



Fall 2015

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org

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Our District's Unsung Hero



Ruth Zellar

Important Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes

Winter Issue

DEADLINE: October 31, 2015

District Biennial Convention

Everett, Washington
June 17-19, 2016



Greetings from the LWML Washington-Alaska District President Marie Chow



What a wonderful and uplifting LWML Convention in Des Moines! It started Thursday (June 25) night with a communion worship service. Proclaimer Rev. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Hour Speaker, finished his message asking everyone to "sow the seed of His word, nourish people's lives with His love and reap the harvest of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let Christ live through you so that others will see him in all that you do." Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director of National Lutherans for Life, delivered the keynote Friday, sharing the message on the value of life as we are

created, redeemed, and called by God. Rev. Mike Mattil led Bible study on "Sow" and "Nourish," and Rev. Keith Piotter, Sunday worship proclaimer, focused his message on "Reap." Mites in Action speakers shared on how LWML grants were used. Two million dollars is the LWML mission goal that we adopted for the 2015-2017 biennium. Twenty-five cents of each dollar that you give to mites through the district goes to this goal. Nineteen grants were selected to receive over \$1.4 million during the 2015-2017 biennium (the rest goes toward in-reach or operations). Ruth Zellar was our district's Unsung Hero, and Allison Akahoshi was part of the Heart to Heart Sisters procession since she was commissioned as a Heart to Heart District Leader. Patti Ross, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, was elected President.

Videos of the convention can be found on <https://livestream.com/LWML2015> through December 31, 2015. The convention manual is online (<https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/lwml/attachments/40557/2015-convention-manual-web.pdf>) that has the convention agenda so you can see which session you want to view. The convention webpage also has photos taken at the convention that includes a section on the district banners.



I was blessed to attend the Northwest District Convention in early June. Oregon District President Carolyn Stucky, Utah-Idaho President Linda Larson, and I brought greetings to the convention body from our districts. We were also at our LWML exhibit and provided information on LWML to interested parties.

I even shared kisses with John Klinger, Chief Information Officer of Concordia Seminary St. Louis. Of course, we had the purple ones. ☺

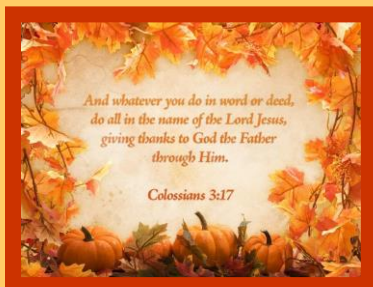
What joy it has been to be your representative at the June conventions! Let's continue to serve Christ as we share our gifts and talents in our church, in our community, and in LWML.





Mission Statement of the LWML

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.



Sowing, Nourishing, and Reaping

Pastor Timothy Winterstein, District Counselor-Junior

First, I want to thank the District for the opportunity to attend the LWML Convention in Des Moines. I was glad I could witness in person the excitement and support for mission work in the U.S. and around the world. Most impressive were the videos of all the grants the LWML supports, as well as the setting of the \$2 million mission-giving goal for this biennium.

Sowing, nourishing, and reaping (from the LWML Convention theme) are the ongoing work of God in Christ, as He continues to do what He promised to do as He blessed His apostles: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* And when he had said

these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven (Acts 1:8-11). In other words, Jesus continues to accomplish His salvation to the ends of the earth, and He uses us poor sinners, in each of our holy-in-Christ vocations, to do it. In and through the Body of Christ, of which you are all members, He sows His Word, He nourishes by His Word, and He reaps the harvest of His Word, which cannot return empty. Amen to that!

Christian Life

Oh the Height of Jesus' Love

Cheryl L. Beyer, VP Christian Life



God's creation is really deep and really high! The deepest part of the ocean is over 36,000 feet deep. With the recent photos of Pluto and other stellar creations, we have a tangible vision of God's creation light years away.

"Oh the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heavens above, Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity! Love that found me—wondrous thought!

Found me when I sought Him not."
LSB 611 v. 2

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10)...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:17-21).

**EXTRA, EXTRA,
READ ALL
ABOUT IT!**



It's Harvest Time



Public Relations

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Janet Rust, Public Relations Chairman

While this shout hasn't gone totally out of style, many people have decided to receive their news digitally instead of on paper. If you are receiving your *Evergreen Echoes* in black and white print, maybe you would be interested in seeing it in BEAUTIFUL, FULL COLOR! But, because of the cost of color printing, the best way to see the *Evergreen Echoes* in color is to have it sent to your email address.

It's easy! Just go to the roster on the last page of this newsletter, find the Circulation Manager (Denise Crawford), and send her an email requesting a

change from the paper copy to email delivery. Give her the following information in your request:

- Your name
- Your church name and address
- Your LWML zone name
- Your email address to use for *Evergreen Echoes* delivery

Please also let Denise know if you have an email address change

Thanks! You're going to enjoy the color issue.

Gospel Outreach

The Harvest is Bountiful!

Marilee Ryan, VP Gospel Outreach

My gardens are bursting forth with fruit, vegetables, and beautiful flowers. The harvest is bountiful! Praise God for His glorious creation. I have sowed, nourished, reaped, and shared.

Where does Gospel Outreach fit into this?

We are sowers of the seed of the Good News of Christ's abundant love for everyone. We nourish ourselves through the Word, sacraments, and

Christian fellowship. We are nourished as we share with others the hope and love that comes from God, nourishing them. We pray for the Spirit of God to reap the seeds that we plant in our life journey, bringing more and more people into His flock for all time.

May your gardens be plentiful and your seeds spread far!

Mite Report

Thank you for your mite giving!

We have funded \$50,725 for district grants this biennium, including seminary student tuition in the amount of \$7,000.

The Mission Grants Committee is accepting grant requests for the 2016-2018 biennium. Information for submitting a grant request is available on our district website wa-aklwml.org. Grant requests need to be submitted to Marilee Ryan by October 31, 2015.

Scholarship Recipients



**Evan Scamman
and family**



Albino Kong



Kristianna Coburn



**Rachel Blair
with Eduardo**



Lila Musegades



Gospel Outreach

Scholarship Committee News

Sarah Edwards, Scholarship Committee Chairman

Praise the Lord for His grace and blessing for twenty-five years of helping seminary and other church-worker students with their tuition through our grants and scholarship fund. We have received many thanks for our work from the scholarship recipients. The seminary grant through your mites goes to the seminary students, and our Scholarship Fund supports the undergraduate students and is still only funded through donations and memorials. Please remember to keep giving to these funds. Any gifts are to be sent to our Financial Secretary, Donna Chow. Thank you for your prayers and contributions to both the mites and the Scholarship Fund.

I am pleased to announce this year's recipients. Our seminary student is Evan Scamman, from Cosmopolis, Washington. He is attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. We also have a Sudanese man, Albino Kong, who is studying in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program through the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He is from Anchorage, Alaska.

The other students are undergraduates.

Kristianna Coburn is also from Alaska, and is attending Concordia University in Portland in the Director of Christian Education program. Rachel Blair is from Puyallup, Washington, and is excited about starting her senior year. Lila Musegades is from Grangeville, Idaho, and is attending Concordia in Irvine with Rachel. Lila is starting her second year with the goal of becoming a deaconess.

The amounts that we will distribute to the students are as follows: \$4,000 to be given to the seminary students through the mites, and \$2,850 to be given to our three undergraduate students from the Scholarship Fund for a total of \$6,850. They appreciate all that you are doing to encourage them in their endeavors.

If you know anyone who could qualify next year for a scholarship or seminary grant, please encourage them to apply. The deadline for applications is March 15, 2016. We will have the updated application form on our website after October.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Special Focus Ministries

Teen Committee

Elizabeth Cook, VP Special Focus Ministries

I'm excited to announce the newest member of our Teen Committee, Sharon Westman. We have decided to get a better picture of our district as a whole, so look forward to mail in your society's postal address and return the questionnaire. We hope that you are looking at the teen women in your congregation as willing hands and hearts to "Serve the Lord with Gladness!"

Heart to Heart Sisters Allison Akahoshi, Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman



At the 2015 LWML 36th Biennial Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, I attended the Heart to Heart District Leader training and learned a lot that I can use as your District Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman. I received the following article from a fellow Heart to Heart District Leader that touched my heart and I wanted to share it with you.

A Mountaintop Experience

Becky Thibodeau,
Vice President of Missions
Indiana District

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light (Matthew 17:1-2).

The Transfiguration. Can you imagine being on a mountaintop with Jesus as he changes in appearance from human to heavenly? I wonder how the disciples might have tried to explain that one. We call this kind of experience a mountaintop experience. It's an experience where we feel the presence of God. It's awesome; it's life-changing; it's joyful. When one tries to explain it, one gives up saying,

"Well, you just had to be there, I guess."

That's how I feel about the 36th Biennial Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. I can only attempt to explain why. At this convention, I was blessed to be a part of the Heart to Heart Sisters Training. I was chosen for this training, because as a district, we wanted to have more people in tune to the mission of Heart to Heart, and as VP of Missions, I especially needed to be a champion for the cause. The Heart to Heart Sisters Program is designed to "motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ." It is focused on helping our LWML become more diverse, reaching out to women of all cultures.

Naturally, there were many women of many ethnicities in the training. I was one of the few of European descent. As I looked across the room at all of the different shades of skin color and heard all of the accents, initially I felt that I did not belong. I'm not diverse! I am of the majority! I felt a bit awkward. I had just a taste of how people from other backgrounds must feel in our congregations. For me, this feeling of

awkwardness did not last long. These sisters embraced me with open arms, making me feel welcome. As the convention went on, we all became friends. I now have friends from all over the country, in fact, all over the world. Being a part of this special group of people gave me a foretaste of heaven as we focused on what we had in common, our one King who loves us all.

The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters Program is to "mutually encourage one another, support each other, and work together, living out the beautiful diversity that is the body of Christ." This can apply to all kinds of differences: ethnic, experiential, educational, economic, and chronologic. We are all important in the Body of Christ. I pray that we can abandon our preconceived notions and accept one another with the love of our Lord Jesus.

There are ladies in your midst that are longing to be accepted and invited. Be the bridge to bring more of these ladies to be active in our LWML. There will be many mountaintop experiences to come as we serve together. Those mountaintop moments will be that foretaste of things to come, when all of us will worship God together.

We can be a people who follow the words in Micah 4:1-2a (NIV): *In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."*



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

Evergreen Echoes
Editor:
Melissa Swanberg
PO Box 2034
Concrete, WA 98237



Nominating Committee

Using Our God-Given Gifts

Marilyn Schaefer, *Nominating Committee Member*

"When God created you, He designed you to be a gift to the people in your life! God then gave you specific talents and skills to be that gift. He gave you ears to be a listener and eyes to see the needs of others. Our Father gave you a heart filled with His hope so those around you could see His presence in your life." (from July 17, 2015 Mustard Seed Daily Devotion – Designed as a Gift)

How will you use "the gift of you?" How will you encourage your friends and family to use their gifts? LWML Washington-Alaska District is seeking nominees for district officer elections at our 2016 convention in Everett, Washington. Is this an opportunity for you or an LWML sister or brother to share a God-given gift?

Your District Nominating Committee is waiting to hear from each society with at least one nomination for leadership in our 2016 elections. We will elect Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Pastoral Counselor-West, and five Nominating Committee members.

Short job descriptions of each office up for election and a nomination form were included in the latest bulk mailing to each society.

When you send us candidate names, the Nominating Committee does the rest – we contact each person and ask that they prayerfully consider serving.

Let us use our God-given gifts to continue, "serving the Lord with gladness".

Recycling

Opportunities to Recycle!

Judy Peraino, Recycling Coordinator

Green Hippo (www.greenhippo.com) has been added for recycling because Funding Factory is accepting fewer cartridges and no small electronics or cell phones. Email me for registration instructions. Detailed information was in the bulk mailing.

Smartphones, iPads, and tablets are paying the most at Green Hippo. We can focus on those products for fundraising. The next convention is

June 2016 – time flies so round up those recyclables.

Untapped sources for recyclables include neighbors, family and friends, employers, schools, and businesses. We earn an extra \$10 with the first box sent in within six months of signing up with Green Hippo.

Go to www.fundingfactory.com, or www.greenhippo.com, and click on qualifying list to check your items.

Hood Canal Zone

Denise Crawford, Zone President

"Called by God" was the theme for the Hood Canal Zone Fall Rally hosted by Community of Christ (CoC) at Memorial Lutheran Church, Bremerton, Washington, on Saturday, October 10. Registration began at 9:30 am, with Worship at 10:00 am. Rev. James Wilber led the Bible study based on Jeremiah 1:5.

Lunch was served by the ladies of CoC at noon followed by guest

speaker, Walter Le Couteur, executive director of Kitsap Rescue Mission. Our ingathering was men's and women's socks and underwear for the rescue mission.

There was a short business meeting after the second half of the Bible study electing a new Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer.



Please copy this issue for the women in your church! Print it in grayscale for copying on the copy machine or print out all the copies in color. If you would like to receive issues via email, contact the circulation manager. (This is the best way!)

Lake Washington Zone

Deaconess Ruth Ann Shimoi, Zone President

The Lake Washington Zone Rally was on Saturday, October 3. The Rally was held at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Bellevue. It began with breakfast at 8:15.

"Bountiful Blessings / Promises / Fortunes" using 2 Corinthians 9:10 was our theme.

Jim and Donna Cox, the directors for the Community Garden at Light of Christ in Federal Way were the guest speakers.

This is one of our Washington-Alaska District Mission Grant recipients for 2014-2016. We learned about this Outreach opportunity and how our Mites are at work.

We also had the election for the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer.

The Time is NOW.

Blessings to our Sisters in LWML and prayers for the Fall events.





**District Theme
2014-2016**

**God's
Empowerment...
Our Variety...
For God's Purpose**

God enables us to boldly and actively use our variety of gifts and talents as we enthusiastically share the Good News and His love with each other, our neighbors, and people throughout the world.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone
(1 Corinthians 12:4-6).



Zone News

Greetings from South Columbia Zone!

MaryLynn Huntwork, Zone President

The Spring Joyshop "Abundant Gifts" at Zion Emmanuel, Odessa was well attended. Attendees brought gifts from the heart for Odessa Community Closet. MaryLynn Huntwork gave a presentation on her Mission trip to Alaska. Bible Study, food, singing, bingo and fellowship made the day all to God's glory. Everyone is invited to attend the Fall Rally October 17, 2015, "Moving Forward with God's Word" Psalm 136:1 at Grace, Moses Lake, 9 a.m. registration. Guest speaker is Ruth Zellar, Alaska Mission for Christ.

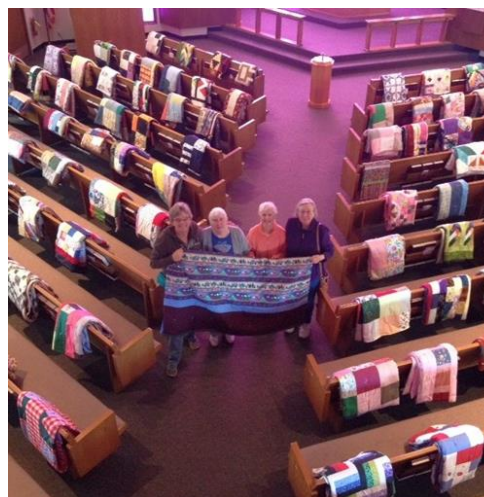


South Columbia Zone delegate MaryLynn attended the LWML Convention Des Moines. Her hotel roommates gave a door prize to Sandi Schauer's daughter-in-law where a gathering was held for many from the Washington-Alaska District. The huge milestone voted on was the \$2 million 2015-2017 Mission Grant Goal! Outgoing LWML President Kay Kreklau left us with the message "The Time is Now, I pray that nourished by God's Word, you will leave this convention empowered by the Holy Spirit to share bountifully the Father's love." The new LWML President Patti Ross asked for prayer and God's guidance as she leads the LWML this next four years.

Society Corner

Peace Lutheran Church's LWML

Denise Crawford



Peace Lutheran Church's LWML (Bremerton, Washington) completed 171 quilts to have blessed during the April 26, 2015 worship service. They were packed and shipped to Lutheran World Relief as the spring shipment.

Our next project, with the help of a Thrivent Action Team, will be collecting items to pack and wrap for the Tacoma Seafarer Center's Christmas box program.

2015 LWML Convention Des Moines, Iowa





LWML Washington-Alaska District 2015 Fall Rallies

Zone	Date/Time	Location	City/State
Alaska	September 11-12, 2015	Seward Windsong Lodge	Seward, AK
Blue Mountain	October 24, 2015	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Hermiston, OR
East Inland Empire	October 24, 2015	Faith Lutheran Church	Deer Park, WA
Hood Canal	October 10, 2015	Memorial Lutheran Church	Bremerton, WA
Inter-Valley	October 10, 2015	Calvary Lutheran Church	Sunnyside, WA
Lake Washington	October 3, 2015	Pilgrim Lutheran Church	Bellevue, WA
Mount Baker	October 10, 2015	Grace Lutheran Church	Everett, WA
North Columbia	September 19, 2015	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Tonasket, WA
Olympic	October 10, 2015	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd	Seattle, WA
Rainier	October 24, 2015	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Tacoma, WA
South Columbia	October 17, 2015	Grace Lutheran Church	Moses Lake, WA

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Peggy Lohse

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Donna Chow

Counselor - Senior

Rev. Michael Wenzel

Counselor - Junior

Rev. Timothy Winterstein

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Marilee Ryan

Mission Servants Committee**Chairman**

TBD

Contact VP Marilee Ryan

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Sarah Edwards

Short Term Missions Committee**Chairman**

Twyla Mitson

**Vice President of
Organizational Resources**

Sandy Geisler

Leader Development Committee**Chairman**

TBD

Contact VP Sandy Geisler

**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**

Heather Selset

Public Relations Chairman***Evergreen Echoes* Editor**

Melissa Swanberg

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com

Circulation Manager

Denise Crawford

Quarterly Manager

LeeAnn Tibbals

Webmaster

Julie Onken

lwml.wa.ak.webmaster@gmail.com

Vice President of Christian Life

Cheryl Beyer

Archivist-Historian

Nancy Wyckoff

Convention Committee Chairman

Peggy Lohse

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Linda Miller

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Judy Peraino

Please send mites to the Financial Secretary Donna Chow. Order mite boxes from and/or send any roster changes to Corresponding Secretary Linda Miller.

Key

Christian Life Department



District Counselors



Gospel Outreach Department

Organizational Resources
Department

Public Relations Department



Special Focus Department

Evergreen Echoes

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

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