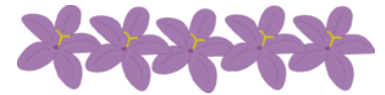




Spring 2020

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



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Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes

Summer Issue DEADLINE:
April 30, 2020 to
EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



District Convention

September 25-27, 2020
Great Wolf Lodge
Grand Mound, Washington

Greetings from LWML Washington-Alaska District PRESIDENT Marilee Ryan



Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior,
As I write this article, I am looking over the river at our cabin in the woods in Wisconsin. This is Ryan's River Retreat, named "R Place." It is a brisk 26 degrees outside and undisturbed snow is blanketing the ground. It is beautiful and very quiet! I was hoping for more sunshine — which I haven't seen in a few weeks — but I am basking in His light in my cozy cabin with a nice fire in the fireplace.

First LWML Presidents Assembly Meets in St. Louis



No matter the location, no matter if it is cloudy or bright outside, Jesus is the source of our light shining forth. Hopefully this gives us all an inner peace that shows through to everyone

January 23-25, I attended the first Presidents Assembly meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri.

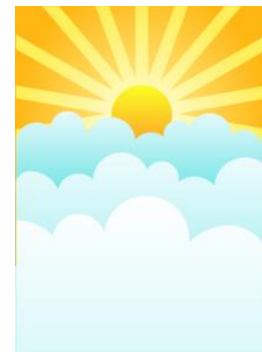
It was wonderful to get plugged in and turned on to the mission of LWML with sisters from around the country. Smiles, hugs, support, sharing, and encouragement were all in abundance.

One way for you to get recharged is to attend the district convention being held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, Washington, September 25-27, 2020. The theme of our convention is "Walk in the Light." The Bible verse is: *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1: 7).

Come, Walk in the Light to renew the light that is within you so you may share it with others.

Blessings to you in service together,

Marilee Ryan



DISTRICT COUNSELOR

Rev. Richard Loppnow, Junior Pastoral Counselor – East

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:14-16).

At the district level, our LWML is about as between events as it can be — what with the late September placement of this biennium's convention. We'll proceed from our above district theme verse for the biennium as a whole and apply it at the zone level — where we turn on the light each spring with joyshops and every autumn with rallies.

Prior to moving up in the conciliar world (yes, that relating to council rather than counsel but bear with me) I was a Zone Counselor, South Columbia Zone to be specific. In choosing themes, we not always, but often, played off what our district LWML was using for its theme.

We believe and are of Christ as individuals. Faith is an individual rather than group thing. But the Church overall is a bank of lights in the Matthew 5 sense. The bank of light's many facets include LWML. Individual women of faith combine into chapters or societies (Lydia's Guild in my congregation) and accomplish mission work. Individually shining as separate lights, but together forming a solid beam of light! It works similarly as we coalesce at zone and district levels.

The Holy Spirit so works His miracles of faith, and the Gospel thus goes out into a world in need of the Light of Christ.



Societies and Zones:

When elections are held in societies and zones, **remember** to send a copy of the updated roster to **Corresponding Secretary LeeAnn Tibbals**. Her contact information is found on the roster of this newsletter.

District Store

Greetings to all,

Just a quick word to let you all know that the Board of Directors had a preview of what will be in the store at convention this September. They recommend stopping by the store early at convention and shopping. Supplies are limited. See you soon.

Have a great end of Winter/beginning of Spring!

Sandi Hall, Store Administrator



Young Women Committee

Calling all young women to the Washington-Alaska District convention this fall in Grand Mound, Wash. If you know a young lady between the age of 18-35, please invite her to attend. In addition to the convention activities, there will be a special young woman program provided which includes:

- Introduction to LWML & what we do
- Meals & fellowship
- Devotions & more!

Our theme for this convention is “Walk in the Light.” Please invite young women to attend so they may be encouraged to “Walk in the Light” this year at the district convention!

Carla Church
Michelle Chase
Grace MacDuff, Chairman



Evergreen Echoes is published quarterly by Lutheran Women's Missionary League Washington-Alaska District, an auxiliary organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Leader Development Committee

Are you interested in adding some pizzazz to your meetings or events? Do you hope to increase your attendance at your group or zone meetings? Would you prefer to spend less time planning meetings and more time enjoying fellowship? If you answered yes, then click on the link below. The LWML website has proven successful resources to assist you. You may also access the information through the LWML website at lwml.org, click on “Service,” then click on “Leadership Development,” and finally scroll down and click on “Event Planning.”

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/leadership/event-planning>

Also, if you have a resource or experience to share, please email the LWML WA-AK District webmaster at lwml.wa.ak.webmaster@gmail.com

Michele Misener
Pam Rafferty, Chairman





Nominating Committee

High, Low, Buffalo. In a Bible study I attend, we occasionally do “High, Low, Buffalo.” This is a quick and easy sharing time. We share our high for the week, our low for the week, and anything special we would like to share.

Within the Nominating Committee we have had “high, low, and buffalo” moments as well. Our high is that we have people on the slate for each open position! Our low is that life circumstances have caused several people to withdraw their names. Our buffalo is that we believe in the God of the POSSIBLE, and we believe He will provide the people He wants on the ballot.

Thank you for the prayers for our committee and for the people who have agreed to serve, and for the people who still may agree to have their names on the ballot.

Patrice Cornelius
Betty Rich
Ruth Ann Shimoi
Betsy McDarment
Sandi Schauer, Nominating Committee Chairman

Short Term Mission Grant Recipient

St. John Lutheran, Palmer, Alaska
Mission Trip to Eek, Alaska



Village of Eek, Alaska

On Tuesday, July 23, 2019, a team of eight people from St. John Lutheran Church in Palmer, Alaska, flew to the village of Eek, Alaska, in conjunction with the Alaska Mission for Christ organization. The team consisted of Rev. Jonathan Rockey; Sara Guhl; Rod, Temple, and Aaron Christiansen; Margaret Runser; and Marilee Nufer. The team was in Eek until Monday, July 29, 2019. While they were there, they provided Vacation Bible School in the afternoon, basketball camp in the Eek school gym. At the same time, Pastor Rockey used the lessons taught during the day for an evening Bible study.

“Even though we go because we want to bless others with the saving knowledge of Jesus, we come away feeling like we were the ones being blessed. The new friendships we make and the old friendships we deepen, fill us with joy. Just like the joy we can see on the faces of the children when we arrive. The hugs and the ‘Oh, I missed you so much!’ make it worth all of the effort and money it takes to go. We are so grateful for the financial help of LWML and St. John Lutheran Church to help make this trip possible.”

Report from Marilee Nufer

Submitted by:
Ruth Zellar
Short Term Mission Grant Committee Chairman

Structure Committee

Aletha Voges, **Committee** member
Ella Kunkel, **Committee** member
Pam Rafferty, Chairman



We are excited to share the news that Ella Kunkel has joined our committee and brings her gifts, a servant's heart, and several years of district experience to her new position on the Structure Committee. Ella lives in the South Columbia Zone and is married to retired pastor Dan Kunkel. She has four grandchildren and is the

daughter of a long-time LWMLer from the early years. A little known fact about Ella is that she grew up in a small town in the Big Sky Country of Montana.

Ella shares that one of her favorite scripture passages, Philippians 4:6-9, helps her remain focused on Jesus rather than the things of this world.

We are blessed to have Ella serving on the Structure Committee.

Please remember to first compare your group or zone bylaws to the samples provided on the LWML website prior to beginning your revisions. This may save hours of time during the process. That's time you can spend with your family, helping a neighbor, or enjoying a well-earned afternoon with your feet up and a latte in hand.

Sample group

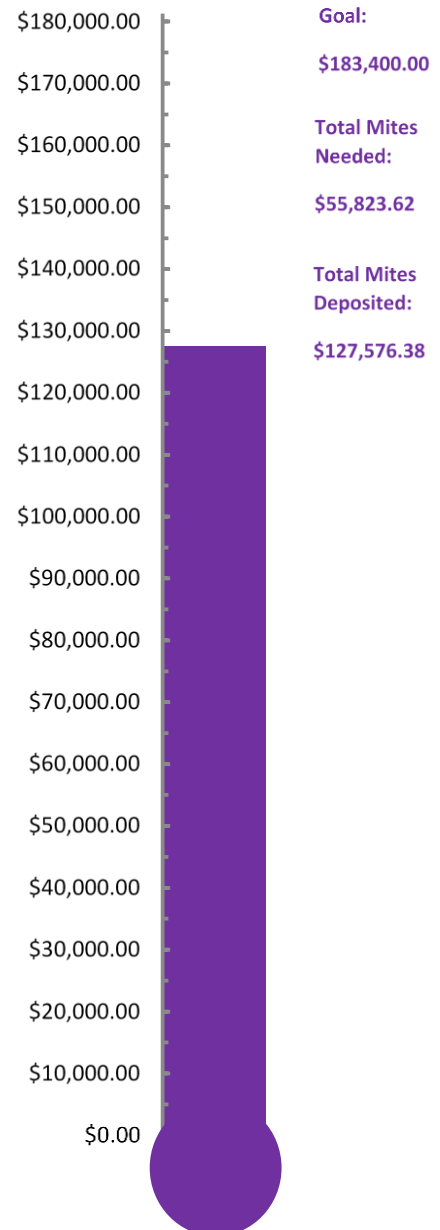
bylaws: www.lwml.360unite.com/posts/handbook-resources/bylaws-local-level

Sample zone bylaws: www.lwml.360unite.com/posts/handbook-resources/bylaws-zones



2018-2020 Mites

as of January 31, 2020



For distribution on the district prayer chain,
send prayer petitions to:
lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com.

Vice President of Christian Life

Rhonda Ries is moderator of the prayer chain.



Heart to Heart Sisters Committee

Judy Norton, **Committee** member

Tina Mueller, **Committee** member

Allison Akahoshi, Chairman

My name is Tina Mueller, and I identify as a Chinese American. I have struggled with my identity — feeling torn between what it meant to be “Chinese” and what it meant to be “American.” The environment in which I matured included home life, American schooling, and family activities. It was difficult to live up to the expectation of academic excellence in school. I did not have friends or many adult role models who understood how I felt about my looks (shape of my eyes and body), appearances (clothes) and acts (behavior, speech, body language, and learning growth) as a Chinese American. I struggled speaking Mandarin Chinese when I went to see both my immediate and extended families gathered together to celebrate Chinese New Year. Under the personal baggage that weighed me down for the mass majority of my whole life, I felt like I was an outsider being “too American” when I spent time with my family, and an outsider being “too Chinese” when I was growing up in the American school system.

From my personal story, I recognize that I am a slave to sin. The consequences of sin and the ugliness of the world can hurt us with enough pain to endure just like everyone else on this planet. However, the purpose of personal experience is to highlight the importance of having faith. Never have I ever felt more welcomed and accepted for myself, cultural behavior, gifts, and talents than I have from my faith in God. He loves me and everyone else on this planet eternally — before we were conceived to the time we will rise again and be truly alive with God. He gave us his Son to die for us — to save us all from our sins (John 3:16). With the help of God, I throw this question to you: How will you help other people feel welcome and included in your church and in your community?

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3: 3-7).



Congratulations to Hannah Freeman, from Peace Lutheran Church, who graduated from the music program at Concordia University, Mequon, Wis.

Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

The following students received scholarships during the 2019-2020 academic year:

- Rick McCafferty - EIIT Program - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.
- Kurt Hellwig- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.
- Michele Musegades-Doel – Deaconess Program - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.
- Hannah Freeman - Music Program - Concordia University, Mequon, Wis.

Continued on page 7

Scholarship Committee

Continued

Applications for scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year are now available on the LWML Washington-Alaska District website at www.wa-aklwml.org. Click on the Downloads tab on the left side of the webpage. The deadline to apply is April 15, 2020. Applicants for undergraduate scholarships will be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 for the year. Seminary students will be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 for the year.

Thank you to the members of the LWML Washington-Alaska District and others who have generously given your mites. Mite offerings continue to help the LWML “serve the Lord with gladness.” Among the grants supported by mites is a grant for scholarships for individuals who attend synodical schools while preparing to become pastors, teachers, deaconesses, or other full time church workers. This year the district has given scholarships to the four students listed on page 6. The need for workers to proclaim the gospel is great as current pastors, teachers, and other church workers retire or leave the ministry. The cost of tuition, books, other educational materials, and housing continues to increase. Scholarships from LWML help support students by offsetting the increasing costs while showing students we care about them.

Please continue to support scholarships with your mites and scholarship recipients with your prayers. To support more students, consider donating directly to the district scholarship fund. A memorial donation is a beautiful way to honor a loved one! A donation from a zone, society, or individual can fund a scholarship that helps change a potential student into a student preparing to serve.

Gospel Outreach News

Cristina McAnulty, Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Joyce Berger, Mission Grants **Committee** Member

It’s hard to believe that 2020 is here!!! We pray that you all had a blessed Christmastime and that the New Year has started out being joyous to you and yours!

As a reminder, the LWML Washington-Alaska District Mission Grant 2018-2020 biennium theme is “Let Your Mites Be a Beacon of Light for Grants.”



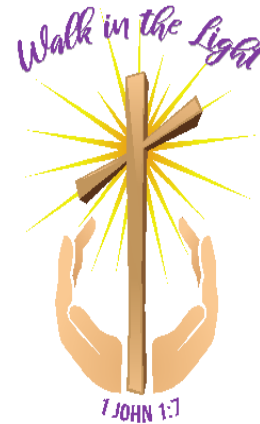
Updated grant information can be found at www.wa-aklwml.org along with grant highlights and prayers. Please use this information to spotlight your mite collections at your churches.

An important reminder: *All MITES* collected in your societies and zones **MUST** be sent to our District Financial Secretary Elizabeth Cook.

Her mailing information can be located at the end of the *Evergreen Echoes* newsletter. Please be sure to pass this information along to the treasurer in each of your societies and zones.

Please emphasize to all societies and zones that money for the current biennium is due by March 31, 2020. Currently we are behind in reaching our goal, so please continue to come up with creative ideas to raise mites – have bake sales, silent auctions, or simply make a collection box available. Please be consistent in prayers and submitting your mites. Remember that every penny counts and is a blessing to those we’re supporting.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work in supporting our mission grant recipients as we approach the end of the 2018-2020 biennium.



The days are flying by! Plan NOW!
Mark your calendars for September 25-27, 2020,
for the **LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention**
at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound,
Washington.
Don't miss out on this great event. See you there.

Zone News

Alaska Zone

Ruth Zellar, President



December 7 was our All Alaska Lutheran Woman's Advent Brunch. There were women from our many LWML societies in attendance who gathered around the theme of the "Joshua Tree." This is an annual event on the first Saturday in December each year except for 2018. That year, it was scheduled for what turned out to be a day after our 7.1 earthquake. Our joyshop is April 25 and will be held at Star of the North in Kenai, Alaska. The theme is "Alive in Christ." Our ingathering will be for the Freedom House in Kenai. Sterling Lutheran Church will share in hosting the joyshop.

North Columbia Zone

Deana Mae Visser, President

Ladies are invited to our spring joyshop April 25, 2020, at Faith Lutheran Church in Oroville, Wash. Sharon Greene, a member of Hope Lutheran Church, in Brewster, Wash. will present "Living in Focus Every Day." Sharon has many life experiences including living abroad. Registration begins at 9 A.M. and we shall conclude the joyshop at noon with lunch to follow. I hope to see you there.

	Spring 2020	Zone Events	
ZONE	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	CITY/STATE
Alaska	Sat., April 25	Star of the North Lutheran Church	Kenai, Alaska
Blue Mountain	Sat., May 16	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Kennewick, Wash.
East Inland Empire	Sat., April 18	St. John Lutheran Church	Spokane, Wash.
Hood Canal	Sat., April 25	Faith Lutheran Church	Kingston, Wash.
Inter-Valley	Sat., May 30, 11:30 a.m.	Bill's Berry Farm	Sunnyside, Wash.
Lake Washington	Sat., March 14, 8:45 a.m.	Pilgrim Lutheran Church	Bellevue, Wash.
North Columbia	Sat., April 25 9 a.m.	Faith Lutheran Church	Oroville, Wash.
Mt. Baker	Sat., May 2, 9 a.m.	Grace Lutheran Church	
	"Shine Like a Star"		Everett, Wash.
Olympic	Sun., April 19 1:30 a.m.	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Seattle, Wash.
Rainier	Sat., April 25, 9 a.m.	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church	Milton, Wash.
South Columbia	Sat., April 18, 9 a.m.		
	"Promised Help"	Our Saviors Lutheran Church	Ephrata, Wash.

Society Corner

Trinity Mt. Vernon Society

Mt. Baker Zone

At our annual Advent by Candlelight event, the ladies at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Mt. Vernon, Wash., enjoyed a humorous skit. The skit, titled "Christmas Wrappings" is from the LWML website. The skit showed how easy it is to get caught up in the Christmas "rush," instead of the reason for the season. Roles included: a baker, a present wrapper, a card writer, a cleaning lady, and a mall shopper.



*Submitted by
Carol Johnson*

*Q. How come groups of skeletons don't get much work done?
A. They are skeleton crew.*

Trinity Lutheran Ladies League *North Columbia Zone*

Although the participants at the bone retreat at Trinity Lutheran in Republic, Wash., were only a skeleton crew due to weather, illness, and vacations. The attendees had a good time. The retreat included matching famous bone quotes, studying Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones in Ezekiel Chapter 37, retelling the account with wish bones, and putting together skeletons.

Each participant then wrote her name on the skeleton bone that she had broken at some point in her life. Much laughter ensued as each person shared the story of her broken bone or bones. The retreat concluded by making dog bone treats for the dogs at the Forget Me Not Animal Shelter near Republic. (The idea for the bone retreat was borrowed from Ingrid Roelfs, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Chugiak, Alaska. Thank you, Ingrid.)



Submitted by Sandy Schauer

Bethlehem Society *Blue Mountain Zone*

At our annual LWML Christmas party, for gifts from the heart, society members brought wrapping paper, bows, tape, and other things needed for wrapping gifts. These items were all presented to our local Lutheran Community Services organization. In giving them the essential supplies, they were able to wrap Christmas gifts for the children, teenagers, parents, and families included in and served by the various LCS programs. We also collected journals that were given to the young adults who participate there. We thank God for the opportunity to support our community and provide things that made a real impact, especially during the time of year when we celebrate our Savior's birth.



Submitted by Wilma Gardner

Shepherd of the Hills Society *Mt. Baker Zone*



We are trying something new at Shepherd of the Hills. Each month, our society collects items requested by one particular community organization or charity. Our church secretary kindly lists requested items in the service bulletin, and we simply put a box for donations in the Fellowship Hall. We feel it connects us to our community as well as to our congregation. For our inaugural month, we collected new and gently used clothing for Clothes for Kids — an organization that provides clothing to school-aged children. Over 200 items were donated. We were especially excited by the 13 winter coats and 72 new pairs of socks or underwear. God is great, and we are humbled that He allowed us this opportunity to serve with gladness.

Submitted by Kelsie Ingham

2018-2020 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster

President

Marilee Ryan

Recording Secretary

Heather Selset

Treasurer

Doris Wurl

Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Cook

Counselor – East (Junior)

Rev. Richard Loppnow
Our Savior Lutheran Church

Counselor – West (Senior)

Rev. Daniel Freeman
Peace Lutheran Church

Vice President of Christian Life

lwml.wa.ak.prayer.requests@gmail.com

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Carolyn Holbrook

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman

Allison Akahoshi

Teen Committee Chairman

Sharon Westman

Young Women Committee Chairman

Grace Macduff

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Pam Rafferty

Archivist-Historian

Nancy Wyckoff

Convention Committee Chairman

Susan Abbe

Corresponding Secretary

LeeAnn Tibbals

Meeting Manager

MaryLynn Huntwork

Nominating Committee Chairman

Sandi Schauer

Parliamentarian

Carol Coerber

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Cristina McAnulty

Mission Servants Committee Chairman

Linda Davelaar

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Judy Ikerd

Short Term Missions Committee Chairman

Ruth Zellar

Public Relations Director

TBD

Evergreen Echoes Editor (and Circulation)

Kelsie Ingham
EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com

Quarterly Manager

Judy Jeffery







Webmaster

Joyce Berger

LWML District Store Administrator

Sandi Hall

Key

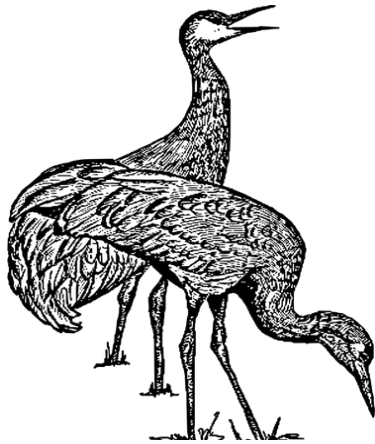
-  Christian Life Department
-  District Counselors
-  Gospel Outreach Department
-  Organizational Resources Department
-  Public Relations Committee
-  Special Focus Department

Send mites to Financial Secretary Elizabeth Cook. Order Mite Boxes from and/or send any roster changes to Corresponding Secretary LeeAnn Tibbals.

Evergreen Echoes

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Washington-Alaska District
c

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



During early spring, migratory sandhill cranes congregate in south central Washington state. Thousands of them may be seen at wildlife refuge areas at the convergence of Blue Mountain, South Columbia, and Inter-Valley Zones.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Lutheran Woman's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 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.