



LWML

LINK



Together
Serving
The Lord
With
Gladness
For
80 Years



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am excited to share with you the wonderful news! We have enough money to pay our last mission grant for the 2022-2024 biennium. We give praise to God! Thank you for your donations for the past two years.

In January I attended the Assembly of Presidents meetings in St. Louis, led by our new national President Eden Keefe. Much of our discussions revolved around the district conventions. During one of our discussions, Sarah Rippey, District President from Indiana, noted that the theme for their convention was "Rooted in Christ" taken from Ephesians 3:17. What a Small World we live in!!



NEW MITE BOXES – National introduced the New Lutheran Women in Mission Mite Box on March 1! The new design features our new logo and two gold mite coins, representing the story of the widow's mite from Luke:21.

Are you getting 2-Minute Tuesday, E-News, Leadership Tips, LWML General News Mailing List, Mustard Seed Devotions, or Shop LWML Specials, sent to your email? You can sign up for any or all and be blessed by wonderful devotions and be informed about LWML happenings. Go to LWML.org, click on the Fellowship tab, LWML ONLINE, EMAILS – SUBSCRIBE.



The 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML EASTERN DISTRICT is June 14-16, 2024. Imagine 80 years of SERVING the LORD with GLADNESS!!! Will you be with us to celebrate this momentous occasion?

Easter is a time of new life for all that we celebrate at this time of the year. Easter is a time when the Lord showers his endless blessings to the faithful. We rejoice in the name of the Lord. Wishing you and your family a Happy Easter.

Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Blessings,
Dee E. Grzyb
LWML Eastern District President



Convention information can be found on pages 3-9
Convention registration form—pages 7-8 Registration Deadline April 24
Retreat registration form—page 11—Registration opens May 1
Registration Deadline August 25



COUNSELOR'S CORNER



The Crucifixion of Jesus

In the final Servant Song of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 53), the prophet predicts in astonishing detail what will happen to the Lord's Anointed, the Messiah, the Christ. *"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was laid the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."* (Isaiah 53:3-5)

Three times in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus predicts to His disciples His approaching rejection, death and resurrection. (Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31 and Mark 10:32-34). The third time, on the road as they begin to near Jerusalem, is Jesus' most detailed prediction: *"See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock Him and spit on Him, and flog Him and kill Him. And after three days He will rise."*

And just as Isaiah predicted some 750 years beforehand, and just as Jesus predicted 3 times shortly beforehand, the Messiah – God's Anointed Servant – was despised and rejected by His own people, condemned to death by His own people, mocked and spit upon, whipped and scourged by the Romans, and then finally killed by the piercing of His hands and feet by the nails of the cross, and pierced again by a Roman spear just to make sure.

Why?

Both the prophet Isaiah and our Savior Jesus tell us why... to bear "our griefs... our sorrows... our transgressions... our iniquities... to bring us peace... and to heal us." This was always God's plan to redeem fallen humanity – us, you and me. *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45)

In His death He took upon Himself all our sins. He paid it all for you and me. And in His resurrection He gives us all His life. May the crucified and risen Jesus Christ bless and keep you in the one true faith this Eastertide and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Rev. Jeff Nickel
Senior Pastoral Counselor, LWML Eastern District



Lutheran Women's Missionary League 41st Biennial Convention in Omaha, Nebraska

Date: June 26–29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: Growing in God's Grace

Scripture Verse: *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).

President: Eden Keefe

Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

Lutheran Women in Mission has announced the theme for the 41st Biennial LWML Convention, to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26–29, 2025 — "Growing in God's Grace," based on 2 Peter 3:18. *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.*

The convention logo was designed by Nichelle Dykema, LWML Graphic & Digital Design Coordinator. The logo features green leaves sprouting up and revealing the Lutheran Women in Mission icon to signify Growing in God's Grace. A fresh, bright green color is used for the leaves and the word "grace" to indicate new growth and to connect it with God's grace. Including the Lutheran Women in Mission icon links the logo with our organization and the convention goal, "Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory."

Planning for the Omaha convention is already underway. For more information visit www.lwml.org or follow LWML on social media.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Eastern District
40th Biennial Convention
Cranberry Township, PA
June 14 - June 16, 2024

Who:

LWML-ED President:
 Dee Grzyb
 And Board of Directors

Convention Delegates

Guests:

Keynote Speaker:
Heidi Goehmann

LWML Rep:

Brenda Piester

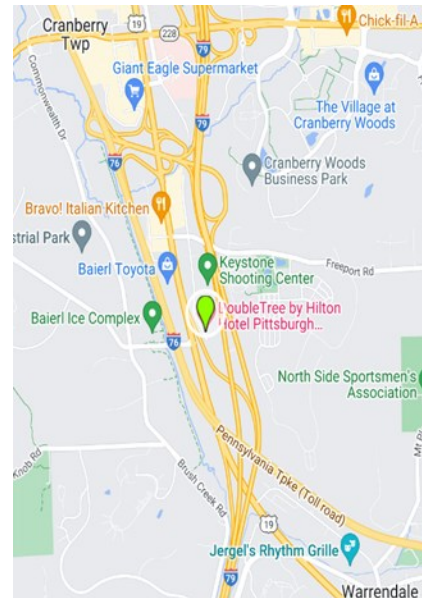
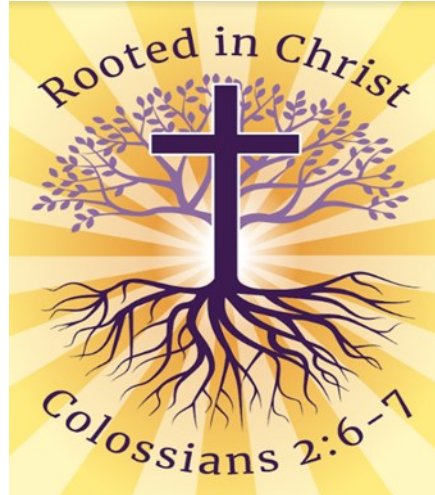
LCMS District President:

Rev. John Pingel

Other Friends of LWML

And YOU!

Your Host: Pittsburgh Zone

**Event Highlights**

Thursday: Come early and explore Pittsburgh!

Friday

Banner Processional
 Worship Communion Service
 Keynote Speaker

Saturday

Bible Study and Singing
 Officer & Committee Reports
 Presentation of Grants & Voting
 Election of Officers
 LWML National Speaker
 Gifts from the Heart Dedication
 Mite Walk
 Evening Banquet Entertainment

Sunday

Bible Study
 Sending Service
 Installation of Officers

Sunday-stay late and tour the Pittsburgh area!

A Time to Celebrate



80th Anniversary

**Watch for additional details in this LINK
 And on the LWML-ED website!**

**Registration Deadline is APRIL 24.
 The Registration form can be found on
 pages 7-8 of this LINK.**

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker—Heidi Goehmann—

Heidi is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health provider and also a deaconess. She loves walking with people to find the ways God has built restoration into our bodies and souls. She provides therapy, writes, and creates resources about mental health, genuine relationships, hope, and restoration at heidigoehmann.com. She loves her giant dog, Star Wars, hockey, adventures, and new ideas. She lives in Ludington, Michigan with her husband, four amazing kids, and 1.5 dogs.

National Representative—Brenda Piester, Recording Secretary

Growing up in Kansas, Brenda Piester knew about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League from her mother and grandmothers who attended local meetings. Brenda became involved in LWML by serving as the treasurer of her local group. Brenda progressed through many leadership positions in her group and zone and was President of the LWML Kansas District. As a district officer, she was inspired by LWML representatives who came to Kansas events: when asked to serve on the Growth and Development Committee, Brenda eagerly responded "Yes!" and was honored to serve with women from across the nation

Brenda believes that Lutheran Women in Mission is active; and is doing well. Her vision is that it includes all women regardless of age, culture or ethnicity, or availability to "attend meetings." She encourages every woman to praise God for the mission work done through the mite offerings and servant events. Brenda wants each woman to rejoice in God's call and know that LWML sisters will encourage her in all she does for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Proclaimer—LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel

LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel will be our Proclaimer for worship on Friday night. The Rev. John Pingel was elected to his first term as president of The Eastern District in June of 2023. He attended Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y., and then Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri (Master of Divinity, 1983). He then attended Geneva College in Pennsylvania, obtaining his Masters in Professional Psychology/Counseling degree in 1996.

Gifts from the Heart Ingathering—Concordia Lutheran Ministries**Mission Statement**

To serve our aging community with a continuum of high-quality caregiving options, provided in a Christian environment, and to serve those with limited funds to the best of our ability.

Vision Statement

Serving the Triune God by providing for the needs of His people.

A Mission of Caring

As one of the largest, most financially secure senior care providers in the country, Concordia offers a lifetime continuum of care that includes adult day services, home care, hospice, medical and rehabilitation services, memory support, personal care/assisted living, respite care, retirement living, skilled nursing, spiritual care and medical equipment.

The roots of Concordia Lutheran Ministries go back to 1881 when western PA religious leaders began exploring options for how to address the growing orphan population in the region. Since that time, the organization has evolved from a small, safe haven for orphan children to one of today's premier nonprofit Aging Services Network in the nation. It's a remarkable story filled with practicality and leaps of faith; discord and harmony; tragedy and joy; uncertain finances and unexpected providence.

<https://concordialm.org/about/>

Wish List of Items for Concordia Lutheran Ministries Activities Department

<p>New Items</p> <p>Small pocket Kleenex ChapSticks Handkerchiefs Word Search puzzles (regular and large print) 100-piece puzzles</p>	<p>Monetary donation by Check</p> <p>Make payable to: <u>LWML Eastern District Convention</u> Memo line: <u>2024 ingathering</u></p> <p>Look for the "Gifts of the Heart" table display. A place will be provided to receive your monetary donations.</p>
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2024 DISTRICT CONVENTION CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICE

The Eastern District Nominating Committee rejoices to present the following Nominees as Candidates for Office at the 2024 District Convention.

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION:



Susan Morris, Philadelphia Zone – Susan lives in Newtown Square, PA and is a member of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Malvern, PA. She has two sons, Stephen Toner, and Matthew Toner. Susan has an associate degree in administration. She is a Business Service Specialist with Amtrak. Congregational service includes serving on the Fellowship Committee, President of LWML women's society and Chair of the Altar Guild. Susan's LWML service to the District has been as Co-Chair and Chair of the Structure Committee and Co-Chair and currently Chair of the Mission Grant Committee. Her interests include reading, cross-stitch and watching old movies.

RECORDING SECRETARY:



Terry Hoffman, Niagara Zone – Terry is a member of St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church in Lockport, NY. She lives in Lockport, NY. Terry is a widow and has one daughter, Molly. She has a two-year degree and is now retired. Congregational service includes Secretary, Education Board member, Cemetery Superintendent, and assistant Treasurer. Terry's LWML service includes helping with the Niagara Convention as Registration Chair. She is currently serving as Chair of the Structure Committee. Terry enjoys being outdoors as much as possible!

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:



Beth Scholl, Central New York North Zone – Beth is a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Canastota, NY. She and her husband, Greg, live in Sylvan Beach, NY. They have two sons, Parker, and Ben. Beth earned her Bachelor of Science in Recreational Management from SUNY Brockport. She is currently the Deputy Clerk Treasurer in Sylvan Beach. Beth has served her church as Financial Secretary, Christian Education and Secretary. Beth's service to the LWML includes Treasurer & Leadership Development. She is currently serving as interim Treasurer. Beth enjoys anything crafty, to be out in nature and spending time with her family.

PASTORAL COUNSELOR



Reverend Michael Dobler, Niagara Zone – Reverend Michael Dobler serves Immanuel Lutheran Church in Tonawanda, NY as Pastor. He is single and lives in Tonawanda, NY. He graduated from Valparaiso University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2012. Pastor Dobler graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis with a Master of Divinity in 2016. He worked in the LWML warehouse during Seminary! Pastor Dobler enjoys reading, walking, singing, playing trumpet and piano. He looks forward to "Serving the Lord with Gladness" as he works with the women of the LWML Eastern District.

The Nominating Committee, Bev Wicher, Anita Getty, Chris Gasslein, Margaret Klees and Susan Bell, Chair, are thankful to the Lord of the Church for these individuals who have accepted nominations and are willing to lead our district and "serve the Lord with gladness."

LWML Convention Offerings



At this convention, the offerings will be for:

1. **LWML ED Treasury**
2. **Eastern District Deaf Interpreter's Fund**
3. **Support for the Humble Bumble Project, Wellsboro PA**—Humble Bumble Project is a nonprofit charitable organization from Tioga County PA, dedicated to assisting the families of pediatric and young adult cancer patients.

If writing a check, make it out to **LWML Eastern District**.

Each offering will be carefully given to the correct chosen recipient. No need to put anything in the memo line unless you wish to.

Serve the Lord With Gladness

2024 MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS TO BE VOTED ON
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The following grants have been received by October 15, 2023, by the Mission Grant Committee and have been reviewed according to the Bylaws and Guidelines and approved by the LWML Eastern District Board of Directors to appear on the 2024 LWML Eastern District ballot. More detailed grant information will be forwarded to the delegates for voting prior to convention.

- GRANT A** **Blessing Bag Ministry**
\$2,000 requested by LWML Member Rebecca Bessell, Genesee Zone
 Funds are requested to purchase supplies to fill 50 Blessing Bags for individuals who are dealing with a cancer diagnosis. Items to be included in the bag: "When God & Cancer Meet," lotion, lip balm, knitted caps, socks, tissues among other comfort items as well as an LWML devotion.
- GRANT B** **Lutheran Heritage Foundation**
\$2,000 requested by LWML Member Cathie Geske, Anthracite Zone
 Funds are requested to cover the printing costs for 400 copies of "How Can I Understand?" for Southeast Asian families. As the seeds of Gospel take root throughout Southeast Asia and among U.S. immigrants, new needs have arisen for the books of Lutheran faith in the people's own heart language.
- GRANT C** **Lutheran Braille Workers**
\$5,000 requested by LWML Member Shellie Knupp, Niagara Zone
 Funds are requested to produce Braille and specialized Large Print Bibles and other Christian materials for distribution to individuals who are blind or visually impaired in the U.S. and around the world. Production will be at two LBW Ministry centers located within the LWML Eastern District. The grant will help cover the cost for specialized paper, cardstock, bindings, and other related costs.
- GRANT D** **Tiemann Chapel @ Pinnacle Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY**
\$4,900 requested by LWML Member Katherine Ippolito, Genesee Zone
 Funds are requested for the repair/replacement of the air conditioner unit in the Tiemann Chapel where Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf hold worship services. Members of Alpha also use the Chapel for fellowship, Pinnacle ladies' society meetings, church committees, Pinnacle Early Learning Center, as well as private meditation and prayer.
- GRANT E** **Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND**
\$3,000 requested by LWML Member Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone
 Funds are requested as a portion to help replace the gym floor of the Ranch's Minot, ND campus to ensure a safe place to participate in wellness activities and learn healthy habits. The current floor is nearly 50 years old and has outlived its usefulness.
- GRANT F** **Lunch and Learn Program, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Clarence, NY**
\$3,550 requested by LWML Member Susan Tichy, Buffalo Zone
 Funds are requested for support of the Lunch and Learn program providing fellowship for seniors. Each month there will be devotional time, a meal, as well as a speaker on relevant topic or a musical performance. Funds from the grant will go to fund the cost of meals each month.
- GRANT G** **Glorify Performing Arts, West Chester, PA**
\$2,500 requested by LWML Member Rebecca Fuddy, Philadelphia Zone
 Glorify Performing Arts provides professional productions to encourage and empower Christians in their walk of faith. Their vision is to be a leading Christian-based arts entertain company, and the funds from this grant will aid in purchasing sets, costumes, and props to further their mission.
- GRANT H** **The Olivia S. Washington Schools of Liberia (BEE Liberia)**
\$5,000 requested by LWML Member Beth Quinn, Philadelphia Zone
 BEE (Believe, Educate, Empower) Liberia has been dedicated since 2005 in providing educational opportunities to the underserved in Liberian struggling communities. The grant will pay for the digging of a safe, clean drinking well adjacent to the school, reducing the distance needed to travel to collect drinking water.



REGISTRATION FORM

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Eastern District

40th Biennial Convention--June 14-16, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS phone 1-855-610-8733

NO LODGING RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Name: _____ LWML Zone: _____
 Address: _____ Home Church: _____
 City: _____ Church City & Zip: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Your Phone (home or cell): _____
 Email: _____

I will be serving as: (please circle all that apply) _____ Check if you are a First-timer _____

Delegate	Alternate Delegate	Clergy	Exhibitor	Choir	Guest
Speaker/Special Guest	Young Woman Representative		Convention Committee		Board of Directors

REGISTRATION (Deadline: APRIL 24, 2024)	
\$45.00 Registration Fee (required for all registrations).	\$ _____
\$55.00 Late Fee (ADDITIONAL fee for all registrations received after APRIL 24, 2024).	\$ _____
No Registrations will be honored after MAY 15, 2024.	
Total due for registration	\$ _____

MEALS & HOSPITALITY	Please note special dietary needs on p. 2.	
Meal Prices (includes gratuity)		
_____ Friday Dinner Buffet	\$38	Meal prices reflect a generous donation from Concordia Lutheran Ministries.
_____ Saturday Breakfast	\$22	
_____ Saturday Lunch	\$34	
_____ Saturday Banquet & Entertainment	\$46	
_____ Sunday Breakfast	\$27	
	Total due for meals	\$ _____
	Total due for registration and meals	\$ _____
	LESS amount paid by District (YWR/Speaker/Board only)	\$ (_____)
	GRAND TOTAL DUE	\$ _____

Make checks payable to: LWML Eastern District Convention
***MAIL completed REGISTRATION FORM and FULL PAYMENT to:**
Darlene Garcia, 105 Entwood Lane, Butler, Pa 16002 Phone (724) 841-7697
CIRCLE YOUR PREFERENCE FOR RECEIVING A CONFIRMATION NOTICE: EMAIL OR MAIL
 If you select **mail**, please include a self-addressed, stamped, business-sized envelope with your payment & registration.

Registration Chairman only: # _____ Date received: _____ Check(s): Amount: _____

REGISTRATION FORM

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Eastern District

40th Biennial Convention--June 14-16, 2024

DoubleTree by Hilton

910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS phone 1-855-610-8733**NO LODGING RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

ON YOUR OWN LEISURE	At the DoubleTree: Indoor and outdoor pools and a fitness center. See the list of restaurants and shops, as well as interesting sights, museums and tour companies in your packet.		
MITE WALK	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I would like to participate in the Mite Walk. (Details about the Mite Walk will be included with your registration confirmation.)		
SERVANT EVENTS	Both events are for residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Tying lap blankets <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Making small table favors		
CHOIR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I would like to sing in the choir on Friday. I sing: <input type="checkbox"/> SOPRANO <input type="checkbox"/> ALTO		
SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS (Select one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Session I Brenda Piester, National LWML Representative <input type="checkbox"/> Session II Heidi Goehmann (futher details coming in Spring 2024) <input type="checkbox"/> Session III Bev Wicher-Visual Faith Prayer Practices-Connecting Hearts and Minds to Jesus		
PASTORS' EVENT (for Pastors only)	<input type="checkbox"/> "Doctrinal Review"--Led by Rev. Carl Emberger		
SPECIAL NEEDS	We would like you to be as comfortable as possible during your convention experience and hotel stay. Please indicate below any special needs by selecting the appropriate category:		
	Medical Condition(s) the convention committee should be aware of:		
	Dietary Needs (such as food allergy, vegetarian, etc.). Specify:		
	Handicapped accessible room:		
	Interpreter needed for (circle one): Hearing Impaired Spanish Language Other:		
	OTHER:		
TRANSPORTATION	If you require transportation between an airport, train, or bus station and the convention, please indicate below your ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE information. Transportation details will be sent to you.		
AIRLINE INFORMATION		BUS / TRAIN INFORMATION	
Airport:		Station:	
Airline:	Departure Date:	Bus Company/Train Company:	
Arrival Date:	Airline:	Arrival Date:	Departure Date:
Flight Number:	Flight Number:	Bus/Train #:	Bus/Train #:
Arrival Time:	Departure Time:	Arrival Time:	Departure Time:
PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE	Photographs will be taken by our convention photographer throughout the convention. I hereby give the LWML Eastern District the absolute right and permission to use my photographed likeness/image in its future publications. I understand that the photograph(s) may be used in publications, direct-mail pieces, or electronic media (e.g., video, CD-ROM, internet/WWW). I release the LWML, LWML Eastern District, the photographer, their offices, employees, agents, volunteers, and designees from liability for and violation of personal or proprietary rights I may hold in connection with such use.		
_____		_____	
Signature		Date	



Entertainment—will be the **Jazz Warriors Big Band** from Pittsburgh a volunteer organization made up of roughly 30 musicians primarily from the eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh who all share a common love of music. They play a wide variety of music from popular Big Band and Jazz favorites to Swing, Latin, Funk and even a few Jazz Rock favorites. It promises to be an enjoyable evening.

Servant Events—There will be two servant events; tying lap blankets and making table favors for the residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministries. Sign up on the registration form.



Mite Walk—Join us for the annual Mite Walk to help kick off the Mite giving for the next biennium. Sign up on the registration form and details will be sent with your confirmation letter. Checks can be made payable to: LWML Eastern District Memo Line: 2024 Mite Walk

Interest Sessions

Make sure to sign up for the Interest Session on your registration form.

Heidi Goehmann—Belonging 101 - In this interest session we'll talk about practical, growth-oriented steps for living in relationships that remind us of the sense of belonging we have in Christ Jesus.

Brenda Piester—National LWML Representative will share with you all the latest information from National LWML.

Bev Wicher—Visual Faith® Ministry; “Prayer Practices—Connecting Hearts and Minds to Jesus”—Bev will share a little bit about what is Visual Faith® Ministry and share some resources and practices to enhance your prayer time

NEWS FROM THE LEADER DEVELOPMENT NEWS CHAIR – CATHIE GESKE--CO-CHAIR – SHARON MCGUAN



The Leader Development Committee is privileged to introduce the Eastern District Young Women Representatives to the 2024 Eastern District Convention. Our district is blessed to have five talented Christ filled young women representing our zones. They are:

Margaret Walsh—Buffalo Zone: Margaret is new to the LWML Eastern District. She is wife to Pastor David Walsh, serving as pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Kenmore, NY. Margaret has served two LCMS congregations as a Deaconess. Margaret has been active in the LWML wherever she has served. She sees the LWML as a “wonderful organization working to spread the Gospel.” Margaret also previously served at Pioneer on the Lake during her Deaconess internship.

Megan Wittmeyer—Central New York South Zone: Megan is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Ithaca, NY, and an environmental consultant by profession. She is head of the Lutheran Student Fellowship and an active member of her congregation, attending weekly Bible study and running the sound system for worship. CNYN Vice President Vivian Tatem-Wheaton describes Megan as “organized, friendly and willing to serve.”

Alexa Wolf—Genesee Zone: Alexa serves as a Called Teacher at St Paul Lutheran Church, Hilton, NY. She loves to share Christ through the Gospel. Alexa also enjoys directing VBS for St. Paul Hilton. She plays the flute and enjoys participating in the handbell choir. Alexa desires to serve as a YWR.....to be “involved in missions and connecting with others in the district.”

Faith Armer—Philadelphia Zone: Faith is Director of Christian Education at Hope Lutheran Church, Levittown, PA. She engages youth through educational and service projects. While serving in the Nebraska District, she led LWML Zone programs on service and sharing the Gospel. Faith would like to participate in the LWML Eastern District with women of her church and the district at large.

Megan Migyanko—Pittsburgh Zone: Megan is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Bridgeville, PA. She is a social worker at a rehabilitation facility and has found her purpose in helping patients and families going through difficulties. Megan is also a wife and mother. She is also a foster mother. Megan participates in the bell choir and teaches Sunday school at Zion. She knows the LWML plays a key role in providing missional support and makes Christ the center of all they do.

Please keep these women in your prayers as we approach convention, that the Lord will use this experience to draw each one closer to Him, and further equip them to “Serve the Lord with Gladness.”

Sharon McGuan, Leader Development Co-Chair



LWML Eastern District
Fall Retreat 2024
September 20-22, 2024
Pioneer on the Lake, Angola, NY
Hosted by the Niagara Zone



“ABOUND IN HOPE”

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
Romans 15:13 (ESV)

Guest Speaker

Terri Bentley, President—LWML Utah-Idaho District



Terri Bentley, President of the LWML Utah-Idaho District will be our retreat speaker. Terri is a retired English teacher, and is now a national speaker and Bible study leader for women’s groups. She is also a successful writer of articles, devotions, retreats, and church programs. We look forward to what Terri has to share with us.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Begins —Must be postmarked May 1, 2024 or later

Registration Deadline—Must be postmarked no later than August 25, 2024

INGATHERING

Monetary donations for Pioneer on the Lake to buy picnic tables, chairs, and umbrellas for the area near the Country Store. Please make checks payable to Pioneer on the Lake.

INTEREST SESSIONS

- Speaker
Missions in Motion
Pioneer Servant Event
Water Color Workshop
Photo Booth
Yoga

ENTERTAINMENT

- “HOPE”
featuring the Mite—“E”— Players
A One-Act Play
Written by Kathryn Cota
of Sheboygan, WI
From LWML.org

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT RETREAT CAMBERSHIP—APPLICATION

A few full-time camperships are being offered for the Fall 2024 retreat to first-time attendees or for those individuals having financial need. If you have received a campership in the past, you are no longer eligible. The value of the campership is the full cost of the retreat at the full-time registration fee. If you desire a campership for part-time status please indicate this below. An impartial committee will select from those eligible campers who submit a timely application. Notification will take place after the deadline date. Don’t delay, act now!

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
E-mail
Zone

LWML Member? Yes No
Part-time Registration: Yes / No (please circle choice)

Please write a brief narrative (50-100 words) on why you would like to attend the LWML Retreat.

Attach your written statement to this application and mail by August 1, 2024 to:
Mrs. Dee Grzyb
56 Hanover St.
Lancaster, NY 14086

All recipients names will be kept strictly confidential

LWML Eastern District Retreat 2024
Pioneer On the Lake
September 20-22, 2024



Abound in Hope (Romans 15:13)
Speaker: Terri Bentley, Utah-Idaho President
Hosted by: Niagara Zone



Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Church & Zip: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____ Email: _____

If this is your FIRST TIME attending Eastern District Retreat, please check here: _____ Yes! I'm very excited!

REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION			
	> Registration Per Person includes:		\$190.00	\$
	Registration Fee, 2 Nights Lodging, 5 Meals, Blanket, Pillow Need to bring linens, pillow case and towels, pillow optional			
	> Commuter (not staying on campus overnight) - Includes 5 meals		\$120.00	\$
	> *Single Occupancy - One person in minimum 2 person cabin		\$ 40.00	\$
	> **Thursday Night Additional \$45/person		\$ 45.00	\$
> Late Fee if postmarked after August 25, 2024		\$ 25.00	\$	
NOTE: A \$50.00 minimum deposit is required with ALL REGISTRATIONS.		Payment Enclosed	\$	
		Balance Due	\$	

REGISTRATION NOTES

* If single occupancy is requested, an additional fee of \$40 is required (set by Pioneer)
 ** If staying Thursday night additional fee of \$45/person. (EC & Retreat Committee - NO CHARGE)
 > Canine Policy - The person/family must contact Pioneer on the Lake to request policy and pay the fee (\$100) for the canine that is accompanying the person/family to retreat. Please note this under Special Needs.
1 Bunk Set = 2 twin beds; 2 Bunk Set = 4 twin beds; 1 Bunk Set T/D - twin on top-double on bottom. Please select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice on lodging below. If preference isn't given, decision will be made by registrar.

LODGING	SCHROETER'S CIRCLE (DORM HOUSING) (Single bunks; 2 bathrooms in each dorm & mattresses.)		FAMILY COURT (SOME HAVE A/C) (All have mattresses and small fridges.) (Cabins 23 & 24 - Winterized & Upgraded)	
	Cabins 1-4 and 6-8 (Sleeps - 20/cabin)		Cabin 14 (Queen + 2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 6)	
	Cabin 5 (Sleeps 18)		Cabin 15 (Full Bed + 2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 5)	
			Cabin 16 (Queen + 2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 6)	
			Cabin 17 (Queen - Sleeps 2)	
	WOODLAND COTTAGES (Sofa beds in Cabins 9-12) (Winterized, mattresses, full service kitchens.)		Cabin 18 (2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 4)	
	Cabins 9 - 12 (Queen+2 Bunk Sets-Sleeps 8)		Cabin 19 - (Queen - Sleeps 2)	
	Cabin 13 (Queen + 2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 6)		Cabin 20 -2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 4)	
			Cabin 22 (2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 4)	
			Cabin 23 (Queen + 1 Bunk T/D - Sleeps 5)	
		Cabin 24 (Queen + 1 Bunk T/D - Sleeps 5)		
FOUNDERS COURT (Cabins 35-36 No fridges; Cabins 38-45 - Have fridges)				
Cabins 35-36 (2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 4)		LODGE (MATTRESSES, FULL KITCHEN, A/C; APPLIANCES; COOKWARE; DISHES, GLASSES, ETC.)		
Cabins 38-41 (Queen+1 Bunk Set-Sleeps 4)				
Cabins 42 - 44 (Queen+Sofabed - Sleeps 4)				
Cabin 45 (Queen - Sleeps 2)				
		Cabin 0 (Queen + 2 Bunk Sets - Sleeps 6)		

SPECIAL NEEDS

ROOMMATE(S): _____
 CHURCH/ZONE: _____
 CHOIR PARTICIPATION: YES NO ALTO SOPRANO Lower Bunk: _____
 Special Needs: _____
 Hearing Impaired: _____ Other: _____ Dietary: _____

OTHER INFO

> Registration deadline August 25, 2024 (Postmarked no later than August 25 2024)
 > Balance due must be paid (postmarked) by August 25, 2024 or incur \$25 late fee.
 > All requests are on a first received, first served basis.
> No registration accepted BEFORE May 1, 2024. Must be postmarked no earlier than May 1st.

CANCELLATIONS: THE \$50 minimum deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE. Cancellation for **MEDICAL REASONS** will be reviewed based upon a written letter of notification to the LWML Eastern District President.

PAYMENT: ***Make checks payable to: LWML Eastern District***\$25 NSF Charge for all checks returned by the bank.

MAIL TO MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
Terry Hoffman 4181 Church Road, Lockport, NY 14094 terryhoffman1979@gmail.com 716-255-2612(mobile)
 Confirmation: Email or Mail (circle one). If mail, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

RETREAT USE ONLY: Registration Received: _____ Check #: _____
 Amount Paid: _____ Balance Due: _____

News From Around The Zones

BUFFALO ZONE



The women of the LWML Buffalo Zone met February 24 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kenmore for their Winter Event. We were happy to host 28 women from 10 churches, a guest from the Niagara Zone, Pastor Walsh from Pilgrim and our Zone counselor Pastor Knowles.

Pastor Walsh led a devotion using the Table of Duties from the back of the Small Catechism, relating it to 1 Peter 3:1,6, Ephesians 5 and 6:4, Colossians 3:20, and Matthew 28:19-20. We closed with the Lord's Prayer, additional prayers, and Luther's Morning Prayer.



Our project for the day was making witness bracelets for each shut-in in the Zone. Each bead has a specific reminder with

accompanying Bible verses. Over 200 were made and will be distributed. The ingathering was canned and boxed food to be taken to shut-ins or to local food banks.



Our Spring gathering will be May 4 at Holy Cross in Clarence.

Holy Cross, Clarence—The Holy Cross Women in Mission gathered to box and deliver cookies they had made for the first responders of the community. This has become an annual event every Valentine's Day to thank our emergency personnel for all they do for the community. This project is well supported by the ladies as well as the congregation.



SHARE Your News



ZONE PRESIDENTS

Don't forget to share the news of all the wonderful events, service projects and activities going on in your Zone.

It is great to see all the great ideas, and gives us all inspiration as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness" together in the LWML Eastern District.

Send your news to Bev Wicher, Editor at lwmlink@gmail.com

PITTSBURGH ZONE

Thoughts from Beth Ann Salina, Pittsburgh Zone

To all my LWML sisters,

In mid-January a neighbor had a horrible grease fire in her kitchen. She and her family were already struggling and then this happened. Of course, I sprang into action to help and serve in any way I could. However, I think I forgot to bring God into this mess. I, of course, prayed for her healing and surgeries. But I didn't ask him to help me support her or give me the strength to be his feet and hands.

Because of this I felt run down and very tired! I thought I have heard something like "compassion fatigue" before. So I looked it up. It made sense. Well there it was. The worse of the symptoms was – "feeling detached, numb, and emotionally disconnected."

I was lost without our Lord and Savior. Once I noticed I prayed, then repeated, and was forgiven. Then the support seemed to follow better. This feeling seemed to go away. I was able to support her family better. As Martin Luther said "God doesn't need our good work, but our neighbor does," means a lot. However he didn't say we do it alone.

Ladies, what I am saying is that it is best for us to NOT work alone for our neighbor, but have God be with us. It is His work He set before us!

PHILADELPHIA ZONE



The Philadelphia Zone met April 13, 2024 to hear about Pastor Carl Emberger and grandson Christian Homer's medical mission trip to Point of Grace Academy in Kenya Africa. Our theme was Caring for the Flock with the Holy Spirit in Us

based on Acts 20:28 "*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*"

Our ingathering and activity was assembling baby care kits (layettes) for new mothers at a local hospital. It is a joy to Serve the Lord with Gladness!

The mission of the Eastern District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the district in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES– SUSAN BELL

The work of the Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources Department is to engage, encourage and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior with people of their communities and the world.

**THE 2022-2024 GOSPEL OUTREACH/ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources – Susan Bell

Mission Grants Chair – Susan Morris; Mission Grants Co-Chair – Margaret Klees

Leader Development Chair – Cathie Geske; Leader Development Co-Chair – Sharon McGuan

Structure Chair – Terry Hoffman; Structure Co-Chair – Darlene Garcia

Stamp Coordinator – Karen Blackmon; Nominating Committee Chair – Susan Bell

(Contact information is on page 15 of this LINK)

**NATIONAL LWML GRANT UPDATE**

As of January 31, 2024, the total amount received toward the LWML Mission Goal of \$2,350,000.00 was \$1,080,536.80 with \$1,269,463.20 needed to reach our biennial goal. To learn more about the LWML National Mission Grants and to get more up-to-date information, please go to the national website at www.LWML.org.

LWML EASTERN DISTRICT MISSION GRANT UPDATE

As of March 31, 2024, the final grant, Orphan Grain Train, from the 2022-2024 biennium was paid! Thanks be to God! Your dedication to furthering the mission is a testament of your faith.

The descriptions of the approved Grant Proposals to be voted on at the 2024 LWML Eastern District Convention can be found on page 6 of this LINK

**NEWS FROM THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

- Zones, please review your bylaws periodically.
- Send changes to Structure Committee for Review at terryhoffman1979@gmail.com
- Our contact information is listed below:

Terry Hoffman – Chair
4181 Church Road
Lockport, NY 14094
716-255-2612
terryhoffman1979@gmail.com



Darlene Garcia – Co-Chair
105 Entwood Lane
Butler, PA 16002
724-841-7697
garcidarlene48@gmail.com

Updated District Bylaws are on our website. They can be found at the following link: www.east-dist-lwml.org and clicking on **2022 LWML Eastern District Bylaws**

The structure committee has completed work on proposed revisions to our District bylaws. The proposed amendments were presented to the Board of Directors at the board meeting in Pittsburgh in March, and have been sent to the National Structure Chairman for review and approval before being voted upon at the district convention in June. Once approved, they will be included in the delegate packet.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS**

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Susan Bell, Chair; Bev Wicher, Margaret Klees, Anita Getty and Chris Gasslein. Thank you for your service, ladies!

Good news from the Nominating Committee: The candidates below have been approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for voting at the LWML Eastern District Convention, June 12-14, 2024!

Vice President of Communication – Susan Morris (Philadelphia Zone)

District Recording Secretary – Terry Hoffman (Niagara Zone)

District Financial Secretary – Beth Scholl (Central NY North Zone)

District Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Michael Dobler (Niagara Zone)

Complete bios of the candidates can be found on page 5 of this LINK

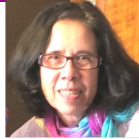
Thank you to the Nominating Committee for all of their hard work! What a blessing!

CHRRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE—

Greetings to my LWML sisters



Spring is here! It's the season of rebirth, growth and sights of God's creation coming out to "shine". Psalms 24:1 says *"The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live in it are his."*



The earth is not ours, the title holder is God. He holds us responsible for how we take care of it. As you enjoy the outside warm, sunny or rainy days; reflect on God's creation; take time and see the beauty.

Be thankful!



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 2024	EC/BOD Pittsburgh, PA
June 14-16, 2024	LWML ED Convention Pittsburgh, PA
September 20, 2024	EC Meeting Pioneer on the Lake
Sept. 20-22, 2024	Fall Retreat Pioneer on the Lake

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION—SHARON WOLFF



It is a sunny March day. There were 2 beautiful eagles 'talking' as they were gliding on the air currents high above the tree tops.



Such magnificent birds, a wonderful picture of grace and strength!

This is the last article from me as your VP of Communication for the LINK. I retire from this position after elections in June! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on this EC and BOD, and I am waiting to see where God leads me in the future. Directory changes can be sent to me until June 10, 2024. I will continue to pray for our leadership as we head into convention and beyond. I will continue to pray for our churches, congregations and for the availability of pastors to fill vacancies in our District. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to learn and serve at the District level. May God continue to bless you all richly!

Sharon Wolff, VP of Communication ED

Report of the Financial Secretary—Rebecca Bessell

**Report of the Financial Secretary
December 2023 – February 2024**

Mites: \$ 5,829.82

Memorials and Honorariums Given By:

Memorial Fund from St. Paul Adella Ladies

- Wanda Radtke
- Marla Hoomans
- Marlene Warnick
- Mary George
- Marilynn Liese

Legacy of Love – Donation

- LWML Buffalo Zone
- Sharon Wolff

Thrivent Choice Dollars-Given By

- Timothy & Sharon McGuan
- Donald & Linda Gage

NEW LWML DEVOTIONAL

Oh Lord, I'm PUZZLED



New Devotional available in the LWML Store. Written by our upcoming Retreat Speaker Terri Bentley.

21 devotions showing how God can take our puzzled lives and put to together to shine to His glory.

It is available now in the LWML Store

NEW MITE BOXES

AVAILABLE NOW



Lutheran Women in Mission has a new Mite Box design. The new box design was created by Nichelle Dykema, Graphic and Digital Design Coordinator, incorporating the updated Lutheran Women in Mission logo and color scheme. A QR code on the back provides a link to an explanation of a mite, based on the biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:14), the history of the LWML Mite Box, and offers a way to donate online.

They can be ordered now in the LWML Store

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Vacant

Webmaster

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**Next Deadline**

Please send all news articles and information for publication to:

Bev Wicher
19 Vernon Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
716-913-4140

E-mail: wmlink@gmail.com

The next deadline is June 1, 2024

The Link is published four times each year.

April 1, July 1, October 1, January 1

Deadlines to submit articles:

March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1

NEWS FROM VP CHRISTIAN LIFE/SPECIAL FOCUS—LINDA BAHR

**Taken from National LWML Leader Development Committee
Being a Servant Leader—Lucy Servant Leader**

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “*You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all*” (Mark 10:42–44).

Have you ever thought about the words “**servant leadership**?” I recently attended a workshop that explored this topic and learned that servant leadership can actually become a way of life. I am learning that my life as a Christian, a friend, a Lutheran Woman in Mission, a parent, or even an employee is really service to my Leader, Jesus Christ. How can I serve others in my leadership roles?

Servant leadership emphasizes putting the needs of others first and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. It is a people-centered approach that flips the conventional understanding of leadership. Instead of leaders focusing on their own ambitions and authority, servant leaders prioritize the growth and well-being of their team members and followers. These leaders demonstrate empathy, active listening, and a genuine desire to help others succeed. They lead by example, encourage selflessness within their team, and foster a culture of collaboration and support. Volunteers are more likely to stay in a group where they feel valued, supported, and challenged to grow.

I encourage you to check out the LWML Bible study, “**A Servant Leader.**”

Bev Wicher
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