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE

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

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



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

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kenmore, NY



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

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

CNY-SOUTH

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

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



Trinity, West Seneca's Ladies' Bible Study Group Sends Christmas Cheer to Needy Family What's Your 80?

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

Linda Meissner



GENESEE ZONE

St. Paul, Hilton



“What’s Your 80”
The St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Hilton, NY ladies collected 80 bars of soap recognizing 80 years that the Lutheran Women in Mission have celebrated serving the Lord with gladness. The collection

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

PHILADELPHIA ZONE

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

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



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

Contact Rebecca Bessell
Gift Planning Advocate
rlb54@rochester.rr.com or 585-415-6368.



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

LWML 2023 PRAYER SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE
MY SOUL REJOICES: A SERVICE OF SONG AND PRAYER

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

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



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

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

Report of the Financial Secretary—Barb Williams

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

Memorials and Honorariums

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

Legacy of Love – In Memory of Claire Carlson

Sharon Wolff
Susan Bell
Linda Bright
Rebecca Bessell
Barbara Williams

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

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

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



In Memoriam



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

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

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



ON YOUR MARK! GET SET! OPEN YOUR BIBLES!

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

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

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Next Deadline

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

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 716-913-4140

E-mail: lwmllink@gmail.com

The next deadline is March 1, 2023

The Link is published four times each year.
 April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:
March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

2023 Convention



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

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

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

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

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

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

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