



# Evergreen Echoes

*LWML Washington-Alaska District  
President Carolyn Holbrook*



Our 34th Biennial Convention in Everett, Washington, is rapidly approaching! Excitement is filling the air much like the fresh scent of spring! The Convention Committee members have been working diligently to make this convention exceptional! The theme is

“Strong in the Lord” so expect to receive strength from our Lord Jesus and become empowered through worship, praise, and prayer. We begin our convention with our Friday evening worship and communion service at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Everett. We are delighted to welcome the newly installed President of the Northwest District, Rev. Mike Von Behren as our Proclaimer. We will be strengthened as we study His word with Bible Study Leader, Donna Snow, and touched by the words of our Keynote Speaker, Kim Wagner. Our hearts will be filled as we hear how our mites have touched the lives, hearts, and souls of others in many varied missions. We will leave the convention having had a “mountaintop experience”, ready to serve the Lord with gladness in our many opportunities as Lutheran Women in Mission.

At the convention, you will have an opportunity to hear and meet our LWML Representative, Karol Selle, our Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries. I have been blessed to work with her during my time in that district office and consider her a dear friend. Welcome her as she brings greetings from our national organization.

It is a privilege and honor to represent you as your District President. My heart has been filled with the many opportunities to meet many LWML members at zone events and district activities. I am touched with your hearts of service to our Lord as you serve Him so faithfully. I thank our Lord for each of you.

Blessings,

Carolyn



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*Evergreen Echoes*

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# Vice Presidents Reports

## Organizational Resources Marjorie O'Rourke, Vice President

### Committee Members Needed

The Structure Committee is looking for women who are interested in learning more about bylaws to assist with the committee's work for the 2024-2026 biennium. The committee reviews all the bylaws changes from the local groups all the way to making edits to the district's bylaws. If you are interested in learning more about the committee's work, please reach out to Marjorie O'Rourke, Vice President of Organizational Resources, at [mjorourke9@gmail.com](mailto:mjorourke9@gmail.com).



## Servant Leader Chat Lucy Leader

*Dear Servant Leaders,*

Confidence in Christian leadership is being grounded in the Word.

### Who's in Charge?

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves (Philippians 2:3).*

Often, people in charge don't do a good job. A supervisor might like to dictate your hours and coffee breaks, and what you can and cannot do on company time, but she often doesn't follow her own rules. Sometimes parents send the message to their children, "Do as I say and not as I do." But Jesus is not like that. The above-referenced verse from Philippians reminds us of the importance of selflessness and valuing others above ourselves. Jesus not only tells us what to do, He does it Himself first. Let your actions follow the actions of Jesus through your servant leadership.

As you lead, feelings of anxiety or worry might creep into your mind. Uncertainty quickly leads to fear and fear erodes away at faith. Fear can be powerful. In fact, fear is one of Satan's most-used tactics to get us to doubt God. However, the Holy Spirit enables us to overcome anxiety and fear as we remember God's promises to us in His Word. God is in charge, even when things around us seem out of control! He is our peace, comfort, and guide. He is our Leader!

I recommend "Christian Leaders Bible Study" for spiritual guidance on leading.

Your sister in Christ,

Lucy

Lucy Servant Leader





# Vice Presidents Reports

## Special Focus Ministries Pam Rafferty, Vice President

Our district convention in Everett is quickly approaching. As of the date this was written, there are 10 ladies registered to participate as Young Women or Heart-to-Heart Sisters! Our committees are excited to welcome them as our sisters in Christ and provide special opportunities for them to join in fellowship and service. While at the convention, be certain to visit our displays. There are make & take crafts, literature for your zones or local groups, and an opportunity to win a special gift basket. We look forward to seeing you and introducing you to our honored participants.

Pam Rafferty, VP of Special Focus Ministries  
Kelsie Ingham, H2H Sisters Chair and committee member Judy Norton  
Erin Black, Young Women Chair  
Gracie Holbrook, Milwaukee YWR



## Gospel Outreach Ruth Ann Shimo, Vice President

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

The peace of the Lord be with you. As Vice President of Gospel Outreach, these past 4 years have been a blessing and a bit of a challenge. The challenge has been on the computer side of the position. I am so very thankful for my committee members who have more knowledge and know how then I was willing to challenge myself with. My committee members have been fantastic: Donna Chow, Betty Rich, Joanne Hopper, Lorna Williams, Patrice Cornelius, Sandi Shauer, Kim Collins and Greta Bernhardt.

Since 2020 your Mites have funded over 33 grants and 4 students preparing for service in the church. The total has been over \$170,000.00. All the grants were paid. The recipients were very thankful to receive the checks for the ongoing ministry in their area. The next biennium will have new requests. Will we(you) continue to rise to the God given challenge of filling your Mite box for the work in God's kingdom?

Our Sunday offering recipients are also blessed. This past biennium we gave to the Food bank at New Hope Lutheran Church in Pacific, WA. This convention we will be voting on 4 requests: Mirror Ministries in Yakima, Valley Camp in North Bend, and Laundromat Ministry in Sequim.

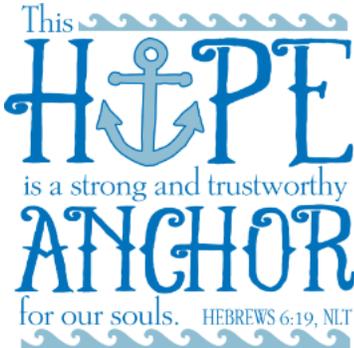
Blessings and thank you



# Pastoral Counselor

## Senior Pastoral Counselor – West Pastor Kevin Schubkegel,

Greetings to all of you gals responding to the Lord’s call in Christian mission. At the Everett District Convention, we look to encourage all who can attend by looking in even more detail at the wonderful theme chosen from Scripture that we are “strong in Christ.” Specifically, we are strong in His Word and Sacraments, where His work is declared and delivered to us.



We are being regularly tested and threatened with currents and winds of new doctrines that would pull us away from God’s gifts in Christ. When examined closely, the false teachings of today are only modern twists of the same subtle lies that Eve and Adam and others have faced. To take our stand in Christ against the storms that challenge us, we are given the image of an anchor in Hebrews 6:19. An anchor can hold a vessel firm. Christ is that anchor.

To run the race before us in service and mission we must remain anchored. For our work to be Christ’s work in true faith, our anchor must be sure and steadfast, with our hope in faith in Him and His cross alone. We would be swept away, but He will not give way. His Spirit keeps His church on earth in the one true faith. This is our eternal joy and the strength we need for true life here today.

*We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, (Hebrews 6:19)*

Thank you for the joyful opportunity to serve with you all, to get to know the District Board of Directors and serve with the Executive Committee most closely, yet to also rejoice in all of your service together. It is an encouragement to see your faith in the Lord Jesus at work and your eagerness to serve in mission in Christ’s name, in service to all in need, and with the glorious life-giving Gospel of our Risen Savior. Well done to you all! Thanks be to God for His work through all of the women of the LWML!

Kevin Schubkegel, Pastoral Counselor





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

The nomination committee is thankful and honored to present the following nominees for this year's elections. The complete biographies of each nominee is included in the Convention Information email that was sent separately, and in the Convention manual.

Thanks be to God.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**



**VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE**  
Ruth Zeller – Alaska Zone  
St. John Lutheran Church,  
Palmer, Alaska



**VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH**  
Solveig Schick – Hood Canal Zone  
Faith Lutheran in Sequim WA



**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Linda Davelaar - Mount Baker Zone  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Mount  
Vernon, WA



**TREASURER**  
MaryLynn Huntwork – South  
Columbia Zone  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
Ephrata, WA



**PASTORAL COUNSELOR – WEST**  
Rev. Roger Stites – Hood Canal  
Zone  
Faith Lutheran Church, Sequim, WA



Jayne Bowes - North  
Columbia Zone  
Our Savior Lutheran Church,  
Okanagan, WA



Sandra Hall - North Columbia  
Zone  
Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Republic, WA



Vikki Paulovic – East Inland  
Empire Zone  
St. John's Lutheran Church,  
Spokane, WA



Judy Peraino - Mount  
Baker Zone  
Trinity Lutheran, Mount  
Vernon, WA



Waverly Peterson - Blue  
Mountain Zone  
Bethlehem Lutheran  
Church, Kennewick, WA



Ruth Ann Shimoi – Lake  
Washington Zone  
King of Kings Lutheran  
Church, Renton, WA

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

Sometimes we look at people and decide we have nothing in common with them: we aren't the same age or ethnicity. Maybe you aren't sure how to connect with them because they are blind or deaf. No matter our differences, we all share one very important thing with all other LWML women: faith that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.



Heart to Heart Sisters of all Nations committee is based on that similarity while celebrating our unique backgrounds. During our district convention, please stop by our informational table display. We will have a plethora of ideas for sharing our communities, grab-and-go crafts, and so much more!



***Scholarship Committee***  
***Kim Collins, Chairman***

***Applications are Coming In***

I have received applications from the three recipients from last year, and one young man who is majoring in Church Ministry. I will soon be sending the applications to our Scholarship Review Group for approval. This group includes President Carolyn, Vice President of Gospel Outreach RuthAnn Shimoi and Scholarship Committee Member Greta Bernhardt. Keep an eye out in the next edition of the Evergreen Echoes for more information on our winners.

The Lord is Good!





# Zone Presidents Corner

## Rainier Zone Edie Norris, President



Women attending the Rainier Zone first ever Joy Shop held at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Milton on April 13, 2024, enjoyed the lovely LWML Prayer Service entitled Grace, Mercy, and Peace, which was led by zone counselor, Rev. Sam Schuldheisz. This title was also the theme for Joy Shop.

The events of the day included a fun game which challenged the women if they really knew their left from their right.



Great fellowship was enjoyed during the Mission Service Project which used the items brought for the Gifts from the Heart. Bags were filled with personal care items for mothers, dads and babies, along with encouragement cards that were made. The items were delivered to Care Net of Puget Sound.



## Mount Baker Zone Judy Peraino, President

Our zone has been busy with the Lake Washington zone planning for the LWML WA-AK District 2024 convention June 21-23, 2024 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott- Seattle/Everett in Everett, WA. Encourage registration for an uplifting weekend.

On April 13, 2024 our Joyshop was held at Trinity, Mount Vernon with 34 ladies in attendance. Kelsie Ingham led an excellent Bible study on the Joy of Salvation and after the program we all had a grand time completing a scavenger hunt. We learned about Family Promise, Skagit County and the role it plays in providing housing and classes and then finding homes for homeless families and even a program to prevent families from becoming homeless. The picture is just a portion of what was collected and included \$355 cash.

On April 20th, Shepherd of the Hills, Maltby hosted Kim Roeske, wife of Pastor Todd Roeske at Peace Lutheran Church, Monroe, who shared their 13 years as missionaries in the Philippines. She taught us to sing a song in the native language of the Tagakaulo tribe. Madyaw ya Tyumanem (3x) Sakana kanate. God is so good (3x) He's so good to me.



## Blue Mountain Zone Wilma Gardnew, President

### Joy Shop Coming to Yakima

Blue Mountain Zone and Inter-Valley Zone will host a joint event at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Yakima on Saturday, May 18, 2024. The speaker will be Susie Maxfield from Swan Graphics. More information will be coming soon.



# Local Group Corner

## Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran

### Sarah's Circle

This year, our society has joined with our congregation's craft group one night per month to tie quilts for Children's Hospital in Seattle. So far we have tied 37 quilts.

On April 20 we hosted Kim Roeske to speak about her mission work in the Philippines. A few on our ladies donned native Tagakaulo wraps and led us in singing.



## Zion Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA



On April 6, 2024, nineteen Zion Lutheran Women in Mission connected with Farm 12 in Puyallup for a brunch fellowship. Donations were brought to the brunch for Farm 12 partner "Step-by-Step" which was founded by a mother for mothers and works to equip pregnant women, mothers and families to positively impact generations by providing programs for pregnancy, family and parenting support.

Step-by-Step also has a Dream Works Program that offers job training and work experience opportunity to help mothers.



## St. Johns Lutheran, Spokane, Wash.

### Our Beautiful Christmas Decorations



St. John's LWML made chrismons to decorate our Christmas trees.

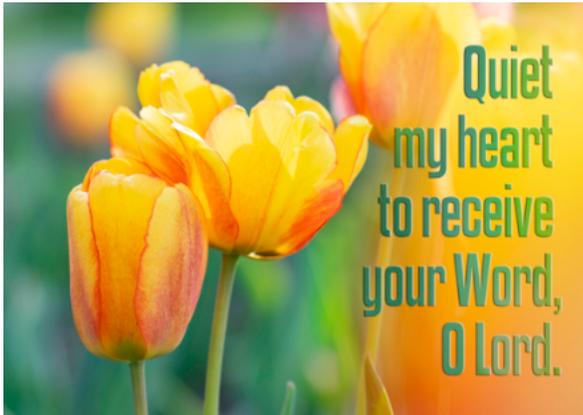


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## Concordia Lutheran, Oak Harbor, Wash.

Spring arrived at Concordia Oak Harbor the last weekend of April! On Saturday our LWML held a lovely Spring Tea where we invited ladies in the congregation and friends to attend. We had a wonderful speaker from Whidbey Island Women's Clinic and collected a free-will donation for them. Attendees asked our speaker great questions, and we all came away with a greater appreciation of this local Christ centered clinic. We will be keeping them in our prayers.

The next day, during our Sunday service, was our quarterly mite ingathering and dedication of our quilts and personal care kits to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Our congregation is always so generous to the LWML! Earlier, Concordia had donated funds for our LWML to purchase items for these kits and we were able to assemble 65 personal care kits! Pictured is Concordia's LWML Board with our mountain of kits!



# 2022-2024 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



## District President Carolyn Holbrook

### President

**Recording Secretary**  
Carla Church

**Treasurer**  
Marie Chow

**Financial Secretary**  
Aletha Voges

**Archivist-Historian**  
Emmi Mihalcin

**Corresponding Secretary**  
LeeAnn Tibbals

**Meeting Manager**  
Susan Allen Abbe

**Nominating Committee  
Chairman**  
Michele Misener

**2024 Convention  
Chairman**  
Doris Hildenbrand

**Parliamentarian**  
Carla Scott

### Gospel Outreach

**Vice President**  
Ruth Ann Shimoi

**Mission Servants Committee  
Chairman**  
Joanne Hopper

**Scholarship Committee Chairman**  
Kim Collins

**Short Term Missions Committee  
Chairman**  
Patrice Cornelius

### Special Focus Ministries

**Vice President**  
Pam Rafferty

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

**Young Women Committee  
Chairman**  
Erin Black

### Christian Life

**Vice President**  
Ruth Zellar

### Organizational Resources

**Vice President**  
Marjorie O'Rourke

**Leader Development Committee  
Chairman**  
TBD

### Public Relations

**Director**  
TBD

*Evergreen Echoes* Editor  
Carla Scott

**Quarterly Manager**  
Wilma Gardner

**Webmaster**  
Joyce Berger

### Counselors

**West (Senior)**  
Rev. Kevin Schubkegel

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