



Evergreen Echoes

*LWML Washington-Alaska
District President
Carolyn Holbrook*



Greetings to Washington-Alaska LWML members!

What a memorable and inspiring convention in Omaha, Nebraska, in June! There were over 3,700 attending to "Grow in God's Grace"

through Word, Sacrament, and uplifting speakers. We saw the results of previous mission grants where hurting and needy were supplied both physically and spiritually. We were challenged to continue our work, even when times are tough and money is tight. Together we can support the Lord's work.

Washington-Alaska has mission grants waiting to be paid. One major goal is the feeding of the children in Haiti where life is more than just a struggle. As you prepare meals for your family, or shop for groceries, won't you think of the starving children who have so little? Will you drop some dimes and dollars in your mite box to help raise the needed funds we voted to provide? Look how the mites add up when we come together!

Our zones will be having fall rallies and events soon. Join with your sisters as you "Grow in God's Grace" by participating in Bible studies, in-gathering events, and mite giving. Bring a friend to share LWML and help her grow. At the convention, our President, Eden Keefe, reminded us of how unique LWML really is in the world. We are a volunteer-based organization with the goal of keeping the Gospel emphasis in our mission grant support. Not making money for our benefit. Helping others with physical needs, but with the opportunity for eternal benefits.

Remember our LWML Mission Statement? As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. As we bring our needs and requests to the Lord, please ask His blessing on our mites that we may joyfully provide for others for their physical and spiritual needs. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament, we will grow to serve Him and proclaim His glory!

May the Lord richly bless you in your service to Him!

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Evergreen Echoes

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Dear Lucy Leader...Getting More Women Involved

Dear Lucy Leader,

My church has a lot of ladies that were once actively involved in LWML but are now homebound or don't like to drive at night when we have our meetings. We want to keep this meeting time in order to keep our members that work during the day. What can we do to continue to engage the ladies that were once so actively involved?

Interested in Involvement Ingrid



Dear Interested in Involvement Ingrid,

It's so wonderful that you want to continue to engage these ladies, and it just so happens that the LWML does have a great resource for your situation. The Mailbox Member Program (MMP) is a way to connect with your LWML members who are not able to be involved in your regularly scheduled activities. You can also invite other members of your congregation that have never been part of LWML. A program that shares resources may be just what those ladies need.

Resources are meant to be shared with the mailbox members on a monthly basis. Resources vary from devotions to service activities and crafts. Check out the program at www.lwml.org/mailbox. You'll find a coordinator guide, invitation, mailbox craft, and monthly resources for three years of the program.

May God bless you as you start this program at your church!

Lucy Leader



Special Focus Ministries
Pam Rafferty, Vice President



The 2025 Omaha Convention is now a part of the LWML convention history. This convention was innovative in providing online giving opportunities for both convention offerings and Gifts from the Heart. Also historic were the number of Young Women Representatives in attendance. Seventy-nine young women attended the convention representing their district as YWR's. Please read [Megan Vogel's article](#) about her experience as our district's YWR.

Also, the special convention training for Heart-to-Heart Sisters was attended by our newest member of the Heart-to-Heart Sisters Committee, Jayne Bowes. [Please see Jayne's article](#) about her experience participating in this extensive program. We are blessed to have both Megan and Jayne serving the Lord and the women of the LWML Washington-Alaska District.



Financial Secretary
Aletha Voges

Our Mite Goal Needs Your Help!

Our Mite goal is \$146,075. As of July 31, 2025 we are 2/3 of the way through the biennium, but have not collected 1/2 of the mites needed to make the goal. We still need \$60,165 to make the goal.

Remember that National is counting on us to send our 25% to help meet their goal. Think about creative ways to increase your congregation's giving. Maybe your zone can also come up with a creative plan. God blesses every dollar we give. Collecting loose change doesn't work any more as people do not carry cash.

May God bless your work done in His name.





God's Grace for Our Lives

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).

What a blessing to be together with nearly 3,800 fellow Christians in Omaha, Nebraska for the 41st Biennial Convention of Lutheran Women in Mission Growing in God's Grace! What a privilege to lift hearts and voices to the Lord, as the Spirit worked through God's Word, worship, mission speakers, and fellowship to strengthen our faith and fill us with renewed purpose for our work spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ! You too can participate in the LWML gathering; speakers and events of the June convention can be accessed in video form through the Convention link on lwml.org! Cue up the video on your computer and share a special Mites in Action talk or Bible Study with your LWML group this fall!



How can we “hit the ground running” after the exhilarating mountaintop experience of convention? How can we best serve Him as Lutheran Women in Mission in our district and our groups? Convention Bible Study leader Christina Hergenrader reminds us to depend on the Lord for this as in all things, to wait on the Lord's perfect timing, not to become too preoccupied with our own busy plans. “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (2 Peter 3:8b). Instead of looking through the lens of the telescope backwards, magnifying our own concerns, look to see each day as a colorful thread in the divine fabric of God's eternal story: an opportunity to grow in grace and faith, to live lives of gratitude and service as the Spirit leads. Let God and His Word be our guide, rising above our own impatience and beyond our endless “to do” lists. About that list (we all have them!) . . . pray about that list, listen with your heart to the prompting of the Spirit, recognizing that all the work of our hands and our intellect belongs to the Lord. He will prosper our efforts for God's Glory and God's plan on His own timeline. He will grow the seeds of love and faith that are planted. Trust in the Lord!

I'd like to share with you the words of the song Write Upon My Heart, written by David Angerman and Joseph Martin for our convention choir (SSA published for Lutheran Women in Mission Convention Worship 2025 by Shawnee Press). Since the convention, one of my friends carries a plasticized copy of these words in her purse as a prayer for God's continual grace and renewal in her life.

¹Write upon my heart, Lord Jesus;
Inscribe Your Name upon my life.
Start in me a sacred work,
Make my life an open book,
Let others know your truth, through me.

³Renew me, Lord, with Your Spirit,
Plant in me the Word of Truth.
Let me reflect Your love and grace
Until I see You face to face.
Let me share Your love in all I do!

²Fill my life with praise, Lord Jesus;
Let Your music echo through my soul,
Make in me a living song,
Let it sound for you alone.
Let others share Your love through me.

⁴Paint upon my life, Lord Jesus;
Sculpt me as a potter works the clay.
Make in me Your work of art,
A reflection of Your heart.
Let others see Your love in me.

⁵Let others know Your truth, Lord Jesus.
Let others hear Your voice, Lord Jesus.
Let others see Your love . . . in me.



“...rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

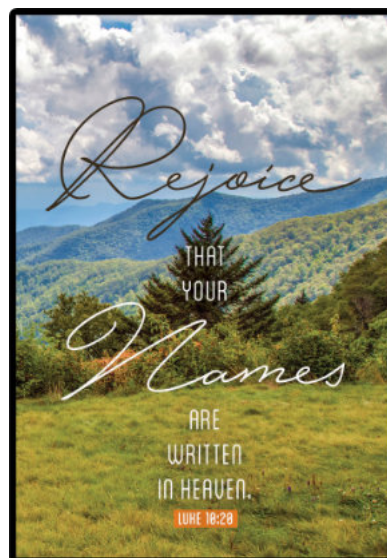
Luke 10:20b

Jesus sent the 72. He called them. He sent them out. There was, after all, work to be done, and lots of it. So Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, called 72 ordinary people and equipped them for service in His Kingdom. They would carry His peace. They would heal the sick, drive out demons and have authority to tread on serpents and scorpions. Jesus called them to leave the comfort and security of their homes so that they would carry the love of God into people’s lives. Jesus called them to bring light to the darkness. Christ Himself equipped them to deliver the gifts of salvation.

I never leave my house without three important, and necessary things. I would go back home to get them if I had forgotten them. That is why, I ask myself, “Do I have my wallet, keys, and my phone?” I cannot do most things without them. I need my keys to go anywhere, and to get in when I get there. I need my phone to be able to call someone, or to look something up. I need my wallet to pay for stuff, but more importantly than that, my wallet has my ID, my identification. My ID tells me (and others) who I am. I know who I am and I can go and do what needs to be done.

In the waters of your baptism, Christ claimed you as His own and marked you as one redeemed. In that life giving water, God bestows on you gifts. You have God’s gifts to share His love and shine His light. God will do awesome things through you, not because you are awesome but because He has made you awesome. You might be able to leave home without your wallet, keys or phone, but you can’t leave home without Jesus. He called you by name.

“...rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20b





LWML Fall Retreat

It is almost time to pack your bags for our District Retreat. We are excited to have you come and join us for two wonderful days at Clover Island in Kennewick, WA on September 26-28, 2025. If you haven't sent in your registration please do so as soon as you can. You also need to make your hotel reservation soon. After September 1st they are will be opening up any rooms that haven't been spoken for to the general public.

Our theme for the retreat is "Calming Life's Storms" with Pastor Brian leading us in a Bible Study.

There will be two auctions: one is a silent auction and one is a live auction, both will be held on Saturday night. Hope to see you there and enjoy the fun with us. We will have door prizes, breaks to stretch your legs and a craft to take home. And, of course delicious food.

Ruth Ann Shimoi has set up our Ingathering for the Retreat, supporting Grace Clinic. They provide free medical, dental, and mental health services to uninsured adults in the Tri-Cities area. [Please see the flyer for items that are needed.](#)

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Retreat.

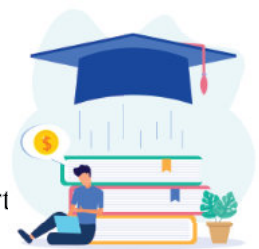


Scholarship Committee **Kim Collins, Chairman**

New Pastor in Spokane

Iwant everyone to congratulate Justin Chester, especially if you are in the Spokane area. He has taken a call to one of the churches in Spokane and was ordained. Ladies start inviting him to our District Convention next summer in Spokane.

Returning from Omaha I learned a lot and was so uplifted in God's spirit. I learned that only two Concordia Schools are for Pastors, which are St. Louis, Illinois and Fort Wayne, Indiana. The rest of the schools offer Church worker degrees. These schools are in Seward Nebraska, Irvine California, and two in Moen and Madison, Wisconsin. It is amazing what you learn at Conventions.





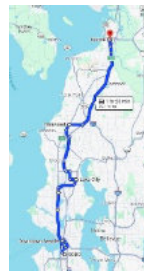
Your Recent Mite Donations Fund Three New Missions!

Your mites help fund ministries in our nation and around the world! The following three 2024-2026 LWML Washington-Alaska District Mission Grants have been recently funded through your mites:

LAMP Ministry's 55 X 55 Initiative was funded in the amount of \$1,000. Through this initiative, we assist LAMP Ministry in their cross-cultural ministry among God's people in the most remote areas of northern Canada. Tiny communities scattered across the north are hungry for the ministry LAMP provides to children who live in these isolated and harsh conditions – LAMP's 55X55 Initiative hopes to fund 55 trips for their 55th Anniversary in 2025. Through volunteer teams sent by LAMP Ministry, these children (and communities) learn they have an ever-present friend in Jesus and are valued in the eyes of God and all of us. Dear Lord, let Your Gospel shine as a beacon of light and hope to Your people in the North, helping all who hear it to safely navigate the shoals and challenges of modern life. Bless and strengthen all those who volunteer and serve in this important ministry.



Lamb of God Evangelical Lutheran Church's Strip Church Ministries was funded in the amount of \$3,000. We give thanks for this ministry where church members share the love of Jesus Christ with God's people trapped within the sex industry in Seattle. This ministry developed out of the realization that the Lord's mission field could be found immediately outside the church's doors among Lamb of God's neighbors and in answer to the question asked by parishioners: "Who is my neighbor?" With the life-saving, soul-healing Gospel of Jesus Christ, Lamb of God volunteers build positive relationships, initiate prayer groups, and provide cookies and safety items as gifts, letting the women trapped in this industry know they are not forgotten by God and His people. Dear God, we pray that Your Word and the Gospel of Jesus can engender and sustain faith in all who are touched by this ministry. Bless the volunteers, Lord, as You work through their hands, hearts, and voices to do Your work here on earth.



More next page



Your Recent Mite Donations Fund Three New Missions!
(Continued)

Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest's Adopt a Care Center. This mission grant of \$3,500 will equip 10 additional care center ministry teams with a package of resources for volunteers to use at care centers. These resources will include large-print song books, devotion materials geared for older adults, CD's to accompany song books and a CD player for use by those without instrument skills. Visits by these care teams make a world of difference to care center residents, many whom only receive only one or two visits per month. Through these resources, the Gospel of Jesus can shine into the lives of many, offering the comfort and perfect hope of knowing God's Love and His plan for our salvation. Dear Lord, Bless these materials and the workers who use them to Your glory as they share the love of Jesus with those who live in care centers. Warm the hearts of all who hear Your songs of praise and Your words of comfort and hope.



Care Center Ministry



The next mission to be funded by your mites:

Feeding Haitian Children for the Kingdom through Trinity Hope. Through this mission grant of \$10,000, Trinity HOPE purchases food from Haitian vendors to provide a noon meal to children, teachers, and cooks in over 240 Christian schools. This grant will sponsor the meal program at one specific Haitian-Lutheran school, covering the overall costs for approximately 200 meals per school day for one school year. Providing a noon meal for the 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. This ministry can be instrumental in bringing whole families to the knowledge of Christ and demonstrating the love of Jesus through word and deed. See the Mite Challenge Poster for this Mission Grant in this newsletter!

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

The WA-AK District Mission Grant Committee met July 31, 2025 and approved the removal of the mission grant resolution requirement from the 2026-2028 Mission Grant Proposal Form. Solveig will announce this in the Newsletter and on the website, as well as removing the requirement on our current form. This follows guidance from LWML. The Committee also approved the Mite Challenge for our 13th 2024-2026 WA-AK District Mission Grant: Feeding Haitian Children for the Kingdom – Trinity HOPE. [Follow this link for more information on Trinity HOPE.](#)



Did You Know?

Twenty-five percent of mites collected in our Washington-Alaska district go to fund national LWML mission grants! At the recent LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, thirty-three new mission grants were approved for the 2025-2027 biennium for a total of \$2,622,270! Check out the ministries that will be supported over these next two years!

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



Committee Reports

In recent editions of the *Evergreen Echoes*, readers have learned that experiencing a short term mission trip can be emotional, rewarding, and appreciated by both missionaries and recipients. Mission trips offer the chance to learn about a different culture and community, while sharing the love of Jesus. After participating in a recent mission trip to an Alaskan village, Jahna Pollock states, “We welcomed over 100 children, youth and families each day: young mothers with their babies and toddlers, grandparents and their grandchildren, and teens. This ‘family style’ Bible school- all ages learning, singing, and growing together- is a wonderful blessing and a poignant illustration of the body of Christ.”

Have you looked at the list of short term mission opportunities on the district website? If not, take a moment to read over that document. It might inspire you, or a group you know, to take that leap of faith and start the process of deciding on and preparing for a mission adventure.

Remember: Funds are available to aid in the costs of participating in a short term mission. Application form can be found on the district website. Our committee looks forward to receiving your application, and hearing about your plans.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.
(1 Peter 4:10)



Heart to Heart Committee **Kelsie Ingham, Chairman**

Autumn is a time for harvest, changing leaf colors, and giving thanks. Many cultures around the world celebrate the harvest and one (besides the USA) even celebrates American Thanksgiving. Any guess which country? It’s in Africa. It was founded as a place for freed slaves from America and the Caribbean. Its capital city was named for President Monroe. It’s the West African country of Liberia. In 1883 Liberia officially made the first Thursday in November a day to give thanks to God for His blessings and mercy. This year, Liberian Thanksgiving Day will be November 6.



It is celebrated with a church service, remembrance of history, family gatherings, and food.

What are your family’s Thanksgiving traditions? Do your traditions seem similar to those of Liberians?

Some other multicultural ideas for celebrating the harvest include: Oktoberfest; Chuseok (a South Korean harvest celebration); collecting colorful leaves and placing them in a Japanese floral arrangement style; and reading Ecclesiastes 3 while reflecting on what each verse means to you and also what that verse might mean to a person of a different cultural background.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest... (Isaiah 9:3).



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Nominating Committee Jayne Bowes, Chairman



Greetings from your Washington-Alaska LWML District Nominating Committee. The months have been flying by, along with Summer. The Nominating Committee have been working hard to get new nominations for the upcoming offices that will vacate in 2026.

We have some wonderful nominations, but do need more. If there are a few of you out there, that might consider being part of our District Board of Directors, we would love to hear from you.

The Offices we need nominations for are:

VP Organizational Resources

VP Special Focus Ministries

Financial Secretary

Nominating Committee

We have some wonderful nominations, but we are needing a few more. Please, kindly consider these offices, and the opportunity to work with some fabulous women, furthering God's Word and Love.

Please contact us if we can answer any questions you might have, Jayne Bowes is our Committee Chairman, Sandi Hall, Waverly Peterson, Judy Peraino, and myself, Vikki Paulovic are on the Nominating Committee.



North Columbia Zone Sandi Hall, President



Since we last shared, things have been a trifle slow during these summer months. Our thoughts have lingered on the halcyon days when aging & physical limitations were of no concern. When the Zone, throughout the year, was a beehive of activity.

But enough lamenting – We are down to four active societies (groups?) doing mighty works unto the Lord! From quilts & baby supplies to food outreach and clothing give-a-ways Zonally, Districtly, Nationally, and Worldly – mites are changing lives, physically and spiritually!

We are excited have the District's newest Heart-to-Heart Sister in the Zone – Jayne Bowes. We are looking forward to her creative and “outside the lines” thinking.

Efforts are underway for the Fall Rally, Saturday, September 13 @ Hope Lutheran Church, Tonasket. We will gather under the theme: “Who Is My Neighbor” with presenter Heather Melcher.

On the society front: Trinity, Republic is busy with weekly Bible studies, throwing birthday parties for a resident at a local adult home and participating in a mini-retreat Seven Fruits of Israel where much fun and many giggles were had! They also experienced new recipes & new tastes. Each fruit came with a special devotion telling how the fruit worked into the religious lives of the Jewish people.

Our Savior, Okanogan hosted a joint gathering with the Ladies Aid of Hope, Tonasket. It was a brown bag luncheon where they reviewed highlights from Omaha!

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East Inland Empire Zone
Karen Williams, President



Much like so many of my LWML Sisters, my husband and I have been busy this summer. It feels kind of weird not having my church's Monday morning Bible Study and not always having my own home group Bible Study. I did have an enjoyable time at the national LWML convention in Omaha Nebraska. The speakers were fantastic, the Bible Studies were enlightening, and the camaraderie with all my sisters in Christ from all over the United States made my heart sing.

I'm part of the committee that will be responsible for the 2026 Washington-Alaska District Convention in Spokane, Washington. This will be a busy time for the sisters in the East Inland Empire, Inter-Valley Zone, and the Blue Mountain Zone. Along with being the Zoom Coordinator for the District, I will be the Choir Director and Song Leader for the convention. You all will be hearing from me in not too many months. I not only love music singing but also directing. My first duty is picking out the songs for the choir to sing at the Friday evening service and the closing service. Hope to have lots of ladies volunteering to be part of the choir.

Our Fall 2025 Zone Rally will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Spokane on Saturday, October 18th. I was privileged to attend an end of year LWML Ladies Luncheon on May 31 at Holy Cross Lutheran. It was a great time to meet with more of the ladies of their congregation. The guest speaker at the luncheon was from Lutherhaven Ministries. Both of my children attended Lutherhaven camps for all their grade school and high school years. In fact, the speaker was one of my son's camp counselors from Lutherhaven.



Alaska Zone
Kim Collins, President

Alaska Zone was very well represented in Omaha. We had four women, and one man attend convention. We had a lot of fun and learned a lot. I was very thrilled to have so many Alaskans attend.

We are now planning for our Fall Rally. It will be at Lamb of God in Wasilla on September 20th. Our group always makes the theme about a lamb. This year it will be "From Lambs to Lions" from Revelation 5:5-6.



Hood Canal Zone Solveig Schick, President



Zone Presidents Corner


Hood Canal Zone group presidents gathered votes from their members in May on 2025-2027 LWML Mission Grants, allowing me to truly represent the Hood Canal Zone when I voted on their behalf. What a rich blessing and privilege it was to represent the women of our region, voting for mission priorities and helping steer the direction of Lutheran Women in Mission at the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha! I sent daily updates each night to the group presidents in our zone, and they were good-humored enough to share them with their LWML members! I plan to share a little more with zone members at our Joyful Jamboree October 11, 2025

July 25, 2025, the Hood Canal Zone Executive Council met and planned the October 11th Joyful Jamboree with the theme “I Love to Tell the Story” (1 Peter 3:15b). It will be held at St Matthew Lutheran Church in Port Angeles and new zone vice president will be elected at the gathering. We also voted to offer three \$100 scholarships to zone members attending the District Fall Retreat September 26–28th and promised to offer carpooling options. We’d like to encourage all our zone members to take part in this retreat!

The following are photos of St Matthew Lutheran Church’s Free Community Dinner Wednesdays at 5 pm: Preparing, assembling, and distributing hot chicken sandwich dinners. Praise the Lord for these women!



Join Hood Canal Zone’s
Joyful Jamboree!



I Love to Tell the Story
1 Peter 3:15b
October 11, 2025 at 9:30 am
St Matthew Lutheran Church
132 E 13th Street, Port Angeles

Welcoming all Women to the
Washington-Alaska District Retreat
Calming Life’s Storms
Matthew 8:23-27



September 26-28
Clover Island Inn, Kennewick
Register soon! Forms at wa-aklwml.org
Our zone is funding 3 scholarships of \$100 for those who wish to attend! Ask Solveig for Information



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Rainier Zone

Lutheran Women in Mission from the Rainier Zone attending the LWML Convention in Omaha, NE in June celebrated with worship, speakers, Bible study, sprinkled with lots of laughter and hugs.

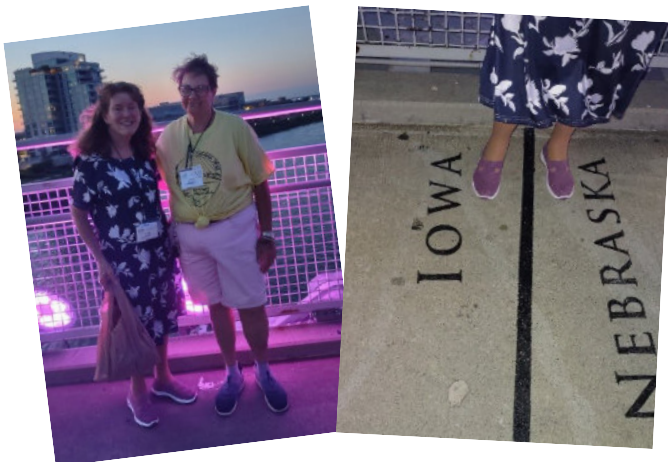


Rainier Zone attendees: Megan Vogel, Linda Huyck, Edie Norris, Kristi Parris, and Colleen Wiley

LWML Washington Alaska District YWR, Megan Vogel receives her YWR Pin from President Carolyn Holbrook



Edie Norris hanging out with YWRs suggesting YWR stands for “Ya’ll Will Run” (for officer soon)



Linda Huyck standing with newfound LWML sister, Cindy Stanton on the “purple bridge.” Linda also planted her feet in two states while standing on the bridge.

Plans are underway for the Rainier Zone Gathering to be held on November 1, 2025 at Zion Lutheran Church in Tacoma.



Trinity Lutheran LWML/Bible Study ladies enjoyed a mini-retreat on July 25 after Bible Study. It was entitled Seven Fruits of Israel. (Only 6 fruits were prepared.)

This devotional recipe book on Seven Fruits of Israel was written by Yael Eckstein and published by *The Fellowship of Christians and Jews*. The goal of The Fellowship organization is to foster better relations between Christians and Jews.

Each fruit was accompanied by a short devotional reading explain how and when each fruit is used in Jewish religious life. The seven fruits are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olive oil, and dates. The ladies had a grand time tasting things, trying new recipes and learning how the fruits fit into Jewish feasts.



The fruit retreat table of goodies. Chocolate Wheat Breakfast Muffins baked by Sandi Schauer.

Jennine Groth, Carol Bowe, Sandi Schauer, Gigi Lutz, Sally Eastwood. Participants enjoyed friendship and giggles.



Sandi Schauer made Pearl Barley Soup

Jennine Goth created a beautiful fruit salad which included grapes.



Gigi Lutz had to be creative with the recipe for a pomegranate salad since it is not pomegranate season. After much searching, she found pomegranate seeds which she put in her salad. She also found small bottles of pomegranate juice.

Sally Eastwood made a delightful Creamy Tahina sauce which was put on a green salad.



A green olive dip was prepared by Carol Bowe. She paired it with crackers.





Zion Evangelical Lutheran church in Tacoma has had a very busy summer. God gave our congregation four sweet little blessings starting back in March. With two little boys and two little girls added to the flock, there has been nothing short of support and helping hands for the mama's and their families. Food train sign-ups went out again and again and never ran empty as the ladies met the call with enthusiasm.

Two of the littles, fraternal twins (a brother and sister), were born 10 weeks premature. Their parents were extra busy tending to their needs as premies while still caring for the twins' older brother. When the request went out for child care, again the need was met with open hearts and energetic bodies. Once the twins made it home, housework was shared as teams of ladies gave their time cleaning dishes and bathrooms or simply holding babies so mom could get a break.

The quilters of the congregation were also very busy piecing together special newborn quilts and baptismal blankets for each of the new babies. Many stitches, lots of ironing, and tying ties went into each one of the gifts. They turned out very lovely and will keep those babies warm for many nights to come.

We also sent a Delegate, YWR, and Member to the Biennium National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska. It was a new experience for a couple of the attendees. They came home inspired and encouraged to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Talk of working with Lutheran Braille Workers in our area is just the start of the service we look forward to doing in the coming months as well as hosting the fall LWML Zone Rally in November.

By Megan Vogel



Fall Rally Information



Our LWML Zones will host Fall events soon! More information on the themes, Bible verses, and times will come from each respective zone. Blessings on all of these events!

Zone	Date	Location
Alaska	September 20, 2025	Lamb of God, Wasilla, AK
Blue Mountain	To Be Determined	
East Inland Empire	October 18, 2025	Holy Cross, Spokane, WA
Hood Canal	October 11, 2025	St Matthew's, Port Angeles, WA
Inter Valley	October 18, 2025	Bethlehem, Yakima, WA
Lake Washington	November 1, 2025	Joy, Bellevue, WA
Mount Baker	October 11, 2025	Shepherd of the Hills, Maltby, WA
North Columbia	September 13, 2025	Hope, Tonasket, WA
Olympic	October 11, 2025	Epiphany, Kenmore, WA
Rainier	November 1, 2025	Zion, Tacoma, WA
South Columbia	October 18, 2025	Zion Lutheran, Grand Coulee, WA



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Important Note about 2026-2028 WA-AK District Mission Grant Proposals (Due October 31, 2025)

After discussions with LWML, LWML WA-AK District no longer requires Resolutions to be part of the mission grant application. See the updated 2026-2028 LWML WA-AK District Mission Grant Proposal form online!



Lutheran Women in Mission
Mission Grants Committee - LWML WA-AK District

How Can our Mites be Used to Share the Love of Jesus?



[Grant Proposal Form on next page](#)

Is the Holy Spirit Calling You to Support a Mission?

Check out the WA-AK District Mission Grant Proposal Application Online at wa-aklwml.org!

2026-2028 Biennium Mission Grant Proposals are due October 31, 2025

Important Note:

After discussions with LWML, WA-AK District no longer requires Resolutions to be part of the mission grant application. See the updated Proposal form online!

Who can apply for a WA-AK District Mission Grant?

Any LWML member, group, or zone may submit a Mission Grant Proposal for consideration by our Mission Grants Committee for the upcoming 2026-2028 LWML WA-AK District Biennium! Additionally, we also accept mission grant proposals from any ministry of the Office of International Mission, the Office of National Mission, or the Office of the President of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Is the Application Hard?

Application questions are straightforward and emphasize the mission-focused work of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Contact any member of the Mission Grants Committee with questions about supporting a mission grant! **We would be happy to help!** What ministries do you feel called to support in our 2026-2028 Biennium?

Yours in Christ,
Solveig Schick – VP of Gospel Outreach, LWML Washington-Alaska District



Lutheran Women in Mission Washington-Alaska District

2026-2028 MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL FORM

DEADLINE: October 31, 2025

SEND TO: Solveig Schick
Vice President of Gospel Outreach
324 Merrill Way
Port Angeles, WA 98362
solveig.schick@gmail.com

MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- A. The grant is mission-focused and will extend the Gospel and ministry of the Word.
- B. Compatible with the plans and projections of the LCMS.
- C. Current and ready for implementation within the two years 2026-2028.
- D. Well documented with answers to **all** of the questions on the form.
- E. Continued maintenance of the mission must be assured.

NAME OF PROPOSED MISSION: _____

LOCATION OF PROPOSED MISSION: _____

AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ _____ [Minimum] \$ _____ [Maximum]

LWML WA-AK DISTRICT SPONSOR: Member _____ Society _____ Zone _____

*If you do not have an LWML contact within the WA-AK District, please contact Solveig Schick for instructions.

LWML Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Proposed Mission Contact Person: _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Funds to be sent to: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

THE MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

1. This fully completed Mission Grant Proposal Form with accompanying information as requested.
2. Any additional information felt to be necessary.
3. Photographs or schematics of the proposed mission and other images, such as a logo, sent electronically to *solveig.schick@gmail.com* or on a thumb drive to the address above. Images will be transferred to a PowerPoint and shown at the convention during the mission grant presentation, preceding the vote.

Paper photographs and brochures cannot be used.

MISSION GRANT PROPOSAL INFORMATION

LWML Washington-Alaska District

SUBMIT RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN A SEPARATE TYPED DOCUMENT.

1. Mission goal statement.
[This may address questions such as: What is the mission emphasis of the grant? How will it spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ or further ministry of the Word of God?]
2. Purpose(s) for which funds will be used.
[This may answer questions such as: Who will be impacted, what is the purpose, where is it located, why is it needed, and how will mission grant funds assist?]
3. (Optional) Specific needs not addressed in item 2.
4. Who is the governing body to whom the organization regularly reports?
[If there is a connection to an LCMS Office of Missions, an RSO, an LCMS congregation or district, or an LCMS partner church, please include that information.]
5. Who is responsible for implementing this proposed mission?
6. Who is responsible for administration of funds for this proposed mission grant?

Questions 7-11 should be answered by someone who will be directly involved in the proposed mission.

7. Are there similar existing programs in the proposed mission's geographic area?
8. Total amount and source of remaining funds for this proposed mission if funding is only partial for the need.
9. What, if any, alternative funding is available?
10. How will this mission be sustained after the grant monies are used?
11. Financial statement or budget for the proposed mission. This may include: cost of land, facilities, construction, equipment, salaries, scholarships, etc.
12. (Optional) The names and comments of persons having special knowledge of the ministry.
13. (Optional) Additional reasons this proposed mission is important.

If pertinent information is available after the proposal is submitted, also forward it to the address below.

Return a copy of the Mission Grant Proposal by October 31, 2025 to solveig.schick@gmail.com or to:

Solveig Schick
Vice President of Gospel Outreach
324 Merrill Way
Port Angeles, WA 98362

NOTE: The LWML Washington-Alaska District Mission Grants Committee will submit the mission grant proposal to the following for approval:

- The LCMS Northwest District President.
- The national or partner church that the Mission Grant Proposal is involved with.

NOTE: Grants are funded through the collection of Mites over the 2026-2028 biennium by LWML Member Groups and LCMS congregations within the LWML WA-AK District. In general, grants are funded in the order of convention voting as donated funds are received over the two-year period.



LWML WA-AK District Mission Grant

\$10,000 Mite Challenge!

Feeding Haitian Children



for the Kingdom TrinityHOPE

The LWML WA-AK District Mission Grants Committee is asking zones and groups to consider having a special offering for mites in place of a traditional Ingathering during upcoming Fall events to fund this year-long program of school meals!



Trinity HOPE purchases food from Haitian vendors to provide a noon meal to children, teachers, and cooks in over 240 Christian schools. The grant money is designated to one specific Haitian-Lutheran school to sponsor the feeding program at that school. The grant covers overall costs for approximately 200 meals per school day for one school year. Providing a noon meal for the 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. This ministry can be instrumental in bringing whole families to the knowledge of Christ and demonstrating the love of Jesus through word and deed.

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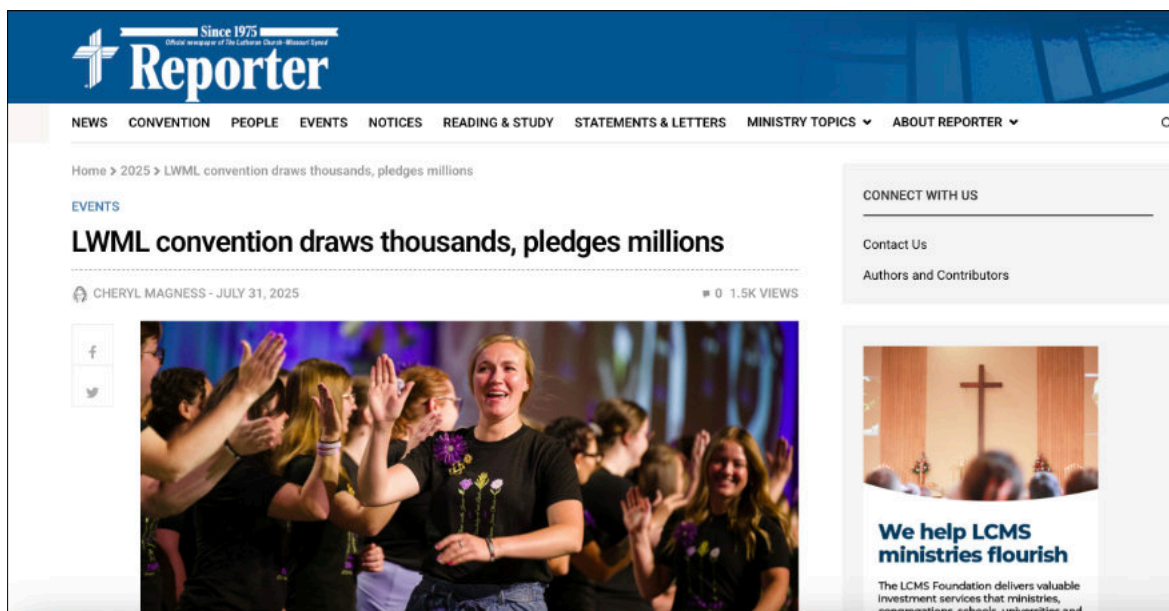
The Tri-Cities only free clinic

Grace Clinic provides free medical, dental and mental health services to uninsured adults in the Tri-Cities. Matthew 25:34-36

Our LWML WA-AK district ingathering is for this Clinic. The following items are on their list:

- NITRILE Exam Gloves (all sizes especially medium — no latex)
- Copy Paper
- Postage Stamps
- Disinfecting Wipes (with Clorox)
- Kitchen Size Plastic Trash Bags
- Hygiene Items (shampoo, body wash, toothpaste – must be unexpired, unopened, unused)
- Gift Cards to Costco, Walmart, Amazon or Office Depot

LWML Biennial Convention Makes Front Page of the LCMS Reporter National Newspaper!



LWML National Convention Report

In June, over 3,700 gathered in Omaha, Nebraska, to participate in the 41st Biennial Convention. The theme was "Growing in God's Grace." *But growing the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.* (2 Peter 3:18)



From the opening of convention, the celebration service with Holy Communion, we were inspired by the worship and the singing, challenged and uplifted with Bible studies, and motivated by the speakers. The Mites in Action speakers shared how the mites had changed lives, physically and spiritually. We saw the impact of our dimes and dollars which brought the Word to so many. We gave gifts in support of the hurting and those in physical need.

Of course, there was business to attend to: Bylaw changes; voting for candidates for the National offices; reports and greetings; recognition of the faithful workers. We voted for the Mission Grants, selecting 33 Missions for a total of \$2,622,270 for the 2025–2027 biennium. Check them out on the LWML website!

We prayed together. Made new friends. Hugged the friends we haven't seen recently. We laughed, and we cried. A record number of participants (1627) walked across the Bob Kerry Pedestrian bridge crossing the river from Nebraska to Iowa and back. It was 91 degrees and humid, but the "sea" of yellow-shirted participants marched on for the Lord! And the Mission Walk raised \$73,600 for the work of the Lord!

Our Bible study leader, Christina Hergenrader, brought the message of grace in waiting. Waiting in times of trial and hardship. Reminded us to trust Christ for His perfect timing. Our LWML President, Eden Keefe, shared and reminded us of the uniqueness of LWML as a volunteer-based organization which desires to keep the Gospel emphasis in our mission grant support.

As we bring our prayers and our financial support to the work of the Lord through our mites, we are reminded that our hearts are renewed, and our faith is strengthened as we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. We serve the Lord in gladness.

Carolyn Holbrook, President

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A Young Woman Representative’s Review of the Biennium LWML National Convention

Written by Megan Vogel

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord! Praise be to God for his wonderful grace and goodness.

At the end of June, I represented the Washington-Alaska District as your Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the Biennium LWML National Convention held in Omaha, Nebraska. The weather was warm, humid, and sunny and that sun was a foreshadow to the brightness that filled our hearts and minds during convention. Hearing grant recipient reports, devotions, speakers, and worship were just some of the many ways we experienced the love and grace of God over the few days together. Additionally many women visited with new and old friends sharing hugs, smiles, encouragement, and laughter.

In my special meetings and orientation, I was able to meet other YWRs from around the country. We had fun working on service projects, reading God’s word, and gathering new ideas on how to use our time and talents in our home congregations. We were inspired to share our perspectives, ideas, and time as they are valuable and that if we want to have the LWML in the future WE are that future. I have to say a little spark ignited in me and I hope to continue in leadership roles not only in my congregation but also up to the district level.

In addition to learning the reasons for and hearing the stories of how women became involved with LWML, I gained a deeper appreciation and understanding for what LWML is all about - Missions! Over 80 countries around the world have benefited from LWML grants given in the name of Jesus over the life of this amazing organization. God is alive and moving and He has allowed us to be His hands and feet. What an honor! I look forward to seeing how God helps us reach our mission grant goal of 2.62 million dollars!

Most importantly, my time in Omaha encouraged me to trust in the Lord and lean on Him in all things. As Peter says in the third chapter of his second epistle, “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” I know that my time at the national convention gave me a renewing of my priorities, how to be purposeful with my time with Jesus, and share the gospel not only with my mouth but also with my actions. God’s grace is for all!



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Our Heart-to-Heart Sisters Representative’s Review of her Experience during Training at the LWML National Convention

Written by Jayne Bowes

First off, let me begin by thanking the District for blessing me with the opportunity to partake in the Heart-to-Heart Sister training in Omaha – it was much appreciated!

As I think back over the experience, I am struck by how eye-opening it was, on so many levels. For example, it was amazing (and rather inspirational) to learn just how many peoples, countries, and ethnicities are a part of the LCMS, “at home and abroad” as they say.

Coming from a “traditional German-Lutheran” background, I truly never appreciated the wide diversity already present in the LCMS – YAY! It really brought home the importance of always keeping ourselves open to inclusion by way of providing services and opportunities in other languages; being able, and ready, to learn from and embracing different cultures and worship styles.

Having spent time in the Dominican Republic, on two separate occasions (with Danelle Putnam), serving among youth with disabilities, this experience reignited my desire for working with and learning from different cultures and also working with those who have unique challenges on their path to a full relationship with our Heavenly Father! One of my fellow participants had a daughter on the autism spectrum and seeing God at work in her life – wow, what an amazing, heartwarming, and uplifting experience and witness! I think that that may be a somewhat overlooked aspect of the work of Heart-to-Heart Sisters – I hope to work with others to change that.

It was a wonderful experience. What a blessing to meet the other ladies and add to my ever-growing LWML family

Thank you!
Jayne



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GOD AT WORK

What happens when God chooses to join 9 women randomly for dinner at an LWML Convention?

By Aletha Voges

Take Sheryl Zinda and her Mom, Frances Beer, DeWitt, IA and her Aunt Becky Gluesing, Clinton IA with sisters: Janelle Mc Partland, Stuart, FL, Ardi Garnett, Palm Springs, CA and Kathy Skinner, Bellevue, NE; add Mary Maurer and Marjorie Reikofski, Norfolk, NE; then toss in Aletha Voges, Kent WA to make nine. Sheryl and Aletha discuss Aletha’s roots which began in Davenport, IA. They found they knew some of the same people. When Aletha’s husband spent a year as an Army Chaplain in Korea, she lived in Parkview, six miles from Sheryl. They decided to keep in touch and Aletha handed Sheryl a bookmark with her address on the back. Sheryl excitedly announced that “Aletha is an author!” Wanting a picture of the two of them, they raised their name tags, and handed a phone to Aunt Becky.

Janelle, seeing the name tags exclaimed, “Oh my gosh, it’s Aletha! I have been looking for you! My cousin, Jeanine, told me to look for you.” Aletha had come to Omaha early and spent 3 days with Jeanine. The back story: Jeanine and John Gerety, owned a motel in Klamath Falls, OR during the time when Aletha’s husband was the Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. Fast forward about ten years and the Voges’ were visiting the Gerety’s in KF. Jeanine was writing a book about her Lange heritage. Her search led her Walcott, IA, just 5 miles from Aletha’s home. It was discovered that Jeanine’s great uncle Ernst Lange married Kate Schroder, who happened to be Aletha’s great aunt. Back to the dinner table: Janelle, Ardi, and Kathy are also related to Ernst and Kate, thus, also, to Aletha. We call ourselves “Kissin Cousins.”

Further discussions discovered that Mary’s husband, Roger, grew up with the sisters, and their mother, Ella Meyer, brought Mary into the LWML. Aletha asked Mary and Marjorie, if they knew Mel and Ardith Warneke from Norfolk. Marjorie replied, “Yes, Mel was the president of Nebraska’s LLL.” Aletha was a first cousin of Ardith, and she and Mel had introduced Ethan and Aletha to Orphan Grain Train in 2003. Aletha had just enjoyed 15 minutes with their daughters, Deb and Diane.

Nine women whose lives are forever changed because God placed them together at Saturday’s dinner table and let the conversations begin.

Moral: Don’t ever be afraid to attend a meal alone at an LWML convention. You never know the plans God has for you.



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LWML Biennial Convention

Convention Photos

When a caption was available it was added as alt text, meaning...you will see it when you hover over the photo. Note, not all photos have a caption.



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More Convention Photos



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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
Wilma Gardner

Webmaster
Joyce Berger

Counselors

West (Junior)
Rev. Roger Stites

East (Senior)
Rev. Brian Bowes