

Evergreen Echoes

LWML Washington-Alaska District



Winter, 2014

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District Theme 2014-2016

God's Empowerment...Our Variety...
For God's Purpose

God enables us to boldly and actively use our variety of gifts and talents as we enthusiastically share the Good News and His love with each other, our neighbors, and people throughout the world.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Mission Statement of the LWML

The mission of the Lutheran Women'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.

Greetings from the LWML Washington-Alaska District President

It has been fun attending zone rallies, special events, and having the first Board of Directors meeting for the 2014-2016 biennium. I continue to be amazed (although why I should be is another question) at the sisterhood that we have in being part of LWML. It is great that many of the zone rallies include Bible study or devotion, a speaker that is part of the mission or service field, as well as food and fellowship. Did you notice that I listed the core values of LWML that are part of your zone rally: being in God's Word, missions, service, and fellowship?



As part of my district report, I shared "The Time is NOW" initiative by LWML. The initiative is just that—refocus our core values—and share with other women what LWML is all about. LWML has not changed its core values; however, our environment and life style have changed. Therefore, we must look for ways to focus on what the LWML mission is all about: helping EVERY woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recognize her gifts and to help her use those gifts to build God's Kingdom. It's getting her involved with being in God's Word, learning about the missions and how LWML support those mission grants, participating in a servant or service activity, and being in fellowship with other sisters (and brothers) in Christ.

That leads to the 2014-2016 LWML district theme:

God's Empowerment...Our Variety...For God's Purpose

God enables us to boldly and actively use our variety of gifts and talents as we enthusiastically share the Good News and His love with each other, our neighbors, and people throughout the world.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Share LWML with other women! We all have different gifts and we serve the Lord in different ways. Let's get together and use them for the Lord in the work of our congregation and LWML!

Serving Christ With You,



Past District President MaryLynn Huntwork, President Marie, Mike Ryan, VP Gospel Outreach Marilee Ryan, Financial Secretary Donna Chow, at Mike Ryan's Installation as Licensed Deacon

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We have different gifts according to the grace given to us (Romans 12:6 NIV).
In this verse Paul speaks of the special gifts of grace which find their application in our churches and in LWML. Every Christian having received a spiritual gift fulfills the will of God in the use of that gift.

Your district nominating committee is searching for servant leaders with these special gifts throughout our Washington-Alaska District. We invite you to prayerfully consider nominating an LWML member from your zone for one of the following positions for the June 2016 election:

Vice President of Christian Life
Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Recording Secretary
Treasurer
Pastoral Counselor—West
Nominating Committee (7)

Serving the Lord with Gladness, the District Nominating Committee,
Pam Rafferty, Chairman, Linda Huyck, Judy Ikerd,
Cristina McAnulty, Marilyn Schaefer



The Time Is NOW!

The time is NOW to share what LWML means to you with the women in your life and assist them to use their gifts to serve the Lord. Take a pledge and receive “2-Minute Tuesday” email tips to share. Go to www.lwml.org and click on the “The Time is Now” logo to sign up.

DISTRICT COUNSELOR—WEST

Blessings to you in the Lord, LWML!

I bring you greetings from the “Land of Lincoln,” specifically Springfield, Illinois. This past week I attended the second phase of DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Council. In plain words, I went to a training seminar to help me function and serve as a better pastor to the congregation God and the people there has called me to serve. I could (and will!) speak at great length in thanksgiving for the opportunity to be trained and receive renewal in heart and hands for service to our God; but as I hear the words “heart” and “hands,” it reminds me of another opportunity God has given me in his service (and yours as well).

In the LWML pledge we promise to humbly but with great focus serve the Lord with gladness. We give from what God has given us to provide for others in mission to support them in their need. I love the people who serve in this organization! I believe that God does too (but his love is much more important than mine). I mention ALL this because we are about to begin sharing the seasons of Advent and Christmas with our loved ones. Joyous times all, but also a time when many of us burn the candle at both ends. If we are not careful the possibility of ‘holiday burnout’ could smother a goodly part of our joy in the Lord.

What I am saying is this: make your plans, dream your dreams, then set a pace whereby you can accomplish your goals! In all you do, honor God. We join together as we:

In fervent gratitude for the Savior’s dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

Joyous blessings to you in the love and promise of our God, LWML!
Rev. Michael Wenzel

*Where in the District has the Executive Committee been?
Check the rest of the issue for more!*



Sandi Hall, Newly Elected North Columbia Zone President, and President Marie at the North Columbia Zone Rally



Cristina McNulty, Newly Elected Alaska Zone President, and President Marie at the Alaska Zone Rally



President Marie, Rev. Paul Birner, Past Lake Washington Zone President Aletha Voges, at Rev. Birner's Installation at King of Kings in Renton, WA



VP of Organizational Resources Sandy Geisler and Re-Elected Blue Mountain Zone President Wilma Gardner at the Blue Mountain Zone Rally



Financial Secretary Donna Chow, President Marie, Mt. Olive Society President Opal Myhres, Past Inter-Valley Zone President Tina Gilkey, and Deaconess Cathy Benzler of Elwha Ministry at the Inter-Valley Zone Rally



VP of Gospel Outreach Marilee Ryan and Re-Elected Hood Canal Zone President Denise Crawford at the Hood Canal Zone Rally



VP of Special Focus Ministries Elizabeth Cook and Re-Elected Olympic Zone President Mary Abdi at the Olympic Zone Rally



The Zone Presidents and President Marie at the November 2014 Board of Directors meeting



ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

LEADER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

What? Who? Me? Lead?

Many women shudder in fear when asked to be a leader. But, when you approach leadership in four easy steps the thought of leadership becomes less scary and more welcoming. The Time is NOW is an LWML initiative to focus on what LWML is all about. The first step is to be in His Word daily. I know that time is short in all of our lives but make a commitment to God and yourself to read scripture daily. It can be as simple as reading your Portals of Prayer, having a scripture reading emailed or texted to you and Mustard Seeds are great, quick and inspirational tools to use. Make a commitment with me to daily read His Word. Through daily scripture reading we will:

- Discover and build on our Spirit-given gifts;
- Share our message of Salvation through Jesus Christ with others;
- Be God’s witness wherever and whenever He has need of us.

The Time is NOW to prepare to lead.

Leader Development Committee
Heidi Penkert

The above is paraphrased from the Time is NOW information.



President Marie and Newly Elected Lake Washington Zone President Ruth Ann Shimoi at the Lake Washington Zone Rally

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE

My House

*Psalm 95:2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!(ESV)*

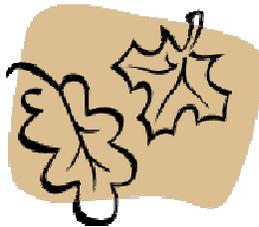
A few Sundays ago my grumpy curmudgeon self walked into church... I looked around and saw clutter, things out of order, a dirty floor and heaven forbid – gunk in the corners! Things were just a mess and boy did it tick me off... I said to myself, “God this place is a mess!” The voice in my head firmly answered back “So what! It’s MY house! It’s MY family!” Jesus says to us: “*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*” Matthew 11:28 (ESV) I felt so ashamed that I was looking at the dirt and clutter instead of at the family that God sees, the forgiven children whose sins are washed away, who need the rest that only Jesus can provide in his house through his Word and Sacrament. I too am part of that family and my heart softened as I saw God’s family, whose hearts and minds find peace and rest in the loving house of God our Father and our Savior Jesus Christ. As the Spirit guides us on, let’s give thanks and praise for what our wonderful Savior has done. Let’s come into his presence with thanksgiving; and make a joyful noise unto him!

The grace and peace of Jesus be with you all.
Your sisters in Christ
Cheryl L. Beyer, VP of Christian Life
and the Christian Life Committee

*Advent Bible Study 2014 will soon be posted on the Web at
www.wa-aklwml.org/downloadspage.htm

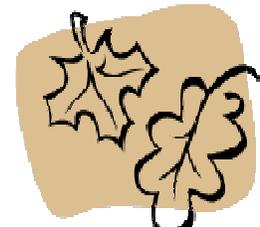


Newly Elected Mt. Baker Zone President Sorena Brusseau and President Marie at the Mt. Baker Zone Rally



*** SAVE THE DATE! ***

LWML WASHINGTON-ALASKA
District Retreat



When: September 25 – 27, 2015
Where: Leavenworth, Washington
BEST WESTERN PLUS ICICLE INN at the Icicle Village Resort!

Theme: **Come Into His Presence**
*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! Psalm 95:2*

Think about your favorite hymn!
Come join us for Bible Study, Fellowship, Music, and Fun!

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES



YOUNG WOMEN COMMITTEE

Greetings in the name of Christ from the Young Women Committee!

Looking towards the future of LWML, it is so important that we get our young women involved! I would have you ponder this verse from Romans 5:7 – “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” When I became involved in LWML, it was because someone took the time to personally invite me, WELCOME me, to an event and tell me what LWML is all about. When I learned of the mission projects that we support, the prayer that takes place, and the fellowship that we share, I was hooked! Just as we are welcomed into God’s glory, please take time to welcome the young women of your congregations to an LWML event to learn what we are all about! Make that personal connection, even if it doesn’t happen at a “meeting.” Take them out for coffee, sit with them in Sunday school, or even offer to watch their kids so they can go to a rally or a retreat! Please join me in spreading the word that there are so many facets to LWML for women to be involved in. God really has blessed our ministry, now go reach out a hand to the young women in your area to be a part of it!

In Christ,
Heather Selsel
Young Women Chair



Newly Elected East Inland Empire Zone President Heather Selsel and Treasurer Karen Schuster at the East Inland Empire Zone Rally

HEART TO HEART SISTERS COMMITTEE

What is a Heart to Heart Sister?
What does this committee do?

First I’d like to introduce you to the committee. Massie Hicks, is African-American, born in Texas and attends St. Luke’s in Federal Way. Aletha Voges’ ancestors came from Germany; and she attends King of Kings in Renton. I am Japanese-American; born in an internment camp in Hunt, Idaho; and I also attend King of Kings.

A Heart to Heart Sister is an ethnic woman member of your congregation. We want to be intentional in inviting and encouraging these women to participate in LWML. But, first, we want you to identify the women of color in your congregations so we can meet them and share our joy and uplifting experiences being a part of LWML.

If you are able to help, please contact Allison Akahoshi via email: aakahoshi@peoplepc.com

TEEN COMMITTEE

LWML (national) has decided to go in another direction, so we get to cut our own road with the Teen Committee here at District. Does that sound like a fun challenge? Come join me! Does it sound overwhelming? Don't worry; if you don't want to think up ideas, I have tons of them. I just need people to help me make them reality. So if you have a passion for LWML, a passion for teens, or both, please send me a message and let me tell you a bit more about the Teen Committee!

Elizabeth Cook Gods.project@gmail.com

GOSPEL OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

MISSION SERVANTS COMMITTEE

After attending the District Board Meeting this past weekend, I can report that we had an overwhelming response to our ingathering for the Reach Out Homeless Winter Shelters in Federal Way. The organization coordinates and oversees approximately 40 homeless individuals at a time, as local churches host by opening their facilities for overnight protection. These individuals are supervised, counseled to become self-sufficient, and trained to find jobs. Reach Out is sponsored by Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. More information can be found at www.Reachoutfederalway.org.

Our group donated the following travel-sized items for Reach Out:

Soaps & Shower Gels	259
Shampoo	178
Conditioner	95
Lotions	130
Deodorants	38
Toothbrushes	108
Toothpastes	100
Dental Floss	42



Mouthwash	5
Disposable Razors	51
Combs & Brushes	73
Miscellaneous (tissue,first aid,.etc)	37
Knit Caps & Scarves	14
Jackets	2
Socks	6
<u>Blankets</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	1,140

Thanks to all the members of the board for their generosity! If you have a community organization that helps the homeless or low income families, make it your goal to show a generous Christian heart this season.

Marilee Griffith, Mission Servants Committee

MISSION GRANTS COMMITTEE

As I write this, Thanksgiving is sixteen days away. With Christmas decorations already in stores and holiday shopping commercials on TV, are you feeling as overwhelmed as I am with the “to do”/gift lists?

Family visiting, menus to prepare and buy for, house cleaning and decorating – for Thanksgiving and Christmas – and the Christmas gifts to make and shop for. My days are booked and double booked through the end of the year.

I keep relearning a lesson – *None of that matters.*
Our neighborhood suddenly lost one of our own today. A dear friend suffered an aneurysm during the night. Her family had to make the decision to take her off life support. *That matters.*

Reaching out and sharing God’s love with family and friends.
That matters.

Hearing God's Word and receiving His Sacraments.
That matters.

Take a deep, relaxing breath, count your blessings, say a prayer, and *give thanks always to God for everything.* As LWML sisters, we give thanks every day, all year, for our blessings and for the birth of Jesus, our Savior. *That matters.*

***Mission Possible**

I give thanks for all of you – and for your support of grants through mite giving. Our District has paid \$7,500 (in full) for clean water and mattresses for Malagasy Lutheran Church. We have made payments to Lutheran Indian Ministries – Elwha HOPE House (\$1,000), and Dave Horn: Burning Bush League (\$2,000). Scholarship payments have been made for the first semester of our seminary students and for two quarters for the undergraduate students.

In Love and Thanks,
Marilee Ryan, Vice President of Gospel Outreach



Maryann Hopewell (Reach Out Center), Marilee Ryan, Marilee Griffith

SHORT TERM MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Greetings from the
Short Term Missions Committee!

We are all about Serving our Lord in places that do not know Him! If this sounds like something that interests you, please contact Sandi Hall or Twyla Mitson. We would love to help you get there. Did you know you can apply for matching funds up to \$1,000 for your short term mission? It doesn't matter where you go as long as it is sanctioned by the LCMS. Check out the LCMS and the Northwest District's websites for short term mission ideas or contact this committee and we will help you. Applications will be available for you to get matching funds to help with the funding. A wonderful Christmas gift would be to help you or an LWML sister fund a short term mission.

In His Service,
Twyla Mitson

RECYCLING COORDINATOR

Encourage your members/societies to continue collecting ink cartridges and small electronics for Funding Factory. Our WA-AK District has earned \$17,976 since 2003. The next convention is coming up already in June of 2016 – time flies so let's get reenergized and start/continue collecting. My goal is to increase our earnings by 50%. To reach that goal everyone will need to help. Thank you!

There are numerous untapped sources from which you can collect: neighbors and family and friends, employers, your children's or grandchildren's school, businesses you frequent. Become a business partner, even if you have been collecting for many years, and earn an extra \$10 with the first box sent in within six months of signing up.

Gift Cards Galore: we earn a \$10 gift card for every \$100 in Laser Cartridges sent in from Sept 22, 2014 to January 31st, 2014. So far we have had none sent in.

NO Toner Tanks. Toner CARTRIDGES are accepted. Cell phones are accepted, but NO accessories.

Thank you very much for your support.

If you have any questions or would like shipping labels please contact me.

Judy Peraino

360-424-5802

Recycling Coordinator

judyperaino@gmail.com

ZONE NEWS!

Greetings to all from the north! We hope you are getting ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This has been a busy year for our zone. We joined with South Columbia Zone to host the LWML WA-AK District Convention in Wenatchee, WA. We took some time to reflect and acknowledge our experiences. Then we had an enlightening Fall Rally hosted by the ladies at Hope Lutheran in Brewster, WA with an eye opening presentation on Human Trafficking by Peggy Fend from Shared Hope in Wenatchee. We also received information and tips from the local sheriff's department on the problems in our area. President Marie Chow gave her report. Election and installation of officers were held. Meeting ended with a wonderful lunch served by the ladies of Hope.

Serving Him,

Sandi Hall

North Columbia Zone President

South Columbia Zone
Spring Joyshop
April 18, 2015
Theme "Abundant Gifts"
James 1:17



Newly Elected South Columbia Zone President MaryLynn Huntwork and Public Relations Chair Janet Rust at the South Columbia Zone Rally



AmazonSmile

Do you use Amazon to do your shopping? If so, you can support LWML at the same time because LWML is included in the list of charities on the Amazon website.

This is how it works:

Go to www.smile.amazon.com to login to your Amazon account.

To select your charity, go to “Your Account” in the upper right corner of the site page.

LWML is listed with the St. Louis, Missouri, address.

Click the yellow “select” button and begin shopping.

Once you set this up, every time you login to www.smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your “eligible” purchases will be donated to LWML which will go into mites.

Thanks for supporting LWML through AmazonSmile!

Remember to use www.goodsearch.com and designate LWML as your charity. As of November 4, \$22,199.62 has been raised!

LOVE TO SHOP?

Need Christmas gifts?
Need a spiritual lift?
Need a Christian gift?

GET 50% off on
Inventory Reduction Items
and Closeout Items from LWML.

www.lwml.org



Lutheran Women's Missionary League
36th Biennial Convention

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

Save the dates! Mark your calendar for next June 25-28, 2015 to join your sisters and brothers in Christ at the LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa. We gather under the theme “Bountiful! Sow · Nourish · Reap” to be equipped by the Holy Spirit to work in the Father’s harvest field. Go to www.lwml.org/events/conventions/2015-des-moines for more information. If you plan to attend, please let District President Marie Chow know via email. Her contact information is on the roster page.

Supporters
of
the
LWML
District
Officers



Albino Kong



Kristianna Coburn



Rachel Blair



Greta Bernhart



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Michele Musegades



Lila Musegades



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2014-2016 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster

President

Marie Chow

Recycling Coordinator

Judy Peraino

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Sandy Geisler

Webmaster

Julie Onken

Vice President of Christian Life

Cheryl Beyer

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee

Chairman

Allison Akahoshi

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Elizabeth Cook

Leader Development Committee

Chairman

TBD

Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Marilee Ryan

Contact VP Sandy Geisler

Recording Secretary

Peggy Lohse

Mission Servants Committee

Chairman

TBD

Contact VP Marilee Ryan

Financial Secretary

Donna Chow

Nominating Committee Chairman

Pam Rafferty

Treasurer

Karen Schuster

Scholarship Committee Chairman

Sarah Edwards

Counselor - West

Rev. Michael Wenzel

Short Term Missions Committee

Chairman

TBD

Contact VP Marilee Ryan

Counselor - East

Rev. Timothy Winterstein

Archivist-Historian

Nancy Wyckoff

Teen Committee Chairman

TBD

Contact VP Elizabeth Cook

Corresponding Secretary

Linda Miller

Young Women Committee

Chairman

Heather Selset

Circulation Manager

Denise Crawford

Convention Committee Chairman

Peggy Lohse

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Melissa Swanberg

Meeting Manager

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Public Relations Chairman

Janet Rust

Quarterly Manager

LeeAnn Tibbals

To contact any of the Board of Directors, please go to Contacts and click on Send e-mail. Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate office.

Please send mites to the Financial Secretary, Donna Chow. Order mite boxes from and please send any roster changes to Corresponding Secretary, Linda Miller.

District website:
www.wa-aklwml.org

Deadline for next issue: January 31, 2015 for Spring 2015
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The backdrop banner from the 2014 LWML Washington-Alaska District Convention is available! If you would like to use the banner for a special event or just to enjoy in your church for awhile, contact Twyla Mitson at tmitson@hotmail.com. The banner is 8' x 10'.

