



Spring 2017

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



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Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes

Summer Issue DEADLINE:

April 30, 2017 to

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



LWML Convention

June 22-25, 2017

Albuquerque, New Mexico



District Retreat

September 29-October 1, 2017

Gig Harbor, Washington

District Convention

June 15-17, 2018

Spokane, Washington

Greetings from

LWML Washington-Alaska District PRESIDENT Marie Chow



Come with me to Albuquerque! One of the exciting events of the year is the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. What a time to spend celebrating the 75th anniversary of LWML looking at the past as well as the future! What a great time to be “Gifted to Serve!” This will be one of the closest conventions to us. Make plans to attend and enjoy worshipping the Lord and celebrating His awesomeness with fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

Are you going? You can serve by signing up for Servant Connections — activities to reach out with your heart and hands to the needy in the Albuquerque area. Bring items for the Gifts from the Heart. Do the Mission in Motion Pledge Walk Friday late afternoon. What wonderful ways to show that “God uses us and the gifts He has given us to serve and share His love with others to His glory!”

If you are unable to attend, you can:

- Help out with Gifts From the Heart.
- Give a pledge for the Mission in Motion walk that will go toward mission grants.
- Give an offering to one of four offerings that will take place (more information on the offerings will come later).

Just give any of the above to your zone delegate or me. 😊

See you all there in Albuquerque!

Serving Christ with You,

Where Jesus Promises to be Found

Several years ago, I had a column in our congregational newsletter called “Ask the Pastor.” One of the questions I received speaks to issues which have troubled Christians for centuries and which will trouble Christians until Jesus returns. The remainder of this article is that column.

“My question is: Does every Christian, or has every Christian heard God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit talk to them?”

To explain, I have many, many, friends that have said at one point in time, that God told them, or that Jesus spoke to them about a particular thing to do or not do. I have never had that experience. I do believe that I am a Christian. And I try to follow the Ten Commandments. I pray daily (sometimes hourly). I read the Bible daily. And while going through a Bible Study called “Crossways,” I feel closer to God, and I know He is in my heart. But, still, I am troubled with God/Jesus not talking to me.

Perhaps, it is because I cannot hear him! However, I pray every day that he would open my ears and heart to hear him. Or could it be that I have only been baptized, and the Holy Spirit has not come to me!

While pondering this the other day, I was reading Acts 8:14-17, where Peter and John went to Samaria to pray that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit.

Or maybe I am putting too much into this.

If you have any advice on this, it would be greatly appreciated if you could pass it along.”

Your question raises issues which are foundational to the Christian faith. Your question actually raises several questions. They are all very closely related and of utmost importance, so I will try to answer them all. First, your overarching question: “Does every Christian, or has every Christian heard God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit talk to them?”

The answer to this question is a resounding, “**Yes!**” But **NOT** in the way your question assumes. All Christians hear God, the Holy Trinity, speak to them every time they hear the Word of God. That is, every time they hear the Holy Scripture preached or read, every time they hear the words of absolution, every time they receive Christ’s Body and Blood in Holy Communion and hear the words “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,” and every time they remember their baptism and the promises God gave them in that washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit—these are the times of hearing the Word of God. These things (we lump them together and call them Word and Sacrament) are where God has **promised** we can hear Him. These are where God’s Word and will are **sure**. Any other “speaking” of God is absolutely unsure.

You say that you “have many, many, friends that have said at one point in time, that God told them, or that Jesus spoke to them about a particular thing to do or not do.” I ask: How do they know it was God or Jesus speaking to them? Was it from a clear word in Holy Scripture? Was it from circumstances? Was it a voice in their head or “heart?” Unless it was by a clear word in Holy Scripture, they have no valid claim that God or Jesus told them anything. God has promised to speak to us through the Holy Scripture. (And through those sacraments instituted by Christ in it), He has not promised to speak to us in any other way.

In fact, there are many Bible passages which indicate that God has not intended to speak to us today through any medium other than Holy Scripture. When the rich man who was suffering the torments of hell asked Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his living brothers, Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them” (Luke 16:29). God’s speaking in Holy Writ is sufficient. We need not look elsewhere.

The notion that God speaks to us outside of His promised means of grace is not a new teaching, but it is a false teaching. Lutheran reformers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries called such teaching “Enthusiasm” or “Fanaticism.” “Enthusiasm” is from Greek roots essentially meaning “god-within-ism.” The dangers of enthusiasm are many, but I want to focus on one in particular.

I want to focus on the danger which enthusiasm has wrought in your faith life. It is probably the most insidious of all dangers of enthusiasm. In fact, it is purely Satanic. Satan’s whole purpose is to destroy faith in

*See the remainder of this article at **DISTRICT COUNSELOR** on page 7.*



Lutheran Women's Missionary League 37th Biennial Convention

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9).

The 2017 Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico will be an event to remember. When we gather under the theme "Jesus Christ Above All," Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison will serve as proclaimer for the Thursday opening worship service.

The keynote speaker will be Ida Mall. Ida served as LWML President from 1991-1995 and continues to serve and mentor the women of the LWML. Ida says she looks "to actively seek opportunities to share my faith in Jesus with others" and makes that focus her personal mission statement. Deaconess Betty Knapp will expand on the theme of the convention "Jesus Christ Above All" from Philippians 2:9 in her Bible studies.

Since The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod also observes the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, Jan Struck will provide humorous interruptions as Katie Luther. LWML will be observing its 75th anniversary during the convention with a special "Diamond Dazzle" celebration on Saturday evening, June 24, 2017.

For up-to-date convention information, visit the website at www.lwml.org/2017-convention.

Come Celebrate 75 Years of LWML
WITH THOUSANDS OF YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS!

Come to our Diamond Dazzle Celebration at the 37th Biennial Convention | June 22-25, 2017 | Albuquerque, New Mexico

[If you plan to attend, please let District President Marie Chow know via email.
Her contact information is on the roster page of this newsletter.]

District Email Address for Prayer Chain Requests

Send prayer petitions to: lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com.

When sending requests that reference someone specific (other than yourself), please make sure you have permission to disclose potentially sensitive information to the group, or keep the request more general in nature to avoid issues of privacy.

You may also use this address to update your contact information or request removal from the prayer chain list.

Vice President of Christian Life, Rhonda Ries, is moderator of prayer requests for the 2016-2018 biennium. Questions or comments can be directed to her using the above email address.

Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

The new application form for scholarships is available on the LWML Washington-Alaska District website. If you know men or women planning to become professional church workers, please encourage them to apply. The deadline for scholarships to be awarded in June 2017 is almost here.

Scholarship applications and letters of recommendation are due by March 15, 2017.

The applications are to be sent to Chairman Judy Ikerd. See her contact information on the roster page.

Easter Is April 16.



VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH

Cristina McAnulty

with Gigi Lutz, Mission Grants Committee member

75 YEARS OF LWML MITES IN MOTION

The LWML Washington–Alaska District Mission Grant biennium theme is: “75 Years of LWML Mites in Motion.” In honor of the 75th anniversary, LWML has released a new design for the Mite Box, commemorating the anniversary. If possible, distribute the new boxes at your churches in honor of this wonderful celebration!

The Mite Boxes are available from the district through Corresponding Secretary Linda Miller, or via Concordia Publishing House at www.cph.org/p-31323-individual-mite-box-75th-anniversary-edition.aspx. (The only cost is the shipping expense.)



Updated grant information can be found at www.wa-aklwml.org along with grant highlights and prayers. Please use this information to spotlight your 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 Donna Chow. Her mailing information is found on the roster page of this newsletter. Please make sure that you have shared this information with the treasurer in each society and zone.

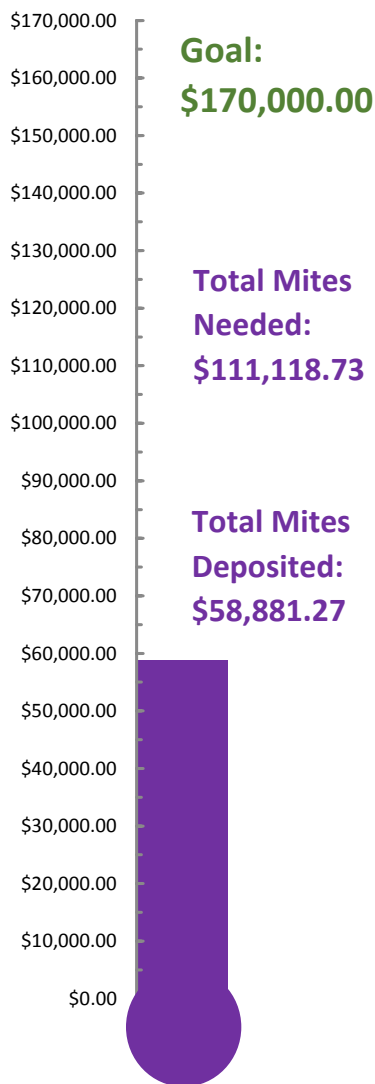
The deadline for sending in your mites for the 2015-2017 mite goal of \$2,000,000 is fast approaching. Please stress to all your societies and zones that all mite money for the current biennium is due on or before **March 31, 2017**. **[Send mites to Financial Secretary Donna Chow by March 24.]** Currently LWML continues to be behind in reaching this goal, so please continue your creative ideas at your societies and zones—have bake sales, silent auctions, or simply make your checks out to “LWML WA-AK District” and mail them in. Please be consistent in prayers and sending your mites. Remember that every penny counts and is a blessing to those being supported as you donate your mites.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work in supporting the mission grant recipients.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Donna Chow

2016-2018 Mites
as of January 31, 2017



Called to be ...

*And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col. 3:17).*

**Come learn about your vocation as a child of God
and the blessing He is to you and through you!**

Registration information and more details coming soon!!!



*LWML Washington-Alaska District Retreat
September 29 – October 1, 2017
at the Best Western Wesley Inn & Suites
Gig Harbor, Washington*

ALL FOR MITES!

At every LWML (national) Board of Directors meeting, there is always an opportunity to give to mites. We recognize our offerings are in response to God's blessings and faithfulness to us, out of His love that resulted in His death on a cross for us, rather than as part of a competition or campaign.

Pastor Robert Roegner, LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor, challenged the LWML Board with a little fun at the last board meeting held in late January. If \$2,500 or more would be gathered at the board meeting, Pastor Bob agreed to have his beard shaved off. This would be only the third time he shaved his beard in his life. (Pastor Bob had been our LWML representative at the 2012 district convention in Wenatchee, Washington.) It was encouraged to ask the districts to assist, so I emailed the district board of directors and committee members.

Did Pastor Bob shave his beard off? Indeed, he did, since the amount announced at the time was \$8,684.43! (The total is actually \$8839.00!) Our district contributed \$1,968! So, here are Pastor Bob and I, before and after:



As of January 31, \$274,558.97 is still needed over February and March to meet the \$2 million goal and fund the mission grants your district delegates voted at the 2015 LWML convention.

Can you increase your mite giving so we can make our goal? Send any of your mites to Financial Secretary Donna Chow **postmarked by March 24** so your mites will be included in the 2015-2017 biennium at the national level. Her address is on the roster page. God has given us many blessings, and it is His power that will enable us to meet this goal.

Thank YOU! President Marie

Please copy this issue for the women in your church!

For black and white copies, print the pages in grayscale for copying on a copy machine. Or print out all the copies in color!

If you would like to receive colored newsletter issues via email, contact Circulation Manager Denise Crawford. Her contact information is on the roster page.



Heart to Heart Sisters Committee

Allison Akahoshi, Chairman

Have you ever felt left out, been anxious, isolated, or just uncomfortable when you were in group situations and did not know anyone? How have you felt when you enter a room of strangers? Would you have felt better if someone approached you to talk?

So, what if you were from another country and did not know anyone and had no clue as to how things worked (like the LWML in our churches)? Although I was not from another country when I moved to Washington from California (and had been involved in LWML there), I did not know how the LWML functioned in my new church. But I was able to make my own inquiries.

We have ladies from countries around the world who have become a part of our Lutheran churches. We also have many multi-cultural ladies who were born here who are attending and are active in our churches. They might not make their own inquiries as I did. They might not know what LWML is. So let us get them involved! Let us share LWML with them. Go out of your way to do it! We will be blessed by what they have to share with us.

And do not forget that at our district convention in June 2018 we will have a program for Heart to Heart Sisters where they will be able to attend and get to know more about what LWML is and does at no cost to them.

The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters Committee is to motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for multicultural women to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Convention Committee

Carolyn Holbrook, Co-chairman

Linda Isaacson, Co-chairman

Remember to mark your calendars for a joyous time in Spokane, Washington, **June 15-17, 2018**, to attend the LWML Washington-Alaska District 2018 Convention at Hotel RL Spokane at the Park (formerly known as Red Lion Inn at the Park).

The theme is "Rooted in Christ ... Flourishing in the Faith," based on Colossians 2:6-7.

The convention promises to be a wonderful growth experience in Christian faith.

Nominating Committee

Linda Einspahr, Chairman

The Nominating Committee is seeking prospective nominees for the following Washington-Alaska District offices for the 2018–2020 biennium:

- ✚ **President**
- ✚ **Vice President of Organizational Resources**
(serves as Coordinator of the Department of Organizational Resources and Leader Development and as chairman of Structure Committee)
- ✚ **Vice President of Special Focus Ministries**
(serves as facilitator of the Heart to Heart Sisters, Teen, and Young Women Committees)
- ✚ **Financial Secretary**
- ✚ **Pastoral Counselor–East**
- ✚ **Five Nominating Committee members**

With God's guidance, please prayerfully consider your LWML sisters who may be qualified for any of these positions. Send your suggestions to Chairman Linda Einspahr, who can also answer your questions. The committee will contact prospective candidates. Linda's contact information is found on the roster page.

DISTRICT COUNSELOR from page 2

Christ. Enthusiasm does just that. It leads people away from the sure word of comfort and forgiveness in the Holy Scripture and makes them look for something unsure. There is evidence in your question that you have begun to do that. "I have never had that experience," you wrote. "Perhaps it is because I cannot hear him," you wrote. You have begun to look to unsure things for evidence of your faith and salvation. You look for an "experience" rather than the sure Word of salvation in God's Word. In this, Satan seeks to destroy your faith. Martin Luther wrote in the *Smalcald Articles* (found in the *Book of Concord*, the collection of our foundational doctrinal documents) "It is the devil himself whatsoever is extolled as Spirit without the Word and Sacraments" (Part III, Art. VIII, 10).

The teachings of fanaticism lead to another misunderstanding evidenced in your question. As a possible explanation for why you haven't "heard" God "speaking" to you, you wonder, "Or could it be that I have only been baptized, and the Holy Spirit has not come to me?" First of all, the word, "only" can never be used in conjunction with "baptized." Baptism is one of those gifts through which God has promised to speak to us the sweet Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. There is nothing "only" about it. But, enthusiasts wrongly separate Holy Baptism and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The two cannot be separated. The Scriptures clearly teach that Holy Baptism conveys the Holy Spirit. In Titus 3:5, St. Paul writes that *He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit*. If you have been baptized, the Holy Spirit has come to you! That is the sure Word of God.

"If you have any advice on this, it would be greatly appreciated if you could pass it along." Here is my advice. It is God's advice from His sure Word. Stop looking for God to "speak" where He has not promised. Instead, rely on His sure Word where He has promised it is found—in Word and Sacrament. There, He will tell you all you need to know. He will tell you of His love. He will tell you of His grace. He will tell you of your sure salvation granted freely through the cross and resurrection of His perfect Son. Take comfort that your salvation is not to be found in some uncertain experience but in the certain proclamation of God in His Word. Listen to God as He speaks to you in power and in truth through Holy Scripture.

I hope and pray that this helps.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Freeman



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.



PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Janet Rust, Director

Being honest, when was the last time you checked out the LWML Washington-Alaska District website at www.wa-aklwml.org?

Just for fun and for forming a relationship with the website tools, try this exercise yourself, or form two teams at one of your society meetings and see which team comes up with the answers first! Arrange a treat for the winning team. Remember to bring all available laptops, iPads, and tablets, and find all the answers on the website.

1. When and where is the 2017 LWML Convention?
2. When and where is the 2017 LWML Washington-Alaska District Retreat?
3. When is the next LWML Washington-Alaska District convention?
4. How often is the *Evergreen Echoes* newsletter published?
5. Your society wants to review its bylaws—what website tools can help you get started?
6. Your society's bylaws amendments can be proposed and passed in a meeting by the simple majority of your society—True or False?
7. What are the four flower types shown on the district logo? Why are there four?
8. What is the total mite goal for the 2016-2018 biennium?
9. From the total mite goal, what is the total dollar goal assigned for the 2016-2018 mission grants?
10. Who is eligible to apply for a LWML Washington-Alaska District scholarship? When is the scholarship application deadline?
11. What were two of the activities photographed at the 2016 LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention?
12. What commitment does the district make to the selected Young Woman Representatives to attend the 2017 LWML Convention?
13. Name two other Lutheran websites that are linked to the www.wa-aklwml.org website.
14. Use a link from the above question to go to one of the other websites.

ENJOY!

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



ZONE NEWS

LWML Washington-Alaska District 2017 Spring Zone Events

Zone	Date	Location	City, State
Alaska	April 22, 2017	Faith Lutheran Church	Homer, Alaska
Blue Mountain	April 22, 2017	Faith Lutheran Church	La Grande, Oregon
East Inland Empire	April 22, 2017	Concordia Lutheran Church	Pullman, Washington
Hood Canal	April 29, 2017	Community of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church	Bremerton, Washington
Inter-Valley	April 22, 2017	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Yakima, Washington
Lake Washington	April 22, 2017	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Renton, Washington
Mount Baker	April 29, 2017	Concordia Lutheran Church	Oak Harbor, Washington
North Columbia	April 22, 2017	Hope Lutheran Church	Brewster, Washington
Olympic	April 30, 2017	St. James Lutheran Church	Mill Creek, Washington
Rainier	April 22, 2017	King of Glory Lutheran Church	Gig Harbor, Washington
South Columbia	April 29, 2017	Faith Lutheran Church	East Wenatchee, Washington



Hood Canal Zone

Susan Abbe, President

The Hood Canal Zone has a new Pastoral Counselor!

Let us give thanks to the Lord for his gift to Hood Canal Zone in Pastor Rob Stroud. Pastor Stroud is well qualified to be Pastoral Counselor. He is warm, wise, and a true gift in his willingness to share his time and talents with our LWML women. He has shared a brief vita that I have copied for you below.

Rev. Rob Stroud is a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Pastor Emeritus. He served most of his ministry as an active duty Air Force chaplain. Since retiring from that, he has been active in our Peninsula Circuit and served as an Interim Pastor in two of our district congregations. He is currently a volunteer chaplain with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office.

Pastor Stroud and his wife Delores have been married for 40 years. They have three children who are active LCMS members. They also have eight grandchildren, seven of whom are under 11 years in age. The Strouds are natives of Kitsap County with Pastor tracing his roots back to Poulsbo's founders.

Known as an engaging teacher, Pastor Stroud is also an avid writer. He is currently working on several different books. His *Mere Inkling* blog addresses a very wide range of subjects, typically with a connection of some sort to C.S. Lewis, the creator of Narnia. You can read it at www.mereinkling.net.

Pastor Stroud has lived in Europe and Asia. His ministry as a military chaplain afforded him many opportunities to travel to exotic (and sometimes, potentially dangerous) environs.

Raised by a devout Christian mother and an atheist father, he is persuaded that women frequently play the greatest role in nurturing the faith of the next generation. He is eager to partner with the women of the Hood Canal Zone of the LWML in their various ministries.

It is easiest to contact him via email, and he welcomes your questions at chaplainstroud@gmail.com.

Join me in thanking the Lord for His gift in Pastor Stroud and in welcoming Pastor Stroud at any event where he is able to join us.

ZONE NEWS

North Columbia Zone

Sandi Hall, President

Greetings to all. I hope this finds all well and recovering from the hectic holidays. Our house had a quiet celebration of Christ's birth. We are still adjusting to the empty nest.

The North Columbia Zone will be busy planning its spring joyshop on April 22, at Hope Lutheran in Brewster, Washington. The joyshop planning meeting on February 4 will decide the topic and scripture. Each society in the zone will be asked for ideas and to participate in some small way.

Fall season was ushered out by Hope Lutheran Church in Brewster presenting a pie auction which included a wonderful melodrama put on by the members. All had a fun time, and the pie was "DELICIOUS!"

Trinity Lutheran Church in Republic has been having an ingathering every two to three months, collecting hats, scarves, and gloves for schoolchildren; food for the needy; meals for members who are ill; blessing bags for the homeless; and for December and January, they collected enough funds to buy two cows and at least one goat for Lutheran World Relief. The ingatherings are rotated to serve the church, community, district, nation, and world. Each quarter they choose a different group to serve.

Each society has its own service projects. On the zone level we have an ingathering at the fall rally and at the spring joyshop. Last fall we filled school backpacks for the Family Empowerment program in Okanogan. I wonder what the project will be for spring.

Enjoy your winter and see you all in Albuquerque!

SOCIETY CORNER

LWML Society

Trinity Lutheran Church
Olympia, Washington
Rainier Zone

The LWML of Trinity Olympia filled and wrapped fifty boxes for the Seafarer's Center in Tacoma. While members of the congregation donated most items for the boxes, a \$250 donation from Thrivent helped purchase additional gloves and hats.

In addition to the donation of Seafarer's boxes, members decided that instead of exchanging Christmas gifts among themselves, they would donate gift cards to needy children in the local area. They gave about \$450 in gift cards for local stores to the schools for children in need.



SOCIETIES AND ZONES:

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



2016-2018 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster

President

Marie Chow

Recording Secretary

Heather Selset

Treasurer

Doris Wurl

Financial Secretary

Donna Chow

Counselor – East (Senior)

Rev. Timothy Winterstein

Counselor – West (Junior)

Rev. Daniel Freeman

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Cristina McAnulty

Mission Servants Committee

Chairman

Marilyn Schaefer

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Judy ikerd

Short Term Missions Committee

Chairman

Twyla Mitson

Vice President of

Organizational Resources

Sandy Geisler

Leader Development Committee

Chairman

Charli Hamaker

Vice President of Special Focus

Ministries

Elizabeth Cook

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee

Chairman

Allison Akahoshi

Teen Committee Chairman

Contact VP Elizabeth Cook

Young Women Committee

Chairman

Marilee Ryan

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Rhonda Ries

Archivist-Historian

Nancy Wyckoff

Convention Committee

Co-Chairmen

Carolyn Holbrook

Linda Isaacson

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Miller

Meeting Manager

Edie Norris

Nominating Committee Chairman

Linda Einspahr

Parliamentarian

Mavis Waarvik

Key

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

Send mites to Financial Secretary Donna Chow.

Order Mite Boxes from and/or send any roster changes to Corresponding Secretary Linda Miller.

If you would like to email any of the above personnel who does not have an email address listed, please send your email to **lwml.wa.ak.webmaster@gmail.com**. The Webmaster will direct the email to the correct person.

Evergreen Echoes

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Washington-Alaska District
c/o Gigi Lutz
17 Fish Hatchery Rd
Republic, WA 99166

Non-profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit 42
Republic, WA 99166

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LWML Washington-Alaska District Theme for 2016-2018



God uses us and the gifts He has given us
to serve and share
His love with others
to His glory.
*As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace ...
in order that in everything
God may be glorified through Jesus Christ
(1 Peter 4:10, 11b).*