



Summer Edition 2023

Evergreen Echoes



*LWML Washington-Alaska District
President Carolyn Holbrook*

He is risen! He is risen Indeed! Hallelujah! As we bask in the joy of our Risen Lord, we give thanks for all our blessings. Among my blessings has been the opportunity to meet and greet so many LWML members as I attended Spring Joyshops in several zones.

The Bible studies, worship opportunities, great food and fellowship are just a few of the blessings I received. Thank you for sharing this time with me!

Our Washington-Alaska District is preparing to send 11 delegates, one Young Woman Representative, one Heart to Heart Sister to training, and one Pastoral Counselor to Milwaukee for the LWML 40th Biennial Convention. We will learn which Mission grants we will support. We will also be voting on bylaw changes and candidates for various national offices. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel and serve the Lord with gladness! It is not too late to join us! Go to the lwml.org website for all the information on the convention.

Our LWML Sister, Judy Jeffrey, is moving to Idaho. We wish her God's blessings in her new home. Thank you, Wilma Gardner, for your willingness to take over the responsibilities of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

We also thank our VP of Christian Life, Ruth Zellar, for her faithful service as the editor of the *Evergreen Echoes*. Welcome, Carla Scott, to this responsibility. Thank you, Lord, for providing skilled members to carry on His work.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support in mite offerings. Your gifts have supported over \$23,000 to our mission grants. Still remaining is about \$27,000 to meet our goal. We have work to do. Pray for our mission grants and how the Lord will provide. Watch our Washington-Alaska website as we fund these vital programs. **Be strong and courageous!** Our Lord is with us wherever we go!

Blessings as you serve Him,
Carolyn Holbrook, President

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Dates to Remember

District Retreat

September 29–October 1, 2023
Clover Island Inn



2023 LWML Convention

June 22–25, 2023
Milwaukee, WI



Evergreen Echoes

Fall Issue Deadline
July 31, 2023

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www.wa-aklwml.org

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Gospel Outreach Ruth Ann Shimoi, Vice President

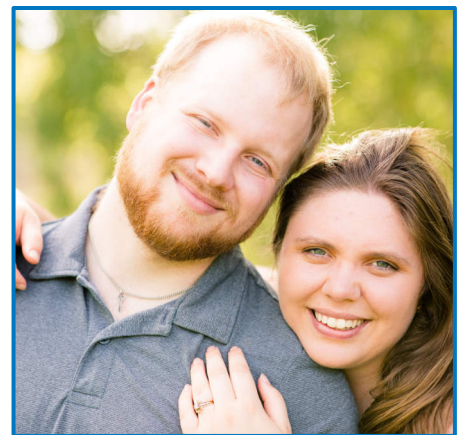
An ingathering was held at the District Board meeting held March 3–4, 2023. Life Options of Sunnyside was our recipient.



Special Focus Ministries Pam Rafferty, Vice President

Convention Young Woman Representative

Meet our 2023 LWML Convention Young Woman Representative Gracie Holdbrook! Gracie and her husband, Nathan, hail from Zion Lutheran Church, Tacoma. She is currently a public school teacher and will be teaching at an LCMS elementary school this next school year. Gracie has a heart for serving others and guiding people to reach their full potential. She would love to see more young women become more involved in LWML and hopes to build lasting relationships. In her free time, Gracie enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, getting together with friends, and capturing God's creation through photography. We look forward to hearing about her experience following the Milwaukee convention.



Gracie and Nathan Holdbrook

Organizational Resources
Marjorie O'Rourke, Vice President

The Work of the Leadership Committee

The work of the Leadership Committee, under the direction of our VP of Organizational Resources, is to encourage and equip women to reach out in love by nurturing their spiritual life and self-image. They help women discover their spiritual gifts and use them to serve the Lord. There are many resources available which provide materials and training of leaders.

Is the Lord tugging with your heart to serve Him in this manner? You are already doing this in your home church and LWML. Could you serve Him in the district? We are looking for willing hearts to encourage and assist this committee. Please pray for your service and contact Marjorie O'Rourke at mjorourke9@gmail.com.

Christian Life
Ruth Zellar, Vice President



2023 Fall Retreat
Clover Island Inn
September 29–October 1, 2023

I hope that you are starting to pack your bags for our Fall Retreat. We are planning three days of Fun and Fellowship and spending time in God's Word.

Our presenter is Pastor Todd Roeske and he will be talking about "Are you a Missionary?" I encourage you to register now if you plan on attending. There will be good food, good weather, and lots of prayer time. See you in September. "All my bags are packed and I'm ready to go." Look forward to seeing you there. God bless your planning.

Registration form is available on page 12.



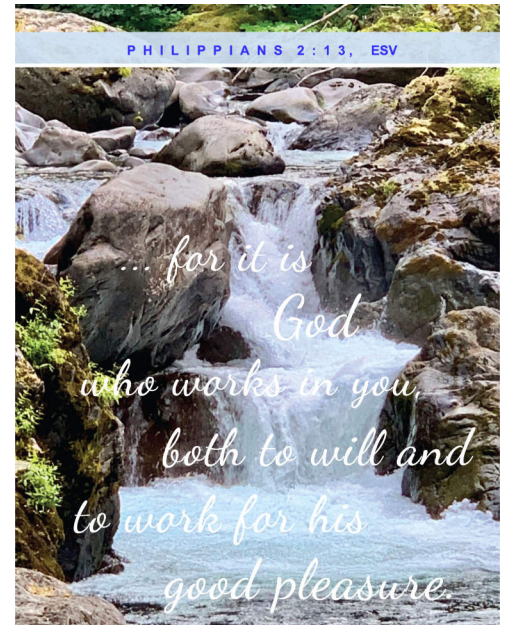
Senior Pastoral Counselor – West
Rev. Kevin Schubkegel

**Philippians 2:13 ... for it is God who works in you,
both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

The most exciting thing about the Christian faith is what God does. God Himself is at work in you through your Baptism. He has worked faith in you by His Spirit and through His Word. He continues to work to transform you into Christ's image through His Word and His Sacraments.

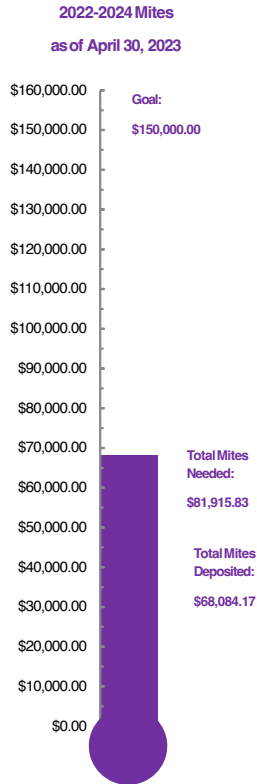
We desire to do His perfect and holy will through Christ's example of His work here on earth. Christ still delivers. Knowing God is doing the work to seek and save the lost, and build His kingdom, is both comforting and exciting. Only Christ can do the real work of changing a heart. This changes how we see things. We see His purpose and the meaning in His great and grand eternal mission. Christ carries the weight of the work, but we are also called to be fully committed to serving Him while we serve others. This works!

Christ's Mission is ours. He is the center, the author, and core. Let's go to work in His name and for His glory to serve those He came to seek and to save. Thankfully, He is still working today, even in and through us. Here we go!



Financial Secretary Aletha Voges

Helpful Hints from the Financial Secretary, for our Local Group and Zone Treasurers



1. Please use the correct forms when you send District your checks. If you are a local group, do not use the Zone form. This will ensure accurate reporting of your gifts.
2. If you still have the preprinted forms given to you at the convention, please use them, as they contain the codes needed to make sure your local group gets credit for the monies you send.
3. Please do not address the envelope to the "Financial Secretary." Use the exact address printed on the form. This will provide better security when mailing checks.

Thank you to all the treasurers who send in their monies. You are a blessing to the LWML.

Aletha Voges
Financial Secretary

Scholarship Committee Kim Collins, Chairman

The Scholarship Committee has been busy updating the application on the website. We have two students that have sent in applications. They are both returning from last year. They are Ben Oeche and Grace Macduff.



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

Now is the time to start the nomination process for the upcoming 2024–2026 biennium. Open positions are: VP Christian Life, VP Gospel Outreach, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Pastoral Counselor West. The committee has updated all the forms needed (thank you Jacque). To access the information please go to the beautiful WA-AK District website. To find it just type in wa-aklwml.org. Then click on the first link under "Quick and Current" where you can find abbreviated job descriptions of open positions and the new nomination form. This isn't too difficult, as even I was able to do it. Well done, Nominating Committee (Chair Michele Misener, Jacque Morner, Donna Josephson, Emmi Mihalcin, and Nancy Wyckoff) and Webmaster (Joyce Berger)!!

remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,
(1 Thessalonians 1:3-4).

Short Term Missions ***Patrice Cornelius, Chairman***

Are you considering a short term mission this summer or fall? Maybe a VBS, building project, or community servant event? This could be in your local area or another location—maybe Alaska? The LWML WA-AK District Short Term Missions Committee is ready and willing to help you. We have a budget of \$6000 to be used over the 2022–2024 biennium to fund short term missions. \$500 to \$1000 will be available to each applicant. Two mission trips were funded during 2022.

Applications are available on the district website: wa-aklwml.org

When you have completed the form, send it to: patrice.cornelius@gmail.com or 'snail' mail to:
803 Dayton Drive
Sunnyside, WA 98944.

Our committee will review it and make a determination as to how we can help you.

If you have any questions, Committee member, Sandi Schauer or I will be happy to try to answer them. This is a wonderful way to serve in the mission field and we are excited to be able to help you. Serve the Lord with gladness!!

South Columbia Zone MaryLynn Huntwork, President

South Columbia Zone Joyshop

Thirty-three attended the South Columbia Zone Joyshop, hosted by Our Savior's, Ephrata. Our theme was "God's Chosen People." *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!* (Psalm 33:12). Pastor Loppnow opened with Pastor Neider closing. Servant events were eyeglass cases for MOST Ministries, Mother's Day gift bags, and Cancelled Stamp Project. All attendees enjoyed lunch and the skit, "Disciple Stew," performed by Lydia Circle Ladies. At the short business meeting we voted to have Kathy Winfree assume the job of Treasurer, as Barb Miller stepped down. District report was distributed. Crossroads Resource Center received Gifts from the Heart items for babies, toddlers, and monetary donations. Kathy Winfree received the Zone Board door prize.



Alaska Zone Kim Collins, President

Alaska Zone Joyshop

The Alaska Zone had their Joyshop on March 25, 2023, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Palmer. The theme was the parable of the Sower of Seeds. Cassie Jeremias gave the devotion of how different times of our lives we follow into the different places the seeds land. Our speaker was Hunter Richardson from Free Alaska. It is a counseling service for clients in rehab from alcohol and drug abuse. They have now started counseling the children of the clients. We collected gas cards to help parents pay for gas to get the children to counseling. We also collected canned food for Frontline Mission that provides hot meals to the homeless once a week in Wasilla.

Lots of fellowship and fun was had by all.

***Inter-Valley Zone
Pam Rafferty, President***

Welcome Pastor Knutson

The Inter-Valley Zone welcomed Pastor Peter Knutson, along with his wife Nicole, and children Lorelei and Chandler, at the Rite of Installation at Mt. Olive, Yakima on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Pastor Knutson was installed by Circuit Visitor Pastor Mark Greisse and received the laying on of hands from eight other district pastors. Pastor Knutson and his family moved to Yakima just the day prior to the service from McMinnville, Oregon. His interests include music, art, and games. Nicole enjoys crochet, and sewing along with daughter Lorelei, who is also a talented ballerina. Chandler enjoys soccer and legos. A delicious and festive meal prepared by resident Chef Greg Keeton was enjoyed by approximately 100 members and friends of Mt. Olive. We ask for God's blessing on Pastor Knutson's new ministry.



***Mt. Baker Zone
Judy Peraino, President***

Mt. Baker Zone Joyshop

The LWML Mt. Baker Zone Joyshop will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at Messiah, Marysville. Cambria Pauls, deaconess intern at Messiah, will share about the LCMS deaconess program. She will also lead a Bible study on mercy.

Items to assemble postpartum bags to help assist new mothers with the healing process will be collected for the Pregnancy Resource Clinic of Everett.

Trinity Bellingham, after three years of COVID, is excited to have their Spring Luncheon again on Sunday afternoon, May 7, 2023, with a speaker from My Garden.

Last week one of our new church members asked what mites were. To remedy that, we will assemble welcome bags for new church members with information about LWML, history of mites, a Mite Box, explanation of joyshop, fall rally, retreats, dates we meet, and a personal invitation to attend.

**East Inland Empire Zone
Karen Williams, President**

LWML East Inland Empire (EIE) Zone Spring Joy Rally 2023

Fifty-three Ladies from all over the EIE Zone met on April 22, 2023, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Spokane, for a wonderful day of reflection, fellowship, and fun. The theme for the Joy Rally was HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, based on the scripture Jeremiah 29:11:

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

The day started out with St. John's ladies singing an LWML version of "SISTERS" followed by a thoughtful Bible study led by Pastor Jeffery Scheer which focused on our theme of Hope for the Future. After a business meeting and lunch, we heard from our ingathering recipient, Anna Ogden Hall, a women's shelter. We then gathered to make beaded bracelets and colored bookmarks.



LWML Mission Statement



As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Rainier Zone *Edie Norris, President*

The LWML Rainier Zone Spring Rally was held April 22, 2023, at Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis, Washington, under the theme of “Wait on the Lord” focused on But as for me, I watch in Hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior. (Micah 7:7)

Opening worship service was led by Rainier Zone Counselor, Rev. Sam Schuldheisz, who also led the Bible study titled “Wait on the Lord...for the Resurrection of the Body” focused on several Bible verses and illustrations created by Christopher Rowers (website Fullofeyes.com)

Other highlights included greetings from LWML Washington-Alaska District President, Carolyn Holbrook, the passing of new bylaws and election of new officers: Shirlee Hall Vice President and Marjorie O'Rourke as Treasurer.

Women of Chehalis delighted everyone with a clever skit complete with a rainbow banner. A Gift from the Heart litany for items for the Chehalis Food Bank was followed by the closing devotion lead by Gracie Holdbrook, LWML Washington-Alaska District YWR for the 2023 LWML Convention.



Local Group Corner

Bethlehem Lutheran, Kennewick, WA

A Grace Filled Evening at Bethlehem, Kennewick

Bethlehem Kennewick's LWML ladies welcomed Avonte Jackson, executive director of Grace Clinic in Kennewick, WA. Grace Clinic is the only free clinic in the Tri-Cities community, providing medical and urgent dental and mental health services for low income residents who don't have insurance, at no cost to them. Mrs. Jackson shared details of the mission and work of Grace Clinic at our regular monthly meeting in February 2023. Following her presentation, Bethlehem's LWML ladies gave gifts of paper products to the Clinic.



Trinity Lutheran, Mt. Vernon, WA

The "I" in MITE

At our April meeting a skit called, *The "I" in MITE*, was presented. There is one more letter, "U". When it replaces, the "I", MITE becomes MUTE and nothing is accomplished. "I" is so important. If you would like a copy of the skit, email Judy at Judyperaino@gmail.com. The skit is no longer on the LWML website. It was done at Trinity in January, 1995. However, the message is as pertinent today as it was then.

Thrivent Financial provided seed money for our ice cream sundae fundraiser on April 30th for the Mission Walk at the 2023 Convention in Milwaukee. So far, \$335 has been raised with promises of more to come. Linda Davelaar will deliver the donations.

Zion Lutheran, Tacoma, WA

Zion Lutheran Women in Mission Sponsored First Responders Appreciation Day

On Sunday, March 26, a luncheon was served at Zion Lutheran Church in Tacoma to honor neighborhood first responders from Tacoma community Police, Fire, and EMT.

Zion Lutheran Women in Mission organized the event, which included gift bags with hand made thank you cards created by the children and other members of the church, along with a coffee gift card from a local coffee shop.

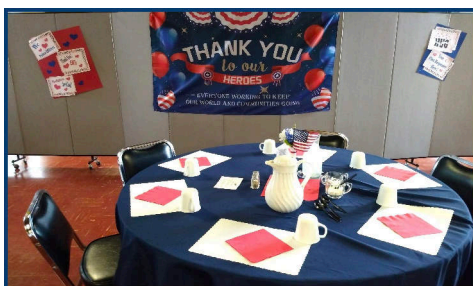
On Monday, March 27, sixty-five lunches, along with gift bags, were delivered to the police and fire departments for the staff who were not able to attend the luncheon.



Zion youth attach "Thank You" labels to water bottles during work party to set up for First Responders event.



Pastor Jeff Ries sharing time with Tacoma Police Community Resource Officer



Decor to welcome First Responders for the event was red, white and blue



Tacoma police officer digs into the buffet



LWML Washington-Alaska District Retreat

Theme: Are you a Missionary? Romans 10:14-15

7 pm Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1

Clover Island Inn

435 Clover Island Dr.

Kennewick, Washington 99336

Name _____ Are you under 35? _____ or under 18? _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Church _____ Zone _____ First Time Retreat Attendee? _____

Retreat Registration Fee \$80 per person

*****Early Bird Special – postmarked/paid by July 25, 2023, pay only \$70 per person*****

- ◆ **MEALS:** Your retreat registration fee includes two meals- Saturday lunch and dinner. Friday dinner is on your own. (Saturday and Sunday breakfast are provided by the hotel and included in the room reservation.)

Please list any Medically required dietary restrictions or allergies: _____

Retreat Registration deadline is September 15, 2023.

Please make checks (\$80.00 or **early bird special \$70 per person**) payable to LWML Washington-Alaska District. You will receive a confirmation email or letter which will include a map, a list of items to bring, and other important information.

No retreat registration refunds will be given out after September 8th.

- ◆ **HOTEL:** the retreat registration fee does **NOT** include hotel room lodging.
You are responsible for making your hotel reservations! Get your hotel reservations early so you and your roommates can take advantage of our special block room rates and availability. The block room rates start at \$104.00 + tax per night. Your total price for two nights will depend on how many people are sharing your room. If you need help finding a roommate, contact the registrar. The registrar will do her best to assist you.

Room Reservations: Please call the Clover Island Inn at 509-586-0541 to make your reservations. Give them room block “Lutheran Women’s Conference” so you get our special rate. Our room block will be released on September 15th. Please make your reservation early so you can obtain a room.

- ◆ **TRAVEL INFO:**

_____ I will be traveling by car with _____

_____ I will be traveling by plane

Send registration form and payment to:

Jayne Bowes

PO Box 214

Okanogan, WA 98840

2022—2024 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



District President Carolyn Holbrook

President

Recording Secretary
Carla Church

Treasurer
Gigi Lutz

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 Harper

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