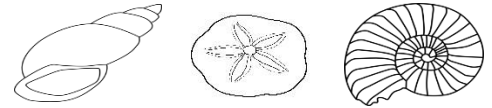




Summer 2019

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



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Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes
Summer Issue DEADLINE:
July 31, 2019 to
EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



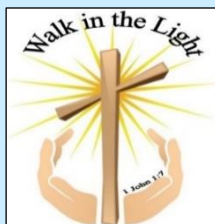
38th Biennial LWML

Convention

June 20-23, 2019
Mobile, Alabama

District Retreat

September 27-29, 2019
Red Lion Hotel
Richland, Washington



District Convention

September 25-27, 2020
Great Wolf Lodge
Grand Mound, Washington

Greetings from

LWML Washington-Alaska District **PRESIDENT**

Marilee Ryan



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!
As a reminder, below is the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement of LWML.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod 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.

Vision Statement

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

A great testament of our support for global missions is how the **2017-2019 LWML mite goal of \$2,075,000 was met, and exceeded, by \$97,373.76.** God has blessed LWML missions through your generous gifts. Thank you!

I have been honored to attend five zone events this spring. It's always a blessing to reconnect with LWML sisters and to meet new women and men in mission.

Summer will be here soon! Are you feeling it? The anticipation of the upcoming LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama, is felt by many of us. Please pray for the LWML Convention in June and for your district delegates as they vote on our 2019-2021 mite goal, mission grants, new officers, and proposed bylaw amendments. Invite your zone delegate to speak about her convention experience at your society or zone meetings.

Before you get too busy with your own summer activities, remember to register for the district retreat at the Red Lion Richland Hanford House, Richland, Washington, September 27-29, 2019. Register early for an early bird registration fee. Retreat information is included in this newsletter with hotel information on the registration form. You can also find the information on our district website under Christian Life.

As the vision statement says, continue to use your gifts of time and talents at church, at work, at home, and in LWML — and encourage others to do the same. Let Your Light Shine as we serve and share His love with others.

In service to Christ with you,

Marilee Ryan



DISTRICT COUNSELOR

Rev. Dan Freeman, Senior Pastoral Counselor – West

Water for Life

Summer is soon upon us; and by all indications, it is going to be a dry one. The prognosticators are predicting a drought for Washington this year. (Sorry, Alaskan ladies, I don't follow your weather.) Water is central to all life. Sometimes it seems we go from one extreme to the other — from an over-abundance to a severe lack. But there is one place where water and life are a constant:

“Therefore every Christian has enough in Baptism to learn and to practise [sic] all his life; for he has always enough to do to believe firmly what it promises and brings: victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, the grace of God, the entire Christ, and the Holy Ghost with His gifts. [42] In short, it is so transcendent that if timid nature could realize it, it might well doubt whether it could be true. [43] For consider, if there were somewhere a physician who understood the art of saving men from dying, or, even though they died, of restoring them speedily to life, so that they would thereafter live forever, how the world would pour in money like snow and rain, so that because of the throng of the rich no one could find access! But here in Baptism there is brought free to every one's door such a treasure and medicine as utterly destroys death and preserves all men alive.” (Martin Luther's Large Catechism, Baptism, paragraphs 41-43).

If you spend the summer parched, give thanks to God for the abundant water in the font of life by which He gives you eternal life. If the rains return with a vengeance next fall and winter, take the soaking as an opportunity to remember and give thanks for *the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit* (Titus 3:5) granted you at the font.

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



Nominating Committee

Remember the slogan, “Uncle Sam wants you”? Well, I am taking liberty to ad lib it to say, “The Washington-Alaska LWML District wants you.” Yes, it does! At the 2020 district convention the following positions are up for election: Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Pastoral Counselor - West, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, and Vice President of Christian Life. These positions are for four years. We also need seven candidates for the Nominating Committee — this position is for two years. You are welcome to visit the district website for more information or to contact any of us on the Nominating Committee.

Sandi Schauer, Chairman
Betty Rich
Patricia Cornelius
Betsy McDarment
Ruth Ann Shimoi, article author

**Yes, Lord.
Yes, Lord.
Yes, Lord, Yes.**

Bulk Mailing Notice

Because the position of Public Relations Director is vacant and because of the cost involved, the next information packet will be emailed rather than sent through postal mail. Recipients of the email should forward the enclosed information to others in their zone and society. Churches still desiring an information packet via the US Postal Service should contact President Marilee as a few paper copies can be mailed.

Thank you for your assistance in sharing information.
President Marilee and District Board of Directors

Gospel Outreach News

I pray that you all had a wonderful Easter celebration with family and friends — He is risen indeed, Alleluia!!!

Thank you to all women of the Washington-Alaska District LWML for making it possible to not only fund the 2017-2019 LWML Mission Grants, but for also going above the grant goal of \$2,075,000!!! Your dedication to provide funding for mission grants is such a blessing and very much appreciated.

As we continue to collect mites for our district grants, let us not forget that if everyone donated just \$10 per month we could have all of our mission grants funded for the 2018-2020 biennium. Wouldn't that be a blessing to the missions we're supporting? We've got a lofty goal for mission grants this biennium, so please continue to come up with creative ideas to raise mites in your societies and zones — have bake sales, silent auctions, informational clinics, even a recycling collection. We've paid over \$36,000 towards mission grants thus far and will be sending payments on a couple more mission grants in the coming weeks. Thank you for making this all possible!!!

The district mission grant 2018-2020 biennium theme is: "Let Your Mites Be a Beacon of Light for Grants."



All grant information, grant highlights, and prayers can be found on the district website at www.wa-aklwml.org. Please use this information to spotlight your mite collections at your churches.

An important reminder: **ALL MITES** collected in your societies and zones **MUST** be sent to the District Financial Secretary Elizabeth Cook. Her mailing information can be found on the roster at the end of this newsletter. Please make sure to pass this information on to the treasurer of each society and zone.

Your dedication to help our mission grants is truly a blessing to many, and we're so very thankful for your continued prayers and support.

Praying everyone has a wonderful summer enjoying your time with family and friends.
God's blessings always,

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

Structure Committee

Stop the Presses!

The phrase "stop the presses" stems from the newspaper industry. If the content of an issue needed to be revised during its printing, the printing press was stopped and content amended. This could cause delay and expense, so was generally reserved for highly significant content changes.

In our lives and in ministry, we need to "stop the presses" and be proactive about change as well. Your local group or zone may be dedicating time and resources to updating your bylaws or are planning to do so in the near future. If that's the case, **first** look at the sample bylaws on the LWML website to ensure that your revisions are in line with the recommended wording and format of the LWML. That will save time and ensure that you are submitting a document to the district Structure Committee that best reflects your group's ministry focus.

Also, LWML is updating some terms in order to better reflect today's language. "Societies" are now referred to as "local groups." If you are updating your bylaws, the Structure Committee requests that you include that change. Refer to the sample bylaws on the LWML website through the link provided for more information. You may contact the District Structure Committee through the LWML Washington-Alaska District website at www.wa-aklwml.org if you have further questions.

Group Bylaws

<https://lwml.360unite.com/posts/handbook-resources/bylaws-local-level>

Zone Bylaws

<https://lwml.360unite.com/posts/handbook-resources/bylaws-zones>

Pam Rafferty, Chairman

Carol Coerber, Aletha Voges, Chris White

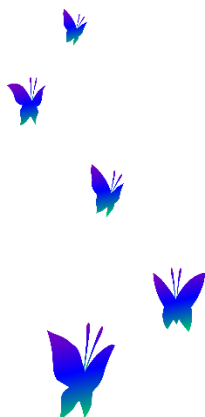


Christian Life Committee

Rhonda Ries, Chairman

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; **and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete** (1 John 1:1-4).*

Christ Is Risen, Alleluia! He Is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!! Greetings to you in this blessed season of Easter. Recently I read the first chapter of 1 John, and John's words were so appropriate not only for a post-resurrection reminder of what it means to have a living Lord, but also what a joy it is that He wants to have fellowship with us! These last few verses (in bold above) happen to be the theme of our upcoming LWML Washington-Alaska District retreat in September. Can you imagine the excitement the disciples must've had when Jesus appeared to them multiple times shortly after His resurrection? They were able to see Him and touch Him. They KNEW that He had risen from the dead and fulfilled all the promises He proclaimed before His death. With that knowledge comes the joy of testifying these truths to others. The retreat in September aims to emphasize the joy found only in Christ. Whether on our best day or worst day, that joy is ours because Christ dwells within us. Joy is not to be confused with happiness. Come learn the difference – one can struggle with grief, depression, angst, but still have joy in the Lord. Our speakers for the retreat, Kim Wagner and our district Pastoral Counselors, will expand on how to "find the joy" in your daily lives. There will also be plenty of opportunity to fellowship with your sisters in Christ! Please come to the retreat. See registration information included in this edition.





And indeed our
fellowship is
with the Father
and with His
Son Jesus
Christ. And we
are writing
these things so
that our joy
may be
complete
(1 John 1:3b-4).

**LWML Washington-Alaska District Retreat
7 p.m. September 27 - Noon September 29, 2019
Red Lion Hotel Richland Hanford House
Richland, Washington**

Name _____ Are you under 35? _____ or under 18? _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____
Church _____ Zone _____ First Time Retreat Attendee? _____

Retreat Registration Fee \$80 per person

*****Early Bird Special - postmarked/paid by July 22, 2019, pay only \$70 per person*****

- ♦ **MEALS:** Your retreat registration fee includes two meals - Saturday lunch and dinner. Friday dinner is on your own.
(Saturday and Sunday breakfast are provided by the hotel and included in the room reservation.)

Please list any medically required dietary restrictions or allergies: _____

Retreat Registration deadline is September 2, 2019.

Please make checks (\$80 or *early bird special* \$70 per person) payable to LWML Washington-Alaska District. You will receive a confirmation email or letter which will include a map, a list of items to bring, and other important information.
No retreat registration refunds will be given after September 2nd.

- ♦ **HOTEL:** The retreat registration fee does not include hotel room lodging.

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations! Get your hotel reservation early so you and your roommates can take advantage of our special block room rates and availability. The block room rates start at \$104.00 + tax of 13% *per night*. Your total price for two nights will depend on how many people are sharing your room. You might want to have three or four to a room to reduce costs. If you need help finding a roommate, contact the registrar. The registrar will do her best to assist you.

Room Reservations: Please call the Red Lion Hotel Hanford House at 509-946-7611 to make your reservation. Give them room block ID WAAKL0927 so you get our special rate. Our room block will be released on September 6th. Please make your reservation early so you are able to obtain a room.

- ♦ **TRAVEL INFO**

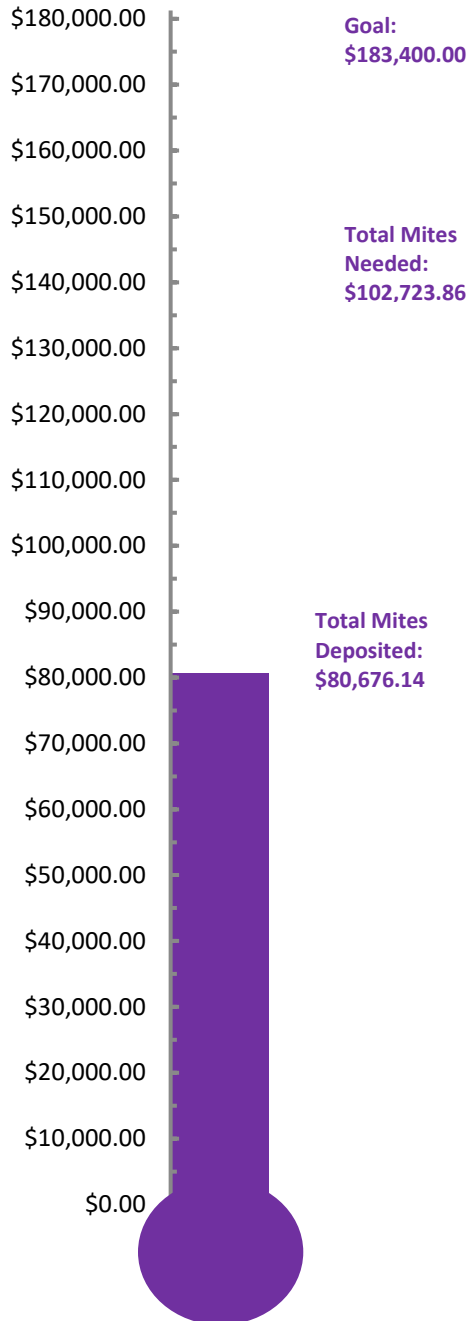
_____ I will be traveling by car with _____
_____ I will be traveling by plane.

Send registration form and retreat registration payment to Registrar Kathie Winterstein at 3435 Donnelly Dr. SE, Olympia, WA 98501. Questions? Call her at 360-491-3543, or email at jkwin@comcast.net.

Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Cook

2018-2020 Mites
as of April 30, 2019



✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦
For distribution on the district prayer chain or
prayer petitions please email:
lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com.

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.

Leader Development Committee



WOW! LWML has new resources for your local group or zone through the Assembly of Leaders 2018 page.

A sample of what's available includes:

- Creating a local group or zone Facebook page
- Activities for interactive Bible studies
- Short-term mission trips
- Mission service activities
- Reaching different cultures and generations
- Taking Jesus to the streets
- Mission grant presentations
- Volunteer appreciation

Phew!! There's too much to mention here so check it out at www.lwml.org/aol
You'll be glad you did.

Pam Rafferty, Chairman
Michele Misener

Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

Applications for scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year have been received and are being reviewed.

One of the 2018-2019 scholarship recipients, Kurt Hellwig, thanked the LWML Washington-Alaska District for its support. During the fall term, his wife Clara completed her student teaching in California while he began his course work at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Clara is now with Kurt in St. Louis and will be teaching Spanish and Technology at Lutheran High School of St. Charles, Missouri, next year.

Kurt shared that during January, he took an intensive elective on Church Planting and Revitalization. The class took several trips to new churches that were doing well and also to churches that had enjoyed revitalization. One congregation they visited had dwindled to about 30 members and seriously considered closing. They called a new minister who worked tirelessly to restore trust and hope to both current and former members. A decade later, 500 people worship at the church! God be praised!!

Kurt served 40 hours as an assistant chaplain at a senior living facility near the seminary. He found it encouraging to witness the faith of these seniors. Many are physically or mentally unable to do what they used to, but Kurt knows that God hears their prayers and that these seniors are helping form empathetic pastors who visit their people.

The following students are receiving LWML Washington-Alaska District scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year.

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

Hannah Freeman is enrolled at Concordia Lutheran University at Mequon, Wisconsin. She plans to become a parish musician.

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

Ben Maxson is enrolled in the Specific Ministry Program online with Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and attends classes on campus a short time each year. He plans to become a pastor.

Kurt Hellwig graduated from Concordia University in Irvine, California, this spring and is attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis with plans to become a pastor.

The LWML Washington-Alaska District assists these students with tuition, prays for, and encourages 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).

Please copy this issue for women in your church!

For black and white copies, print the pages in grayscale on a copy machine.

If you would like to receive colored newsletter issues via email, contact *Evergreen Echoes* Editor and Circulation Manager Kelsie Ingham. Her contact information is found on the roster page of this newsletter.



Meet the Young Woman Representatives

Grace Macduff, Young Women Committee Chairman

The Young Women Committee is pleased to introduce our Washington-Alaska District Young Woman Representatives for the 2019-2021 term! YWRs serve a two-year term in which they attend local, regional, and national events to learn about LWML and to encourage others through their experience. One of the biggest highlights for them will be attending the convention this June in Mobile, Alabama!



Michelle Chase lives in Lynnwood, Washington, with her two children, Leon and Nina, and husband Dan. They attend Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Snohomish, Washington.

Michelle has deep roots in her church body — her extended family has attended it for over 36 years. Older members of the congregation even remember watching Michelle be baptized! In addition to staying busy with her congregational LWML society, volunteering at the preschool her children attend, assisting with VBS, and being a full-time stay-at-home-mom, she enjoys her knitting group, swimming with her family (previously, Michelle was a lifeguard), hiking, camping, reading books, and organizing church events. Michelle works well with others and desires to bring younger women to Christ through the ministry of LWML.



Carla Church lives in Moscow, Idaho, with her husband Eric. They welcomed their daughter, Ruby, just this past November. Carla has been active in her home congregation of Concordia in Pullman, Washington, for over 20 years. She has served on the Parish

Planning Council and numerous committees, has participated in three separate mission trips to Guatemala, and often provides special music for Sunday services. She has also spent countless summers working at both Lutherhaven in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Mt. Cross Ministries in Felton, California. She currently works full time as a stay-at-home mom and part time as a pharmacy technician. Carla is also active in the larger community having volunteered as an EMT/Firefighter for several years. In her free time she loves to play board games with her family, bake, crochet, craft and paint, camp, be outside, and since she has a five-month-old, she does love a good nap. This will be Carla's third national convention, but her first as a YWR. She looks forward to learning more about LWML and getting more involved at her local, zone, and district levels.



Children's Mite Boxes

Doris Wurl, Treasurer

"It's my turn to do the mites."

"No, you did it last time, I'm bringing the mites."

"MOM!!!"

Sound familiar? Never fear, the solution is here! Drum roll ... Children's Mite Boxes are available. What a perfect way to start children on the path of giving to others — instilling a myriad of values. While fun for youngsters to drop loose change into their own Mite Boxes, they learn that every penny counts in funding vital mission work.

Order these Mite Boxes from Corresponding Secretary LeeAnn Tibbals. Her contact information is found on the roster of this newsletter.





Obituary – Past District President Alice Niemeier

NIEMEIER, Alice Emma (Age 95) Alice Niemeier went to be with her Lord on April 29, 2019. She was born on June 10, 1923, to Fred and Ella Garlich on a small farm near Pipestone, MN. She was the youngest of three children.

After high school she moved to Santa Monica, CA, and worked as a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII. There she married her first husband, Robert Carlson and had a daughter, Sandra, and a son, Jimmy (deceased). She later moved to Spokane, where a handsome Air Force Sergeant caught her eye. She married Lorenz (Larry) Niemeier and had another daughter, Marlene. They began the Air Force life of many moves and Larry's remote assignments. Alice made many lifelong friends during these travels before she and Larry retired in Spokane. Larry went to his Lord in 1985. Alice was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and was active in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, serving as district president. Alice was honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by the YWCA in 2013. Alice had a collection of over 100 vintage hats which she loved sharing at luncheons and fund raisers. She was an excellent seamstress, a jewelry maker, and a quilter at St. John's quilting group. She loved dancing! Alice was a woman of unshakable faith, fierce independence, and generosity. She is survived by her two daughters, Sande Sauer (David) of Spokane, and Devon Marlene Niemeier (Grace Arrascaeta) of Fort Lauderdale, FL; five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a great-great-granddaughter just born this April. She is also survived by her friend of many years, Verna Eucker. Alice is now safely in the arms of her Savior, Jesus Christ. Our thanks to Pastor Aaron West (St. Matthew Lutheran Church), Jon of Kindred Hospice for his excellent care of Alice, and Angel Senior Care for many wonderful care givers, especially Rose. A Memorial Service of thanks to the Lord will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 5810 S. Meadow Lane Rd., Spokane, WA 99224 on Saturday, May 25 at 11 AM, officiated by Pastor Virtus Young. Remembrances may be made in the form desired by friends. For those who desire, contributions may be made to YWCA of Spokane, St. Johns Lutheran Church, or the charity of your choice.

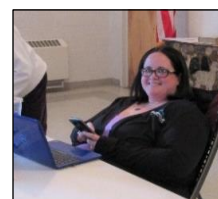
Published in *Spokesman-Review* newspaper on May 5, 2019

Those wishing to donate mites in her memory should send them to Financial Secretary Elizabeth Cook. Her contact information is found on the roster of this newsletter.

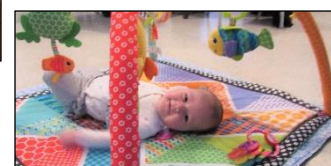


... if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12: 8-10 NIV).

Washington-Alaska Board of Directors and Nominating Committee Meetings Held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Sunnyside, Washington March 8-9, 2019



Please consider joining us by filling one of the vacant district positions. Contact President Marilee or another board member listed on the roster page. We have fun while serving the LORD.



Heart to Heart Sisters

Tina Mueller, committee member

Trust in God's Fruit of the Spirit

Wherever we go, we should all have a welcoming attitude towards everyone (Titus 3: 4-7). Each person is a child of God — regardless of background, looks, or actions. As a Heart to Heart Sister, we can welcome women of diverse ethnic groups. We can acknowledge and appreciate that all Sisters in Christ have different cultures that manifest the fruits of the Spirit in different ways. We can also be a witness for women who do not yet know Christ. We do this by understanding their cultures and beliefs and then sharing the fruits of the Spirit with them.

An example of the fruits of the Spirit, such as love and kindness, manifesting itself differently in different cultures is seen in the celebration of the coming of a newly born child. Some cultures traditionally shower love and kindness towards the mother and give her presents before her baby is born. In other cultures, people will traditionally shower love and kindness towards the baby after the child is born as a celebration of its life. While the “how” and “when” to celebrate a new baby is different, the fruit of the Spirit — the love and kindness towards the mother and child — is still the same. It is ever present through the people who attend the baby shower, whether before or after the birth. It is present in believers and non-believers alike.

As Heart to Heart Sisters, we can learn many traditions that help make women feel welcome and witness to non-believers by relying on God's fruits of the Spirit. By opening our hearts and minds we welcome new members to Christ's eternal family.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22).



I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world (John 16: 33).

Lake Washington Zone

Ruth Ann Shimoi, President

The Lake Washington Zone Joyshop was on March 16 at Hope Lutheran Church in West Seattle, Washington. A break from the snowy weather of February turned into a celebration of each other as “Women in Mission.” Attended by 38 women, two guests, our Pastoral Counselor, and one young person, we gathered around the theme “We Are Family: A Patchwork Quilt of Beauty.”

This theme was a prayer service from the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* Winter 1993 issue. The service took participants through the parts that make a quilt and twelve quilt patterns themed around stages of our lives. The overall theme was that all of the parts of a quilt and the patterns bring us together as a family.

Our servant project was making “no-sew” fleece blankets. Fifteen blankets were finished at the joyshop. These blankets will be divided between housing organizations in Renton, Washington. While we served the LORD with gladness, we rejoiced in great fellowship and also served our neighbors in need.



On Saturday April 27, the ladies of North Columbia Zone were hosted by Our Savior Lutheran Church in Okanogan, Washington. Our theme was based on *And above all these put on love* (Colossians 3:14a). Pastor Brian Bowes opened with a devotion about “dressing for success” based on Colossians 3:12-14. Next, Pastor Kevin Moore presented a Bible study continuing with our devotion theme as we were directed to put on Kindness, Compassion, Gentleness, Humility, and Patience. We were given hats to decorate with hearts, crosses, and symbols of the Colossian words to remind us of the clothing God gives us to wear as we grow and learn to walk with Him in His Word. It was a fun and interactive visual Bible study. Pastor Bowes gave the closing devotion on Words & Actions based on Matthew 5:16. Our fun and exhilarating day ended with a wonderful lunch of chicken Caesar salad and yummy desserts provided by the ladies of the Okanogan LWML. For our small zone of six churches, the event was well attended, with 18 ladies and pastors.

Submitted by Sandi Hall, North Columbia Zone Vice President

North Columbia Zone

Deana Mae Visser, President



Mt. Baker Zone

Doris Hildenbrand, President

Challenged to celebrate joy during the season of Lent, 56 women gathered on April 6, 2019, at Trinity Lutheran in Bellingham, Washington, to enjoy the Mount Baker Zone Joyshop. The event was jointly hosted by the ladies of Grace Lutheran of Blaine, Washington, and the Priscillas of Trinity Lutheran of Bellingham, Washington.

Although a long journey northward for many members of our zone, most openly marveled at the beauty of the day and the perfection of the verdant landscape painted by God — Who else could create so many shades of green?

Creation served as a basis for the ingathering: flat sheets were collected to be reborn as quilt backings on quilts to be donated to cover God's people with steadfast love.

The joyshop was themed around *for I can do all things through Christ* (Philippians 4:13). Guest speaker Kim Wagner discussed the importance of saying "no" to too much volunteer work that overextends us. She even went over several ways to politely say "no."

After a lunch break, Pastor David Wagner led a Bible study covering Philippians 1-4. The focus on joy was beautifully summarized as, "Joy is found in focusing on Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last."

Submitted by Kelsie Ingham, Mt. Baker Zone Treasurer



Alaska Zone

Ruth Zellar, President



On April 6 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Chugiak, Alaska, 53 women from all over the state joined together at our joyshop. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, and presentation with photos from the Holy Land.

Christian Life Chairman Roberta Hilgendorf presented a synopsis of her trip to Israel. Our theme, based on Matthew 4:19, was "Come Follow Me." She showed slides taken where Jesus walked. Everyone enjoyed it so much that we talked her into a second slide presentation about Old Testament sites.

We then had a skit, taken from the LWML website, about our mites. Instead of passing the offering plates for a mite offering, we gave everyone a Mite Box. I had attendees use their new Mite Boxes for their mite offering that day. Everyone brought their Mite Boxes, filled with offerings, to the front of the church and they were used to build a tower. Following that, we did a dedication of our mites. We collected over \$400!

A good time was had by all. We closed with a worship service led by Zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Eugene Larmi.

South Columbia Zone

MaryLynn Huntwork, President

Bethel Lutheran Ladies were host to our joyshop in Coulee City, Washington. "Sing Joyful Praise to the Lord" served as our theme. *Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations* (1 Chronicles 16:23-24a). Society President Betty Jorgensen welcomed 24 attendees, inviting them to enjoy time with sisters and brothers in Christ from all five societies in our zone. District Pastoral Counselor Rev. Richard Loppnow led the opening devotion with Zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Shawn Neider leading us in Bible study.

Our ingathering was for McKay Health Care and Rehab while our servant event consisted of packaging personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Bethel Society entertained us with humorous readings which brought much laughter from the group.

We ended with prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to gather together in His name, joyfully singing His praise.



Bethlehem Society

Blue Mountain Zone

One of the projects for our Bethlehem LWML ladies, from Kennewick, Washington, was to help fund "ID holders" and bookbags for children in Guatemala. The items were created and sewn by our "CUT-UPS" — the sewing group from our church. There is a group from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kennewick, Washington, going to Guatemala this year. The travelers will be taking the articles.



Another project this year was contributing \$500 to Westgate Elementary School, in Kennewick, so that shoes can be purchased for children who did not have adequate shoes for winter wear.

For our April ladies outing this year, we took a trip to Dayton, Washington, to explore that historic city.

Submitted by Wilma Gardner

Society Corner

Priscilla Society

Mt. Baker Zone



On April 6, the Priscillas co-hosted the Mt. Baker Zone Joyshop at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Bellingham, Washington. Our LWML sisters from Grace Lutheran of Blaine, Washington, provided the continental breakfast. Speaker Kim Wagner's theme was "When is Enough ... Enough? Have you scheduled any time for JOY?" The Bible verse was *from For I can do all things through Christ* (Philippians 4:13). Music and laughter were a fitting part of this well-attended event. The ingathering provided 35 bed sheets for our Busy Hands Quilters who make quilts for charities. After our sack lunches, the Priscillas served gigantic pieces of hummingbird cake. We closed with a Bible study led by Pastor Dave Wagner of Trinity.

Submitted by Mary Miller

In honor of National Armed Forces Day, May 18, the LWML ladies of Trinity in Mount Vernon, Washington, wrote thank-you cards to the 50 current actively employed LCMS chaplains. These chaplains provide comfort and strength to military men and women amid constant danger.

Trinity

Mt. Baker Zone



Submitted by Carol Johnson

Shepherd of the Hills Society

Mt. Baker Zone

We hosted an instructional class about the phenomenally popular Instant Pot. For a small donation, class attendees learned how to use the appliance, practiced making several dishes and meals, and shared the food for lunch. Everyone had a lot of fun; we shared much fellowship in the kitchen while we cooked. The class was so popular that we plan to host another class in June.



Submitted by Kelsie Ingham



Mt. Olive Society

Inter-Valley Zone

In Yakima, Washington, Mt. Olive's LWML ladies, with the help of congregation members, are taking Jesus to the streets at Yakima's homeless shelter, Camp Hope. This new ministry provides a delicious and nutritious meal to individuals and families on the last Saturday of each month. The pictures show LWML and congregation members preparing to serve the residents on a cold, windy April day inside the "dining room." One of our ladies jokingly received a marriage proposal for making the best dessert one young man had ever tasted. Plans for the following month include barbecued hamburgers and singing with guitar accompaniment, weather permitting.



Submitted by Pam Rafferty

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Evergreen Echoes

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Washington-Alaska District

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