



# Evergreen Echoes

## *In This Issue*

<b>Vice President Reports</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pastoral Counselor</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Zone Presidents Corners</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Local Group Corner</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Things to Know</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Convention News</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>District Roster</b>	<b>25</b>



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

Where has the time gone? Just yesterday it was Christmas and now we are rapidly approaching spring! Just around the corner will be our 2026 District Convention in Spokane, Washington.

We will begin our convention with the worship service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, a short distance from the Ruby River Hotel where all the remaining activities will be held. Our Proclaimer will be Rev. Dr. Mike Von Behren, whose message in Everett left us thinking of “under-armour” in a whole new light!

We will study God’s Word with our keynote and Bible Study leader, Deb Burma. Perhaps you have been involved with some of her books and Bible studies with your LWML or ladies Bible groups. You won’t want to miss our Mission Walk as we walk out the doors of the hotel onto the Centennial Trail traveling along the river! Saturday evening, following the banquet, we have some very special entertainment, including some of our “own” talented youth. You won’t want to miss a minute!

Our delegates will pray for the Lord’s guidance as we vote to select the Mission Grants which we will fund with our mites for the next two years. Our theme, “Here I am! Send me.” will inspire us to consider how the Lord will use us in the coming days. Be ready to respond to Him, “Here I am! I’m ready to serve you!” as we serve the Lord with gladness.



I look forward to seeing you in July in Spokane!

*Evergreen Echoes*  
Summer Issue Deadline  
April 30, 2026  
[EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com](mailto:EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com)

[www.wa-aklwml.org](http://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.



Hello from your friendly district Structure Committee!

Our bylaws amendments have been approved by the Executive Committee and the district Board of Directors for approval at this year's convention. The only major change is certain special committees will be moved from our bylaws to the district procedures manual as recommended by the national Structure Committee. Please review the amendments when you get the convention edition of the Evergreen Echoes and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.



### *Ideas for Ingatherings*

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](http://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



## ***Renew a Right Spirit Within Me***

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).*

**A**s Lutheran Women in Mission, we are surrounded by family worries and responsibilities, discouraging events in our community and nation, and work that often seems too vast to accomplish in the time allotted. It can be challenging to take time to “renew a right spirit,” yet how freeing it is to the soul to lay our burdens before God. He cares for us, forgives us, and, through His Holy Spirit, sustains us here on earth. Because of Jesus, the joy of salvation is ours, as is our home in heaven! “Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7). Thanks be to God for this daily cleansing and renewal!

The Mission Grants Committee has been working hard, through prayer and careful study, to prepare your 2026-2028 district mission grants ballot for our upcoming convention. Twenty-two Mission Grant Proposals will appear on the 36th Annual LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention Ballot. Please see the Mission Grants Committee article and “What’s Next” in this newsletter for more information.

The Scholarship Committee is preparing to receive spring scholarship applications. Applications are due April 15th and will be reviewed by our scholarship committee, chaired by Kim Collins. Please encourage prospective full-time students in your congregations, who plan to study at LCMS Concordia colleges and seminaries and pursue church work degrees, to apply for an LWML WA-AK District Scholarship! Scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year are available now and can be downloaded from [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org). Scholarships will be \$3,000 per year for seminary and church-work graduate programs (deaconesses), \$2,000 per year for undergraduate degrees this upcoming school year.

Watch for news from Mission Servants Chairman Ruth Ann Shimoi on upcoming Ingatherings for the April district board meetings and for the July convention!

Do you wish to embark on a short term mission this spring? Short Term Missions Chairman Judy Norton is still accepting applications for short term missions from district women within our current 2024-2026 biennium. We still have funds available to help you fulfill God’s call to mission at home or away! Check out the list of opportunities at [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org)!

As you prepare for LWML meetings, remember that devotions, Bible studies, retreats, installations, skits, and so much more are available at [lwml.org](http://lwml.org). Once there, go to The Word, then All Spiritual Resources. Scroll down for a selection of resources by category. Together, we can serve the Lord with Gladness!



**Special Focus Ministries**  
**Pam Rafferty, Vice President**



With the 2026 Washington-Alaska District Convention quickly approaching, our Young Women and Heart to Heart Sisters Committees are excited to have you join us for an enriching experience. The venue is located along a beautiful stretch of the Spokane River and the theme from Isaiah 6:8 “Here I am! Send Me.” promises to be an encouragement to all. Local LWML groups please share the registration information in this issue with your young women and Heart to Heart Sisters and support them as needed with their participation. Get your registration in early to join us in Spokane at the Ruby River Hotel, July 10 – 12, 2026.



**Financial Secretary**  
**Aletha Vogus**

**2024-2026 Mission Grants Mites Review**

Month	Received
April, 2024	\$ 5,573.43
May, 2024	\$ 5,231.90
June, 2024	\$ 7,112.05
July, 2024	\$ 6,870.61
August, 2024	\$ 3,013.03
September, 2024	\$ 3,425.99
October, 2024	\$ 8,141.20
November, 2024	\$ 4,895.11
December, 2024	\$ 2,038.82
January, 2025	\$ 9,647.39
February, 2025	\$ 3,403.31
March, 2025	\$ 7,903.25
April, 2025	\$ 7,559.70
May, 2025	\$ 2,841.33
June, 2025	\$ 3,085.44
July, 2025	\$ 5,167.11
August, 2025	\$ 6,119.53
September, 2025	\$ 7,955.75
October, 2025	\$ 7,380.43
November, 2025	\$ 9,180.62
December, 2025	\$ 4,501.03
January, 2026	\$ 6,633.98
February, 2026	\$ -
March, 2026	\$ -
Total	\$ 127,681.01
Goal	\$ 146,075.00
Percent to Goal	87.41%
Mites Needed	\$ 18,393.99



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

## ***Behold!***

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we move through this holy season of Lent and look toward the joy of Easter, the word before us—***Behold***—invites us to pause and truly see what God is doing. Scripture calls us: ***Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*** During Lent, we behold Christ in His humility, His suffering, and His unwavering love that carries Him to the cross for us.

To ***behold*** is to slow down, to linger, to notice. And over these past years, I've learned that you are a group who notices well—whether it's a sister who needs encouragement, a mission project that needs hands, or the pastor who shows up in a Hawaiian shirt and flip-flops even when the thermometer says he shouldn't. You've welcomed me as I am, and I've seen Christ's love reflected in that welcome again and again.

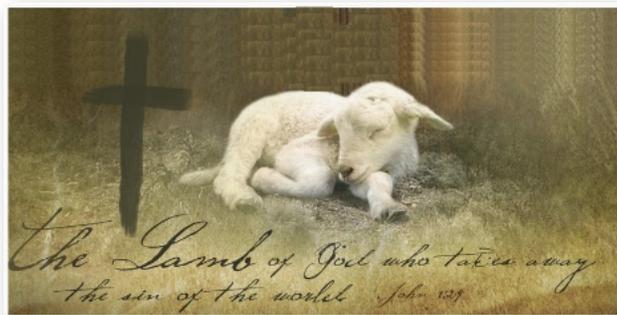
And then Easter dawns. The stone is rolled away, and once more we hear the invitation: ***Behold***—He is risen! We behold the empty tomb and the fullness of God's promise kept. Because Christ lives, we live in hope, purpose, and resurrection joy.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, may you continue to behold Christ in His Word, in His gifts, and in the people He places before you to love and serve. And as you ***behold*** Him, may others ***behold*** His grace shining through you.

As my term as your pastoral counselor comes to a close, I want to thank you—from the bottom of my flip-flop-wearing heart—for your kindness, your laughter, your prayers, your forbearance, and your acceptance of my personality along with your faithful service to Christ. I will always give thanks for the time we shared.

The Lord bless your Lenten journey and fill your Easter celebration with His peace.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Brian



### **Meet Ben Oesch**

This is Ben Oesch. His last name rhymes with fish. I had the privilege to see him preach. He is one of our Scholarship recipients. He was ordained at Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church. He is Assistant Pastor there. My daughter lives in North Denver and I was visiting. On a Sunday going from North Denver to South Denver is a breeze compared to going during any other time. It only took us 35 minutes compared to an hour. It is a joy and so different hearing a young person preach. They use a lot of pictures they have created on the computer.

Every one keeps all our students in our prayers to see how God is working through them.



### **Short Term Ministry Committee** **Judy Norton, Chairman**

I wonder where Isaiah was when he met the Lord “high and lifted up”. The Bible gives a time but not a place. Was he in bed? At worship? Praying? Working? In the temple?

The call to action comes after the angel takes the coals from the altar and places them on Isaiah’s tongue and not before Isaiah sees his rightful position before God – totally unworthy, totally sinful, totally bereft. But the angel assures him, “Your sins are gone”— two extremes – overwhelming sin and sins forgiven (gone)! Then comes the call — “Who will go?”

Maybe for you and me the call comes as we receive the body and blood of Christ, that washes us clean. Maybe the call comes through Bible study or prayer as we experience God’s love and forgiveness. Maybe it will come at the WA-AK District Convention as we worship. Or maybe it will be a dream that becomes a thought that leads to action.

Pray our hearts are open to hear God’s invitation and take the opportunity to go- to family, friends, neighbors, with Most Missions, LCMS relief, AMC in Alaska, LAMP in Canada, Navajo Mission, or others listed on the District website. Our committee would like to help make these visions possible. Please contact us.

May we answer “Send me! I’ll go!”



### ***Mission Grants Funded Through Your Mites***

**Concordia International Radio** Saves Lives Spiritually and Physically (Grant #14). Through this Mission Grant of \$2000, we 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 fifteen 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 were 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. Dear Lord, Wrap your arms around the people and the ministry of Concordia International Radio, that this grant can help spread the Gospel to your people in Haiti and give them strength in adversity. Amen.



**Orphan Grain Train** – Reaching Out to Ukrainians (Grant #15). Orphan Grain Train has already relocated and provided assimilation and funding for Ukrainians who have fled the war in Ukraine to Norfolk, Nebraska. With this grant of \$5000, Orphan Grain Train provides continued funding for the spiritual and material needs of Ukrainians displaced by war, with grant funds supporting Gospel Outreach, as well as ongoing expenses associated with relocation and assimilation into their new community. Dear God, Let Jesus' light shine in the lives of all those displaced by the war in Ukraine. Walk with the people of Ukraine, both those in the war zone abroad and those who relocated to the United States, that they may know the love of Jesus through this mission grant. Amen.



*Mission Grants Funded Through Your Mites Continued*

**Walking Together in the Mission Field** – Alliance Missionaries LCMS (Grant #16). Alliance Missionaries are pastors supported by the budget of the LCMS, either members of partner churches of the LCMS or those 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. This 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. Lord Jesus, Walk with the Alliance Missionaries of the LCMS, that they may be strengthened to share the Good News with those who hunger for Your life-saving message of love, hope, and salvation. Amen.



**Our 2024-2026 Washington-Alaska District Mission Grants have been paid!**

The Lord’s work continues! Please continue to remember our sixteen missions in your prayers, that the Lord continue to prosper their work in God’s Kingdom for His glory. Your mites continue to pay for national mission grants and are needed to complete our pledge to LWML for the 2024-2026 biennium.

Curious about what’s next for Mision Grants? [Click Here](#)



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

**W**ell, here we are in 2026! As far as the nominations go, it's been rather slow. We still have positions open in ALL offices. Please take a moment and look over each of the offices. Do one or two jump out at you? Perhaps you're looking for a new challenge. Maybe you have a skill or gift that speaks to something on the list. Financial Secretary? Organizational Resources or Special Ministries? We are kindly asking that you pray and consider having someone put forth your name or a name of an LWML sister in Christ, or pastor, as a nominee.

***Here am I, send me!*** (Isaiah 6:8)

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!

Below you find information for each of the available positions, including basic tasks and responsibilities, If any meetings or travel are required for the position as well as a rough estimate of the time involved. If you still have questions, please reach out to Chairman Jayne Bowes – [jbinspire1@outlook.com](mailto:jbinspire1@outlook.com) or refer to the LWML website .

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

## ***Position Descriptions***

### **District President**

**Tasks/Responsibilities:** Sets dates for meetings; prepares agendas; is responsible for execution of resolutions; prepares written and oral reports, articles for website and Evergreen Echoes; serves to bridge the national LWML information to the district and zone level; appoints committee members and other personnel; approves vouchers; works with Treasurer and Financial Secretary on financial matters; works with all four VPS and their committees; must be familiar with LWML and district bylaws, procedures manual and standing rules; work with zone presidents; attend spring and fall zone events as possible; work with district convention and district retreats;

**Required Meetings/Travel:** Requires attendance at spring and fall EC/BOD meetings; LWML Presidents' Assembly each January and prior to LWML convention in odd numbered years.

**Time Requirement:** Can fluctuate, but involves time for phone calls, emails, and writing reports. Often, 20 hours per week, plus zoom meetings and preparation for district meetings and activities.



## ***Nomination Committee cont.***



### **Financial Secretary**

**Tasks/Responsibilities:** Attends district meetings; provides oral and written reports; deposits monies received; keeps all financial records current and recorded per standard accounting procedures, reconciles bank statements; provides monthly report to VP of Gospel Outreach on mission grants; completes financial review.

**Meetings/Travel:** Requires attendance at spring and fall EC/BOD meetings;

**Time requirement:** Possibly one to two hours weekly.

### **VP of Organizational Resources**

**Tasks/Responsibilities:** Attends district meetings; provides oral and written reports; serves as the Chair of the Structure Committee which studies district bylaws, makes recommendations for amendments; serves as EX-officio member and advisor to the Leader Development and Young Women Committee to review materials, equip and encourage women to reach out for greater potential for service.

**Meetings/Travel:** Requires attendance at spring and fall EC/BOD meetings.

**Time Requirement:** Possibly one to two hours weekly with additional time prior to district convention.

### **VP of Special Focus Ministries**

**Tasks/Responsibilities:** Attends district meetings; provides oral and written reports; serves as leader for the Heart to Heart Sisters committee, and the Young Women Committee as they encourage and equip multicultural ladies and the young women in the district LWML activities. May plan and present programs with these groups throughout the district.

**Meetings/Travel:** Requires attendance at spring and fall EC/BOD meetings.

**Time Requirement:** Possibly one to two hours weekly.

### **Pastoral Counselor, East**

**Tasks/Responsibilities:** Attends district meetings; prepares Bible studies, worship services, devotions, prayers; reviews for correct doctrine and theology materials for use or publication; writes articles for our Evergreen Echoes; provides counsel to individual leaders, supports and encouragement; serves two years as the Junior Pastoral Counselor and two years as Senior Pastoral Counselor;

**Meetings/Travel:** Requires attendance at spring and fall EC/BOD meetings; attendance at Assembly of Leaders; LWML convention; district convention and district retreat.

**Time Requirement:** Possibly two to three hours weekly with additional time in preparation of worship services for district events.

### **Nominating Committee Members**

**Tasks/Responsibilities:** Members are elected to review nominating forms and qualifications for officers and elected positions in district for the following convention; select possible candidates, obtain needed information for the convention;

**Time requirement:** Will vary for zoom meetings, contacts with candidates, and completing duties. Two year commitment likely requires lighter time needed in the first year, much greater in second.



**W**e just had our board meeting in January. We are starting to do Zoom meeting because our churches on the Peninsula otherwise couldn't attend. We had three out of four of the churches attend. Of the three churches only one has a Pastor. Their LWML has only a few women that participate

In the past we have always rotated meetings by alphabetical order. This is no longer working. It was discussed and new ideas were presented. Even though our next meeting is a Joyshop with no business this may change. Prayers to all our churches and organizations are being said here in Alaska.

On a happier note, our Joyshop will be at St. John's Lutheran Church in Palmer. They tried to do The Sower again as Palmer is our largest Agricult.



## Did You Know?

**H**ave you every wanted to come up some fun ways to spread the message of our Lord? Well, look no further. Our LWML National website has SO many ideas and helpful downloads to help with just about anything your creative minds can think of. And if you don't have any ideas? They have LOTS! Click on each of the purple boxes below to be routed to the website for their amazing ideas! And most of all. *HAVE FUN.*



[Back to Table of Contents](#)



**M**y Zone President report starts out a little different this time. I thought I would include some personal information in my report.

Some of you may know that my beloved husband Albert passed away on December 23rd, two days before Christmas. Albert and I were only married for 3 ½ years but we were friends for over 50 years. So, I lost not only a loving husband but a good friend. It has kept my life in a state of turmoil to say the least. Turmoil is good term for anyone going through the grief process. I am trying to catch up on my duties as Zone President, but the progress is slow.

I recently sent out an email to my nine LWML groups in East Inland Empire Zone. With the above information. It was to explain why I had not communicated with them for a few months (which is unlike me.) The response from many of their leaders was so very kind and wonderful and brought tears to my eyes. There are few people that have not been affected by the loss of someone close to them. This situation has made me more aware that we need to remember those in our groups that are dealing with some form of grief in their lives. Please share not just a kind word but really listen to them. Invite them for a meal or even just a coffee. Hugs are my favorite form of communication. Pray for them and with them.

I appreciate all the wonderful friends that have sent me condolence cards and all the prayers that have been placed for me. I know I'm not the only person to have lost her spouse, parent, friend, sibling, or child. We have all suffered some kind of event in our lives that has put us on a path of Grieving. It is not a chosen, let alone, wanted path we must endure, but it is there nonetheless for us. We are so very fortunate to have a loving God that we can turn to especially at this time of our lives. God knows much about grief himself. Jesus died for us so that we can join him in eternal life after our earthly death. He is always there for us to walk with us all our days, no matter what may befall us. I remember when Jesus heard of the death of Lazarus. The bible tells us that "Jesus wept." (John 11:35)

Prayer: Lord, grant us your strength as we pass through the storms of life. Give us peace from anxiety as we wait for each storm to pass. Point us to others who need us to be Your hands and feet. May all we do reflect Your love for us. Amen.

May God Almighty Walk with us all this day and every day. God's Blessings on You All.



## **Rainier Zone**

### **Edie Noris, President**

**L**utheran Women in Mission of the Rainier Zone have been busy during the winter months in their church groups with many mission service activities. There have been Fall Craft events, loading up Christmas boxes for Seafarers, supplying food baskets, and providing gifts and food needs for families at Christmas. Add in continued events of Bible studies, quilting and other happenings, the holidays have been an active time.

The next Rainier Zone Joy Shop planning has begun. Ladies in Christ's Service at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Federal Way are looking forward to welcoming the women of the zone to a wonderful day of worship, fellowship, zone business, and fun activities. The gathering will be held at Light of Christ on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

The Lutheran Women in Mission of the Mount Baker Zone have been busy serving the Lord in many ways blessing their church families and neighbors in need in their communities. Shepherd of the Hills, Maltby is reorganizing after their president resigned. Prayers answered. They are planning a spring tea “Growing in Christ” (think spring growth); Bible study, games, tea/tea sandwiches and scones; tentatively planned for Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Zion, Snohomish, handed out hot cocoa, cider and candy to families in their community in October; donating pumpkins and squash grown in a member’s community garden to the Food Bank; donating more than 400 hats and 20 quilts and lap robes to Immanuel, Everett’s annual Oktoberfest Dinner, as well as teaching them to use looms to knit hats for cancer patients. Zion is also hosting the next Joyshop.

In November, Trinity, Mount Vernon learned about and collected items for Welcome Home, Skagit, an organization helping people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Skagit County. Advent Celebration’s program centered around a skit, “The Advent Wreath,” Bible verses were read foretelling the coming of Christ, the “Light of the World,” and familiar carols were sung; a five-session Donna Snow Bible study, (available at lwml.org) “One Extraordinary Night,” was well received; Easter plans include delivering Easter cards to and visiting shut-ins.

Priscillas, Trinity, Bellingham, made their famous holiday cheese balls for sale, donating 24 for their shut-ins and those in care centers, as well as lap quilts; hosting a fun Christmas Potluck where a game from the LWML website was used, “A Treasure Hunt;” donating the offering to their preschool. Plans are in the works for their annual May Spring banquet.

Redeemer, Bellingham helped to prepare and collect ingatherings for Foster Hearts, providing for the needs of children of all ages taken into foster care, as well as the Whatcom Pregnancy Center, starting Sanctity of Life Sunday; donations for Foster Hearts ingathering created a couple dozen backpacks. Future ingathering ideas include donations of loaded coffee mugs for their Mission Homeless Shelter, including cup-o-soup and/or cocoa/cider packets.

All our groups *Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2a)



## **Hood Canal Zone Activity Report**

**W**omen from the Hood Canal Zone gathered in Christian fellowship for Coffee with Me and Thee at the Old Mill Cafe in Carlsburg on January 14th. What a blessing to be together! That morning, before our zone fellowship time, the Hood Canal Zone Executive Committee met in the Faith Lutheran Church library in Sequim and set the following dates:

- Hood Canal Zone Prayer Service March 14th Faith Lutheran Church, Sequim at 10 am
- Coffee with Me and Thee April 29th 324 Merrill Way, Port Angeles at 11 am
- Coffee with Me and Thee July 22nd 1471 E Washington St, Sequim at 12:30 pm
- Hood Canal Zone Executive Council Meeting July 22nd Faith Lutheran Church at 11 am
- Joyful Jamboree October 10th Faith Lutheran Church, Sequim at 10 am

Our zone is currently exploring “travel together” options for the July 10-12th LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention, perhaps using zone funds to encourage more women to attend. Please watch for newsletter updates! A News from the Zone newsletter went out in mid-January with the above announcements. Women of our zone continue to serve the Lord with gladness in their congregations and their communities! Come join us! All are welcome!

Join Us In

# Prayer

This Lenten Season!

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am**  
Faith Lutheran Church, Sequim

“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).



**All are Welcom e!**

 Lutheran Women in Mission  
PRAYER SERVICE 2026

## Coffee with Me and Thee



**We Gather Together in Christ**

**April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**  
324 Merrill Way, Port Angeles

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30am**  
1471 E Washington St, Sequim

All women of the zone are welcome to join in Christian fellowship and coffee!



## Beautiful Savior, Anchorage, AK

Just letting you know what we are up to at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church LWML in Anchorage, Alaska. Enclosed are some photos of Donna and Roberta and one of the people so happy to get some coins from us!

The ladies in our group are calling themselves: The Lavender Ladies.

Donna and Roberta were the first to try this mission work. We donned our purple aprons and purple gloves as Women in Mission. Taking an amount of quarters to our nearby Alaska laundromat they supplied washing and drying cycles to whomever was present that hour.

The two of them had some friendly exchanges with everyone. "We are here to bless your day!"

Roberta in a conversation invited one young man to our church. He mentioned that he was the one always giving and it felt good to be the receiver for a change! No pun intended!



## Redeemer Lutheran, Spokane Valley, WA

The Redeemer LWML had its annual Christmas luncheon on Dec. 6. We compiled offerings to support 2 local families as well as our supported student from NDOTO in Kenya while enjoying a wonderful soup lunch and singing Christmas carols. Our next event will be a High Mite Tea on March 21 to raise money for Mites. We would love to have ladies from the Spokane area join us!



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

The women of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church's LWML group were very busy with projects of assembling and gifting this last quarter. In late fall, using the donations from our ingathering at the fall rally along with the donations from the congregation at large, we were able to supply 90 boxes of thanksgiving meals to service men and women and their families at Joint Base Lewis/McChord. The gratitude from the families was the best reward for our time spent sorting, loading, and transporting the goods. The Lord loves and cheerful giver.

In December, the women also organized THREE different projects. One would think the Christmas season was busy enough without so many projects. But that's one of the ways the season is joyous - giving of our gifts and talents. The first project was the annual Sea Farers hygiene kits. Over the months prior, hats, socks, nail clippers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and more were gathered to be assembled into small boxes. One Sunday before Christmas, the congregation helped with the assembling and then wrapping of the kits. 75 boxes were put together in less than an hour! Many hands sure do make light work!



On the same Sunday, ladies brought and sold many baked goodies, favorite family recipes, and sweet treats. The proceeds of this bake sale went to our general funds for the upcoming year. In addition to dessert, our ladies sponsored a light lunch giving thanks to the congregation for helping put together the gifts for the many sailors out to sea.

The final project helped three families have an extra merry Christmas. With our Adopt-A-Family project, the members really came through purchasing toys and other presents for the selected families with multiple kids. After hard circumstances that came their way of the year, the extra support and love was received kindly with tears and grateful hearts.



## What is TABS?

St. John's Lutheran Church in west Spokane found an unmet need in their congregation where more than two thirds of its members are retired. Many of those don't have family nearby. We needed to create a system that made it easier to track the needs and organize our volunteers. TABS was the answer. Named after Tabitha, (also called Dorcas) who was known for her loving service to others In Acts 9 was the result. Tabs is a joint project of our LWML & the Parish Council of St. John's to connect members in need with men and women volunteers from the congregation.

We started by identifying four basic needs and finding a coordinator for each.

- A. Food (ex.groceries or meals)
- B. Transportation (ex. church, groceries, hair/medical appt.)
- C. Fellowship (ex. home & hospital visits; lending an ear and being present)
- D. Home Maintenance (ex. snow/leaf removal, changing lightbulbs & or batteries in fire alarms)

Each coordinator takes the requests from the church office staff, family, friends or an individual and matches them with one or more of the volunteers from this list. Coordinators contact the volunteers and keep the master schedule. There have been times when the four coordinators worked together and even our youth get involved with snow & leaf removal!

We are keeping closer Tabs on our St. John's Family!

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12 NIV)*

THE  
GOLDEN  
➔ RULE ←



 **Spring Zone Events** 

<u>Zone Events</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme (if known)</u>
Alaska	St. John's, Palmer, AK	April 18	"Arise and Shine" (Isaiah 60:1)
Blue Mountain	TBD (combine with Inter-Valley)	May 16	
East Inland Empire	Concordia, Pullman	May 16	
Hood Canal	TBD	April 29	"Coffee with Me and Thee"
Inter-Valley	TBD (combine with Blue Mt)	May 16	
Lake Washington	King of Kings, Renton	April 11	"Afternoon Tea"
Mount Baker	Zion, Snohomish	April 11	
North Columbia	TBD	April 11	
Olympic	TBD		
Rainier	Light of Christ, Federal Way	April 18	
South Columbia	St. Paul's, Wenatchee	April date TBD	





## ***What's Next for Mission Grants?***

### **2026-2028 Mission Grant Proposals are Reviewed and Approved for the Convention Ballot!**

**F**rom November 2025 through January 2026, the LWML WA-AK District Mission Grant Committee worked to evaluate the thirty-eight mission grant proposals submitted to the district. Mission Grant Committee members Donna Chow, Carol Coerber, Ruth Ann Shimoi, and Solveig Schick (as well as District President Carolyn Holbrook and District Counselor Reverend Roger Stites) were sent and read the complete document packages of all thirty-eight mission grant proposals submitted. Through prayerful consideration and using a review process modeled by LWML's Mission Grant Committee, twenty-two mission grant proposals were selected at our January 8, 2026 meeting to advance for further review: first by the LCMS Northwest District, then LWML Washington-Alaska District's Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Committee members crafted paragraphs describing the twenty-two mission grant proposals; after these are reviewed, descriptive paragraphs will be sent throughout the district so convention voters can read how each ministry seeks to serve God and His Kingdom.

### **Prepare to Vote on 2026-2028 District Mission Grant Proposals!**

Before the LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention in July, district convention voting members may ask the LWML group members they represent to vote 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 March.

Yours in Christ,

Solveig Schick – LWML Washington-Alaska District Mission Grants Committee Chairman



[Back to Table of Contents](#)



*“Here I am! Send me.”* to the 35th Biennial LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention held at the Ruby River Hotel, 700 N Division St, Spokane, Washington, July 10-12, 2026.

The registration fee for this convention is just \$195, which includes Saturday’s lunch, Saturday evening’s banquet and entertainment. Offered for the first time is a Saturday only registration for non-voting attendees at \$150, which includes Saturday’s meals. If you need a place to stay, Ruby River Hotel has provided a group rate of \$119 for a standard 2-queen room.

Looking Forward to seeing you In Spokane, July 10-12, 2026



### *Convention Highlights*

#### *Gather to worship and celebrate the Lord.*

Our Friday evening worship service will be held at 7:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Our Proclaimer is the LCMS Northwest District President, Rev. Dr. Michael Von Behren.

Immediately following the worship service there will be a reception, also held at Holy Cross.

#### *Bible Study & Keynote Speaker - We are so Blessed*

Our Bible Study Leader and Keynote Speaker is the wonderful Deb Berma. Deb has authored so many wonderful Bible study books. [Check out her website here.](#)

#### *Business as Usual*

The business sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday at the Ruby River Hotel. Lots of good information and elections of our new District officers. Speaking of which, please pray for the Lords’s guidance that maybe *You* might be one of those officers?

#### *United in Purple...Walking in Missions*

Our Mite Walk will be held on Saturday 4:30 - 5:30 pm. Take a beautiful stroll through Riverfront Park and learn a little bit of history at the same time.





2026 LWML Washington-Alaska  
District Convention  
Ruby River Hotel, Spokane, WA

**July 10 - 12, 2026**

Bible Study Leader & Keynote Speaker

**Deb Burma**

Christian Author and Speaker,  
Women's Ministry Leader

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for  
us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."*

Isaiah 6:8



## ***United in Purple - Walking for Missions***

**T**ogether, we can make a difference. We will be holding our Mite Walk at the District Convention in Spokane on July 18, 2026. Here are the details:

**When:** 4:30-5:30 p.m. on July 18, 2026,

**Where:** We meet outside, at the small LWML table, on the river side of the hotel. Look for the purple & gold balloons.

**Where we are going:** We will walk the (approx. 1.5 mile roundtrip) Centennial trail next to the river and behind the hotel to RiverFront Park, home of the 1974 World's Fair Expo. You'll get a view of Spokane Falls, the Forestry Station, Pavilion, Clock Tower, Red Wagon, Garbage Goat & the Looft Carrousel. Each participant will be given a "Did You Know" fact sheet explaining the history of all of the special places in the Park.

**Why participate?** To spend quality time with wonderful ladies, help LWML meet it's goal for mites and get some exercise in a beautiful park with a rich history!

**Special Assistance:** If you need assistance from a walker or a cane, please bring your own. The trail is paved and wide but there are a few places where tree roots have disrupted the smooth surface.

**How to Register:** When you register for the convention, you are also able to register for the Mite Walk. The registration fee is \$10. If you preregister you will get a t-shirt with our logo. You will also be able to register at the convention in the Ruby River Hotel for the Mite Walk but t-shirts will not be available. All participants will need to sign a Release Form and bring your Pledge Sheet and the money you collected before the Mite Walk. For Information or questions, contact Sandi Anderson via email at [anderson.sandi8300@gmail.com](mailto:anderson.sandi8300@gmail.com)





Lutheran Women in Mission
LWML Washington-Alaska District
www.wa-aklwml.org

Convention Offering Proposal Form
LWML Washington-Alaska District
35th Biennial Convention

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Return to:

Solveig Schick, VP of Gospel Outreach
By mail: 324 Merrill Way, Port Angeles, WA 98362, postmarked 4/15/2026
By email: solveig.schick@gmail.com by 4/15/2026

Information Needed:

- 1. Name of LWML Washington-Alaska District member, society, or zone submitting proposal:
2. Purpose for which funds will be used (please give details as possible):
3. Name of person or organization to whom check is to be made payable:
4. Name and address of person or organization to whom check is to be sent:

Guidelines:

- A. Convention offering proposals to be considered shall be submitted by District LWML members, societies, or zones within the LWML Washington-Alaska District.
B. Each submitted convention offering proposal shall be approved by the Mission Grants Committee before being presented to the convention body for vote.
C. No convention offering shall be for a project that necessitates a permanent subsidy from the LWML Washington-Alaska District.
D. No convention offering shall cover deficits or shortages in a Synodical District or Synod's treasury.

(Note: These guidelines are adapted from the Mission Grant Proposals Section 1, Article XV as directed in Article XV, Section 7, Part E, of the LWML Washington-Alaska District Bylaws.)



# Christ Kitchen

*a place of hope for women in poverty*

Our mission is to help impoverished women heal and overcome critical employment and life challenges such as felonies and reentry into society, lack of job experience, prostitution, human trafficking, physical, sexual and mental abuse, addiction, untreated mental health issues and more. We envision a community where no woman or her children who rely on her for survival, lives in poverty due to lack of skills, abusive relationships, or reliance on government assistance or unhealthy substances. Our program increases family stabilization, grows personal and community economic assets, and builds strong leaders who impact future generations.

Ingathering for LWML WA-AK District Convention.  
Spokane, WA July 10 –12, 2026

Christ Kitchen is kicking off an Art Program for the women to express themselves through Art thus the ingathering will focus on:

**Art Supplies:**

Markers, Colored Pencils. Cardstock all colors, tape (Double sided and regular), watercolor paper and watercolors, Embroidery hoops and thread, Post-it Notes, colored Note pads, Prayer Journals, etc.

Below is a link to their Amazon Wish List. If you would like a copy of the wish list please contact Ruth Ann for assistance.

[Amazon Wish List](#)

# 2024–2026 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



## District President Carolyn Holbrook

---

### President

**Recording Secretary**  
Linda Develaar

**Treasurer**  
Marjorie Davis

**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*  
Wilma Gardner

**Webmaster**  
Joyce Berger

---

### Counselors

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

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