



# Evergreen Echoes



*LWML Washington-Alaska District  
President Carolyn Holbrook*

In a few short weeks, our district will hold a retreat at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick, WA. What a wonderful time to refresh our faith through worship and Bible study with Pastor Todd Roeske. He will share his experiences as a missionary and challenge

us with “Are You a Missionary?” It is not too late to join us! September 29 – October 1, 2023. It begins on Friday evening and concludes after worship Sunday morning. Registration forms are available on the district website and on page 10 in this newsletter. Come join us!

Praise God! We have paid eight mission grants for a total of \$41,000 and \$3,000 in Scholarships! That’s the good news. Our district biennium ends March 30, 2024, and we are only halfway in giving of mites toward the goal. We need your help. Will you please pray about sharing of your abundance to give to the missions we voted to support? Will you challenge yourself to give up something like one coffee at Starbucks a week and put the money in your mite box? Each dollar helps bring God’s Word through servant efforts. Together, we can do this!

Our district convention planning committee is preparing a wonderful convention at the Delta in Everett. It is “full steam ahead” as we count down the months to June 2024. Already committed: Donna Snow is our Bible Study Leader, and Kim Wagner will give the Keynote Address. Kim and her Trinity Trio will provide our Saturday evening entertainment. Start planning now to attend! June 20–23, 2024.

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## *Dates to Remember*

### *District Retreat*

September 29–October 1, 2023  
Clover Island Inn



### *Evergreen Echoes*

Winter Issue Deadline  
October 31, 2023

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## **Gospel Outreach** **Ruth Ann Shimoi, Vice President**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. (Philippians 4:6 NIV)*

**T**he reason for this verse: I am a bit anxious. I know we have till March 31, 2024 but there are four more grants to pay. This will total \$20,000 to pay these out. I would ask all local groups to gather in all your mites and get them sent in. True, we have been busy during the summer, but maybe you can have a “Mite Sunday” to encourage support. The grants that have been paid out, and for which we have received a very encouraging “Thank you,” have been very encouraging. God is at work through the mites.

FYI: October 31, 2023 is the deadline for submitting grant proposals for the next biennium. All the information and forms are on our [LWML WA-AK District](#) website. Please be checking around for possible grant recipients. Questions can be directed to me.

Blessings,

Ruth Ann Shimoi

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## **Special Focus Ministries** **Pam Rafferty, Vice President**

### *LWML National Convention Report*

**W**ith approximately 3,500 in attendance in Milwaukee, the women and men of the LWML enjoyed a celebration of worship, fellowship, raising Mites, and hearing the inspiring stories of missionaries both in the U.S. like Phil Zielke of Phil's Friends and Rev. Charles Ferry serving in Taiwan and Rev. Ted Krey serving in the Dominican Republic. An important highlight of the convention is the Mission Flag Presentation, a colorful parade of all the national flags of the countries where the LWML has funded missions. The young woman representatives and the Heart to Heart sisters participated in the beautiful display of over 80 flags. It's an incredible visual of the expanse of the mission outreach of the LWML all over the world.

Hear Young Woman Representative Gracie Holdbrook share about her experience:

The 2023 National Convention was an assembly of women from all walks of life coming together to worship, share conversations, give offerings for mission grants, and be inspired to continue God's work. I found that time to be eye-opening for me. I had no idea that something so small, like mites, can grow to become a tool for so many missions honoring God around the world. I kept remembering the parable of the mustard seed, something so small yet grows to be much larger.



**Organizational Resources**  
**Marjorie O'Rourke, Vice President**

***District Bylaw Changes are Coming!***

Due to the changes in the bylaws approved at the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, there will be changes to the district bylaws at the next district convention in Everett, WA in June 2024. The biggest change being considered is the fiscal year timeframe. The current timeframe for our fiscal year is April 1 to March 31. The timeframe being considered is to move the timeframe to July 1 to June 30. For clarity, this change would be an administrative change if approved. The accounting field has some best practices used across the industry and one of their best practices is to have the same time frame for an administrative year and a fiscal year. National changed their bylaws so they can use this best practice. We have the option to change our bylaws about the fiscal year time frame to match the changes at the national level. We are not required to make this change if we choose not to.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions about the upcoming bylaw changes.



***Dear Lucy Leader, Help***

Dear Lucy Leader,

I am in charge of service projects and ingatherings (donations for mission organizations) for my local group. I am looking for some additional ideas of things to collect to help others. Does the LWML have any resources to help me?

Thank you!

Serving Sally



Dear Serving Sally,

Thank you so much for everything you do to help others. It can be exciting to look at new options for serving that are of interest to your group. A resource to help you is [lwml.org/posts/free-resources/lwml-toolkit-kits](http://lwml.org/posts/free-resources/lwml-toolkit-kits). This page on [LWML.org](http://LWML.org) has a list of different “toolkit” ideas for ingatherings. There are quite a few options on the list, so hopefully one of them inspires your group! Consider getting some feedback from your group. Which are their favorites? That could give you plenty of choices for the future.

May the Lord bless you and your group in your endeavors!

Lucy Leader

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Do you have a question for Lucy Leader? Write in to [depor@lwml.org](mailto:depor@lwml.org)!

God's Blessings,

2021–2023 Group and Leader Development Committee Members:  
Brienne Stahlecker, Chairman, Christina Bean, Elaine Engelman, Jennifer Gierke  
Marie Chow, Vice President of Organizational Resources, advisory

**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.

I have chosen Mirror Ministry for our Ingathering. Please see below for their needs:

***Ingathering for Mirror Ministry***

Urgent Need Alert:

- 3XL Clothes: t-shirts, sweatshirts, pants
- Underwear: anything above size 8

Other Needs:

- Self-care items such as lotions, body sprays, nail polish, | face masks, candles, bubble baths
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Shower gels

There will be a basket at the Rally for cash donations.



Notes from the Editor:

†Registration deadline is coming soon. All registrations must be postmarked by September 15, 2023.

†Registration form is available on page 10.

***Wondering Where to Find Your Next Bible Study?***



Bible studies, retreat packages, devotions, and *Quarterly* Bible studies are available at the [LWML website](#). Many are free to download, with a wide variety of topics.

*Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*  
(Proverbs 30:5)

**Junior Pastoral Counselor – East**  
**Rev. Brian Bowes**

*“Ask the Lord to bless your plans, and you will  
be successful in carrying them out.”*  
Proverbs 16:3 TEV

*I Am the Path*

My Dear Sisters in Christ.

E. Stanley Jones tells the story of a missionary who became lost in the African jungle. Looking around, he saw nothing but bush and a few clearings. He stumbled about until he finally came across a native hut. He asked one of the natives if he could lead him out of the jungle and back to the mission station. The native agreed to help.

The missionary thanked him profusely then asked, “Which way do we go?” The native replied, “This way. We must walk.” And so, they did, hacking their way through the unmarked jungle for more than an hour.

In pausing to rest, the missionary looked around and had the same overwhelming sense that he was lost. All he saw was bush, and a few clearings. “Are you quite sure this is the way? I don’t see any path.” His guide looked at him and replied, “In this place, I *am* the path.”



**Application:** *If we think of the guide as being representative of Jesus, recall His words, “I am the way...” John 14:6.*

As we traverse life’s jungles we also have an all-wise guide – God. When we have no clue about the way to go, God reminds us that He is our path. He is our guide. All we have to do is ask, “Which way do we go?” Follow Him! This is what He tells you in His Scriptures!

**Thus says the Lord:** *“Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.”*

Jeremiah 6:16 NKJV



Peace & Joy,  
Pastor Brian

## *Heart to Heart Committee* *Kelsie Ingram, Chairman*

### *Heart to Heart Sisters Celebrate 20 Years at National Convention*

When I became the Heart to Heart Committee Chairwoman, President Carolyn said she hoped I would go to the national convention and participate in the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations training program. The seed was planted. I considered it for months and finally decided to go. I was raised that if you are given an opportunity for education or training then you take it.

We had assigned seating and the first day I was next to a woman named Joanna. No kidding, within 3 minutes we were hugging and crying together. She was originally from Sierra Leone and I recognized the cadence and accent to her voice. I asked if she was there during the RUF warfare and she nodded in the affirmative and whispered, “in Freetown.” That may not mean much to most people, but I knew the terror she went through. So as our class began, I had already made a new best friend. (And, someone from our district told me that Joanna had said the same about me.)



For a day and a half, we were trained in how to locate multicultural congregations within our district, how to make initial contact with the congregation’s pastor, how to get invited to visit their congregation, and how to draw in multicultural women to LWML. We shared our culture with each other – let me back-up a tiny bit. Everyone has a culture, Heart to Heart Sisters isn’t only for foreign-born women. Maybe your family is German and you were molded by German values and customs.

We each brought a small item from our culture for the group. One lady who grew up in India brought handmade jewelry for each of us. Reflecting on my Choctaw heritage, I brought “arrowheads” for everyone.

On the second day, we had a banquet with district presidents and there was a pinning ceremony in which our district president gave me a Heart to Heart pin; I’ll be wearing it at all of our district events.

Once convention started, morning H2H sessions started at 6:30am so that we’d be ready for the 8am start of Convention. Then there were the late-night sessions. One included a celebration of the 20th year of Heart to Heart Sisters. The highlight of my convention happened there – the convention Bible study leader, Kaye Wolff, was an original Heart to Heart Sister and I got to meet her and have a conversation.

On the final day, Heart to Heart Sisters could participate in the flag procession. I elected not to do so, and to my horror, Deaconess Betty Knapp, then Vice-President of Special Focus Ministries, told me I still had to go on-stage with the other new H2H Sisters. I was using a motorized scooter and if you know me, you know I only use it at conventions and don’t drive well. I looked like a deer-in-the-headlights on stage looking at about 3,500 people. I whispered to the woman next to me, Denise, “please don’t leave me up here.” She whispered back, “of course I won’t, you’re my sister.”



Check out Kelsie’s pictures, along with others from Convention on page 11

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

Nomination season is upon us. The committee needs everyone's prayers and help to encourage our sisters to serve. *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*, (Col 3:23). Please consider yourself or someone else for the following: VP Christian Life; VP Gospel Outreach; Treasurer; Recording Secretary and Pastoral Counselor (West). These are a four year commitment. We also need seven nominees for the two year term on the nomination committee.

Abbreviated job descriptions and nomination forms are available on our beautiful web site. Type in [wa-aklwml.org](http://wa-aklwml.org) when you are there click the first link under Quick and Current. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the retreat at Clover Island September 29 – October 1, 2023.

Jacque Morner, Donna Josephson, Emmi Mihalcin, Nancy Wyckoff and Michele Misener (Chairman).

*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).

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*Zone Presidents Corner*

***Hood Canal Zone  
Solveig Schick, President***

***Hood Canal Zone Fall Rally***

Our Hood Canal Zone Fall Rally will be held October 7, 2023 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Port Angeles (132 E 13th Street) at 9:30 am. Our ingathering will be for Obria Medical Clinic.

We will be having a Cozy Christian Coffee Time (informal gathering) for our zone September 16, 2023 at Coffee Oasis, Kingston, 11212 NE State Highway 104, at 11:00 am.



**Rainier Zone**  
**Edie Norris, President**

Rainier Zone President Edie Norris shared it was a blessing to attend as the zone delegate at the LWML Convention in Milwaukee. President Carolyn Holbrook assigned each of the zone presidents to attend a pre-convention special seminar. Edie will report on the *LWML F.O.C.U.S. on Jesus* seminar she attended to both the zone and the district.

The materials presented at the seminar include a series of presentations about Lutheran Women in Mission based on the mission statement of the LWML to be shared with a woman new to the congregation, a woman in the congregation unfamiliar with Lutheran Women in Mission, or as a refresher at local, zone, or district events.



Check it out at [www.lwml.org/focus-on-jesus](http://www.lwml.org/focus-on-jesus)

Ladies in Christ's Service society has plans underway for the LWML Rainier Zone fall rally to be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Light of Christ Lutheran Church in Federal Way.

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**Blue Mountain Zone**  
**Wilma Gardner, President**

The Blue Mountain Zone JOYSHOP was held on May 20, 2023 at Bethlehem Church in Kennewick. Our guest speaker was Kelly MacIntosh from Mirror Ministries. Mirror Ministries mission is "to respond to domestic minor sex trafficking with the love of Christ through local education, intervention, restoration and aftercare." We filled "health bags" to be distributed to their clients. Note also that Mirror Ministries will be the recipients of the ingathering at the fall retreat.





*Zion Lutheran, Tacoma, WA*

*News from Zion Lutheran*



Zion Lutheran Women in Mission celebrated at the annual Ladies Tea this past May. Twenty-one mothers, daughters, sisters and/or friends of all ages enjoyed delicious tea delights and a time of fellowship and friendship.



An informative presentation on various teas and ways to serve them was enjoyed in special teacups provided, or one that attendees brought with them. The day also included a “think quick tea challenge”, poems, and a reading by two young women.

The LWML quilters have been busy working on quilts, comforters, and knitted blankets for the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Recently they delivered over 35 items they created to help support the work done by the mission. Each comforter or quilt included a sewed-on label with an inspirational Scripture.



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*LWML Mission Statement*



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



# 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 8<sup>th</sup>.**

- ◆ **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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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**

# 2023 LWML National Convention, Milwaukee, WI



# 2022—2024 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



**District President**  
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(updated email address)

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**Leader Development Committee Chairman**  
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