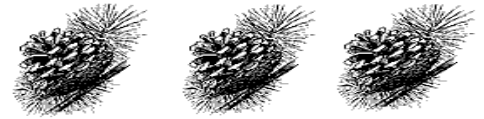




Winter 2018

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



In This Issue:

Assembly of Leaders	3
Christian Life Committee	3
District Counselor	2
District Board Meeting	7
District Roster	11
Financial Secretary	6
Gospel Outreach	4
Prayer Chain Reminder	5
Roster Update Reminder	5
Scholarship Committee	5
Short Term Missions Committee	4
Society Corner	10
Special Focus Ministries	5
Structure Committee	2
Young Woman Reps Sought	7
Zone News	8-10

Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes
Spring Issue DEADLINE:
 January 31, 2019 to
EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



LWML Convention
 June 20-23, 2019
 Mobile, Alabama

District Convention
 September 25-27, 2020
 Grand Mound, Washington

Greetings from

LWML Washington-Alaska District

PRESIDENT Marilee Ryan



Greetings to you in the name of our Triune God.
 I pray you have enjoyed a beautiful fall surrounded by bursts of God's majestic colors: red, yellow, and orange are breathtaking ... and fleeting. I was blessed to visit five

zone rallies in September and October; seeing those beautiful fall colors as I traveled the state. The Word, service to others by your ingatherings, fellowship, and fun were part of all the events.



Because of family obligations, our newly elected Junior Counselor Matt Gulseth stepped down from his position. We wish him and his growing family God's blessings. We welcome Pastor Richard Loppnow from Ephrata to his appointment as Junior Pastoral Counselor – East. Welcome to the board, Pastor Loppnow.

The board of directors and committee members gathered in November for their first meeting. It was exciting to see many new faces on board. The theme for the next two years is *Let Your Light Shine*, based on our theme verse. *Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven* (Matthew 5:16).

The winter season will soon be here, and some of you have already experienced frosty days and snow on the ground. The anticipation of the new season is growing, and our lives get busier around the holidays.

I started by mentioning that the beautiful fall colors are fleeting. One sure and true thing is God's promise of eternal life in heaven through the birth, death, and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. His promise is not fleeting! We celebrate God's Light coming into the world with the birth of Jesus. Let His light become our light as we spread the Good News and proclaim the Glory of God!

The 2019 LWML convention is six months away in Mobile, Alabama.

Convention news is in the winter *Quarterly*. Make plans early to attend.

I wish you a safe, joy-filled **Merry Christmas! And a Blessed and Happy New Year!**

Marilee Ryan

Evergreen Echoes is published quarterly by Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District, an auxiliary organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

DISTRICT COUNSELOR

Rev. Dan Freeman, Senior Pastoral Counselor – West

You Are the Reason for the Season.

As we celebrate the incarnation and birth of our Savior, Jesus, I encourage you to meditate on one of our great Christmas hymns penned by Paul Gerhardt. In this beautiful Christmas hymn, ‘the sweet singer of Lutheranism,’ masterfully captures the depth of the theology of the incarnation — God – in – human -flesh – for you, for your salvation.

O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is My paradise at which my soul reclineth. For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace forth shineth.

He whom the sea And wind obey Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness. Thou, God’s own Son, With us art one, Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

Thou Christian heart, Whoe’er thou art, Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee! For God’s own Child, In mercy mild, Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!

Lutheran Service Book— 372: 1, 2, 4

Christmas is so much more than a birthday party for Jesus. It is the celebration of the depth of God’s love for you. The incarnation of the Son of God is for the salvation of His fallen world. In it, He is the actor. He is the Savior. He is the Creator and Lord of the universe, who descends to our human flesh and joins Himself to our weaknesses; becoming like us in every way: except without sin, so that He might take our sin unto Himself and die with and for it on the cross of Calvary. ...*when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law...* (Galatians 4:4-5). As you stare into the manger at the Christ Child, may the words of Paul Gerhardt ring in your ears: *Thou Christian heart, Whoe’er thou art, Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee! For God’s own Child, In mercy mild, Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!*



Structure Committee

Pam Rafferty, Chairman

Help is available!

Have you been avoiding updating your society or zone's bylaws because you don't know where to begin? Are your bylaws as old as the hills? Never fear, bylaws help is here!

Whether you need assistance with updating your bylaws or just need to know if they are acceptable as written, sample bylaws are available on the LWML website at www.lwml.org/bylaws.

You can also contact the District Structure Committee via email through the LWML Washington-Alaska District website on the contacts page at www.wa-aklwml.org/contacts_page.htm.

We look forward to helping you.

Structure Committee: Pam Rafferty, Carol Coerber, Aletha Voges, and Chris White

Christian Life Committee

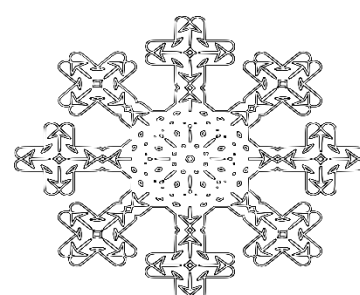
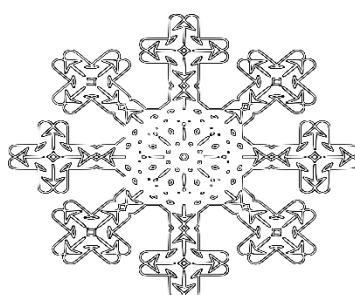
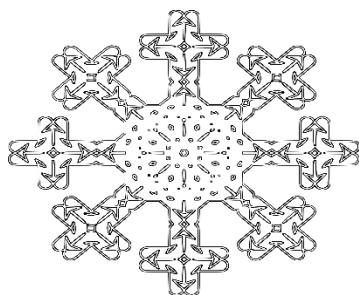
Rhonda Ries, Chairman

Last month my family had the privilege of attending the Lutheran Braille Workers' (LBW) 75th anniversary celebration in Yucaipa, California. My nine-year-old son Kaleb is blind and has been receiving materials from LBW in braille for over the last two years. This fine organization produces braille, large print, as well as audio versions of the Holy Bible and Lutheran educational materials free of charge to anyone who requests them!

The materials are printed in more than 30 languages for shipment all over the world. To distribute these materials, LBW partners with over 160 churches in the United States to create "work centers" where volunteers come together to print, bind, and ship the requested books. It's estimated that if all 3,000 volunteers were paid California minimum wage, Lutheran Braille Workers would spend more than 5.5 million dollars in labor costs each year! Last year alone, 150,000 volumes of Christian materials were printed and shipped. Thanks be to God!!

At the 2017 LWML convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Lutheran Braille Workers received a mission grant of \$100,000. President Patti Ross presented half of that amount at the 75th anniversary dinner.

Kaleb had the opportunity to speak at the event. He thanked the LBW employees and volunteers for the work they do for people who are visually impaired. He explained how powerful it is to be able to read the word of God himself. Thanks be to God for Lutheran Braille Workers. Because of the organization's work, the visually impaired can read and learn of God's love for them and know of His saving grace. To learn more about LBW and its work, visit <https://lbwinc.org/> or like them on Facebook. There you can see a brand-new promotional video they've produced which features the stories of several people connected to Lutheran Braille Workers (including Kaleb's story).



Assembly of Leaders

Marilee Ryan Washington—Alaska District President

In November Counselor Pastor Freeman, Vice President of Gospel Outreach Cristina McAnulty, and Young Women Committee Chair Grace Macduff joined me and 200 other people from all LWML districts for an Assembly of Leaders (AOL) in St. Louis, Missouri. The theme of this training was called "Follow the Leader." We will present the training we received at your spring and fall zone events.

Mites collected at AOL totaled over \$4,600! Since a mite box was decorated as a sheep, quite a few challenges went out to "Feed the Sheep." What can you do in your zones and societies to "Feed the Sheep"?

VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH

Cristina McAnulty

“Let your mites be a beacon of light for grants” is the 2018-2020 LWML Washington-Alaska District mission grant biennium theme.

At our district convention in Spokane, Washington, delegates voted support to 16 mission grants for the 2018-2020 biennium and voted a mission grant mite goal of \$98,700. We pray that everyone will continue to support our mission grants with your mite donations. Updated grant information can be found at www.wa-aklwml.org along with grant highlights and prayers. Please use this information to spotlight mite collections at your churches.

Just an important reminder to all: **All MITES** collected in your societies and zones **MUST** be sent to the **District Financial Secretary Elizabeth Cook**. Her mailing information is found on the roster at the end of this newsletter. Please make sure that you’ve passed this information on to the treasurer in each society and zone.

Our district sends 25% of mites received to LWML to fund the 2017-2019 goal of \$2,075,000. Please inform all your societies and zones that the deadline to send in all of your mites for the current biennium goal is March 31, 2019. Currently we are behind in reaching this goal, so please get creative at your societies and zones – have bake sales, silent auctions, or simply dedicate a monthly goal at each of your churches to help support all of the missions that delegates voted on at the convention in Albuquerque in June 2017. If every society member from each zone would pay \$10 per month towards mites, our grants alone from our district would be covered in full. Please be consistent in prayers and sending your mites. As you donate your mites, remember that every penny counts and is a blessing to those we’re supporting.

Thank you for your continued support and blessings to you all as we begin another church year and celebrate our Savior’s birth this month.

Cristina McAnulty, Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Joyce Berger, Mission Grants Committee Member



Short Term Missions Committee

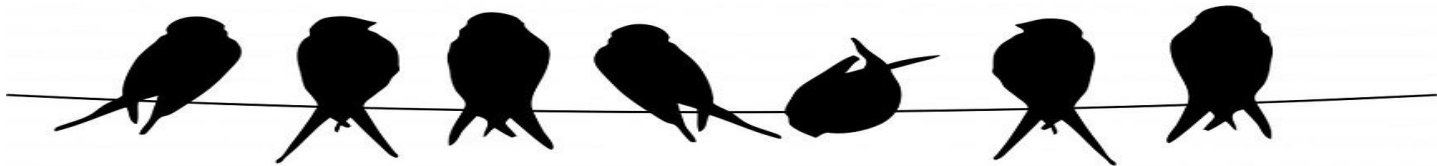
Ruth Zellar Chairman

Once again, we are offering mission grants to help support mission trips in which our district is involved. Below is how you can be one of the recipients of these grants:

- Be a woman who belongs to an LCMS congregation within the Washington-Alaska District.
- Download the application on our website www.wa-aklwml.org. The application is found under the “downloads” heading.
- Fill out the application, and return it to Ruth Zellar at the address located at the bottom of the application.

I encourage members of our district to serve in the mission field both at home and away. With the National Youth Gathering (NYG) this coming summer, there should be several mission trips happening. I hope to hear from some of you. God’s blessings on your planning!





Special Focus Ministries

Carolyn Holbrook, Vice President

Becoming the Vice President of the Special Focus Ministries is both a blessing and a privilege. I am honored to serve with a wonderful group of dedicated servants who love their Lord.

Our Heart to Heart Sisters Committee is led by Allison Akahoshi with Judy Norton and Tina Mueller as committee members. Grace Macduff leads our Young Women Committee while Sharon Westman chairs our Teen Committee. These women are excited to share their enthusiasm for our LWML with young women and multicultural women. Want to join us? We would welcome you with open hearts and arms! Contact information is listed on the last page of this issue.



Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

At the district board meeting, the Scholarship Committee worked on updating the application for scholarships while also consolidating it with the application for those who have previously received scholarships from the district. Hopefully, the new single form will be easier to use.

Applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are due on March 15, 2019. This form will be available on the LWML WA-AK website by January 1, 2019. It will also be available from your local society's president.

If you know students planning to enter full-time church work, please encourage them to apply for these scholarships. Undergraduates can receive up to \$1000 per academic year and seminary students can receive up to \$2000.

The following students are receiving scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year:

Rick McCafferty enrolled in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program, which is largely online but requires some time on the Concordia Seminary at St. Louis.

Ben Maxson enrolled in the Specific Ministry Program online with Concordia Seminary at St. Louis and attends classes on campus a short time each year.

Michele Musegades Doel married recently and continues her studies at Concordia Seminary at St. Louis to achieve her goal of becoming a deaconess.

Kurt Hellwig attends Concordia Seminary at St. Louis with plans to become a minister.

Hannah Freeman studies at Concordia Lutheran University at Mequon, Wisconsin. She intends to become a parish musician.

The LWML Washington-Alaska District assists these students with academic expenses while praying for and encouraging them as they obtain the education needed to serve the Lord in full time church work.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11).



For distribution on the district prayer chain,
send prayer petitions to:

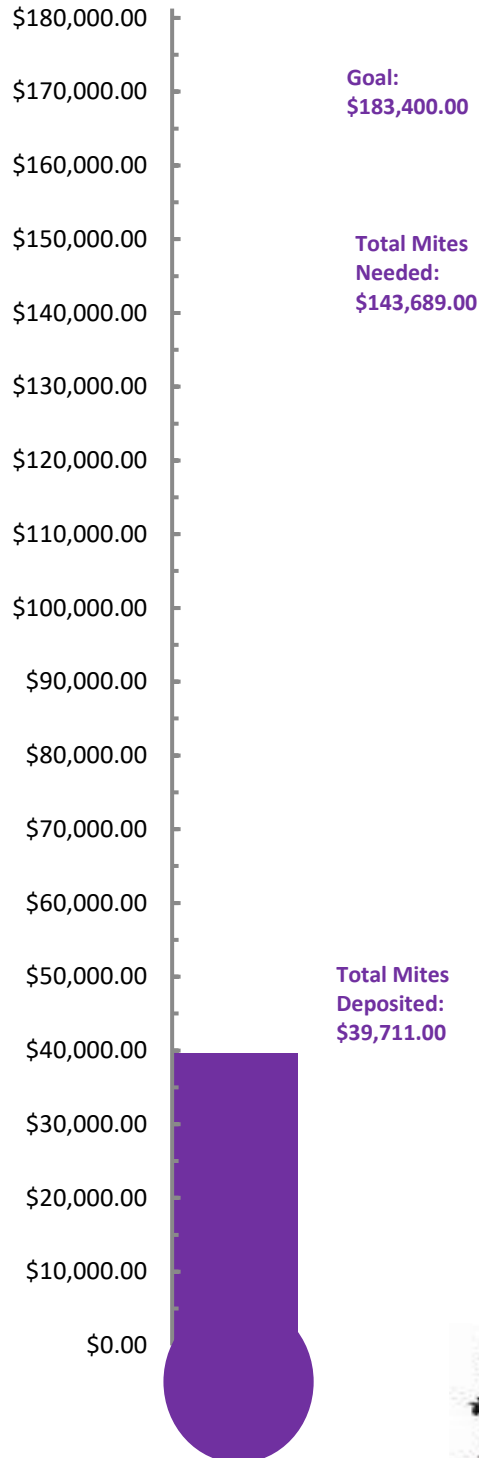
lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com.
Vice President of Christian Life Rhonda Ries
is moderator of the prayer chain.



2018-2020 Mites
as of November 5, 2018

Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Cook



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!
It is such a privilege to be entrusted with depositing your mites into the district account and tallying all the monies coming in through your faithful giving.

Stepping out in faith this past June at convention, delegates voted to increase the district mite goal and the amounts for mission grants on multiple occasions in one convention! I know it can seem like a lot of money when listed in a lump sum. However, if every rostered woman in the district gives an average of \$10 each month between now and the end of the biennium, we'll reach the goal! Please remember our mites in your prayers and give as the Lord guides you.

Societies and Zones:

When elections are held in societies and zones, **remember** to send a copy of the updated roster to **Corresponding Secretary LeeAnn Tibbals**. Her contact information is found on the roster of this newsletter.



Young Woman Representatives Sought!!!

Grace Macduff, Young Women Committee Chairman



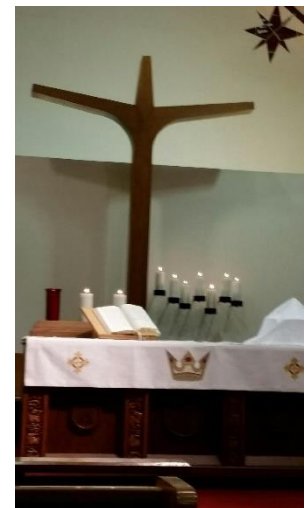
Do you have young women in your life whom you could invite into the ministry of LWML? Consider inviting them to join the Young Woman Representative (YWR) program! A key part of *LWML's mission is to engage with the next generation* of women. The YWR program provides a terrific opportunity for young women to participate in the work of LWML. As YWRs, young women get to learn LWML from the inside out.

One of the biggest highlights for a YWR is attending national convention (all expenses paid) with her district president. The next convention is coming up June 2019 in Mobile, Alabama. There YWRs will be able to participate in servant events, observe business, and connect with other YWRs in activities and Bible devotions.

YWRs serve a two-year term in which they attend local and regional events to encourage others through their experience. Opportunities for leadership come through small speaking events, Bible studies, joyshops, and more. Through it all, they will gain lasting Christian friendships. Please reach out to young women you may know with a personal invitation, and contact your society or zone president for more information on how these young women can apply. The deadline is January 2019.

Washington-Alaska Board of Directors and Committee Meetings

November 2-3 Held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Olympia, Washington



*Serve the Lord
with gladness
(Psalm 100:2).*

Zone News

Alaska Zone

Ruth Zellar, President



About 200 miles northeast of Anchorage, Alaska, 39 women gathered at Mt. Drum Lutheran Church in Copper Center on September 28 & 29 for our fall rally. Our Bible study was led by Roberta Hilgendorf, Christian Growth Chairman. The theme was “Beautiful Feet” taken from Romans 10:15 which reads *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.* Everyone brought gently used shoes and boots, new socks, as well as pillowcases to give to a homeless shelter in Anchorage called Beans Café and Brother Francis House. We tied eight quilts and made 10 fleece blankets to be given to this shelter.

Clare Snoozy and Ruth Zellar did a mites skit that was taken from the LWML website. Clare was a Mite Box and Ruth was a wallet. We had lots of fun with that, and our women were very generous with mite offerings. A good time was had by all; most of the women stayed both Friday and Saturday nights. We joined in worship on Sunday morning at Mt. Drum Lutheran Church, then enjoyed a beautiful drive back to our homes.

Inter – Valley Zone

Pam Rafferty, President

The ladies at Mt. Olive church in Yakima, Washington welcomed 37 attendees to the Inter-Valley Zone fall rally on September 29, 2018. The theme, based on Philippians 4:6-7, was on the power of prayer in our lives and in ministry.

Pastor Ken Williamson, Mt. Olive, spoke on the power of prayer in the midst of life's trials while Yakima Life Choices Executive Director Joddi-Jay Babcock shared how 200+ prayer partners make a difference in the lives of women facing unintentional pregnancy. We were blessed to have President Marilee Ryan share district news. Her supportive husband Mike accompanied her to the rally.

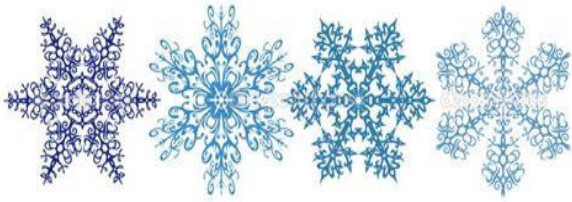
Plans are underway to have a joint event with the Blue Mountain Zone for the spring joyshop at Redeemer church in Richland in April 2019.



North Columbia Zone

Deana Mae Visser, President

On September 15, 2018, 21 ladies attended the North Columbia Zone fall rally held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Republic, Washington. Rev. Ken Schauer of Republic presented information from the book *Good Faith* by Gabe Lyons; he stressed that everyone should read it. Trinity Lutheran Ladies League served lunch before we departed for home. The joyshop will be April 27, 2019, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Okanogan, Washington.



Rainier Zone

Elizabeth Cook, President

Our fall rally was well attended and filled with blessings large and small. We were served beautifully by the women of Zion in Tacoma with tasty food.

After a wonderful service led by Pastors Ries and Warmbier, we heard from Crawford Brubaker who works with Lutheran Community Services Northwest in its Refugee Services.

We learned about what life is like as a refugee as well as what the needs are when refugees first arrive in their new country.

We also learned about the initiative run by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services through Lutheran Community Services Northwest called Circle of Welcome. This initiative invites volunteers from local geographic areas to partner together to sponsor a refugee family. By partnering with Christians, it allows people to share the love of Jesus with their new neighbors in a more long-term way. The Circle of Welcome partners people together for the first year of a refugee family's life in the United States. It was wonderful to get to learn so much and find out about this ministry opportunity in our own back yard!

Mount Baker Zone

Doris Hildenbrand, President

Our fall rally began with a welcome and opening devotion based upon our Bible verse of *for the joy of the LORD is your strength* (Nehemiah 8:10).

Carol Hendricks, Director of the Snoqualmie Chapter of Days for Girls, with the help of April Haberman taught us how they provide reusable sanitary napkins for impoverished women around the world. These women receive a kit which includes: a backpack, supplies, soap, and Ziploc bag. Everyone was excited to figure out how to start this project in our churches.

Deaconess Ruth Ann Shimoi explained to us that as she trained to become a deaconess, she really did not want to work with the elderly. More than once she tried to change God's plan for her. His plan is working with the elderly! She explained the importance of visiting those in nursing homes. Thanks to the Lutheran Ministry Services who provide music books and ideas to use during visits. She is willing to help any church that would like to participate in this program.

After enjoying a soup buffet, including a few African soups, we held our business meeting. Then, we headed to the sanctuary for the Service of Prayer and preaching and installation of officers led by Mt. Baker Zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kevin Schubkegel from Trinity, Mount Vernon.



Lake Washington Zone

Ruth Ann Shimoi, President

The Lake Washington Zone met on Saturday, October 6. Our rally began with brunch followed by the business necessary for the rally. Three officers are continuing their positions, but we welcomed a new zone secretary. All are looking forward to planning the zone events of 2019 together.

Following all the necessary business, I introduced societies. Earlier in the summer I had sent parts of the world to each society. The society was to research where LWML mites have gone in that part of the world. The intent was to give ownership and encourage attendance as all heard and learned the mites of LWML have gone around the world! All those in attendance were encouraged for the work of the Mites and what God has done through the mites and the organizations and groups who have been recipients.

Arthur Werzner, Chaplain for Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest, installed and rededicated the officers.



South Columbia Zone

MaryLynn Huntwork, President

Forty-five attendees enjoyed the "Mission Fair" organized for them at St. Paul's in Wenatchee, Washington, who posted all WA-AK District grants and prayers. Each society within our zone provided a servant event centered on a local need: Thanksgiving baskets for Serve Wenatchee Valley, string art paint cards for an Ephrata nursing home, children's bags for East Wenatchee, and placemats for Coulee City.

Pastor Steven Larson presented an opening devotion and Pastor Shawn Neider closed with singing and installation of zone officers.

Sandi Hall, a short term mission grant recipient, presented highlights of her trip to Africa. Pastor Neider talked about his trip to Guatemala, gave updates from there, and invited others to go on a mission trip.

Twyla Mitson gave information on how to apply for a short term mission grant. MaryLynn Huntwork talked about her mission trip to Alaska.

Olympic Zone

Cheryl Beyer, President



The Olympic Zone held its fall rally on Sunday October 7, 2018, at St. James in Bothell, Washington.

The ingathering was 256+ items of hats, gloves, scarves, and socks collected for Union Gospel Mission.

Sandi Hall from North Columbia Zone was our fantastic speaker talking about her short-term mission trip to Africa. What an excellent speaker. Please consider booking her for your zone or society!

Priscillas Society

Mt. Baker Zone

On LWML Sunday members of the Priscillas society of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellingham, Washington, took part in the worship services as readers and ushers. Other society women handed out bulletins or served a special cake for the occasion. The dedication prayer for the congregation was the LWML Pledge.

Following the offering, Pastor Dave Wagner blessed the quilts, which adorned every pew. These quilts were made by Trinity's Ladies Aid Society and the Busy Hands Quilters for the homeless and for babies at birthing centers. Our large Mite Box was in the narthex for contributions from the congregation.

Society Corner

Mission Circle

Lake Washington Zone

Mission Circle of Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Burien, Washington, packed fifty school kits for Lutheran World Relief in September. A Thrivent Action Team received \$250 to purchase supplies for the kits. Several ladies sewed the fifty backpacks needed for the project.

2018-2020 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster

President

Marilee Ryan

Recording Secretary

Heather Selset

Treasurer

Doris Wurl

Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Cook

Counselor – East (Junior)

Rev. Richard Loppnow
Our Savior Lutheran Church

Counselor – West (Senior)

Rev. Daniel Freeman
Peace Lutheran Church

**Vice President of
Organizational Resources**

Pam Rafferty

Leader Development Committee Chairman

Pam Rafferty (see above)

Vice President of Christian Life

Rhonda Ries

lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com

Archivist-Historian

Nancy Wyckoff

Convention Committee Chairman

Susan Abbe

Corresponding Secretary

LeeAnn Tibbals

Meeting Manager

MaryLynn Huntwork

Nominating Committee Chairman

Sandi Schauer

Parliamentarian

Carol Coerber

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Carolyn Holbrook

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman

Allison Akahoshi

Teen Committee Chairman

Sharon Westman

Young Women Committee Chairman

Grace Macduff

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Cristina McAnulty

Mission Servants Committee Chairman

Linda Davelaar

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Judy Ikerd

Short Term Missions Committee Chairman

Ruth Zellar

Public Relations Director

TBD

**Evergreen Echoes Editor
(and Circulation)**

Kelsie Ingham

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com







Quarterly Manager

Judy Jeffery

Webmaster

Joyce Berger

Key

-  Christian Life Department
-  District Counselors
-  Gospel Outreach Department
-  Organizational Resources Department
-  Public Relations Committee
-  Special Focus Department

Send mites to **Financial Secretary Elizabeth Cook**. Order Mite Boxes from and/or send any roster changes to **Corresponding Secretary LeeAnn Tibbals**.

Evergreen Echoes

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Washington-Alaska District

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2018-2020 Theme Verse

*Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father Who is
in heaven
(Matthew 5:16).*