



Spring 2021

Evergreen Echoes

www.wa-aklwml.org



Greetings from

LWML Washington–Alaska District

PRESIDENT Marilee Ryan



In This Issue:

Christian Life Committee	5
District Counselor	2
District Roster	9
Gospel Outreach	4
Leadership Development	4
Memorials	2
Scholarship Committee	7
Special Focus Ministries	6
Structure Committee	3
Zone News	7-8

Dates to Remember:

Evergreen Echoes

Spring Issue DEADLINE:

April 30, 2021

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



LWML Convention

June 24-27, 2021

Lexington, Kentucky

District Convention

July 8-10, 2022

Wenatchee, Washington

“Get on your horses” women and men!
Make your plans now to attend the LWML
Convention June 24-27, 2021, in Lexington,
Kentucky. We invite you to join us in
worshipping the Lord and celebrating His
awesomeness with fellow sisters and brothers
in Christ!

The convention theme this year is Running the Race... Looking to Jesus. Convention information is in the Winter issue of the *Woman's Quarterly* and is available on the LWML website www.lwml.org under News & Events/Convention Central.

There will be a variety of Servant Activities in which to participate, the Mission Pledge Walk on Saturday afternoon, Bible studies, and hearing mission speakers tell us how our mites have impacted people worldwide with the Good News of Christ's love.

While you are in Lexington, you may enjoy taking some tours visiting museums and racetracks, taking a river cruise, seeing the Bluegrass State's beautiful area, or maybe taking more extended tours, visiting nearby states.

If you cannot attend, you can still participate by giving of your mites or offering donations. The convention will be live-streamed so, please do not miss out!

We invite you to attend our district retreat in September. Stay tuned for more information to be announced as it is available.

I wish you peace, health, and Easter blessings as we celebrate our Risen Savior.

More news from LWML

New LWML Mission Statement:

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

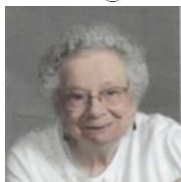
New campaign:

I Am the Heart of LWML

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



It is with heartfelt sadness that I write that two of our
Dear LWML Sisters have passed away.



Adeline Stern, Past District President (1990-1994)

Mount Lake Terrace, Washington

October 20, 1925 - December 28, 2020 age 95

www.mountainviewtacoma.com/obituaries/Adeline-Sterns/

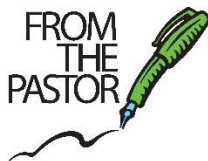


Sharon Westman, Teen Committee Chairman. Dupont,
Washington

March 24, 1940 - January 23, 2021 age 80

www.mountainviewtacoma.com/obituaries/Sharon-Westman/

It is also with great gladness and thanksgiving to our Risen Savior that we celebrate these
two women of God receiving their Crown of Life and being with God in their eternal
home!



DISTRICT COUNSELOR

Rev. Kevin Schubkegel,

Junior Pastoral Counselor – West

I thought that the 1952 musical "Singin' in the Rain" was too old, and I was too cool to be interested in it when I was a teen. I missed out, but I'm making up for it with the DVD now on our shelf so I can watch it repeatedly. What causes "Don Lockwood" (Gene Kelley) in pouring down rain to motion his ride on, put his umbrella down, and get drenched romping through the puddles while singing? Sure, it's another love story. A fun one. Soaked, he didn't seem to mind at all and gave away his umbrella as we went on.

When the Apostle Paul (Saul of Tarsus) realized both what he missed in trusting in his life of his own good works and then received in the riches of forgiveness in Christ, he could sing "in the rain" (in jail) even more so. Jesus makes all the difference. Gene Kelley sang, "I'm laughing at clouds." Paul sang for joy even while in chains. This world's antagonism cannot douse the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we go, He compels us both to sing and share why we do so no matter what others think.

We are currently not singing in our Sunday worship. I look forward to doing so again, but we still have a lingering song. We sing at home, in the car, and in our souls as we serve. It's the good news of Jesus' forgiveness and life that leads us to sing and to share. The last two Sundays at the end of our service, we went out and sang a final doxology in the rain. Thankfully, no one will put a damper on Christ, who gives His church all good things with His Word and Sacraments. Let's sing in the rain!

Unable to Meet for Elections and/or Installations?

With unforeseen circumstances (like the COVID-19 pandemic), many zones and local groups have not met and held elections. Following these guidelines, presidents can hold elections in several ways.

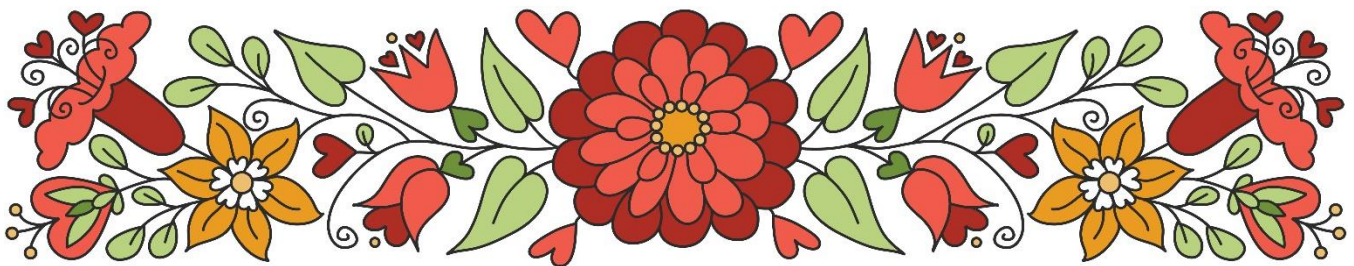
The best way would be to hold an “in-person” meeting at a facility in their area large enough to achieve social distancing. Wearing masks and gloves, tellers would hand out the ballots, collect them, and count the votes.

Another available option is voting by mail or email. The zone president would send the ballot via mail or email to each local society president. The local groups’ presidents would then present the ballot to the women in her group. Each woman would cast her vote, and the local group president would forward those results back to the zone president. The zone president would then count the votes from each woman in each local group, with the help of another member of her board of directors, and announce the vote results. For the local group, the president would send the ballot via mail or email to each member. The president and another member of her executive committee would count the votes, and the president would announce the vote results.

Some bylaws stipulate the length of the term of office for an officer. If an election cannot be held by some means when scheduled, it should be held as soon as possible. In the meantime, the current officer remains in office.

Some bylaws also stipulate when installation occurs for new officers. If officers have been elected via mail or email, then the installation may not happen as usual. From *Robert’s Rules of Order*: “An officer-elect takes possession of his office immediately upon his election’s becoming final unless the bylaws or other rules specify a later time. If a formal installation ceremony is prescribed, failure to hold it does not affect the time at which the new officers assume office.” Therefore, the new officers assume their duties after being elected but may be installed at the next event or meeting. There is no need to put this type of information into the bylaws since it is prescribed by the parliamentary procedure (*Robert’s Rules of Order*).

Finally, if the bylaws specify that the election is to be by ballot (no matter how many are nominated for a position), then a ballot vote needs to be taken. If the bylaws say a ballot vote is unnecessary if there is only one nominee, then the president can declare that the nominee is elected.





Leader Development Committee

Pam Rafferty, Chairman

Please welcome our newest member of the Leadership Development Committee, Kelsie Ingham. While Kelsie grew up in the Catholic church, she was drawn to the Lutheran church through Shepherd of the Hills, Snohomish, WA, by their strong Biblical teaching.

Kelsie earned a BA in Anthropology in 2001 at the University of Washington and worked in archaeology and anthropology. Health challenges directed her focus to write children's literature and devotions, followed by teaching preschool. She shares that "even the worst hardship can move you toward something positive." At her church, she serves as her society's LWML president, has taught Sunday School, VBS, is the chairman of the Board for Christian Education, and serves with the Stewardship Board. A highlight for her is leading the children in singing "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish for their pageant.

Kelsie is an active member of Mt. Baker Zone and is on the Executive Board, and most recently served at the district level as the past *Evergreen Echoes* Editor.

Kelsie enjoys quilting while working mostly with 1800's reproduction fabric and loves all needle arts. She shares that she is ecstatic about serving on the Leadership Development Committee and brings experience from her school years and college. Welcome, Kelsie!

The Leadership Development Committee is exploring ideas for zones and local groups to implement during this time when some groups meet in person on a limited basis, some are meeting virtually, and some are not able to meet. Please look for new information on the district website under the new Leadership

Development tab: www.wa-aklwml.org

During this time, when so many of our members are isolated from friends, family, and their church family, please reach out via phone, email, a card, or letter, to let them know you are thinking about them. If you are isolated and in need of prayer, please contact one of our committee members through your society president or zone president.



Gospel Outreach

Ruth Ann Shimoi, Vice President

The application for Grants is a renewed work in progress. It is being updated and then will be posted on the website. In the meantime, please be praying and telling your groups and zones about LWML WA-AK grants. Be ready to submit a request for the 2022 -2024 biennium.

Please encourage your groups to be gathering the mites and sending them in. All the current grant recipients have asked to have the request paid in full; thus, requests can slowly be granted as mites come in. These recipients can be found on the website.

Travel may still be limited, but if you think you might want to do a Mission, submit your application for a Short-term Mission grant.

The Scholarship committee has submitted a report, and applications are on our website. www.wa-aklwml.org



HOW IS YOUR WALK?

Here we are, a new year, the year of our Lord 2021. How is your walk with the LORD going? Have you found yourself already “checking out”? By checking out, I mean disconnecting, burying yourself in self-comfort items to cope. For me, this looks something like overindulgence in food, scrolling endlessly through social media, having a short temper, skimping on necessary self-care items such as exercise, reading my Bible, but not doing the heart work with it. We know many of these things are good gifts from God; they just become bad for us when we miss-prioritize them. When this happens, we are in danger of becoming like the plant Jesus spoke of: *“but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful”* (Mark 4:19).

Undoubtedly, none of us desires to be unfruitful. We don’t wake up in the morning and say, “Self, I am not going to be fruitful today.” No, but we do say, “Self, it’s been a hard week, and you’re tired, just a few more minutes rest...” then the slippery slope begins. I could go into a play by play, but I think you get the picture. Unfruitfulness isn’t an overnight event. It comes through the daily 1,001 compromises we don’t even realize we make.

I am by no means trying to make this a guilt fest. We hurt. We struggle. Yet God says to us: *“And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people”* (Leviticus 26:12).

Who are we that the God who created over 200,000,000 galaxies would come and walk among us? Yet He did and still does. He wouldn’t have it any other way. Our need is that great and His love for us even greater still (Romans 8:38-39). We are His people because He declares it as such.

So, how is your walk with the LORD going? You may be hurting, feeling complacent, or just indifferent. Either way, are you able to recognize if you’re “checked out”?

A few months ago, I started using a new format for my prayer and devotion time. It has helped me anchor my walk with the LORD. Perhaps it will help you on your walk with the LORD too.

Below is the format by Timothy Keller.

A Starter Plan for Daily Prayer (15 minutes)

Approaching

Think of the privilege of prayer. Realize God is present. Ask him to help you pray.

Mediation

Read a Scripture passage. Discern one or two truths you learn there. Choose the one that most impresses you and write it in a sentence. Now ask: How does this truth help me praise God? How does it show me a sin to confess? How does it show me something to ask God for?

Word Prayer

Now turn the answers to the three questions into a prayer - adoration, petition, supplication. Free Prayer
Pray about whatever needs are on your heart. Also spend time thanking God for the ways you see him working in your life and caring for you.

Contemplation

Take a moment to thank and admire God for what he has shown you today. End with a note of praise.



Special Focus Ministries

Carolyn Holbrook, Vice President

Are you a "Young Woman" (a mature young lady about ages 22-35 years old), or do you have a wonderful young lady in your congregation who would love to make a trip to the National Convention in Kentucky in June? Applications are now needed! You can find more information on the Young Woman Committee and the application form at our district LWML website: www.wa-aklwml.org. Please send your application immediately to our president, Marilee Ryan.

If you are planning to attend the National Convention in June, the Committee on Young Women needs volunteers to assist them at their exhibit. Volunteers will work in pairs for each shift. If you are interested, contact Anne Hartman, the committee chair, at annelwml@gmail.com.

Our committees of the Special Focus Ministries need your help. Our Teen Committee chair, Sharon Westman, passed away in January. We need committee members for the Teen Committee and a chair. Also, our Young Woman Committee needs committee members and a chair. If the Lord is calling you, please send an email to me, Carolyn Holbrook, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at caholbrook@msn.com. I will happily answer your questions.

In these challenging times, aren't we blessed to know that the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow? He is always there to encourage and support us as we serve Him. Stay safe in His arms.



ANNOUNCEMENT:

We are inviting all Christian women to join us for our upcoming district retreat this fall. Although we are still working out the details of what the retreat will look like this year, we plan to have an encouraging event no matter what the format. Please be on the lookout for further announcements on dates and details.



Scholarship Committee

Judy Ikerd, Chairman

Scholarship Applications for the 2021-2022 academic year are due on April 15, 2021. Forms are available on our website, www.wa-aklwml.org

If you know someone interested in attending a synodical university or seminary, encourage them to apply for a scholarship. Scholarships are awarded to individuals who have a home congregation in the district, plan to become full-time church workers, are enrolling in a synodical seminary or university, and have demonstrated a financial need. Currently, the award is up to \$1000 a year for undergraduate students and up to \$2000 a year for postgraduates. This award is sent directly to the seminary or university's financial office and applied first to tuition.

For the academic year of 2020-2021, we had one applicant, Kurt Hellwig. We have supported Kurt for the last two years, and after completing this year and one more, he will be ready to serve the Lord as a minister. The need for workers to proclaim the gospel is great. Current ministers, teachers, and other church workers retire or leave the ministry. The cost of tuition, books and other educational materials, and living continues to rise. Scholarships from the LWML help support students by offsetting increasing costs and show students that we care about them.

Zone News

Lake Washington Zone

Ruth Ann Shimoi, President

Saturday, March 20th, Lake Washington Zone, will be holding a ZOOM gathering. Our focus will be the National LWML Prayer service. I will be assigning parts of the service to the Groups in the Zone thus giving each Group a potential for participation. The host for the ZOOM will be All Saints, Bellevue. I have been forwarding emails, from Marilee, to the Groups and I have been emailing to encourage them. We will not be defeated, and God is with us in this journey through this pandemic.

Ruth Ann Shimoi,

LWML Lake Washington Zone President



Blue Mountain Zone

Wilma Gardner, President
By Terry Strege

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lydia Guild, Richland, Washington, Blue Mt. Zone was busy over the holidays. We sponsored "The Christmas Child," an international group that distributes shoeboxes to children worldwide. Each person takes one and fills it with hygiene articles, socks, hats, and a person's toy or soccer ball. The Christian organization then adds a Christian message, and the boxes are shipped to third-world countries where a child might not receive anything else for Christmas.

We partnered with Redeemer's Congregation Care Committee to distribute hand-sewn Christmas stockings. We filled them with jerky, cookies, crackers, candy canes, socks, small personal items, including small light-up acrylic Christmas trees, and other personal items. We were able to give over 25 stockings to shut-ins and widows who were alone for Christmas due to the pandemic. Later in January, these same shut-ins will receive a small bouquet to brighten up the winter blues.

Lastly, each year during our usual Christmas party, we gather coffee, tea, cocoa, and hygiene articles such as toothbrushes and deodorant, socks, and gloves to give to our Union Gospel Mission.



2020-2022 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster

District President

Marilee Ryan

Recording Secretary

Carla Church

Treasurer

Gigi Lutz

Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Cook

**Vice President of
Organizational Resources**
Pam Rafferty

Leader Development Committee Chairman
Pam Rafferty (see above)

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries
Carolyn Holbrook

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman
Teen Committee Chairman

Young Women Committee Chairman

Vice President of Christian Life

Grace Macduff

Archivist-Historian

Nancy Wyckoff

Convention Committee Chairman 2020-2022

Linda Miller

Corresponding Secretary

LeeAnn Tibbals

Meeting Manager

MaryLynn Huntwork

Nominating Committee Chairman

Jayne Bowes

Parliamentarian

Carol Coerber

Counselor – East (Senior)

Rev. Richard Loppnow

Counselor – West (Junior)

Rev. Kevin Schubkegel

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Ruth Ann Shimoi

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)**

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Judy Jeffery

Webmaster

Joyce Berger

Key

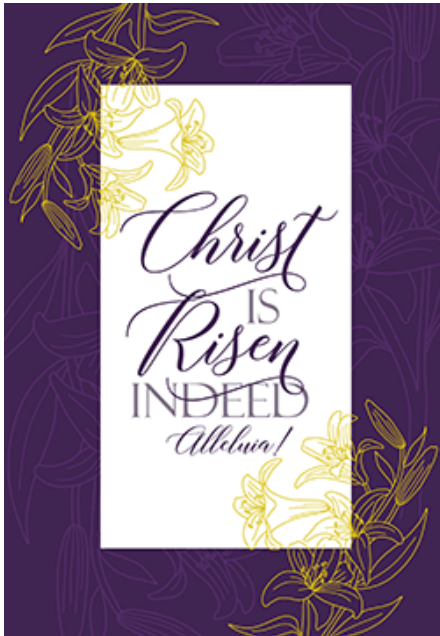
-  Christian Life Department
-  District Counselors
-  Gospel Outreach Department
-  Organizational Resources Department
-  Public Relations Committee
-  Special Focus Department

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
2860 N Kalmbach Lane
Wasilla, AK 99623

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2020 - 2022 Theme

Go Forth in Peace

*Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you
(Proverbs 4:25).*

*Brethren, I count not myself to have
apprehended: but this one thing I do,
forgetting those things which are behind,
and reaching forth unto those things
which are before (Philippians 3:13 KJV),*