



Evergreen Echoes

LWML Washington-Alaska District
President Carolyn Holbrook



Here we are in November! Time to thank the Lord for all His blessings! We have so much for which to be grateful. We are reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 to *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

November may bring to mind thankfulness for family, food (especially turkey) and our many reasons to be thankful, but we are always to be thankful, even if friends and family might be unable to join us, our food less than bountiful, and our health failing. It is hard to be thankful when our country has division, violence, and our world is involved in conflict. There are many things about which we might be anxious. Yet we are reminded to give thanks in **all** circumstances. God is in control. God is faithful. He can provide us with comfort and peace as we pray, Thy will be done.

I am thankful for each of you and how you serve the Lord with gladness. I am thankful for the opportunities to provide money for mites and our mission grants. I am thankful for your faithful service. I am thankful for the future and those working so faithfully to serve you at the District Convention in June 2024. We will gather together in Everett at the Delta by Marriott Seattle/Everett to celebrate and “Be Strong in the Lord”. Our convention theme is based on Ephesians 6:10: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.* We look forward to our Bible Study Leader, Donna Snow; our Keynote Speaker, Kim Wagner; Rev. Tim Rossow, sharing missionary work being done in Africa; time for worship and praise; time for fellowship with our sisters in Christ. And we will be thankful for all God has done in our lives and all He has still planned for our service.

Blessings and thanksgiving as you serve the Lord!

In This Issue

Vice President Reports	2-3
Pastoral Counselor	4
Committee Reports	5-6
Zone President Reports	7-9
Local Group Corner	10-11
Good to Know	12
District Roster	15

Dates to Remember

District Convention

June 21-23, 2024

Delta Hotel by Mariot
Everett, WA

Call to Convention Page 13

Convention Poster Page 14

Evergreen Echoes

Spring Issue Deadline

January 31, 2024

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com

www.wa-aklwml.org

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



Organizational Resources
Marjorie O'Rourke, Vice President

Dear Lucy Leader, Fresh Ideas

Dear Lucy Leader,

I've been leading my LWML group for years, and up until now everyone has been satisfied. Now my members say they want to do something new and different. Help! I need ideas!

Susie from Samesville

Dear Susie from Samesville,

First of all, let me say "thank you" for leading your LWML group for years. Thank you for being open to trying something new!

LWML has resources that can help you with this. May I suggest Creative LWML Events? This wonderful resource can be found at www.lwml.org/posts/leadership/event-planning. It offers fun new ideas and themes for your gatherings.

May God bless your planning!

Lucy Leader

Do you have a question for Lucy Leader? Write in to depor@lwml.org!



Gospel Outreach
Ruth Ann Shimoi, Vice President

Dear Sisters (and Brothers) of the LWML WA-AK District,

The peace of the Lord be with you.

When this edition of the Evergreen Echoes goes to final print and is emailed to us, one more Mission Grant may have been paid. Check the website for updates. The Mission Grant committee has received multiple Mission Grant requests. We will be meeting to review the grants. The deadline has passed but if you think of one that you feel should be presented, I will say go ahead and submit.

POBLO International was our recent grant to be paid. The thank you letter reads as follows, "Thank you so much for your faithfulness in seeking to actively fulfill the call of our Lord by sharing the Good News with all and to make disciples of all nations and for your faithfulness to doing the work of the Lord by partnering with ministries such as ours and the great many others you have lovingly and steadfastly supported."

Mites are at work!

Blessings,

Ruth Ann Shimoi

Christian Life
Ruth Zellar, Vice President

First of all I would like to thank all the ladies that attended our Fall Retreat at Clover Island Inn. It was my joy to make this memorable event happen. We had 100 ladies and men that attended. Our theme was “Are You a Missionary?” inspired by Romans 10:14-15.

The Bible study, led by Pastor Todd Roeske, was amazing. He led a study on the Great Commission. Hope you didn’t miss it. The weather was great and it seemed like everyone enjoyed our time together.

Our ingathering was for Mirror Ministries that support those caught up in sex trafficking in Kennewick, WA. We collected large size sweat pants and shirts, along with toiletries. We had a speaker from Mirror Ministry come and tell us about the problem that Kennewick has with sex trafficking. We were happy to support them with all the items that ladies brought.

My prayers were answered, and we had a wonderful retreat. I hope that those attending had as much fun as I did.



Our Team

Prayer Requests

I would like to encourage more to send in prayer request to our email address: lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com . You can also send them to my address but please also send it to the link above. I keep track of all the prayer requests that are submitted.



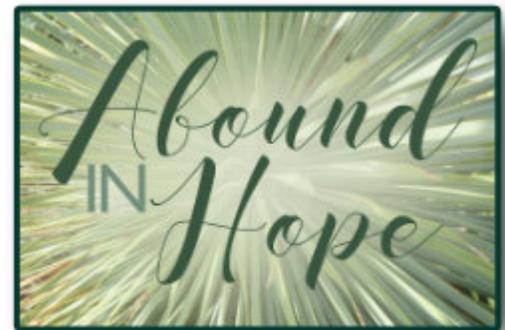
*Senior Pastoral Counselor – West
Pastor Kevin Schubkegel*

Romans 15:4,13 ...written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ... so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

I love the Advent season. It's the season of waiting for what God has promised in Christ. For families it can be a wonderful time of exciting anticipation. More than just family holidays, it can teach us to wait for God's promises and to stretch our faith in waiting for His good outcome in all things. We may have every human reason for discouragement, but the Scriptures are God's means to give us faith so that we abound in hope. Discouragement is to be without needed courage. Encouragement is having courage inside. Those of us with faith wonder how others don't believe. We must marvel that by God's grace and the work of His Holy Spirit we do.

How did Mary do it? How did Joseph? Or John the Baptist? How do we persevere in this faith in spite of our own sinful flesh and in this spiritually dark and hopelessly sinful world? Christ, with His Word and Sacraments supplies us with faith and enduring hope and courage.

Rejoice! Our Lord Jesus who was faithful to come in a manger and to a cross is still just as faithful. He has given us all that we need until we see Him coming through the clouds and then also see Him face to face. Joy to the world the Lord has come and will come!



LWML Mission Statement



As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Scholarship Committee
Kim Colins, Chairman

Scholarship Applications Available

Did you know LWML Washington-Alaska District has funds available for those in our membership who are planning to become full time church workers? The person must have a home LCMS congregation in the district, are enrolled in a synodical seminary or university, and have demonstrated a financial need. Currently, the award is up to \$2,000 a year for postgraduate students, and up to \$1,000 a year for undergraduate students. The scholarship awards are sent directly to the financial office of the school and applied to tuition.

Please check out the updated application form on our district website, www.wa-aklwml.org for more information and the current application forms. Scholarship applications must be submitted by April 15, 2024.

We currently have four scholarship recipients: Rev. Matthew Both, Justin Chester, Grace MacDuff, and Benjamin Oesch. Please remember them in your prayers as they serve the Lord!



Young Woman Committee
Erin Black, Chairman

The Young Woman Committee is looking forward to the District Convention in Everett, WA, June 21-23, 2024. Our committee is requesting your help in sharing information about the convention with the young women in your church, encouraging them to attend, and supporting them with their registration if your local group can do so. There will be hands on servant events, worship, mission speakers, fellowship, meeting new friends, and of course, food and fun. Convention information and registration forms will be available soon. Please encourage the young women ages 18-35 in your local groups with personal invitations for them to experience the blessings and joy that we all receive through LWML and at convention.



***Nominating Committee
Michele Misener, Chairman***

We need your help!!

Currently there is only one nominee for the following positions: Pastoral Counselor—West, Treasurer, VP of Christian Life and Nomination Committee. We need candidates for VP of Gospel Outreach, Recording Secretary, and additional candidates for the Nomination Committee.

To nominate someone fill out the form found on the web site at wa-aklwml.org. Click on the fillable nomination form under “Quick and Current”. Or you are welcome to call me directly for assistance. I am happy to call folks and help with forms. Contact me at (916) 749-0905 (cell) or email me at michelemisener@gmail.com

Nominating Committee; Jacque Morner, Donna Josephson, Emmi Milhalcin, Nancy Wyckoff and Michele Misener (Chair)

remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,
(1 Thessalonians 1:3-4).



***Short Term Missions Committee
Patrice Cornelius, Chairman***

Can We Help You?

Are you looking for somewhere to serve the Lord? Have you ever considered joining a group or leading a short term mission? To give you some ideas, a list of several organizations with a brief description of volunteer expectations has been added to the district website: wa-aklwml.org. Look for the list on the home page, and under downloads.

These missions range from leading VBS and community outreach activities to eyeglass clinics to healthcare to rebuilding homes after disasters.

LWML has funds allocated for short term mission trips. The application form is found under downloads section on the district website (see address above) or by contacting Patrice Cornelius, committee chair, at patrice.cornelius@gmail.com

If you have any questions, Sandi Schauer or I will be happy to try to answer them. This is a wonderful way to serve in the mission field and we are excited to be able to help you. Serve the Lord with gladness!!

In His Service,
Patrice Cornelius, Chairman/Sandi Schauer, Short Term Missions Committee

Hood Canal Zone
Solveig Schick, President

***LWML Hood Canal Zone Fall Rally Celebrates the
Lord of Nations October 7th***

Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord! Twenty-three of us gathered at St Matthew Lutheran Church, Port Angeles to celebrate together the Lord of the Nations in our Fall Rally, beginning first with worship and communion led by Rev. Roger Sonnenberg. We then had a power-point with photo highlights of the LWML Convention June 22–25, 2023, in Milwaukee and a brief business meeting where Peggy Streeter was elected Zone Vice President, replacing Barb Thompson who is retiring from office. We adjourned for a delicious baked potato luncheon prepared by the women of St Matthew LWML. After lunch, we heard from our ingathering speaker, River Sussman of Obria. She spoke of Obria’s mission and its various outreaches on the Olympic Peninsula. Our time together was blessed by worship, praise, warm fellowship, and inspiration, allowing us to depart with renewed hearts for the Lord, joyfully proclaiming Christ.



Rainier Zone
Edie Norris, President

Ladies in Christ Service (LinCS) Host LWML Rainier Zone Fall Rally.

October 14, 2023, was a day filled with a meaningful worship service, some zone business, along with a great lunch and fellowship at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Federal Way, Washington. The Washington-Alaska District Young Woman Representative (YWR) Gracie Holdbrook shared some of her inspirational experiences when she attended the LWML Convention in Milwaukee.

Katie Dillon, a speaker from FOCUS Family Center, reported on the amazing work being done to provide housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness so they will have a safe, secure environment as they work toward self-sufficiency. The rally ingathering for FOCUS yielded a lot of items to equip homes, gift cards, as well as \$775 cash donations.



King of Glory Lutheran in Gig Harbor Celebrates 50 Years



A historical day was held on October 29, 2023, as members of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor, Washington marked the 50th anniversary of the church.

LCMS Northwest District President Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann was the proclaimer for the service. Rev. Steve Willweber, the current pastor, along with Rev. Ron Norris, a former pastor for King of Glory, and Rev. Jim Koehler were also participating clergy during the service.

Edie Norris, LWML Rainier Zone President, and former member of King of Glory stated, "It was a delightful surprise to see both President Paul and Cindy Linnemann. It added to the joy of the day, especially as they had just returned that week following Cindy's treatment at the Mayo Clinic."



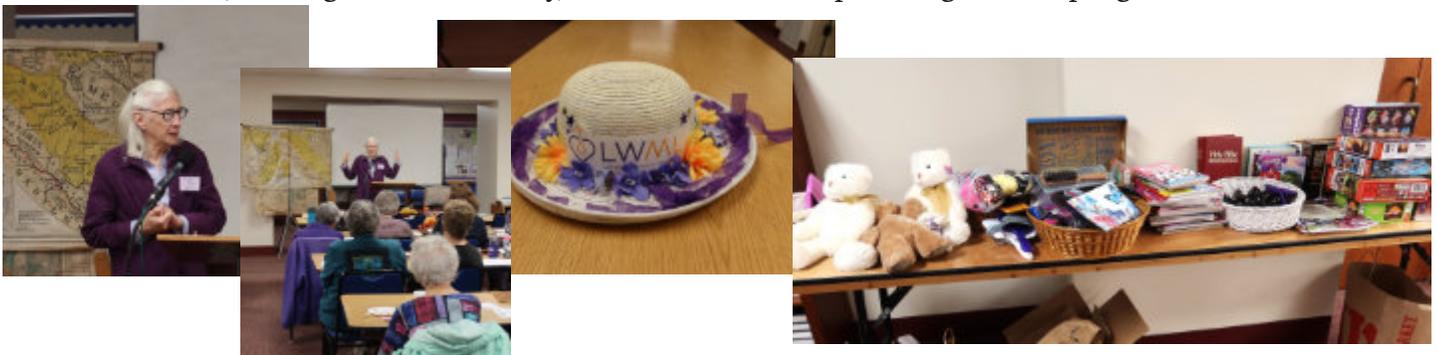
***Mt Baker Zone
Judy Peraino, President***

All who attended the retreat at Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA learned they are indeed Missionaries. The Lake Washington and Mt. Baker Zones combined to present a fun skit and an impromptu choir singing *Strong in the Lord* to invite everyone to the 2024 LWML District Convention in Everett June 21-23, 2024.

On October 21, 2023 Mt. Baker Zone met for their Fall Rally at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Everett with the theme *Be devoted to one another in love.* (Romans 12:10, NIV). Deaconess Ruth Ann Shimoï shared her passion of working with Lutheran Ministry Services, Northwest where she coordinates the Care Center Ministry. She also talked about her role as chair of the Mission Grants committee. The ingathering was for Brookdale Senior Living.

Our local groups were busy too:

- Concordia, Oak Harbor and Trinity, Bellingham both had craft fairs/fundraisers.
- Shepherd of the Hills, Snohomish held an inaugural fellowship hour/Bible study/service project in November.
- Redeemer, Bellingham and Trinity, Mount Vernon are planning advent programs for December.



***Inter-Valley Zone
Pam Rafferty, President***

Mt. Olive, Yakima welcomed ladies to the Inter-Valley Zone Fall Rally September 9, 2023. Information from the LWML convention in Milwaukee was shared along with the video of mission speaker Phil Zielke from Phil's Friends. The ladies decorated and prayed over Cards of Hope for Phil's Friends cancer recipients. Pictured is a sampling of the cards that were sent. Information about the Teen experience at convention was shared by Nicole and Rory Knutson and Pam Rafferty shared on the LWML Gifts of Love ministry. A joint event with the Blue Mountain Zone is being planned for the Spring Joy shop in May.



Zion Lutheran, Tacoma, WA

News from Zion Lutheran

One of the favorite activities for Zion LWML in Tacoma is the annual "Christmas in September" event. During the month of September items are gathered for the Christmas boxes, then packed and wrapped before delivery to the Tacoma Seafarers Center. This year on LWML Sunday, October 8, 2023, the women of Zion served a Baked Potato Bar Luncheon as a thank you to the congregation for their faithful support of the project.



Bethlehem Lutheran, Kennewick, WA

Bethlehem LWML in Kennewick was honored to help at both the LWML BOD meeting on September 29, 2023, and then at the District Retreat on Clover Island the following weekend.

Eight of our members participated in the retreat. We enjoyed the weekend and had so much fun taking this group picture.



Back row: Waverly, Ruth, Linda, Kathleen and Paula

Front row: Kris, Barb and Wilma



Immanuel Lutheran Church Fidelity Guild

The women of Immanuel Lutheran Church's Fidelity Guild assembled "comfort kits" during their October 2023 meeting. These kits are given to the homeless in our community. They include necessities such as toothbrush and toothpaste, hand sanitizer, socks, gloves, etc. They also have a crocheted "pocket cross" with a reminder of God's love and our prayers.



Trinity Lutheran, Olympia, WA

Greetings from Trinity LWML in Olympia WA. We are excited to continue our "Mission Fair" again this year. We have been raising around \$6,000 each year at our Mission Fairs. This year's dates are November 11, 2023 and December 9, 2023.

100% of our proceeds are divided between three areas of voted-on missions. This year they are Mark Winterstein (Missionary), Operation Barnabas (LCMS Veteran Support), and Options Pregnancy Center. Our ladies are busy all year preparing by baking, crafting, canning, sewing and quilting.



Christ the King, Coeur d'Alene, ID

LWML Charity Circle of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene recently received a \$2500 grant from Kootenai Electric Company to help purchase items for the Lakes Middle School Clothing Closet. This Circle has set up and maintained this closet for the last ten years. 70% of the children at this school come from families who are at or below the poverty level. The church donates items and funds as needed but this grant will allow us to purchase shoes and a wide variety of needed items for the students in need. It is truly an act of love and service for the students of this school. God's love is shared every time a child receives an item from the closet.





How Can I Return God's Blessings?

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we know that all our blessings come from God. We love to serve Him by sharing our earthly time and talents. God also wants us to do a good job of planning how to distribute our earthly blessings when He calls us home to our eternal home in heaven. But how can we put a good plan in place? How will our faith be remembered? Where do we begin?

LWML's official ministry, Gifts of Love, is here to assist and guide you in transferring your blessings. At no cost to you, our LWML Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage will help you make use of planned giving which can provide benefits to you and your heirs as well as support God's ongoing work in the world.

Excerpt from the LWML Gifts of Love website: <https://www.lwmlgiftplan.org/?pageID=1001>

For more information about the Gifts of Love Ministry, contact Pam Rafferty, GOL Ministry Advocate
LWML Washington-Alaska District
pbrafferty@gmail.com



District Retreat - September 2023 - Kennewick, WA





Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District

Office of the President

**34th Biennial Convention
Official Call**

TO: All LWML Washington-Alaska District Members, Pastors, and Friends

FROM: Carolyn Holbrook, District President

DATES: Friday, June 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday, June 23, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Delta Hotels by Marriott – Seattle/Everett
3105 Pine Street
Everett, Washington

THEME: Strong in the Lord

Based on: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might*
(Ephesians 6:10)

GOAL STATEMENT:

The strength provided from the Lord Jesus empowers us to serve Him in word and deed.

CONVENTION OBJECTIVES:

Convention attendees are given opportunities for and motivated to:

- Focus on Christ's presence and be strong through the Word, Sacrament, prayer, and praise.
- Share the strength of the Lord in service to Him.

Serve the Lord with gladness as we serve others.





**Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Washington-Alaska District
34th Biennial Convention
June 21-23, 2024
Delta Hotels by Marriott — Seattle/Everett
3105 Pine Street
Everett, Washington**

Convention Theme
Strong in the Lord

The convention theme is based on the following Scripture passage:
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might (Ephesians 6:10).

Convention Goal Statement
The strength provided from the Lord Jesus empowers us to serve Him in word and deed.

- Convention Objectives**
Convention attendees are given opportunities for and motivated to:
- ◆ Focus on Christ's presence and be strong through the Word, Sacrament, prayer, and praise.
 - ◆ Share the strength of the Lord in service to Him.
 - ◆ Serve the Lord with gladness as we serve others.

2022—2024 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



District President Carolyn Holbrook

President

Recording Secretary
Carla Church

Treasurer
Marie Chow

Financial Secretary
Aletha Voges

Archivist-Historian
Emmi Mihalcin

Corresponding Secretary
LeeAnn Tibbals

Meeting Manager
Susan Allen Abbe

**Nominating Committee
Chairman**
Michele Misener

**2024 Convention
Chairman**
Doris Hildenbrand

Parliamentarian
Carla Scott

Gospel Outreach

Vice President
Ruth Ann Shimoi

**Mission Servants Committee
Chairman**
Joanne Hopper

Scholarship Committee Chairman
Kim Collins

**Short term Missions Committee
Chairman**
Patrice Cornelius

Special Focus Ministries

Vice President
Pam Rafferty

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

**Young Woman Committee
Chairman**
Erin Black

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 (Senior)
Rev. Kevin Schubkegel

East (Junior)
Rev. Brian Bowes