



Winter 2020

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



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Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes Spring Issue DEADLINE:

January 31, 2021 to
EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



LWML Convention

June 24-27, 2021
Lexington, Kentucky

District Convention

July 8-10, 2022
Wenatchee, Washington

Greetings from

LWML Washington-Alaska District

PRESIDENT Marilee Ryan



The 2020 district mini convention was held on Friday, September 25, 2020, at Peace Lutheran Church in Chehalis, Washington.

Rev Dr Paul Linnemann, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Northwest District, was the proclaimer for the opening worship service. Thank you to those who participated—virtually or in person.

Welcome to our new officers:

Vice President of Christian Life, Grace Macduff
Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Ruth Ann Shimoi
Jr Counselor West, Rev Kevin Schubkegel
Treasurer, Gigi Lutz
Recording Secretary, Carla Church

Continuing Officers:

Vice President of Organizational Resources, Pam Rafferty
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Carolyn Holbrook
Financial Secretary, Elizabeth Cook
Sr Counselor East, Rev Richard Loppnow

Our district 2018-2020 fiscal year ended on March 31, 2020. Now that our district convention is over, we can officially start the 2020-2022 biennium. Eight mission grants were approved for the new biennium in the amount of \$82,350.

These are listed on the website and in the convention manual available on the website.

Thank you to the outgoing officers:

Vice President of Christian Life, Rhonda Ries
Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Cristina McAnulty
Treasurer, Doris Wurl
Recording Secretary, Heather Selsel
Sr Counselor West, Rev Dan Freeman

It has been a blessing working with each of you during the past two years.

Blessings to you as we move forward!

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.



You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive (Genesis 50:20).

I'm not sure to what extent Satan intends such things for evil anymore. I mean, granting his quadrillion-and-one faults, he's also clearly a pretty sharp guy. After God turned his first million or so evil plans to eventual good, you think he'd have figured that one out by now, so perhaps he has shifted to some other tactics.

With great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33).

This and each of the following Scriptural citations comes from our just-finished Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District Convention, virtual edition. Through which God's great power was still manifest, for it always works that way when the Holy Spirit works through His disciples.

When Jesus had said this, he breathed on the disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Ephrata, Washington, the virus forced us out of Sunday worship for two plus months. Its restrictions still forestall some of our usual activities. In order to get the Gospel message out we created a YouTube channel. Having been forced to learn how, we now so continue. At some point each and every one of our activities will resume. The one lasting result of this time will be this new ministry which continues to get views.

In such ways God turns all things to the ultimate good of those who love Him and call upon the name of Christ.

If we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).



Karen Schuster September 06, 1943 - November 09, 2020

Our past district treasurer Karen received her crown of glory on November 9, 2020. Our prayers for God's peace and comfort to her husband Kenneth, family, and friends.

You may see her memorial at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxEfS09zXAc&feature=youtu.be>

And you can read her obituary at

<https://www.kimballfh.com/obituary/karen-schuster>

Sing with the angels, Karen!

Structure Committee

Pam Rafferty, Vice President



Don't reinvent the wheel!

Use the resources on the District website for your zone and local group. Click here for the link to help with bylaws.

<http://wa-aklwml.org/structurebylawspage.htm>

Click here for the link to leadership development tools on the Lutheran Women's Missionary League website.

www.lwml.org/developing-leaders

For more assistance, contact your district Structure Committee and Leadership Development Committee through the district website.

http://wa-aklwml.org/contacts_page.htm

Leadership Development Committee: Michele Misener, Pam Rafferty
Structure Committee: Ella Kunkel, Aletha Voges, Pam Rafferty

Grasped by God

Christian Life Committee

Grace Macduff, Vice President

"Grasped by God" was a theme explored in the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the famed German pastor during WWII. How is it that we do anything good? By God reaching in and extending His gracious arm to direct our lives. It's not a choice to be grasped by God - we already are. Do you recognize it? It is often easy to follow the world's lead. Fear, change, apathy, noise, sin, depression, misplaced priorities, and broken fellowship with God in our lives. Since God does His work in our lives, how do we embrace it? It might be something we need to let go of, or something we need to pursue, or something we need to wait for God to take action on. Being in God's grasp can involve hard work, but we do not do it alone. We persist through the help of Christ. *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do* (Eph 2:10 NIV).

God's grasp is secure. Whatever situation we are in, He will protect His handiwork.

Bonhoeffer knew this to be true. This was probably what enabled him to do the work that he did, following God, even to his unjust execution in 1945. Bonhoeffer was able to follow God's direction, not frantically, but by first knowing God, then following His direction as it was revealed.

Often, I find myself frantically pursuing work, but not in God's way. This becomes easier to do when I am not actively pursuing God in my spiritual life. Skipping a daily Bible reading, missing (or being late) for Sunday worship, ignoring the prickings of the Spirit. These are all simple things that can easily prevent us from recognizing God's secure grasp and direction in our lives. How will you live differently knowing God's grasp is secure and will you trust God and His grasp in your life?



Gospel Outreach

Ruth Ann Shimoi, Vice President

I was not able to attend the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington—Alaska District 32nd Biennial Convention, but through the reports I can report. The new mite goal for mission grants is \$82,350. This amount will be given to eight mission projects. Through the years this has been the “mission” of LWML. God's work is supported, and lives are touched.

Since coming into office, I have sent emails and made phone calls for the committees that make up this department. I thank those ladies who will be continuing and those who are waiting to be approved by the executive committee. A couple more ladies would round out the committee nicely. Please be in prayer for how you, or someone you know, could serve.

Getting ready for Convention 2022: Grant proposal forms are on the District website. Be listening, look around and pray for a project in your community, zone, or district to submit.

Blessings,

Ruth Ann Shimoi

Vice-President Gospel Outreach



Special Focus Ministries

Carolyn Holbrook, Vice President

The 2020 year has been a challenging year for most. The changes to our lives, the restrictions on our social events and meeting have been difficult. We are grateful our Lord Jesus never changes. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

For the three special committees for which I am VP, change has left vacancies. I'm posting a big “HELP WANTED” for positions for both the Heart to Heart Sisters Committee, and the Young Women Committee. Won't you please join me in praying for the Lord's will in bringing His servants to fill the chairman positions and add members for these committees?

Our Heart to Heart Sisters is the program which is the intentional effort to ensure multicultural women are involved in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. To learn more about this special program, check out the LWML website at www.lwml.org/heart-to-heart-sisters.

Our focus on Young Women in Mission is vital in helping young ladies grow in their involvement in the LWML mission. This is also the time when young women ages 22-35 complete the application to become their District Young Woman Representative to the National LWML Convention held in Lexington, Kentucky, in June of 2021. Work in this committee includes selecting the two young women who will represent our District. More information, and the application form, is available on the website. Until a chairman is found, all candidates may forward their applications to me.

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The third special focus ministry is the Teen Committee. Sharon Westman is the chair. She and her committee encourage our teenage young ladies as they see the work and mission opportunities in the LWML.

Change may not be comfortable, but with the Lord's help, we will find new ways to inspire and encourage each other as we continue the work and mission of the LWML. As you pray for workers in the mission field, be open to the Lord using YOU to assist in one of these Special Focus Ministries! I'll be waiting for your call!



2020 Convention Report

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District 32nd Biennial Convention at Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis, Washington was held on Friday, September 25, 2020. Amazing! By the grace of God...we did it! With all the changes, rules, regulations, "fears" of COVID-19, and all the rest, we STILL held our convention. What a blessing it was for the 32 people that were able to attend. There was fellowship, a worship service, singing, and our business was conducted, as well.

Proclaimer, Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann, President Northwest District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, spoke on our theme verse, "*Walk in the Light*" (1 John 1:7). His message reminded us that we are never alone because Jesus always walks with us. Jesus helps us to see how things really are because He "turns on the light". We are to walk with Jesus and walk like Jesus. Jesus walked a life of obedience and submission to God His Father, loving people unconditionally. Jesus lived a life of healing and comforting people, and sacrificial love. We are to follow His example and walk in His footsteps. What an encouraging message.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS President visited with us through a videotaped message. We also heard from our Bible study leader, Deb Burma via her videotaped message. Sandi Hall shared her mission trip and Elliot and Serena Derricks shared what is happening in Cameroon as they work with Lutheran Bible Translators, also by videotaped message. Kaleb Ries shared his experience with Lutheran Braille Workers.

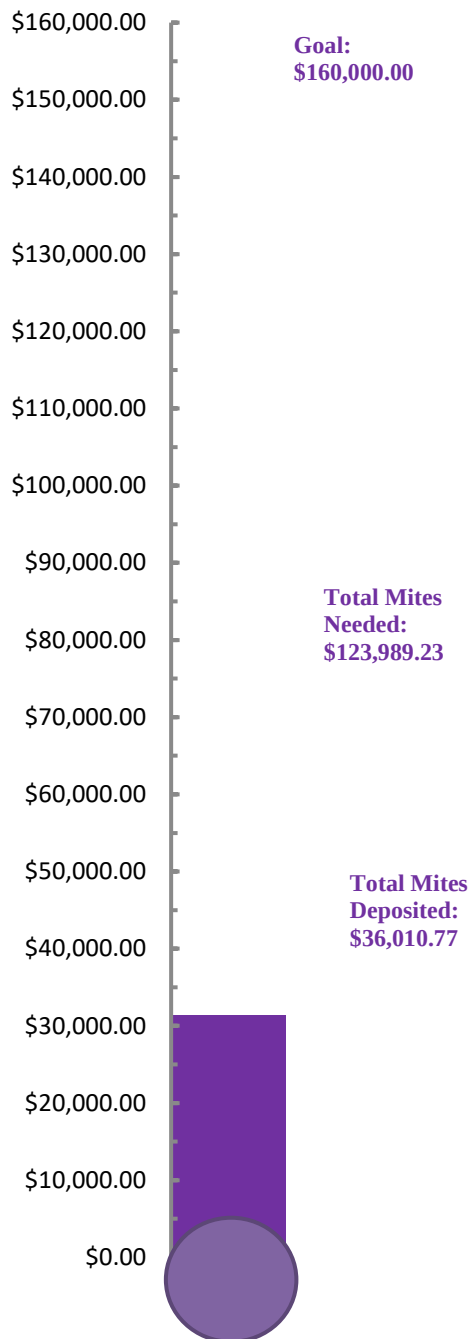
All that we are used to have happening in a district convention happened in an abbreviated manner in this condensed format of one day. It was a full day and a day filled with joy. I was honored to be able to be a part of this convention.

Susan Allen Abbe
2020 Convention Chairman

Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Cook

2020-2022 Mites as of November 3, 2020



Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

Thank you to the members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District and others who have generously given your mites. Mite offerings continue to help the LWML "Serve the Lord with Gladness". Among the grants supported by mites is a grant for scholarships for individuals preparing to become ministers, teachers, deaconesses, or other full-time church workers. The need for workers to proclaim the gospel is great. Current ministers, teachers, and other church workers retire or leave the ministry. The cost of tuition, books and other educational materials, and living continues to rise. Scholarships from the LWML help support students by offset increasing costs and shows students that we care about them.

Applications for LWML WA-AK District Scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year are now available on our website. If you know someone interested in attending a synodical university or seminary, encourage them to apply for a scholarship. Scholarships are awarded to individuals who have a home congregation in the district, plan to become full-time church workers, are enrolled in a synodical seminary or university, and have demonstrated a financial need. Currently, the award is up to \$1000 a year for undergraduate students and up to \$2000 a year for postgraduates. This award is sent directly to the financial office of the seminary or university and applied first to tuition.

For the academic year of 2020-2021, we had only one applicant, Kurt Hellwig. We have supported Kurt for the last two years and after completing this year and one more, he will be ready to serve the Lord as a minister. Two other young men have begun the process of applying for 2021-2022 academic year. I expect them to complete the paperwork and be applicants for that year.

Please continue to support scholarships with your mites. To support more students, consider donating directly to the district scholarship fund. A memorial donation is a beautiful way to honor a loved one. A donation from a zone, society, or individual can help fund a scholarship that helps change a potential student into a student preparing to serve the Lord.



Zone News

Alaska Zone

Ruth Zellar, President

Alaska Zone LWML Fall Rally – Sept. 12, 2020

A COVID-19 friendly workshop was held September 12, 2020, at the Sterling Community Center, instead of the usual annual overnight fall retreat. The theme was “Peace Like a River,” based on Stafford’s hymn by that title. Amid the storms of life, and trials of these times, we can know “the peace that passes understanding,” knowing that we are safely in God’s hands.

Forty women attended, along with a couple granddaughters and three pastors. The gym was set up with tables spread out and matching purple masks had been prepared for each attendee. Special music was sung by local members. Roberta Hilgendorf, Christian Life Chairman, led the Bible study based on Peace Like a River. Ruth Zellar, president, lead the business meeting, including election of officers.

The servant project for the day was comfort items for children in the foster program. Mary Jo Mettler from Soldotna was the afternoon speaker on her experience being a foster child, without a true home or family, frequently being shifted from house to house. We collected stuffed animals, beanie babies, Arch books, 30 Lutheran Women’s Missionary League tote bags and 36 blankets. Several women brought completed blankets, while six women, brought their sewing machines and the women enjoyed completing others.” Some of the Christian items will be shared with Love INC in Soldotna and MY House, a safe place for homeless teens in Wasilla, AK.

We are thankful that COVID 19 is not as viral as in many areas, and two weeks later no one reported getting sick for attending the workshop. To God be the glory. It was a wonderful day.





Lake Washington Zone

Ruth Ann Shimoi, President

We had neither a spring joyshop nor a fall rally. I did call a meeting in July. A representative from five of the churches was able to attend. My direction was to encourage during this time of “Social Distancing” and change. I know Bethlehem has met. I gave a report on the District convention, the upcoming National convention, and the continued need to be praying. Bethlehem then put together personal hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief. During their meeting, outreach projects were brought up. I encouraged any Thrivent member to apply for an Action Card. This is \$250 “free” dollars. This can go a long way. One lady has applied. Simple breakfast food will be purchased for Vision House (Single parent housing organization in the Renton area) and Pastor David Blair has applied for a future project.



Mt. Baker Zone

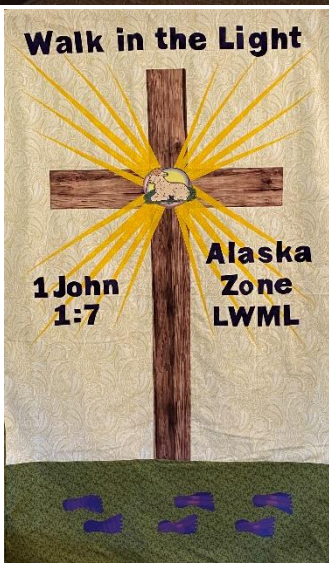
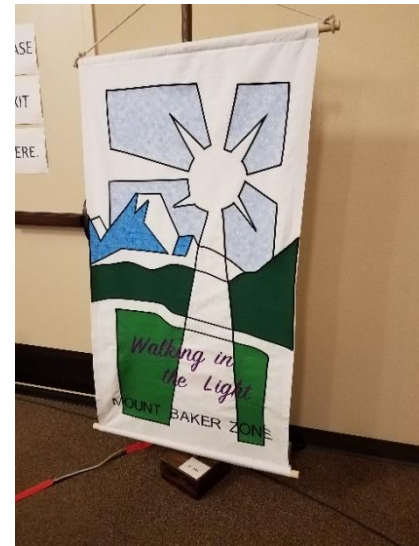
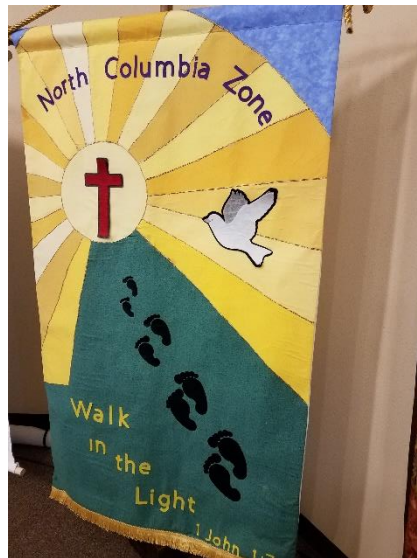
Doris Hildenbrand, President

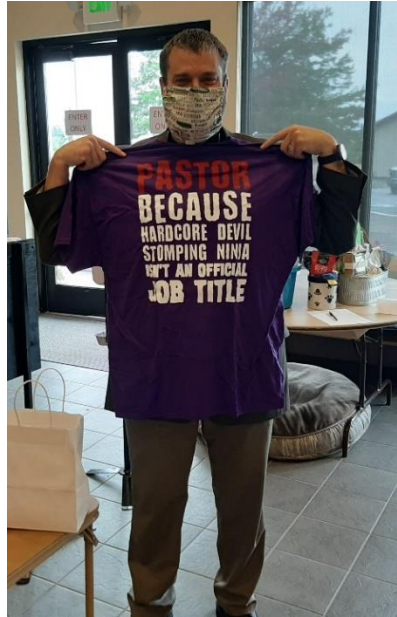
Mt Baker Zones Virtual Fall Rally was a success. Concordia Oak Harbor hosted the “Lets Fix our Eyes on Jesus” event. There were 23 people present and the fellowship, even if it was virtual, was enjoyed by all. Pastor Kurt Onken provided the Bible Study for our theme- “*Fix our eyes on Jesus*”. (Hebrews 12:2a NIV).

Following the Bible Study, a brief Membership meeting was held. Marilee Ryan gave the Convention update and encouraged all to consider attending the National Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention in Lexington KY next year. Zone President Doris Hildenbrand and Zone Treasurer Kelsie Ingham will continue in their roles another two years. Since the Fall Rally was virtual, it was decided that the individual societies would do their own ingathering’s. Zone Secretary Linda Davelaar announced the ingathering for the different societies: Concordia Oak Harbor: Help House Food Bank. Immanuel Everett: macaroni & cheese for local food bank. Messiah Marysville: Washington Fire Relief through Pastor Neider in Eastern Washington. Shepherd of the Hills, Snohomish: Monroe Gospel Mission, cleaning and laundry supplies. Trinity Bellingham: Bellingham Food Bank. Trinity Mount Vernon: Trinity Mount Vernon’s preschool, COVID 19 sanitizing supplies. Zion Snohomish: Snohomish Food Bank. The Zone Banner that was present at the Virtual Convention was shared.

Mt Baker Zone is already planning for the spring joyshop to be hosted by Immanuel Lutheran in Everett on Saturday, April 10, 2021. If we need to make it a virtual event, we will plan accordingly. We all agree that we prefer to meet in person, but the virtual events allow fellowship with LWML friends whom we typically see at LWML functions.

Convention Pictures





2020-2022 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster

President
Marilee Ryan

Recording Secretary
Carla Church

Treasurer
Gigi Lutz

Financial Secretary
Elizabeth Cook

Counselor – East (Junior)
Rev. Richard Loppnow
Our Savior Lutheran Church

Counselor – West (Senior)
Rev. Kevin Schubkegel

Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Ruth Ann Shimoi

Mission Servants Committee Chairman

Linda Davelaar

Scholarship Committee Chairman
Judy Ikerd

Short Term Missions Committee Chairman
Ruth Zellar

**Vice President of
Organizational Resources**
Pam Rafferty

Leader Development Committee Chairman
Pam Rafferty (see above)

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
Carolyn Holbrook

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman

Teen Committee Chairman
Sharon Westman

Young Women Committee Chairman

Public Relations Director
TBD

**Evergreen Echoes Editor
(and Circulation)**
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Webmaster
Joyce Berger

Vice President of Christian Life
Grace Macduff

Archivist-Historian
Nancy Wyckoff

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Linda Miller

Corresponding Secretary
LeeAnn Tibbals

Meeting Manager
MaryLynn Huntwork

Nominating Committee Chairman
Jayne Bowes

Parliamentarian
Carol Coerber

Key

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

Evergreen Echoes

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2020 - 2022 Theme

Go Forth in Peace

*Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you
(Proverbs 4:25).*

*Brethren, I count not myself to have
apprehended: but this one thing I do,
forgetting those things which are behind,
and reaching forth unto those things
which are before (Philippians 3:13 KJV),*