



Winter Edition 2025

Evergreen Echoes

*LWML Washington-Alaska
District President
Carolyn Holbrook*



Greetings!

What a blessing it has been to attend several of the fall zone rallies! Each one is special and unique with the commonality of serving the

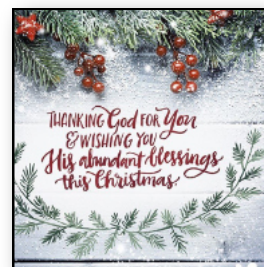
Lord with gladness! The work you are doing in your zone is providing Bible studies, encouraging spiritual growth, assisting with mission projects, and raising mites. I imagine the Lord smiling down and saying, "Well done, servants of the Lord!"

We are now entering Advent and nearing Christmas. Winter is just around the corner and with it comes weather, which often lends more to inside time. During your devotion times, please keep our LWML in your prayers. We need to pray for encouraging more women of all ages to more actively participate in LWML. We need to pray that the Lord will continue to bless the mites which provide support to our mission grants. We need women to say "YES!" to serving on committees and willingness to become candidates for local, zone, and district offices. We need YOU!

The theme for the District Convention to be held in Spokane, Washington, July 10-12, 2026, is "Here I Am! Send Me." From Isaiah 6:8. Pray about joining ladies in your church to come to Spokane for a wonderful, spirit-filled event. Our Bible Study/ Keynote Speaker will be Deb Burma, author of so many wonderful Bible Studies. Our Friday evening worship service will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church where Rev. Dr. Michael Von Behren will be our Proclaimer. Our Mission Walk will take place along the river which runs right outside the door of the Ruby River Hotel where we will hold the convention. Come join us!

May the blessings of this Holy Season fill you with joy and peace!

In His Service,
Carolyn Holbrook



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Dear Lucy Leader...Getting More Women Involved

Dear Lucy Leader,

I am in charge of service projects and ingatherings (donations for mission organizations) for my local group. I am looking for some additional ideas of things to collect to help others. Does the LWML have any resources to help me?

Thank you!

Serving Sally



Dear Serving Sally,

Thank you so much for everything you do to help others. It can be exciting to look at new options for serving that are of interest to your group. A resource to help you is lwml.org/posts/free-resources/lwml-toolkit-kits. This page on LWML.org has a list of different “toolkit” ideas for ingatherings. There are quite a few options on the list, so hopefully one of them inspires your group! Consider getting some feedback from your group. Which are their favorites? That could give you plenty of choices for the future.

May the LORD bless you and your group in your endeavors!

Lucy Leader



Special Focus Ministries Pam Rafferty, Vice President



Vice Presidents Reports

The Young Woman and the Heart to Heart Sisters Committees are looking forward to the District Convention in Spokane, WA, July 10–12, 2026. Our committees request your help in sharing information about the convention with those in your church who may not have attended a previous convention and would like to participate as a Young Woman or a Heart to Heart Sister. Consider supporting them with their registration if your local group can do so. There will be 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 these women in your local groups with personal invitations to experience the blessings and joy that we all receive through our community LWML groups and at convention.



Financial Secretary Aletha Voges

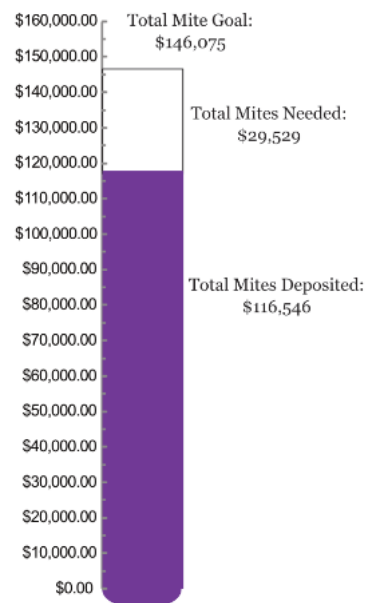
Our Mite Goal Needs Your Help!

Our Mite goal is \$146,075. As of October 31, 2025, we are about 80% of the way to our goal, with about eight months left. This is quite an improvement from just three months ago.

May God bless your work done in His name.



2024-2026 Mites As of October 31, 2025



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Thankfulness for God's Abundant Blessings

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

At one of my very first LWML gatherings, a woman from our church offered insight into her daily habit upon first rising from bed in the morning. She raised her window's blinds to the new day and, stretching hands upward in praise to God, took time to thank Him for His abundant blessings. God gives us such an embarrassment of riches, how can we not begin our days in thankfulness? Whether the sky be blue or gray outside our windows in the morning, it is wide and wonderful. The world in which we live is green with promise and ripe with the harvest. For our sake, God gave His Son, that we might have life and live it abundantly (John 10:10). Gratefulness is only fitting in the face of this unparalleled gift of grace!

Hold fast what is good (verse 21b), the apostle Paul continues in his letter to the church in Thessalonica. Have faith that *for those who love God all things work together for good* (Romans 8:28a), he writes in his letter to Rome. Studies abound that show how thankfulness is good for you. When I reflected on thankfulness "in all circumstances" from the verses in Thessalonians, I immediately thought of Job and the troubles he faced, while still remaining steadfast in the Lord (Job 19:25). Living in this digital age, I typed this into my search engine to find the verse I was thinking of, little realizing that it would interpret Job's name as "a job" and give me countless articles about how gratitude at work enhances workplace satisfaction! As Christians, the health benefits of thankfulness are not a mystery. The more gratitude, the more thankfulness, the more our hearts are free to reflect on God's mercies to us, uncrippled by the confining prison that worry can create. Physically it is said that our brains can get into a self-perpetuating groove of negative thoughts, but the same can be true of positive thoughts and thankfulness. We can make a habit of thankfulness to God, beginning with the blessings that are ours in Christ, blessings we sing of in the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, LSB 809: "Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear Presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine and ten thousand beside!"

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons approach and our earthly work expands exponentially in churches and homes, it is an especially good time to center our days with gratitude and praise to the Lord. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Instead of being a month in which we become too busy for daily devotions, December might be the perfect month to begin reading the whole of the Bible, beginning with the wonder of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem! LWML's website has a calendar guide for reading through the entire Bible in one year and yes, we get to first read both the prophecies in Isaiah and the moment of Jesus' birth in Luke. Check this out at lwml.org under the heading Gospel Outreach/Read through the Bible in One Year. You might even print out the suggested daily verse references for your LWML group! Stay in the thankfulness groove throughout the season of winter; allow your morning thankfulness to God to set each day's priorities! As the hymn says, "Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise" (**Take my Life and Let it Be**, LSB 783).





**“The Waiting That Works: Advent Hope and Christmas Joy in
the Life of the LWML”**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, we enter the holy season of Advent—a time of waiting, watching, and wondering. The world around us rushes toward Christmas with glitter and noise, but the Church slows down. We light candles one by one, sing ancient hymns, and listen for the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are more than liturgical markers—they are invitations to live deeply into the rhythm of God’s promises. Advent teaches us to wait. Christmas teaches us to rejoice. And both seasons remind us that our waiting is never idle, and our rejoicing is never shallow. Advent begins in shadows. The days grow shorter, the nights longer, and the world seems to groan under the weight of its own longing. The Church lights a candle and sings, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” We remember the prophets who waited centuries for the Messiah. We join Mary in her expectant hope. We echo John the Baptist’s cry: “Prepare the way of the Lord!” But Advent is not passive. It is a season of active waiting—a time when faith rolls up its sleeves. That’s where the LWML shines. You wait with purpose. You serve while watching. You give, pray, and go, even as you long for Christ’s return. Your mite boxes are more than coins—they are candles lit in the darkness, signs of hope for missions near and far.

This Advent, I invite you to consider how your waiting is shaped by the Word. The prophet Isaiah declares, “Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31). Waiting in faith is not weakness—it is strength. It is the strength to say, “God is at work, even when I cannot see it.” It is the strength to serve others while trusting that Christ is coming soon.

And then comes Christmas. The angel’s song breaks the silence: “Glory to God in the highest!” The shepherds run. Mary treasures. The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. Christmas is not the end of waiting—it is the beginning of fulfillment. It is the joy of promises kept, the wonder of God with us.

For LWML women, Christmas is a time to rejoice in the fruits of faithful service. Every quilt stitched, every meal prepared, every devotion shared, every mission supported—these are echoes of the Incarnation. You bring Christ into the lives of others. You carry His light into nursing homes, prisons, schools, and sanctuaries. You are living nativity scenes—where Christ is born anew in acts of mercy and love.

Let me offer a pastoral encouragement: as you move from Advent into Christmas, don’t rush past the waiting. Let it deepen your joy. Let it remind you that God’s timing is perfect, and His promises are sure. And when Christmas dawns, rejoice not only in the birth of Jesus, but in the ways He continues to be born in your life, your service, and your witness. Paul writes, “*Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*” (2 Corinthians 9:15). That gift—Jesus Christ—is the heart of our hope and the source of our joy. May He renew your strength this Advent, and fill your heart with gladness this Christmas.

With gratitude for your faithful service, and prayers for a blessed season,

Peace & Joy – Pastor Brian



LWML Fall Retreat

Our Christian Life Retreat is over for another year. I pray that everyone that attended had a good time. Many thanks to Pastor Brian and Pastor Roger for the wonderful Bible Study that they did for us with the theme “Calming Life’s Storm”.

It was great to have the ladies from New Vision Church in Spokane attend this year. Originally from the Marshall Islands, communications was sometimes challenging. Even though some of them did not speak or understand English, it appeared they enjoyed themselves.

It was so much fun doing the PJ fashion show with Pastor Brian being the MC. It kept our whole team busy getting ready for the retreat. We would also like to send a special thanks to Jacque Morner as our Retreat Registrar. I know that kept her very busy.

I have started working on the retreat for 2027. We are looking to have it somewhere on the Olympic Peninsula. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know.



[See page 21 for more
Retreat photos](#)

Short Term Ministry Committee **Judy Norton, Chairman** **Written by Sandi Schauer, Member**

The Short Term Mission committee met face to face at the retreat in Kennewick, September 26-28. Two groups have taken advantage of the opportunity to obtain a grant for their short term mission trip activities. The short term mission grants enable one LCMS woman to be able to get funding for herself or to disperse with her mission team when an opportunity arises and not have to wait for up to two years to get funding.

The Short Term Mission committee has a budget of \$5,000 for the biennium. Of this amount \$1,400 has already been awarded. If you are thinking of participating in a mission event either near your home or away, this is a great opportunity to get up to \$1,000 to help you on your way. Go to the Short Term Missions section under Committees on the wa-aklwml.org website and download an application form to get the process of a wonderful new experience started.



Contact Scholarship Recipients

I have been receiving numerous requests for the addresses of our scholarship recipients to send cards and well wishes. Because of privacy concerns, these addresses cannot be disseminated. Instead, a short bio is included below, including their home churches and addresses. You may send your well wishes to the Church, who will pass them on to family members.

*Photo
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Eric Breidert. Majoring in Theology and will continue on to become a Pastor. Eric is attending Concordia University-Wisconsin. His home church is St Paul Lutheran Church, 312 Palouse St., Wenatchee, WA 98801

*Photo
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Kelsie Wiley. Working towards a Masters in Business Administration at Concordia University - Wisconsin. Kelsie is working for the Lutheran Church in Administration, which will help further her career and the church. Her home church is Light of Christ Lutheran Church, 2400 SW 344th ST. Federal Way, WA 98023

*Photo
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Abigail Freeman. Majoring in church music at Concordia University - Irvine, CA. Her home church is Peace Evangelical Luther Church, 2071 Bishop Rd., Chehalis, WA 98532.



Isaac Stults. Isaac is a returning recipient. He is a sophomore at Concordia University - Irvine, CA., majoring in Psychology. Isaac hopes to continue on to become a Pastor. His home church is Zion Lutheran Church, 329 Ave. A, Snohomish, WA 98290.

*Hope
Peace
Joy
Love*



*Anticipating the birth
of our Lord Jesus
Christ*



***Thank you! Feeding Haitian Children for the Kingdom
(Mission Grant #13) is now fully funded!***

Thank you for your generous response to our Mite Challenge! LWML Washington-Alaska District Mission Grant #13 of our 2024-2026 biennium is now fully funded for the amount of \$10,000 through your mite donations! Trinity Hope's mission began in Haiti in 1999 with one school and 42 children and has grown to provide 62,000 children midday meals in over 281 Christian Schools. This is a shared partnership through which each school pays approximately 5% of the costs of purchasing food from Haitian vendors and paying a cook. This Shared Support is a way for Haiti not to become too dependent on Trinity Hope, while still providing students with nutritious meals. Our LWML WA-AK district grant of \$10,000 sponsors the meal program at one Haitian-Lutheran school, covering costs for approximately 200 meals per school day for one school year. Providing a noon meal for hungry children in our Lutheran schools in Haiti is a powerful witness used by the Holy Spirit to discredit the Voodoo teaching that God is unapproachable and non-responsive to Haitians. We pray this ministry is brings children and families to the knowledge of Christ, demonstrating the love of Jesus through word and deed in Haiti. Thank you, Lord, for the mission-minded dedication of your people throughout the WA-AK district who enabled the funding of this grant!



***These 2024-2026 mission grants will be the
next to be funded by your mites:***

- **Concordia International Radio Saves Lives Spiritually and Physically.** Through this Mission Grant of \$2000, we will assist Ministry in Mission in subsidizing the operation of Concordia International Radio in Jacmel, Haiti, a station that helps deliver the Good News Gospel to the hurting people of Haiti during a time of great upheaval. Ministry in Mission is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS with 15 years of experience in Haiti. Extreme weather conditions caused Concordia International Radio's older equipment to age more quickly. In order to ensure a continuous, quality radio broadcast, funds are needed to assist in the purchase of three laptops, three multidirectional microphones, a 16-channel mixer, three hard drives, three fans, two tape recorders, six solar panels, and a power inverter. These radio equipment upgrades will enable the continued broadcast of Concordia International Radio to the people of Haiti.
- **Orphan Grain Train** – Reaching Out to Ukrainians. Orphan Grain Train has already relocated and provided assimilation and continued funding for Ukrainians who have fled the devastating war in Ukraine to the United States. With this grant of \$5000, Orphan Grain Train will provide for the spiritual and material needs of Ukrainians displaced by war to Norfolk, Nebraska, with funding for relocation, assimilation, and ongoing expenses as well as for Gospel Outreach.

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***These 2024-2026 mission grants will be the
next to be funded by your mites (cont):***

- **Walking Together in the Mission Field** – Alliance Missionaries LCMS. Alliance Missionaries are pastors supported by the budget of the LCMS. These men are either members of partner churches of the LCMS or men from countries in which mission work is beginning without a parent church body. Alliance Missionaries currently have such pastors in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Peru, Panama, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Uganda, Uruguay, South Africa, and undisclosed parts of Eurasia and Asia. Our grant of \$1500 helps fund the program “Walking Together in the Mission Field” from the LCMS Office of International Mission in support of Alliance Missionaries working alongside and together with LCMS missionaries, complementing and strengthening each other as they spread the Gospel and show mercy to hurting people.

Mission Grant Proposals were due October 31st – What’s next?

LWML WA-AK Mission Grants Committee Prepares 2026–2028 Mission Grant Proposals for Voting!

The LWML WA-AK District Mission Grant Committee meets November 13th to begin processing the wonderful array of 2026–2028 Washington-Alaska District Mission Grant Proposals we received! First, the district’s Mission Grant Committee will discuss all newly submitted grants and make sure all the materials are complete. The district grant proposals then go through a review process that includes review by the LWML Washington-Alaska District and the LCMS Northwest District Office. During this time, we will create an executive summary to capture the main points of the materials presented in the proposal documents, emphasizing how it extends the Gospel and serves the Lord through mission. The reviews will be performed with all available proposal documents, with the summary offering an abbreviated way to refer to each proposal.

Before the LWML district convention, district voting members may ask the LWML groups they represent to vote (each individual woman) on the slate of grant proposals. A compilation of these votes can be helpful, along with prayer and careful study, in guiding the voting member’s mission grant vote at the convention. If your voting representative asks you to prayerfully consider the slate of 2026-2028 mission grant proposals and vote on them, please do so, knowing that your input is valuable and, in these votes, can lie the working of the Holy Spirit.

We pray the Lord will guide our convention votes in July; your mites will be supporting the missions that receive the most votes, within the budget set by the convention for the 2026-2028 biennium. Watch for descriptions of 2026–2028 district mission grant proposals to arrive in the months preceding the district convention, sent to your LWML group and zone presidents.



Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Have you ever felt alone, the outcast, or just don't seem to fit in. Sometimes as a young women in LWML it can feel like that. We don't always know the protocol to things or know what we can do to step in and be a part of the activity. If you are more shy, you may not always feel comfortable going up to the people in charge and asking how you can help. At convention over the summer, the YWRs had many conversation about how we can be better involved and accepted in our groups. This is one of the challenges of a multigenerational organization, but it is also one of its beauties. Both young and old can learn from each other, both can glean wisdom from conversations or methods of completing a task, both can pray for one another.

As a YWR you receive a beautiful pin of interlocking gold links representing the young and old in the group. It is a call to unity, love, and support for one another. In the months since the national convention there has been much support and encouragement from the older generation in my sphere of influence to take the leap of faith with some of the ideas I have to include more young women in LWML. My theory is that with one young woman in this congregation and 2 or 3 in that one the isolation can feel daunting and hinder participation. But what if there is an alternative, a solution. It might be more fun and beneficial if the young women of each zone got together and developed their own camaraderie. When there are more of you, confidence builds, fellowship ensues and transformation takes place.

This fall I started a young woman's christian book club for the young woman in my zone. Meeting once a month will allow time for friendship to bloom and grow and for christian thought to be discussed and meditated on. My hope is that those that come might feel led to bring a friend and our demographic in the LWML will become more confident to step up because we have each other. I pray there will be more young women encouraged to be a part of the wonderful things God has for them through the time and talents of the LWML. So receive this challenge you loner young women, gather together, unite and gain confidence knowing you do belong, you are important, you are valuable! Come, let's hang out!



Young women of the Rainier Zone growing a friendship at the district retreat

Nominating Committee Jayne Bowes, Chairman



Matthew 5:16, *"In the same way, let your light (your gifts, your blessings) shine before others, that they may see your good deeds (gifts and blessings and thereby be blessed) and glorify your Father in heaven.* (emphasis mine)

And with that, the Nominating Committee is joyfully accepting nominations for the open offices for the 2026–2028 biennium of the WA-AK District. We are kindly asking that you consider putting forth your name or that of a LWML sister in Christ, or pastor, as a nominee.

The following offices are open:

President
VP of Organizational Resources
VP of Special Ministries
Financial Secretary
Nominating Committee (7 positions)
Pastoral Counselor – East

If contacted for a nomination, please give it prayerful consideration (*you were nominated for a reason.*)

If you have a name to put forward, please do so – quickly! If you need information regarding these positions, please reach out to Chairman Jayne Bowes – jbinspire1@outlook.com

Thank you for your much needed prayers, support, consideration, and help!

Nominations deadline is April 1st, 2026

Olympic Zone Mary Abdi, President

The Olympic Zone held their Fall Rally at Epiphany in Kenmore on October 11th. Erin Black, past district YWR, spoke about her experiences as a first -time delegate to this year's national convention. Zone pastoral counselor, Pastor Jacob Mueller, led the group of 21 women in devotion and prayer. Zone president, Mary Abdi, shared information from the district. The Epiphany LWML group, headed by their president Lynn Junke, served a delicious lunch. It was a morning of faith, fellowship, and fun!



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**District Zoom Coordinator/
Zone Presidents Zoom Meeting
Karen Williams**



The Zone Presidents, all eleven of us, continue to have monthly Zoom meetings. As I have mentioned before, we take turns each month with one of us choosing a topic to discuss. I not only enjoy these zoom gatherings with my fellow Zone Presidents, but I have learned so much more about LWML.

One month we discussed what we hoped we would get out of the national convention in Omaha. During another month, we shared our thoughts on which part of the convention was most meaningful to each of us, whether it was a particular event, activity, or a moment where we gained valuable insights.

One of our fun topics was a scavenger hunt provided by Edie Norris of Rainier Zone. If you haven't had seen the Scavenger Hunt from your Zone President, please contact them or email Edie Norris at edielwml@gmail.com. The Scavenger Hunt consists of 10 questions that require participants to visit both the [LWML.org website](http://LWML.org) and the wa-aklwml.org websites to find the answers. I learned about our WA/AK District logo and just what is the meaning of the LWML membership pin and much more.

In September MaryLynn Huntwork provided us with six fun questions to discuss.

1. Would you rather vacation in the mountains or at the beach?
2. Would you rather swim in the ocean or swim in a pool?
3. Would you rather wade through the water or trudge through the sand?
4. Would you rather shop at the Farmers market or at a craft fair?
5. Would you rather attend a 7-hour meeting or a 3-day retreat?
6. Would you rather serve as a chaperone for the Youth summer camp or lead 30 first graders around Vacation Bible school?

Kim Collins led our October Zoom meeting with a great discussion topic. "Once you have a volunteer for something, how do you keep them motivated to follow through with completing the task?" Many useful ideas were shared. Suggestions included:

- Having a deadline
- Reviewing progress of the task
- Keeping communication open with the person(s) assigned the task
- Dropping in and visiting with the person(s) assigned the task
- Discussing any problems
- Listening to suggestions on how to do the task

Perhaps you have additional thoughts you'd like to discuss with your group.

The Zone Presidents will not be meeting again until January 2026 and we will have a guest speaker talking to us about Christian Life Committees. More news about this will be shared later.

If you have a topic that our Zone Presidents should discuss as a group, please let me know. You can email me at karenaschatz@hotmail.com.



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Alaska Zone Kim Collins, President



We had our Fall Rally September 20, 2025, at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Wasilia, AK. Since we are Lamb of God, we try to do our theme with a lamb in it. This year was “From Lamb to Lions” –Jesus’ Dual Nature from Revelations 5:5-6. We had a short devotion from Kim Collins, and a Bible Study from Cassie Jeremias. We had a business meeting with voting on Bylaws changes and elections. Our skit was on the Mites pathway that I made up and got other women to join me. I was dressed as Mighty Mite that started the journey at a church. Our Servant event was for the Mat-Su Food Bank. We gathered nonperishables, and filled many boxes with food and paper products. The hosting churches have been doing silent auctions to add money to the Servant event. But since a couple of us had been to Omaha we decided to divide the proceeds, and to use the proceeds from the auction for Mites. Between the proceeds we collected with the skit and the proceeds we collected from the silent auctions, we collected a total of \$1088.43.

At the end of August, we lost a very active member of our LWML, Carol Drager. We contributed Mites as a dedication to her. Carol was the first to play the part as Mighty Mite and made it fun with an outfit of purple slippers, a purple jumpsuit and cape. She would also add headbands and jewelry.

We decorated our center pieces with lambs, had a nice, easy salad, bread and dessert lunch, and at the end, everyone took home a coaster with the Bible verse. We all had a wonderful time.



Blue Mountain Zone Wilma Gardner, President

Members from the Blue Mountain Zone gathered for a brief Fall Rally during the LWML District Retreat at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick. District President Carolyn Holbrook presented her report and included details of her sewing classes with the women originally from the Marshall Islands and who are now members of New Vision Lutheran Church in Spokane. Members from Redeemer, Richland, reported that they have challenged their congregation to collect \$2,000 for LWML mites. The Blue Mountain Zone served the Board of Directors breakfast and lunch Friday before the retreat. All seek to continue to *serve the Lord with gladness...* (Psalm 100:2)





I am on my laptop quite often sending news articles to nine LWML groups as well as keeping them abreast of what is going on in our Zone and District. I continue to enjoy all my LWML meetings. I am the District Zoom Coordinator. It's been my privilege to be the scheduler for Zoom meetings for the monthly Zone Presidents meetings for the 11 Zone Presidents, District President Carolyn Holbrook and our two District Pastoral Counselors, the monthly 2026 District Convention meetings for the convention committee members, as well as a meeting of the District Nominating Committee, the District Mission Grants Committee as well as Christian Life Committee. I continue to be blessed with the wonderful work by all the LWML ladies. I know that our Great and Glorious Lord Jesus Christ and his Father are smiling down on all of them.

On October 18th we held our LWML Fall Rally at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Spokane. The theme for the Rally was "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" from Matthew 9:37. We began the Rally with a Bible Study by Pastor Shaun Adams titled "Pray Earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest" which was based on Matthew 9:35 – 10:8

During my opening to the Rally, I read the Mustard Seed Daily Devotion titled "Living in the Spirit Brings about Christian Unity." I loved the scripture at the beginning of the devotion that is from Acts 10:34-35 "God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you are from, if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open."

Holy Cross President LeDonna Stacey welcomed the 51 ladies at the Rally from the 8 LWML groups that attended the Rally. A warm welcome was extended to the eleven women from New Vision Lutheran Church who are currently forming their own LWML group. The ladies are all originally from the Marshall Islands. They are excited to becoming Lutheran Women in Mission. Fifteen of the Marshallese ladies had also attended the District Fall Retreat at Clover Island in Kennewick.

Our rallies always include singing "Lutheran Women One and All" while taking a mite offering and the Business meeting begins with the LWML Pledge.

I was privileged to present reports on the 2025 Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha, the latest WA/AK District Meeting as well as the Fall Retreat. We had election of Treasurer and Vice-President.

After a delicious lunch provided by the ladies of Holy Cross Lutheran Church LWML, we celebrated the Ingathering donations for Life Services by reciting the LWML Ingathering Litany. We were able to collect a large amount of infant goods and maternity goods along with monetary donations of \$542 and a \$150 gift card. Ashley Bishop from Life Services thanked everyone for all the wonderful donations. She told us about the Mission of the organization. Life Services is a Christ-centered organization dedicated to the sanctity of life at conception. They offer hope, truth, medical care, and support from a biblical perspective to anyone impacted by an unplanned pregnancy, helping them choose life, and encouraging a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They envision a Christ-centered community that upholds every human life and acknowledges that each individual is worthy of nurture and protection. Their services are for men and women. They offer counseling services, life coaching, parenting classes, and HOPE groups which are all at their center. The boutique, operated by volunteers, offers free baby items and maternity items to anyone in need.

We announced our future Spring Rally 2026 which will be at Concordia Lutheran in Pullman, Washington.

I pray for blessings on all those who are working for the Lord's harvest each and every day. Love serves as a divine blessing, enriching our lives and nurturing our spirits. Each act of love, no matter how small, becomes a source of joy and fulfillment for both the giver and receiver. We should embrace love as more than just an emotion; it is a force that unites us, inspiring acts of kindness and compassion. By recognizing and practicing love, we fulfill God's purpose for our lives. This gift brings us closer to God, who is the ultimate source of love, teaching us about selflessness and humility. The more we love, the more we change our hearts to resemble Christ's heart. Let us encourage one another to delve deeper into God's Word for wisdom on how to love and serve each other. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in the world around us.

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1John 4:7.



Joyful Jamboree

Members of the Hood Canal Zone were warmly welcomed Saturday morning to the 2025 Joyful Jamboree by the women of St Matthew Lutheran Church in Port Angeles. We were blessed with beautiful and festive fall decorations in the cozy fellowship hall, as we gathered in Christian fellowship and enjoyed coffee and delicious morning refreshments. Reverend Roger Sonnenberg offered a thoughtful devotion and led us in a blessing of our mite challenge “Feeding Haitian Children for the Kingdom” which we elected to replace our usual ingathering. LWML Washington-Alaska District President Carolyn Holbrook attended and offered insights into the work of the LWML at the national and district level, pointing out how blessed LWML is in remaining focused on Christ and missions. She introduced the upcoming District Convention July 10 -12 in Spokane and welcomed all to attend.

We then had a fifteen-minute business meeting. Zone Executive Committee members had nominated Darlene Smith as Hood Canal Zone Vice President and she was elected unanimously by the assembly. Executive Committee members also suggested Janis DeVerter be appointed to the position of Christian Life Chairman and she accepted the position. The Installation of Darlene and the Blessing of Christian Life Chairman Janis was performed by LWML WA-AK President Carolyn.

Solveig presented a PowerPoint on her experiences at the 41st Biennial LWML Convention in Omaha Growing in God’s Grace, sharing that she felt blessed to represent the Hood Canal Zone and the Washington-Alaska District. She handed out a Scavenger Hunt through the lwml.org and wa-aklwml.org websites to demonstrate how to find useful materials online (and Jan Struck’s portrayal of Katie Luther!).

After a short break, Judy Norton, outgoing Hood Canal Zone Christian Life Chairman, led an interactive presentation “I Love to Tell the Story – Every Picture Can Tell God’s Story” about how to share our Christian faith with others through the use of a witness album (physical or digital) based on 1 Peter 3:15 “*Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the Hope you have in you.*” After a delicious baked potato and salad bar luncheon, we were treated to a presentation of Judy’s witness album and a prayer to speed us on our way, serving the Lord with gladness!



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Lutheran Women in Mission of the Rainier Zone met on November 1, 2025, for their Fall Gathering at Zion Lutheran Church in Tacoma and were welcomed by Kristi Parris, Zion LWML President.

Following the worship service and a brief business session the attendees enjoyed some fun activities that included some competition in a game of “Name That Hymn” when a few musical bars of a hymn were played before the guessing started.

Gifts from the Heart were brought to help support Thanksgiving food baskets that will be given to troops at Joint Base Lewis McChord. Donations included non-perishable items of cans of green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, and black olives, along with stuffing mixes and gravy packets. Generous monetary donations were also given to help with the purchase of turkeys, bags of potatoes, fresh rolls and pumpkin pies. Another activity of the day included fun and creativity in making Thanksgiving cards to be included in the Thanksgiving food baskets



After a delicious soup luncheon there was lots of fun and laughter enjoyed at the “Purple Photo Wall”. There were several group photos made of women of all ages from 6 months and much older.

Five young women proudly posed with the children two years and under.



Two-year-old John (also known as Mr. LWML)
was joined by two future YWRs



And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

(Luke 2:7)



On November 1, 2025, the Lake Washington Zone gathered for its annual zone rally at Joy Lutheran Church in Bellevue, Washington. The event welcomed 28 women, one baby, and one zone pastoral counselor, representing all four active local groups.

The morning began with a warm welcome by President Julia Sinclair, followed by a delicious breakfast prepared by the women of Joy Lutheran. Pastor Counselor Rev. Benjamin Dolby started the program with a devotion and led the group in prayer throughout the morning.

President Julia Sinclair shared highlights from the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, inspiring attendees with updates from the national gathering. The zone was blessed by the presence of District President Carolyn Holbrook, who delivered her report and shared insights from the district.

Business included the approval of proposed bylaw amendments and election of officers. Vice President Ruth Ann Shimoi and Treasurer Joanne Hopper were both re-elected to serve two-year terms. They join President Julia Sinclair and Secretary Marie Chow on the executive committee.

In the spirit of giving, the rally's "Gifts from the Heart" collection benefited Joy Lutheran Preschool, which received supplies of Kleenex, plain white paper plates, Ziploc bags, and brown paper lunch bags. These items will go a long way in supporting the preschool's daily operations.

Looking ahead, the zone joyshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026, at King of Kings Lutheran Church, in Renton, Washington. Attendees can look forward to an afternoon tea and another opportunity to gather in faith, fellowship, and service.



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11

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The Mount Baker Zone Fall Rally was Saturday, October 11, at Shepherd of the Hills, Maltby. The Sarah Society, led by President Jolene, planned an uplifting day. The theme was "Still Bearing Fruit," based on Psalm 92:14. Aletha Voges, Bible study leader, shared many verses detailing how we are continually bearing fruit in each stage of life. After a taco bar lunch, the ladies enjoyed crafting journals and/or bookmarks before the business meeting. Pastor Berger delivered the opening and closing devotions; and leading the installation service for Wendy McCleod from Redeemer, Bellingham as Vice President and Pat Horst from Trinity Bellingham as Secretary. Lutheran Community Services Northwest's "Santa for Seniors" Program was the recipient of the ingathering. One in five of our senior neighbors either live alone, are homebound, or are on a fixed income and often lack the things they need. The Santa for Seniors Program works to reverse that by honoring and recognizing our seniors as vital members of our community, reigniting the joy of the holidays and connecting our seniors with the community. (Lutheran Communities Northwest—lcsnw.org)

Our groups are generous in helping those in need by donating mites and reaching out in their communities; LWML Sunday was no exception: Redeemer Bellingham with the help of the congregation, collected and donated seven lawn bags full of winter coats to Ferndale Community Services. Trinity Bellingham celebrated LWML Sunday by participating in the service, hosting coffee hour, displaying quilts made by their Busy Hands on the pew backs and sharing information about LWML and how to become involved; ten quilts were donated to LCSNW at the Fall Rally. Trinity Mount Vernon served as greeters and ushers during the service, as well as hosting the after-worship fellowship; President Dona gave a brief talk about LWML distributing packets that included LWML information for all women.



Quilts at Trinity Bellingham



Ingathering for LCSNW
at the Fall Rally



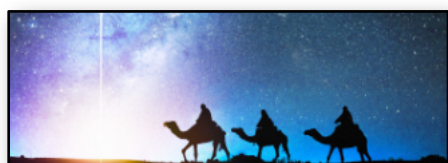
Aletha Voges and
daughter Nan



Bookmarks at SOTH



LWML table at Trinity,
Mount Vernon



And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasurers, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA



Local Group Corner

Zion Lutheran Church is a blessed congregation filled with love, support, friendship and unity. In October, the women came together beautifully to put on a luncheon and celebrate LWML Sunday. We shared in a number of soups, a variety of breads, and a plethora of toppings for salad at the salad bar. Oh and the desserts, you cannot forget the chocolatey desserts! The parish hall was packed with smiling faces and full tummies. Along the back wall of the room, several display boards were presented to showcase the local organizations our group supports with our mites. The event was a fun way to sit or stand together and share why we love LWML and tell of the ways God is using our time and talents to accomplish his will for his people.

During the month of November, Zion also hosted our zone's fall gathering with the theme from Luke 10 "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." A Worship Service was held, a business meeting conducted, and to top it off a "Guess that hymn" game and card making for fun activities and fellowship took place. Again we had a lovely spend of soup and salad for lunch. It must be the season! The ingathering collected non-perishable food to complete thanksgiving baskets for some of our troops at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.



*Thanks be to God for his
unspeakable gift.*



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chehalis, WA



The Ladies of Chehalis Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church may be few at the moment, but this has not stopped us from working and giving to many.

Every year we prepare at least 25 Seafarer boxes for Christmas to give to those at sea most of the year, which includes the holidays. They ask the congregation to supply an item weekly such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, chapstick, socks, knitted hats, deodorant, soap, lotion, etc. We then pack each box and place a message of Christ, wrap them and deliver them to Tacoma.

This year the ladies also made 25 school backpacks and filled each backpack with notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, color crayons, rulers, etc.

Along with the school backpacks, 17 quilts were made. All these things were delivered to Lutheran World Relief Program, which helps, not only foreign countries in need, but also the victims of the fires in California and the children in Appalachia.

The ladies of Peace Lutheran do this work with the love for Jesus Christ.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Everett, WA

Pastor Kevin and Judy Peraino attended the Service of Celebration and Installation of Rev. Daniel Warner as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Everett on November 1st. It was a rich and moving service with Holy Communion. Many pastors were there to give Pastor Warner support. Pastor Warner's wife, Rachel, and sons Elijah, four years old and Isaiah, one month old complete his family.

Officiant - Rev. Timothy R. Bayer, Puget Sound Regional VP, NW District with Rev. Daniel Warner.



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New Attendees from New Vision

At the District Retreat, September 26-28 in Kennewick, we were honored to have 15 ladies from New Vision Church, Spokane (Pastor Douglas Wagley) in attendance! Originally from the Marshall Islands, the women donning beautiful, traditional clothing, shared some personal stories of their lives before coming to America, visited with other attendees, led everyone in song, and celebrated the theme of the retreat: Calming Life's Storms. Perhaps many of them will attend the District Convention in 2026 where we will have more opportunities to get to engage with them and learn more of their heritage.



Other Photos from the Retreat



Editor's Note: I received all of these wonderful photos purportedly from the Retreat, but a "Little Birdie" told me the two photos on the right are actually from the South Columbia Zone's Fall Rally.

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At the recent LWML Convention in Omaha, I had the opportunity to visit with many convention attendees while serving at the Gifts of Love Ministry booth. One lady in particular stood out to me. When she shared that she was a recent widow, I asked if she wished to share about her husband. She related details about her husband's career, the activities they enjoyed doing during their 52 years together, and that she was receiving care from a Stephen Minister at her church. I thanked her for feeling comfortable sharing her story with me which led to a discussion about the spiritual blessings that come from leaving a faith legacy for loved ones. She appreciated receiving the sample statement of faith and left with an uplifted countenance. I felt humbled that the Lord had brought the two of us together at that moment and I whispered a prayer for her comfort and peace.

Below is a sample copy of a Statement of Faith, also known as a Christian Preamble, which you may consider including or adapting in your will or estate plan. For further examples, feel free to contact me through the Evergreen Echoes Editor or the Washington-Alaska LWML webmaster.



Sample Christian Preamble



Preamble:

To those we love deeply...

Our lives on earth have been enriched because you were in them. We consider you gifts from our Lord and we love you beyond what words convey!

We believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. Rest assured that we are living with Him eternally in heaven and look forward to our reunion with you there. We urge you to remain faithful to Christ and to lean on the Holy Spirit to guide you along, as you fulfill the purposes God has planned for you.

May you always remember that everything you have is a trust from God. We pray you will be wise stewards of His blessings; managing your gifts, and honoring Him generously with your love, treasures and talents. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10.

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
Co-Chairman**
Kelsie Ingham
Jayne Bowes

**Young Women Committee
Chairman**
Megan Vogel

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
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Webmaster
Joyce Berger

Counselors

West (Junior)
Rev. Roger Stites

East (Senior)
Rev. Brian Bowes