



Winter 2019

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



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Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes
Spring Issue DEADLINE:

January 31, 2020 to
EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



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 Triune God!

This fall has been busy and exciting. I was blessed to attend five zone rallies around our district. This included a trip to Alaska – my former stomping ground. It was wonderful to see friends who we left behind when we moved to Washington over nine years ago.



Our district retreat in September in Richland, Wash, was wonderful! The guest speaker, Kim Wagner, was inspiring, entertaining, and hilarious! Sending thank you to Vice President of Christian Life Rhonda Ries and the retreat committee for a fabulous weekend. Plans are forming quickly for the district convention in September 2020, at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, Wash. I encourage you to make plans to attend, to be inspired, and to connect with our sisters and brothers in Christ as we “Walk in the Light.”

Please share all LWML emailed information that you receive with others in your zones and societies.

I pray you all had a very delicious, family-filled, and joyful Thanksgiving. We continue to give thanks and praise daily to our loving God for all His blessings.

I also wish you a safe, joy-filled Merry Christmas! Have a blessed and happy New Year!

As we enter the new year, continue to use your time and talents at church, at work, at home, and in LWML. Together we let Christ's light shine through us in all that we do.

I hope to see many of you in September at our district convention.

Marilee Ryan



DISTRICT COUNSELOR

Rev. Dan Freeman, Senior Pastoral Counselor – West

And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger (Luke 2:12).

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us” (Luke 2:15).

Wouldn't it be great to have such a sign? What if there were some place we could go to see and touch the Christ Child? There is! The narrative of Jesus' birth gives us insight.

Bethlehem — the city of Jesus' birth — translates, from Hebrew, to “House of Bread.” Jesus is the “bread of life” (John 6:35, 48), and He was born in the “house of bread.” He was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger — the place where livestock find their food. So, we have the Bread of Life in the House of Bread in a vessel designed for holding food.

These details are echoed every Sunday, but they ring especially clearly at the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord — the Christ Mass.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find the babe — crucified and risen for you — wrapped in bread and wine, on a paten and in a chalice on the altar, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.

God grant that we always react in a fashion after the shepherds: “Let us go to the Divine Service and see — and receive — this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

A blessed Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord to you all!



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.

Nominating Committee

Please forgive us for sounding like a broken record, but the convention is drawing closer, and the nominating committee is still looking for people who are willing to run for various offices and positions.

Please contact a nominating committee member if you are willing to serve. (The Chairman's contact information appears on the roster page of this issue.)

Patrice Cornelius
Betsy McDarment
Ruth Ann Shimoi
Betty Rich
Sandi Schauer, Chairman



Gospel Outreach News

"Let Your Mites Be a Beacon of Light for Grants" is the 2018-2020 LWML Washington-Alaska District mission grant biennium theme.

As of Oct 19, 2019, six grants have been *Paid in Full* and five have received partial payment, for a total paid to grants of \$56,235. Remember there are only five months left to get all of our 16 mission grants paid in full!

We have until the end of this biennium: March 31, 2020. Remember, if every society member from each zone would give just \$10 per month towards mites, our mission grants 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.

We are currently in the process of going over Mission Grant Applications for the 2020-2022 biennium. Please keep all grant applicants in your prayers during this process. Mission grant recipients for the 2020-2022 biennium will be selected at the 2020 LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention.

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.

Thank you all for your continued support of mission grants and blessings to you and your families as we celebrate Christmas with loved ones. May God bless you always!

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

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Short Term Mission Committee

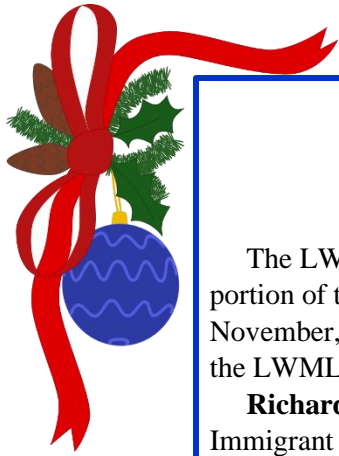
Ruth Zellar, Chairman



We were able to give the Vacation Bible School (VBS) team going to Ninilchik, Alaska, \$350 for supplies. The following is what one of the team members sent after their VBS.

"In June I was blessed to participate in a VBS in Ninilchik, Alaska, due in part to a short-term mission grant from LWML. I joined a wonderful team of people from Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Florida. We shared the love of Jesus with up to 25 children per day. Concordia Publishing House generously donated Bibles and Bible storybooks so that every child received one or the other. A highlight was when one mother asked us for a Bible for herself so she could learn along with her children! It was a week of blessings for the VBS team and the children. I look forward to serving there again."

It is a joy to hear stories like this one.



Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

The LWML Washington-Alaska District scholarship recipients for 2018-2019 will receive the final portion of their 2019-2020 grant in December. At the WA-AK District Board of Directors meeting in November, the Scholarship Committee updated the scholarship application, and it will be available on the LWML WA-AK District website in early 2020.

Richard McCafferty continues his studies with Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program which is largely online but requires some time on the St. Louis campus. He plans to become a pastor.

Kurt Hellwig continues his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become a pastor.

Michele Doel (nèe Musegades) continues at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis studying to become a deaconess. Michele participates in LWML activities.

Hannah Freeman is completing her work at Concordia Lutheran University in Mequon, Wis. She will graduate at the end of the current semester and she plans to become a parish musician.

The final applicant although having been approved at the 2018 convention, has not been able to submit the required paperwork and so no payments can be made at this time.

Please remember these students in your prayers.

LWML District Store

Greetings to all,

Are you getting excited about the convention next September? I know I am!

I am busy writing an order for the LWML Store. I want input from YOU! What kinds of LWML items would you like to see in the store? Please email me at sandrahall1918@msn.com. Let me know what items you want, need, or wish for your society, yourself, or as gifts for a secret sister or friend. I will try my best to have your favorites in the store. Space is limited so let me know soon! There are new items available since the convention. Go to cph.org. Click "catalog," search LWML, and take a look. Please don't forget to email me your suggestions.

Have a blessed Christmas,

Sandi Hall, Store Administrator



Lutheran Woman's Quarterly News

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly is increasing in price. Single copies are now \$7.50 per issue for orders of 1-9 copies. If ordering 10 or more copies, the price is \$6 per copy.

In my letter to subscribing societies, I did not eliminate the sentence, "[t]he prices remain the same as the previous year." My apologies for any confusion.

Any society or individual who did not receive the Quarterly last year, but wishes to now subscribe, please let me know by email at ajrjeffery@gmail.com. The deadline is December 1, 2019, for all orders.

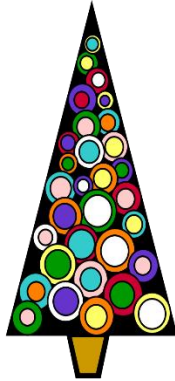
God's blessings,

Judy Jeffery,
Quarterly Manager



Structure Committee

Pam Rafferty, Chairman
Aletha Voges, **Committee** member



Change Your Bylaws with Ease

You haven't looked at your zone or society bylaws in years. In fact, you are not sure you can even find them. Does this sound like your group? Well, don't spend valuable time trying to rewrite your old bylaws.

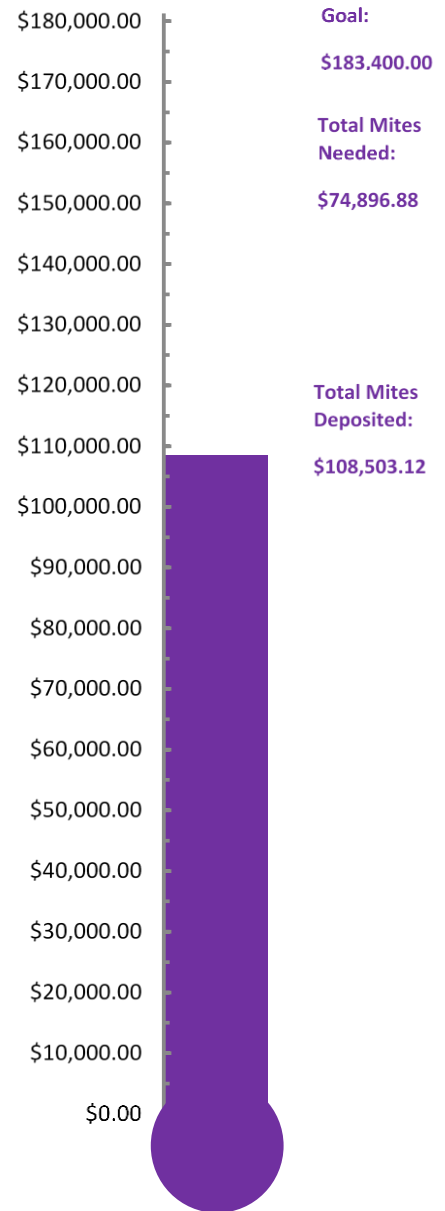
Suggestions:

1. Locate bylaws - can't find them, contact the district structure committee
2. Download the sample bylaws from the LWML website:
Zones: <https://lwml.360unite.com/posts/handbook-resources/bylaws-zones>
Local: <https://lwml.360unite.com/posts/handbook-resources/bylaws-local-level>
3. Gather a committee of two or three members and begin to insert your information into the sample bylaws. There are some paragraphs that are best copied word for word.
4. If you have questions or need guidance, contact the district Structure Committee. Contact information is available on the roster page of this newsletter.
5. When completed, email them to Structure Committee Chairman Pam Rafferty for review. Contact information is available on the roster page of this newsletter.
6. When approved by the district, bring to your zone or local society for approval and implementation.

Easy as one, two, three, four, five, six.. Well, maybe not that fast.

2018-2020 Mites

as of October 31, 2019



Leader Development Committee

Pam Rafferty, Chairman
Michele Misener, **Committee** member

Most of the world sees those in leadership positions as being above others and having authority over them. Christ turns this "worldly" view on its head (or "right side up")! *But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves* (Luke 22:26).

Remember the LWML website has some great 'tools' that can help us to be better "servants" in His name. These tools are found at www.lwml.org.



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.



Heart to Heart Sisters Committee

Allison Akahoshi, Chairman

Part of the role of Heart to Heart sisters is to connect the women of LWML to a wider worldview that includes women of all cultures and countries. To do so, several barriers must be vaulted or removed. Most of these barriers are invisible and thus are hard to discern and overcome. Can you identify the barrier in this story?

Everyone who lives in Bongobongo wears yellow sunglasses. Quite naturally, everything they see — the sky, the trees, the people, the food — has a sunny yellow tint. It has always been like this and the citizens of Bongobongo live quite contentedly in their yellow universe.

Into this world comes a visitor, a citizen of Adanac. As you may have heard, all Adanacians wear blue sunglasses. When they wake up each day, they kiss their beautiful blue children, and look out on to blue fields, forests and farms, all of course, under a perfect blue sky.

Being a culturally sensitive visitor, the Adanacian feels it is only right that he tries to understand the Bongobongo perspective of the world. So he acquires a pair of yellow sunglasses and puts them on over his own blue ones. “Ah!” he says with some satisfaction. “Now I get it. Everything here in Bongobongo is green!” (Centre for Intercultural Learning. Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, 2007).

This story is a part of an excellent resource that can help to identify and bring cultural barriers out into the open. The resource is “Living and Learning Heart to Heart.” It includes a Bible study, discussion guide, and reflective exercises. There is also a media component for those who have this ability. The guide is for group experiences. However, it would also be helpful to an individual who desires a deeper understanding of cultures and seeks a greater awareness.

Find it on the LWML website under the “fellowship” option at the top of the page and then click “Heart to Heart.” Locate the “Living and Learning” study on the right side of the page. Blessings and joy to all who partake of this study.



Christian Life Committee

Rhonda Ries, Chairman

The 2019 Washington-Alaska District Retreat took place in Richland, Wash., September 27-29 and was a great success! One-hundred twelve Lutheran women (and a handful of supportive men) attended the retreat, themed “Where’s the Joy?” This retreat welcomed over 20 first-time attenders!

On Friday night, participants got to know each other through a BINGO mixer, found their prayer partners and ended the evening with Vespers.

Saturday, retreat goers were treated with captivating presentations by the invited speaker, Kim Wagner. Kim talked about the joys and sorrows found in life and how our Lord delivers His promises to us throughout. Pastor Freeman led a Bible study based on Ecclesiastes. He reminded us to set our focus on the eternal life to come, even amid the joys and sorrows we experience in this lifetime. Later in the day, Kim returned with her “back-up” singers and provided some rousing entertainment that had the audience in tears of laughter!

The retreat came to an end on Sunday after the Divine Service, led by Pastors Freeman and Loppnow. Donations for mites were collected throughout the weekend and totaled over \$2,300.

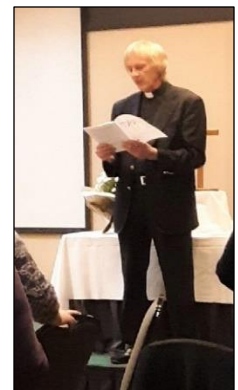
Overall, the weekend was filled with wonderful singing, laughter and enjoyable fellowship as sisters-in-Christ shared their faith and friendship with friends old and new.

2019 WA-AK District Retreat

September 27-29 Richland, Wash.



Where's
the joy?



Zone News

Alaska Zone

Ruth Zellar, President



Alaska Zone had our Fall Rally on October 11 & 12. It was a beautiful sunny day and it brought out 55 women from all over the state. Our theme was “Lord of the Harvest” based on *(f)or the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete* (Deuteronomy 16:15b).

The ladies from St. John Lutheran in Palmer hosted our weekend. On Friday night we had a meet and greet. One of the St. John Society members read from the devotional that was written in 1935 by the first missionary to the Palmer Colonies.

Saturday we gathered again and our Christian Life Chairman did a Bible study on The Parable of the Sower. We had a speaker from the local Heart Reach Pregnancy Center talk to us about their program and how they are helping new young mothers. Our Gifts of Love collection was diapers and wipes that will greatly help the pregnancy center.

The skit at our rally named “Disciple Stew” is from the LWML website. It was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all.

In the afternoon we held our business meeting with election of officers followed by a Communion Worship Service led by St. John Intentional Interim Pastor Craig Schultz.

Rainier Zone

Elizabeth Cook, President

The ladies of Rainier Zone welcomed Washington-Alaska District President Marilee to our fall rally. It was held at the Lutheran Church of St. Paul in Graham, Wash.

LWML members of St. Paul prepared a lovely day for us. They made delightful dishes for breakfast, lunch, and dessert. As an additional treat, they sweetened our service with their ladies group singing the pre-service music and also singing during the offering. We heard a wonderful sermon about the sweetness of God's Word. Then we enjoyed a short devotion about how the Word of God is sweeter than honey (or chocolate)!

After lunch we prepared necessities for local schools as a service project. The items are meant for schools to have on hand to give out to homeless students.

It was a blessing to gather with sisters in Christ to serve Him with gladness!

North Columbia Zone

Deana Mae Visser

The North Columbia Zone Fall Rally was held September 14, 2019, at Hope Lutheran Church in Tonasket, Wash. “Lutheran Women Inspire” served as the theme. Eighteen people attended.

Washington-Alaska District President Marilee Ryan was our speaker in the morning. She shared leadership skills she learned from the training she received during the Assembly of Leaders in 2018. We enjoyed having Marilee and her husband Mike with us.

The afternoon session was a Bible study led by Linda Kuhlmann of Havillah, Wash. It included some skits demonstrating cordial, positive, and effective ways to communicate with those in our congregations and LWML groups.

Rev. Brian Bowes and Rev. Kevin Moore led our devotions.

Our spring joyshop is April 18, 2020, at Faith Lutheran Church in Oroville, Wash.



Lake Washington Zone

Ruth Ann Shimoi, President

Thirty-eight ladies, one pastoral counselor, one guest pastor, and one youth gathered at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Renton, Wash., on October 19. Our theme was “At Table with Jesus.”

We gathered in the narthex of the church and journeyed to the baptismal font, the altar, and the cross. Along the way we learned the history and meaning of each piece. We ended by partaking of Communion and had a foretaste of the feast to come.

Brunch was served followed by the business meeting. Our emphasis was the role our zone has in planning and participating in the 2020 district convention.

Our zone will also be sending a mission grant proposal for consideration.

Sometime in March our 2020 joyshop will be at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, in Bellevue, Wash.



Mt. Baker Zone

Doris Hildenbrand, President

On the glorious sunny autumnal day of October 19, 34 people gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon, Wash., to rejoice in celebration that all lives are “Handmade by God.” Baby clothes, blankets, diapers and other items were collected for our Gifts from the Heart.

Guest speakers Jennifer Smith and Jewel Schloemer from Pregnancy Choices in Mt. Vernon told us about their clinic, which gives free STD and pregnancy tests. If pregnancy is confirmed, the clinic has a nurse and gives ultrasounds, pregnancy and adoption counseling, as well as help after the birth. Pregnancy Choices gives new baby gifts, offers care packages for those who experience a miscarriage, and even helps their clients find housing. They also offer sex education talks in local schools — we saw that presentation and then tried to put the steps of fertilization in order. It’s really not as easy as it sounds!

A very personal devotion was led by zone Christian Life Chairman Nadyne VanDamme based on our theme verse “... *for I am fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Psalm 139: 14).

We had a business meeting in the afternoon with the election of two new officers. Pastor Kevin Schubkegel installed two and rededicated three of our zone officers. He then gave a short service before our day ended.



Society Corner

Zion Society

Mt. Baker Zone

In July, the LWML society at Zion Lutheran Church, Snohomish, Wash., hosted an all-church garage sale. This was a two-day event that took a lot of planning and organizing.

The funds raised were used to purchase batting for quilts and yarn for chemo caps. Both handmade items are donated to organizations and hospitals.

This was also a Thrivent Choice project that provided water and snacks for all that who came through the doors. It was a great way to work with our community to provide a variety of items and reach out with kind words.

It was a nice way to get to know people and share Jesus' love with them through the thousands of chemo caps and over 150 quilts we donate throughout the year.



Lutheran Church of the Atonement

Lake Washington Zone



Ladies of the Mission Circle at Lutheran Church of the Atonement, in Seattle, Wash., assembled twenty Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief in October.

Barbara Yost, pictured, has crocheted countless baby blankets over the years and donated the blankets needed for the service project.

Shepherd of the Hills Society

Mt. Baker Zone

The LWML from Shepherd of the Hills has a team of volunteers who make Braille books — Bible stories and books of the Bible — for Lutheran Braille Workers. It's a group effort in assembly-line fashion. Because it requires some training, our team consists of five regulars and several alternates. This is just one of our on-going service projects.



Calvary Society

Blue Mountain Zone

Continuing a 25-year-plus tradition, the LWML ladies and gentlemen of Calvary, Sunnyside, Wash., produce 470 Granny Smith apple pies to support several mission projects. Some years they have made over 800 pies. Past mission projects include Camp Lutherhaven, Lutheran Hour Ministries, seminary students, Fountain of Hope School in Uganda, and their own Calvary Lutheran Preschool, to name a few. At a past district board meeting, one of their pies sold for \$100 to help support registration for the 2014 District Convention.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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 Gospel Outreach

Cristina McAnulty

Mission Servants Committee Chairman

Linda Davelaar

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Judy Ikerd

Short Term Missions Committee Chairman

Ruth Zellar

Vice President of Christian Life

Rhonda Ries

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

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

Public Relations Director

TBD

Evergreen Echoes Editor (and Circulation)

Kelsie Ingham

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com

Quarterly Manager

Judy Jeffery

Webmaster

Joyce Berger

LWML District Store Administrator

Sandi Hall

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Pam Rafferty

pbrafferty@juno.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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Each winter, snow geese migrate from Canada to Mexico with stops in fields along the way — commonly seen in Mt. Baker Zone.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Lutheran Woman'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.