



# Evergreen Echoes

**LWML Washington-Alaska  
District President  
Carolyn Holbrook**



“He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!”  
What joy comes as we celebrate our risen Lord!  
And with our Easter joy has come sunny and  
warmer weather where plants are growing,  
flowers are blooming, and the daylight is  
stretching longer. A time of joy and new beginnings.

As we think of new growth, we also think of the LWML Convention theme: “Growing in God’s Grace”. We will join with over 3,000 attendees in Omaha to praise our Lord, grow in His Word, and share joy with our sisters and brothers in Christ. We will learn which Mission Grants will be supported by our mites during the next two years and grow through the messages from our speakers and Bible studies. It is not too late to join the convention! Come grow together!

This year at the convention, the Gifts from the Heart is going green! No longer will we shop, pack, haul, and deliver items to the convention where it will be packed, hauled and delivered to the recipients. Progress! We can now shop online and ship directly to the recipients! There are three recipients: Camp Luther of Nebraska; the Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska; and The Chapel: The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry. Learn more about each recipient by checking the Convention Details with the links at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

It has been a joy and blessing to attend several Joy Shops and Zone events over the past two months. I love meeting so many of the members of our groups and zones! Your energy and enthusiasm for serving the Lord inspires us all! The in-gathering gifts have blessed your recipients beyond measure and are greatly appreciated. Well done, faithful servants!

The District Retreat Registration is now open! Gather your friends and come join us in Kennewick for a weekend of growing in the Lord as we focus on “Calming Life’s Storms”. The retreat begins on Friday evening, September 26, 2025 and will conclude on Sunday at noon. All information is available on our website: [www.wa-aklwml.org](http://www.wa-aklwml.org).

May the Lord bless and keep you growing in Him through His Word and Sacrament!

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**Evergreen Echoes**

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## Organizational Resources

### Marjorie O'Rourke, Vice President

Greetings from the Structure Committee! We are gearing up to begin the process of updating the district bylaws for the convention body's review and approval at the 2026 convention in Spokane. However, there is a major change at the national level that we are going to address in this article. The LWML is proposing to change its Treasurer position to an appointed position instead of an elected one. Here is their rationale for the change:

#### Rationale:

The LWML Board of Directors (BOD) will appoint the Treasurer, rather than this officer being elected by the convention body.

- The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has grown significantly in recent years and is now a multi-million-dollar 501(c)(3) organization. It is imperative that the Treasurer has financial, banking, and/or accounting education and/or experience.
- When possible, potential appointees will be invited to serve on the Finance and Operations Committee or the Investment Committee to give them LWML experience before being appointed by the BOD as Treasurer."

For everyone's information, we, the district Structure Committee, will not be proposing this change for the district treasurer position at the 2026 convention in Spokane. Here is our rationale for not proposing this change yet:

1. The current term for the district treasurer position will not expire until the 2028 convention. Changes to the bylaws regarding the position can be made at that time.
2. While the district treasurer position does not have the same complexity level as the LWML position, it is a complex position, nonetheless. Just knowing how to balance a personal checkbook is not enough proficiency for the position. Proficiency in double entry bookkeeping is encouraged as the district has multiple bank accounts and investment accounts to manage properly.
3. Multiple committees and elected officials will need to be part of the feasibility review for making the district treasurer position an appointed position versus an elected one. The Nominating Committee and Structure Committee will need to be included in the review process along with the 2026-2030 district president and Vice President of Organizational Resources.

The Structure Committee will wait until after the 2026 convention to start the feasibility review of the change. It is important that the feasibility review be done first to determine if the change is worthwhile to recommend to the 2028 convention body.

Please reach out to the Structure Committee with any questions or concerns you may have about the LWML's proposal to make their Treasurer position an appointed position, and its impact on the district.







## *Meet Our New Washington-Alaska Young Woman Representative*

Special Focus Ministry will have the opportunity to have Megan Vogel represent our district at the Omaha convention this June as a Young Woman Representative. Please see her introduction below and look for an article about her experience in the Fall.

Also, we have district board member Jayne Bowes attending the pre-convention training for Heart to Heart Sisters. Our district is blessed to have both of these committed women serving on these important committees.

*Young Women*  
**IN MISSION**

Grace, peace and love to all my sisters in Christ, this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! My name is Megan Vogel and I will be attending the national convention in Omaha this summer as the Washington-Alaska District Young Woman Representative. I hail from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA where I serve as secretary for our society. My husband and I have been married 3 years and are the parents of our almost 2 year old son. Some of you may know him as little Mr. LWML. I enjoy the out doors, sewing/crafting, homemaking, entertaining, reading and running. At our home church I participate in the quilting group and cantor on Sunday mornings. When there is special music or a coral piece I sing then too. Even though I have been a member of the LCMS a little over 15 years and have known of the LWML, it has only been in the last three years that I have gotten involved in society and zone activities. I have really come to enjoy the fellowship and encouragement found being in the presence of so many Lutheran women who want to live out their various vocations as daughters of The King. It has been a blessing to glean wisdom from the well seasoned members and serve alongside many others. After attending the district convention for the first time last summer, I was really captivated by the real, practical and substantial impart our organization has on our communities and the world. I left knowing I wanted to attend the national convention. I take great honor in being the YWR for our district and hope to be filled with awe and wonder for our God, joy and love for the sisters of the organizations, and grow in grace.





## Martha, Mary, and Mothers

*Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she said, "I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world" (John 11:25-27 NIV).*

Martha's story is one that has always resonated with me. Like Martha, my mother and grandmother had both a stalwart faith and a skill for creating places of comfort in which the Word of God could thrive. For Mary to have the opportunity to sit listening at the Lord's feet (Luke 10:38-42), there needed to be Martha, with her ability to organize food and lodging (for twelve disciples!) and a welcoming place in which to hear the Word of God. It is easy to imagine that in her practicality, Martha was the one who made sure to send a messenger to Jesus as her brother Lazarus lay dying (John 11:1). When Jesus came, she went out to meet Him, her faith still rock-solid, despite her brother's death. *"But I know even now God will give you whatever you ask"* (John 11:23), she said. Later, six days before the Lord's last Passover, we learn that: *Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served* (John 12:2a). Again Martha, in her love for the Lord, creates a sheltering place of love and warmth for Jesus and His disciples in the stormy days before His crucifixion (John 12:1-3).

As for all women who carry the load of caring for others, Jesus gently reminds Martha to prioritize faith above the daily hubbub (Luke 10:41-42), but this is neither a rebuke of the doer (Martha) nor the dreamer (Mary), both of whom are valued by our Lord. Instead, it is a reminder that sometimes when life is most hectic, we need to take time to listen, to quiet our body and soul with God's nourishment. Through prayer, worship, and in His Word, we are strengthened and sustained us for the work Christ has given us here on earth!

I thank God for both the doers and the dreamers in my life! Both bring a respite of peace in a chaotic world: the comfort of a well-run, Christ-centered home and the security and peace that comes from knowing that through faith in Jesus, by God's grace, we have a Savior who forgives and renews us every day, promising us eternal life in heaven. **Serving the Lord with Gladness!** God gives each of us unique gifts that can be used in His Vineyard – both doer and dreamer! Check out the resources under the Gospel Outreach tab on [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) for ways to strengthen your faith and equip you to use everyday opportunities to be God's witness.







## ***A Breath of “Fresh Air”***

Sisters in Christ,

I love to live in a place where there are four distinct seasons of the year, though as I get older, I begin to like it less, anyway: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The contrast between Spring / Summer & Fall / Winter has been described as God breathing out and breathing in upon His creation. When God breathes out it is like the blowing of that warm wind in the Spring that seems to cause everything to turn green and grow and blossom. God blows on the grass, and it springs to life. God breathes on the fruit trees, and they burst into blossom. The beautiful poetry of Psalm 104 best describes this breathing in and out of God on his creation.

*“He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. He makes winds his messengers ... He makes grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate – bringing forth food from the earth.”* Psalm 104:3-4, 13

All creation in the Spring feels this breath of God and gives thanks.

*“These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things”* Psalm 104:27-28

When God breathes in and takes back his breath we have Fall and Winter when creation becomes a bit frantic in preparation for the cold winter months, as it prepares for a long sleep until God breathes out again in the Spring.

*“When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to dust. When You send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”*  
Psalm 104:29-30

Our Risen Lord Jesus also breathed out life on the Church when he showed himself to the disciples on that first Resurrection evening.

*“And with that He breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”* John 20:22-23

**So, breathe in deeply as God breathes out His numerous blessings upon you, today, tomorrow, and always!**

Spring and the Easter season bring the breath of forgiveness.

***Peace & Joy,  
Pastor Brian***



## ***LWML Fall Retreat***

**O**ur team has been really busy the last couple of months planning for our LWML District Retreat. It will be held at Clover Island Inn at Kennewick, WA on September 26-28, 2025.

We worked hard to get our online registration up and running this year but there were too many obstacles to address, so we will remain with mail-in registration for this year. Jackie Morner, our register put in many hours to try to make it work, and we are grateful for all of her hard work. Registration forms can be found on the website as well as on page 20 of this edition of the *Evergreen Echoes*.

Early registration fee of \$85 ends July 26, 2025. After that date the registration fee increases to \$95. You are responsible for making your own hotel room reservations. All the information you need is available on the entry form.

Ruth Ann Shimoi has set up our In-Gathering for the Retreat. The recipient will be the Grace Clinic. They provide free medical, dental, and mental health services to uninsured adults in the Tri-Cities. Matthew 25:34-36.

The following items are on their list: NITRILE Exam Gloves (all sizes especially medium — no latex), Copy Paper, Postage Stamps, Disinfecting Wipes (with Clorox), Kitchen Size Plastic Trash Bags Hygiene Items (shampoo, body wash, toothpaste (must be unexpired, unopened, unused), gift cards to Costco, Walmart, Amazon or Office Depot.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Retreat.



## **Scholarship Committee** **Kim Collins, Chairman**

### ***Scholarship Applicants Announced***

**T**he deadline for Scholarship application came, and I had two new applicants. There is Kelsie Wiley, going to Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin and Eric Breider, going to Concordia University in Ann Arbor Wisconsin. Our returning student is Isaac Stults who is attending Concordia University in Irvine, California. Watch for more information on these recipients in the next edition of the *Evergreen Echoes*.





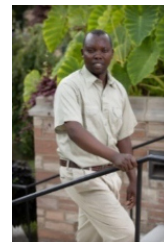


## *Mites to Missions*



Your mites help fund ministries in our nation and around the world! Through your mites, you have funded the following district mission grants:

**Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide** was funded in the amount of \$1,000. This ministry gives financial assistance to international students attending Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) from developing nations. Many of these students would be unable to attend advanced-level theological degree programs at Concordia Seminary without the support of Lutheran bodies such as ours, yet are devoutly passionate, excellent students who seek to spread the Gospel message throughout the world. Lord Jesus, we pray Your blessings on these future Lutheran pastors, as they prepare to bring Your Word and Gospel to the people of many continents!



**Orphan Grain Train – Mercy Meals** was funded in the amount of \$10,000. This ministry provides low-cost, highly nutritious food for the hungry, while sharing Christian love and the Gospel with those who may not know Jesus. Mercy Meals uses volunteers to package nourishing food to be delivered through Orphan Grain Train volunteer resources; this food has touched lives in America and around the world, in orphanages, refugee camps, feeding centers, disaster relief centers, and local food pantries. The Orphan Grain Train volunteer network shares personal and material resources as a loving response to Christ's love – in this partnership with Mercy Meals, the needs of both physical and spiritual hunger are met in Jesus' name. Good Shepherd, we pray that You bring comfort and hope to Your people through this gift!



Continue to keep all LWML Mission Grant ministries in your prayers, even after these grants have been paid! LWML mission grants can be found on [lwml.org](http://lwml.org), WA-AK district grants are on [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org)!

## *Did You Know?*

Twenty-five percent of mites collected in our Washington-Alaska district go to fund national LWML mission grants, and (Praise God!) you have made a difference! All thirty-one national missions voted on for the 2023-2025 biennium have been funded! Mites in the amount of \$2,350,000 are now out in the mission field doing the Lord's work in ministries voted on by your representatives to the 2023 LWML convention in Milwaukee! Visit [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) to see the new list of mission grant proposals for the LWML 2025-2027 biennium! These will be voted on soon by your representatives, with new national LWML mission grants announced at the 2025 convention in Omaha.





## ***Beyond Sight***

**Written by Committee Member Sandi Schauer**

**D**ownsizing is on my mind. I started the downsizing process with books in my bookcase that were in the “I’ll read it someday” category. I pulled a book from that grouping entitled *Beyond Sight God’s Vision for Using Ordinary People to Impact the World* by Gayle Sommerfeld, Founder of MOST Ministries with Sandra Sommerfeld Helm.

This book was exactly what I needed. I recently had cataract surgery, and I had a two-month waiting period before I could get my glasses. As I read the book *Beyond Sight*, I hurt for people in other parts of the world who were experiencing vision problems without the availability of the medical expertise to which I am accustomed.

I appreciated Gayle’s descriptions of the preparations necessary for short term missions which included collecting supplies and preparing mentally. Personal preparation begins with prayer! It is good to learn about the culture in the country in which you will be working. It is important to go with the mindset that you are a guest in the community and to accept people where they are as you help with the clinics and share Jesus. As you prepare for a short term mission trip, you will experience many emotions. You will also experience many emotions after you return home. Life will never be the same for you as you relive and remember the people in another culture you have come to love in a very short time.

You will discover that mission trips cost money. The short term mission committee can aid in that part of your planning. Any woman belonging to a church in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the LWML Washington-Alaska District is invited to apply. Funds are available up to \$1,000 per person.

Go to the [Washington Alaska District website](#), print out the application form and return it to the Short Term Ministry Committee Chairman, Judy Norton.



**T**he Short Term Missions Committee met and voted to send district mite funds to our first Short Term Missions recipient Jahna Pollock. Please pray for Jahna’s ministry and that of other members of the Alaska Mission for Christ team, as they travel May 30th to share the Gospel of Jesus in the community of Nunapitchuk through a week-long Bible Camp and associated outreach. Have you considered a short term mission? Application forms can be found at [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org).







## Nominating Committee Jayne Bowes, Chairman

Our Nominating Committee is diligently working on putting together a slate of officers for the 2026 District Convention, but we could use your help!

Using a paraphrase of The Parable of the Great Banquet, it's time to perhaps look past the "usual suspects" as some are getting tired and ready to release duties to some new folks.

So, maybe time to "think outside the box" and go the "highways, the byways, and the hedges and compel them to come".

In other words, what ladies are out there, that have maybe taken a hiatus and are ready to get back involved. Maybe they are new to your societies but are exhibiting a fire for the work of the LWML. Or maybe they are hanging about on the periphery just waiting to be asked! Whatever the situation, keep eyes, ears, and minds open to any and all possibilities of women to serve.

Nomination information is on the [district website](#) or can be obtained by contacting any committee member. Thank you!



### 4-Year Term

President  
VP of Organizational Resources  
VP of Special Focus Ministry  
Financial Secretary  
Pastoral Counselor - Eastside

### Nominations Needed

### 2-Year Term

Nominating Committee  
(need 7 nominees)



## Heart to Heart Committee Kelsie Ingham, Chairman

As we are slipping into summer, it's the perfect time to celebrate the rich cultural diversity within your LWML group or zone. As you learn about other's cultures, remember the instruction: *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth* (1 John 3:18).

Some ideas for a summer gathering include:

- A multicultural BBQ: your group provides the grilled burgers and everyone bring a side or dessert from their cultural background.
- Take a group trip to a local Native American Museum. Some good ones throughout Washington include: Daybreak Star Center in Seattle, Wanapum Heritage Center in Priest Rapids, and the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane.
- Host a language learning day and teach your group how to say "hello" in 10 different languages.
- Have a cultural fashion show. Current fashion from other cultures or maybe great grandma's silk kimono from Japan.
- Make and sample frozen sweet treats from around the world. Gelato from Italy, Helado de Potecito from the Caribbean, Kakigori from Japan...

Whatever your group does to learn about your sisters in Christ remember the importance of gathering. Jesus said *For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them* (Matthew 18:20).



## District Zoom Coordinator/ Zone President Zoom Meetings Karen Williams



As the District Zoom Coordinator, I am not only arranging our monthly Zoom Zone President's Meetings, but I am in charge of sending out the email invitation for our monthly 2026 District Convention Zoom meetings which meet the first Tuesday of the month. I even was privileged with sending the Zoom invitation for the Mission Grants Committee Zoom meeting in March. I am blessed with the responsibility for helping each committee/group that meets for these hard-working WA/AK District LWML folk.

The Zone Presidents continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month with a different ZP leading the discussion. Each meeting opens with a devotional.

In the February meeting, led by Inter-Valley Zone President Nicole Knutsen, we spent the time focusing on questions and information for the LWML Convention in Omaha. Carolyn Holbrook, our fearless District President, shared information necessary for the up-coming LWML Convention in Omaha.

The ZP Zoom meeting in March, led by Lake Washington Zone President Julia Sinclair, we discussed how we'll present the 47 Mission Grant Proposals to our Zones and groups. We all agreed to make a point of getting feedback from our Zone/Group ladies as to whom they suggest we vote. Asking for input at the Zone Rallies/Joy Shops and individual LWML groups. It was suggested we ask for 5-10 choices. We also mentioned going through all the information on the LWML website prior to the Convention to go over the LWML By-law proposed changes, Candidates for national LWML offices, and other pertinent information before the Convention. We'll be reminding our Zone LWML that even though they may not attend in person, all the sessions will be video recorded. Groups of people could gather and watch the proceedings live or watch the recorded sessions. There was also a discussion on how we do our Zone Executive Board meetings, some do them in-person while others do them via Zoom.

Our April ZP meeting was led by Mount Baker Zone President Judy Peraino. The meeting opened with a devotional by Judy that was from *Our Daily Bread*, titled "A Spiritual Dilemma." The big question is WHO do I give my attention to? What vies for our attention? Shouldn't it be GOD? The topic of discussion was "What are your goals as a convention delegate? What have you gained at previous conventions?"

Goals of the Convention and What Have You Learned?

- Networking with others
- Asking are we up-to-date with our ideas for our groups/zones/districts?
- Fellowshiping with others around the country
- Asking others how to they do this in your zone, districts, etc.?
- How do we get more people to join LWML?
- Keep track of happenings at the convention and sending reports nightly back to your zone groups.
- Touching base with old friends from previous conventions.
- Absorbing the wonderful Bible Studies.
- Learning more about the grants.
- Encourage our zone groups to watch the convention livestream from the LWML website individually or in group settings. Recorded sessions are usually left on the LWML website for up to six months.
- We learn something new at every convention.
- Learn tips on how to relate to your zone/groups
- Learning to communicate and to get involved.
- Participate in Servant Events

I feel I learn more and more from each meeting that I am blessed to attend. Please continue to pray for all these hard-working groups.







I have been trying to keep all my nine LWML groups abreast of what is going on in our Zone and District. I was re-elected the Zone President for another two years. Hope I can serve them well over the next two years. The first term seemed to fly by pretty fast. I continue to enjoy all my LWML meetings. When I attended our last District BOD meeting, I was overwhelmed by all of my groups that gave me reports of their many servant activities that they had done for the last reporting period. The LWML ladies are all fine examples of what it means to be a disciple of Christ and a servant to others.

District President Carolyn asked all the Zone Presidents to send her three goals for the year. Mine were:

- Goal #1
  - What: Increase time with God
  - Why: It's important to me is to be in touch with my Creator. He is my Shepherd, Advisor, Teacher, and Leader.
  - How: Pray more, Delve into the Word more, and Listen more closely to what He says
- Goal #2
  - What: Good Communication with my Zone Groups
  - Why: It is important to keep everyone abreast of what is going on in LWML at the national, District, Zone, and local levels. And keep an open mind to any feedback that I receive from any of the Zone members
  - How: Emails, texts, phone calls, visitations
- Goal #3
  - What: Keep my files for Groups, Zone, District, and LWML organized
  - Why: Sometimes the stacks of papers, communications, etc. get all inter-mixed with each other. Organized files will help to keep everything straight. Much easier to find what I need when discussing or working with a particular group, committee, etc. when all the papers that I need are together.
  - How: Take the time to sort through all my communications. File papers according to their source and keep the important ones. Stay focused on the tasks at hand. Use file folders and notebooks for the various jobs as needed

The East Inland Empire Spring Joy Shop was held April 12, 2025 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho at which we were blessed with 69 LWML members and guests. The theme for the event was "My Cup Overflows with Your Blessings" which is from Psalms 23:5 *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.* We always include "Lutheran Women One and All" as the Offering Song and all recite the LWML pledge at the beginning of the Business meeting. We include information about the past District BOD Meeting, the District Fall Retreat, as well as important information about the Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha and the 2026 District Convention which will be in Spokane.

Our Ingathering Project was for Safety Net, which is the helping hand for local teens and young adults who have aged out of foster care. These teens need to know someone is out there who will help unconditionally with their most basic needs. Items collected included small appliances, silverware, household goods, disinfecting wipes, small tool sets, hygiene products, sheets, blankets, toilet paper/Kleenex, bathroom items, and cash donations. Our lunchtime speaker was Kristen Neeser from Safety Net.

There were three Zone Joy Shop Servant Events.

1. Assemble Soup in a Jar & Cake in a Bag Kits for foster families. To be distributed through Village of Hope in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
2. Tie Fleece Blankets for Children to be used by Coeur d'Alene Police Department when children are taken from home due to emergency situations or for car accident victims.
3. Decorate Cards of Hope for Cancer Patients using crayons or felt markers for Phil's Friends which is a registered service organization of LCMS that sends Boxes of Hope to cancer patients.

I'm excited to be a delegate at our national LWML in Omaha as well as attending the Fall District Retreat in September. I have been truly blessed being a part of the LWML.



## Lake Washington Zone Joyshop

Lake Washington Zone had the spring Joyshop on April 12, 2025, at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Kent, Washington. Thirty-one women and one zone pastoral counselor attended, representing the four active local groups and one church without a group. At least 10 women attending were first timers!



The joyshop opened with a delicious brunch, provided by the women of Lutheran Church of the Cross. All four local groups participated in the 2025 LWML Prayer Service which started the joyshop. A video showing a mobile mercy bus in Guatemala that was funded by an LWML mission grant was shown. Aletha Voges presented the district president's report, since District President Carolyn Holbrook could not attend.

Sunbeams Lutheran School, Kent, Washington, was the recipient of Gifts from the Heart who received paper towels, tissue (aka Kleenex), reams of paper, and legal size envelopes. The women, as a servant activity, helped the staff of Sunbeams out with sharpening pencils, going through markers to see if they still have ink, cutting out art, fixing a paper tool for mathematics, and going through a tub of masking tape to see which ones the children can use easily. (Some of them were old and was too sticky).

The zone fall rally will be on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at Joy Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Washington.



Aletha Voges giving District President Carolyn Holbrook's report



Women participating at the servant activity to help the Sunbeams Lutheran School staff with getting supplies ready



Gifts from the Heart for Sunbeams Lutheran School, Kent, Washington







**B**oth women and men from the Hood Canal Zone gathered for worship, prayer, and praise at our LWML Prayer Service March 29th at Faith Lutheran Church in Sequim. Reverend Roger Stites presided over an in-depth examination of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) in light of the Gospels and through other words of the Bible. We were all blessed with this examination of Jesus' charge to each of us as Christians!

We gathered April 29th in Christian fellowship for **Coffee with Me and Thee** at the Old Mill Café in Carlsborg. As usual, we remembered to take the photo below after some of you had left (apologies!) to get back to your activities. What a blessing to have this time together and share the support of other Christian women! Watch for dates and times of our July Coffee with Me and Thee gathering in a future News from the Zone newsletter.

Our zone's executive committee still has **\$100 scholarships** available to women of the Hood Canal Zone who register to attend the **2025 LWML Convention in Omaha**, June 26–29, 2025; ask Solveig for these available scholarships! These conventions are a great place for spiritual growth, besides being a fun way to network about ways your LWML group can serve the Lord! For those unable to attend, the convention will be available online at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) so you can view the speakers and Bible Studies with your friends or in the comfort of your own home!

In addition to having our group presidents spread the word, an April **News from the Zone** newsletter was sent to our zone congregations. The newsletter reminded everyone of the **April 15th scholarship deadline**, asked zone members to vote for seven national mission grants from the forty-seven 2025–2027 LWML Mission Grant Proposals, and publicized our upcoming **District Retreat “Calming Life’s Storms”** in Kennewick September 26–28, 2025.

Women of the LWML Hood Canal Zone continue to support one another in their Christian journey, refreshing us and renewing us in our calling to serve the Lord with gladness! Praise God!



 <p><b>Growing</b> IN GOD'S <b>grace</b> 2 PETER 3:18</p> <p><b>LWML Convention</b> June 26–29, 2025 in Omaha, Neb Our zone is funding 3 scholarships Ask Solveig for Information</p>	<p><b>Calming Life's Storms</b> <small>Matt 8:23-27</small></p>  <p><b>District Retreat: September 26-28</b> Clover Island Inn, Kennewick</p>
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## **Rainier Zone Joy Shop**

Trinity Lutheran Church in Olympia, Washington was the site of the Rainier Zone Joy Shop on Saturday, March 29, 2025. The day began with the LWML Prayer Service 2025 entitled “Blessed are They...”



During the Joy Shop there was lots of fun and laughter as the women had to rotate to different locations in response to statements such as “how many places have you lived?” Or “how many siblings are in your family?”

Young John Vogel, our “Mr. LWML” also enjoyed the fun along with his mom, Megan.

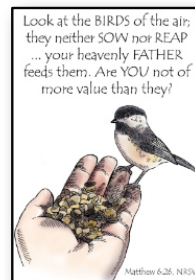


One of the special highlights of the day was a compelling message from the speaker, Ashley Wambach, president of Compelled to Care, who shared the challenges that children face when they age out of the traditional foster care program. During the gathering there was also a time to sort the Gifts From the Heart items brought for “Compelled to Care—Extended Foster Care Project” in Thurston County. After sorting, the start-up household items, cleaning supplies and gift cards were packed in individual laundry baskets for distribution as Extended Foster Care Gift Baskets.



## **Mt. Baker Zone** **Judy Peraino, President**

Concordia’s Lutheran Women in Mission in Oak Harbor has been busy planning the Mt. Baker Joyshop which will be held May 3rd. The theme is “Life under the Father’s Care”. The theme verse is *Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?* (Matthew 6:26 NIV). Pastor Mark Hanson will lead the Bible study. The Whidbey Island Women’s Clinic is the ingathering recipient. Baby items, especially formulas and diapers, are so expensive as those can’t be purchased second hand. From people’s wishes to mite(y) action: President Wendy from Redeemer, Bellingham shared that a congregation member who owns a landscaping business is now donating coins from local water fountains they service to LWML mites. She gives a short Mite Minute presentation one Sunday a month on what LWML does and spotlights the monthly mission. Where can you find a source of coins? How do you inform your congregation about mites and the mission grants? Continue to serve the Lord with gladness.





The North Columbia Zone met on Saturday April 26 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Havillah for their annual Spring Joy Shop.

Seventeen ladies ... and three men came together to “Spring Into Action” (the Joy shop theme).

Through fellowship and God’s Word, all were **Refreshed, Renewed, Rested, and Reconnected!**

Deacon Paul Schuldheisz, of Immanuel, gave the opening devotion based on the word “Joy.”

Rev. Brian Bowes, Zone Counselor, shared how we could “Spring Into Action” on a daily basis using the “The Daily Dozen: 12 Exercises for Spiritual Fitness.” True to his style, it was a fun, interactive presentation that featured the North Columbia Zone Players in an original skit from Ingrid Rolfs entitled Alliance of Lutheran Ladies (A.L.L) providing aid to a dazed and confused older gentleman.

Zone President, Sandi Hall, gave numerous updates regarding National Mission Grant nominees, the upcoming District retreat, and encouraging all to attend. She also gave wonderful encouragement towards providing names for the district nominating committee.

Rev. Ken Schauer, Republic, closed with an excellent reminder that we need to display our Christian Joy in any and all circumstances.

The ladies of Havillah providing a delicious salad bar and desserts – yum, yum!



***Wishing you all a Blessed Summer***



**Editor’s Note: Pastor Brian, you inspired me for this edition. Mahalo!**



## Immanuel Lutheran Church, Everett, WA

The ladies of Fidelia Guild (Immanuel Lutheran Church of Everett) assembled Easter bags for the children served by Everett Gospel Mission Family Shelter. Contents included crafts, candy, toys, and the LHM booklet *Do You Know Who Jesus Is?*



## Concordia Lutheran Church, Pullman, WA

We held a Baby Shower in March for the Palouse Care Net in Pullman, WA and Moscow, ID. They provide care for pregnancy and women's health as well as support and classes for parents. The shower added items to their 'store' where parents can get supplies for their children.





## Zion Lutheran, Snohomish, WA

Zion Lutheran LWML in Snohomish has had a productive year making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We have shipped 167 quilts and 162 personal care kits. We are greatly blessed to have so many talented and faithful ladies that help with these important projects.



## Concordia Lutheran, Oak Harbor, WA

Concordia, Oak Harbor was excited to host the Mt. Baker Zone Spring Joyshop on May 3rd. We had 34 in attendance from our zone, and all enjoyed the great fellowship! Concordia's Pastor Hanson led our Bible Study based on our theme, "Life Under the Father's Care" studying Matthew 6:25-34. Concordia carried on with the "birds of the air" and decorated with birds, including pretty bird seed favors tied a with our theme verse, Matthew 6:2, and a sweet bird charm. Our Zone Pastoral Counselor, Pastor Watt was also present and was happy to meet our WA-AK District President, Carolyn Holbrook, who delighted us by attending! (Trivia – Carolyn was a member of Concordia years ago!) The zone societies blessed us with generous free will offerings and donations of baby items for our ingathering recipient Whidbey Island Women's Clinic. Our program also included hymns and games which was a fun way to end our special day with our lovely zone friends! We thank God for a joyful day in every way!



Pastor Hanson, Concordia  
and Pastor Watt, Zone  
Pastoral Counselor



Ingathering for Whidbey Island  
Women's Clinic



District Carolyn addresses  
members



Judy Peraino, Mt. Baker  
Zone President with zone  
attendees



Nancy Wyckoff came!!  
Posed with Donna Allen,  
Concordia

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## Holy Cross Lutheran, Spokane, WA

### Holy Cross Holds Annual Luncheon



**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Holy Cross LWML is holding its ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON on May 31, 2025 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. All the ladies of the Congregation are welcome to attend. They are having a speaker from Camp Lutherhaven. Lutherhaven is located on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho is year-round camp and retreat. Lutherhaven is noted for its uniqueness. The website explains this:

**Lutherhaven Ministries** is historically Lutheran. That means we especially take to heart the Apostle Paul's words from Ephesians 2: 8-10 – *We believe by God's grace we are saved through faith—not because of anything we have done, not by works, but as a gift of God, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*



**LUTHERHAVEN**

**Camp Lutherhaven** opened in 1946 as a summer camp for service members returning from World War II and Lutheran families from north Idaho, Eastern Washington, and northeast Oregon. Five historic Lutheran denominations—the American Lutheran Church, Augustana Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, and United Lutheran Church—joined in Lutherhaven's founding.

**Lutherhaven Ministries** remains distinctive as a “multi-Lutheran” outdoor ministry. Congregations from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) all participate in Lutherhaven, alongside many other Christian churches. In that diversity, Lutherhaven's congregations unite in a common purpose to build meaningful Christian community, sharing Jesus's redeeming love amidst God's magnificent creation. Creation, Community, and Christ lay the foundation of our mission.





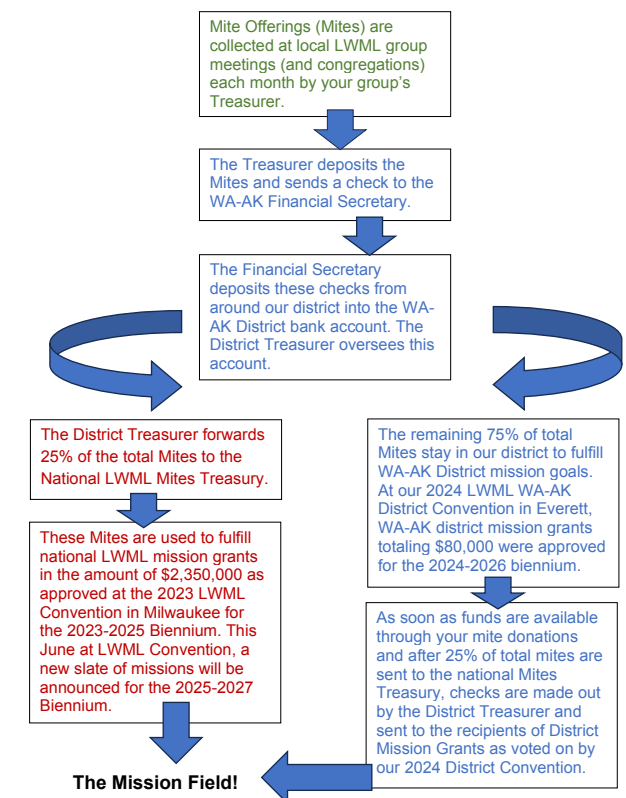
## Pray for Mission Grant Proposals, both National and District!

I know! It can be a bit confusing! All this talk of mission grants! All the mites that are collected in your local groups and congregations travel on a journey (see mite journey story!), with one quarter of the funds going to pay for **national** mission grants chosen by our national LWML convention. The remainder of your mite offerings go to support **district** missions!

LWML will be choosing **national mission grants** before the LWML Convention June 26-29th in Omaha. You may have offered feedback on the 47 mission grant proposals to your zone representative before their digital vote in May. Thank you for allowing the Spirit to speak through you! Please pray for your zone representatives as they travel to Omaha to vote on national officers and policy for the 2025-2027 biennium, that the Lord be with them and guide them in their duties. Please pray for the mission grants proposed, that their efforts to spread the Gospel prosper, no matter the result of the vote totals!

LWML WA-AK District Mission Grant Proposals are due **October 31st** for the district's 2026-2028 biennium. At our district mission grants committee meeting March 25th, we spoke about our desire to wait on the Lord and allow time for Spirit-led guidance to prompt mission grant proposals from women and groups in our district. **Is God prompting you to lift up a ministry to be considered for a mission grant from our Washington-Alaska district?** Do you have a mission group you would like me to email directly, asking them to consider submitting a grant proposal? The application is online at [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org), or [contact me](#) and I can mail you a paper copy! A flyer can be found on page **21** of this edition of the *Evergreen Echoes* that you can print and post around your church.

### Your Mites Journey



4/30/2025



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## LWML Washington-Alaska District Retreat

*Theme: Calming Life's Storms – Matthew 8:23-27*

7 pm Friday, September 26 – Sunday, September 28

Clover Island Inn

435 Clover Island Dr.

Kennewick, Washington 99336

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you under 35? \_\_\_\_\_ or under 18? \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ FirstTime Retreat Attendee? \_\_\_\_\_

### Retreat Registration Fee \$85 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 1, 2025.

Please make checks payable to LWML Washington-Alaska District, ~~or register online~~. Early Bird registration is 85.00 per person. If you don't register before July 26, you will be charged 95.00 per person. 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 out after September 1st.

❖ HOTEL: The retreat registration fee does NOT include hotel room lodging.

You are responsible for making your hotel reservations! Get your hotel reservations early so you and your roommates can take advantage of our special block room rates and availability. The block room rates start at \$124.00 + tax per night for single queen bed and 134.00 for 2 queen beds in room.

Room Reservations: Please call the Clover Island Inn at 509-586-0541 to make your reservations. Give them room block "Lutheran Women's Conference" so you get our special rate. Our room block will be released on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make your reservation early so you can obtain a room.

❖ TRAVEL INFO:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be traveling by car with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will be traveling by plane \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and payment to:

Jacque Morner  
8710 Bell Pl  
Anchorage, AK 99507

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# 2026-2028 Mission Grant Proposals

**Deadline: October 31, 2025**

The mission grant proposal application is available online at [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org).

**Grant proposals will be evaluated on the following:**

- The grant is mission-focused and will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- There is a governing unit, such as an LCMS church, LCMS district, recognized service organization (RSO), or LCMS partner church to which the ministry project regularly reports.
- The ministry has provided a financial statement or budget as part of the mission grant proposal.
- The ministry will be able to implement the project when funds are disbursed within the biennium in which they were voted on or the biennium following.
- The ministry is ongoing in nature, continuing after the grant monies have been expended.
- The ministry reflects the vision and mission priorities of the LCMS.

**It's not too early to submit your Mission Grant Proposal!**

# 2024–2026 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



## District President Carolyn Holbrook

### President

**Recording Secretary**  
Linda Develaar

**Treasurer**  
MaryLynn Huntwork

**Financial Secretary**  
Aletha Voges

**Archivist-Historian**  
Emmi Mihalcin

**Corresponding Secretary**  
LeeAnn Tibbals

**Meeting Manager**  
Susan Allen Abbe

**Nominating Committee  
Chairman**  
Jayne Bowes

**2026 Convention  
Chairman**  
Carla Scott

**Parliamentarian**  
Carla Scott

### Gospel Outreach

**Vice President**  
Solveig Schick

**Mission Servants Committee  
Chairman**  
RuthAnn Shimoi

**Scholarship Committee Chairman**  
Kim Collins

**Short Term Missions Committee  
Chairman**  
Judy Norton

### Special Focus Ministries

**Vice President**  
Pam Rafferty

**Heart to Heart Sisters Committee  
Chairman**  
Kelsie Ingham

**Young Women Committee  
Chairman**  
Gracie Holdbrook

### Christian Life

**Vice President**  
Ruth Zellar

### Organizational Resources

**Vice President**  
Marjorie O'Rourke

**Leader Development Committee  
Chairman**  
TBD

### Public Relations

**Director**  
TBD

**Evergreen Echoes Editor**  
Carla Scott

**Quarterly Manager**  
Wilma Gardner

**Webmaster**  
Joyce Berger

### Counselors

**West (Junior)**  
Rev. Roger Stites

**East (Senior)**  
Rev. Brian Bowes