



Evergreen Echoes

In This Issue

- Vice Presidents Reports 2
- Pastoral Counselor 4
- District Webmaster 5
- Committee Reports 6
- Zone Presidents Corner 10
- Local Group Corner 15
- Things to Know 16
- Young Women App 18
- District Roster 19



Follow the star to the Christmas Story

Click on Purple Star to travel through the story

Evergreen Echoes
Spring Issue Deadline
January 31, 2024

EvergreenEchoesEditor@gmail.com



LWML Washington-Alaska District President Carolyn Holbrook

What a blessing to meet many of our sisters in Christ as we attend our zone fall rallies! It is one of the many blessings I have received as I serve as your district president. The work each zone is doing continues to amaze me!

This fall, I had the privilege of traveling to the great state of Alaska! What a beautiful state! I flew into Anchorage and traveled down the Kenai peninsula to Star of the North Lutheran Church in Kenai, AK where I met so many lovely ladies at their fall rally. Thank you to all the Alaska zone who extended such a warm welcome!

While there, I was also able to worship with the Funny River Lutheran Church in Soldotna. You will remember we recently were able to pay our mission grant to their church to assist with the construction of their parsonage so they might call a full-time pastor. I was able to tour the nearly completed parsonage. What a beautiful home which will provide the means to extend their ministry to this growing area. Our mites make such a difference in extending the Lord's work! Thank you!

Have you checked out our beautiful website? Our wonderful webmaster, Joyce Berger, created such an amazing resource! Check it out! See the pictures from the [2024 Convention](#), the link to the Friday night's worship service, and so many resources to bless you and your local group/zone. Thank you, Joyce!

Please keep your Washington-Alaska LWML District in your prayers, and as you place those dimes and dollars in your mite box. We have a mission grant goal of \$80,000. There are so many needs as we serve our Lord and extend His kingdom. [Check the website](#) to see the 16 mission grants, which were voted by your delegates at the convention, and those which have been paid. There is information on each grant, and posters to display. Encourage your members as you pray for these mission opportunities.

In His service,
Carolyn Holbrook, President

www.wa-aklwml.org

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



Views in Alaska



For All the New Leaders

The national LWML website has a great resource under its Leadership Development and Training Tools called Leadership 101 ([Leadership 101 - Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#)). This is a great place to start for those new to leadership who want a better biblical understanding of it. The resource can be printed out as a PDF to copy and share with the women in your local group.

You can also check out our [Leadership Development](#) page on our district website.



Characteristics of a Good Leader
Lucy Leader

Dear Lucy Leader,

I have just been elected president of my local group. I am very excited to serve in this manner, but I am also nervous. I want to be the best leader I can be. What are the characteristics of a good leader?

Elected Elaine



Dear Elected Elaine,

I thank God that you are excited to serve as president of your local group! Your excitement and passion will be very beneficial in your new leadership role.

The most important thing as you begin your new role is to remain connected to the leader — Jesus. Stay in the Word and in prayer. Ask others to pray for and with you.

Leadership is not only a position to which we are elected or appointed, but it's also a way of living and thinking. LWML understands the importance of strong leadership and has material that can be used for personal study and learning. These materials will help you to understand what a good leader looks like. You will find these materials at www.lwml.org/posts/leadership/look-of-a-leader.

May God use you to be a blessing to the group you are leading!

Lucy Leader



And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the City of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child (Luke 2: 4-5)





We are Truly Blessed

We are truly blessed in the Washington-Alaska District! Through your faithful collection of mites and prayers, Jesus' love shines throughout our district, our nation, and the world as you support Missions and Ministries in His name! Praise be to God!

After prayerful consideration, Judy Norton agreed to become Chairman of the Short Term Missions Committee, while Ruth Ann Shimoï agreed to become Chairman of the Mission Servants Committee. With these women at the helm and with the help of the Lord, we can be secure in the knowledge that these committees will continue serving the Lord with gladness throughout the 2024-2026 biennium!

Be sure to check out the article from our Mission Grants Committee.



And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)





Joyfully & Continually

Here is a wonderful selection of Scripture for the month of November, the month of Thanksgiving. It's "sweet and short." It goes like this:

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess. 5:16-18)*

Thanksgiving Day, on Thursday, the 28th, is one of my all-time favorites. It avoids the hustle and bustle of Christmas, and it has little impact on special service preparations. The Thanksgiving Eve or Day service is just another simple opportunity to gather and give thanks for the many blessings of the year. I like that! I like the idea of setting away time to reflect on personal blessings because God, indeed, has blessed me "in all circumstances."

As matter of fact, when I think of some of the many blessings that we all enjoy as members of Christ's family—our good health, our comfortable homes, our abundance of food and drink, our beautiful churches, our security in the United States of America, the beautiful scenery of where we live, and, well, there's just too much to add—I'm reminded of the Scripture quoted above, where it says to "Be joyful always and to pray continually."

We all have been touched by God's hand in different ways and at different times. We have all felt the unexplainable push to go here or to go there; we have all felt compelled at one time or another to do this or to do that. And when we look back at the events of our lives, we generally end up saying something like this:

*"I don't know how I did that at that time, or I don't know why I did that when such and such happened.
All I do know is that I've made it to this point and God has blessed me all the way."*

That's what Thanksgiving is all about—recognizing the hand of God or, and I quote, "God's will for you in Christ Jesus" over the course of your life and giving thanks that God becomes so personally involved in all of our lives. So then, enjoy the days ahead and, please, give thanks and praise for all that God in Christ Jesus does in our behalf. In Christ,

Pastor Brian





The newly minted district website was unveiled in September at the district Board of Directors meeting in Yakima. The goal of the re-design was to have an updated, visually attractive, and user-friendly resource for our district. Please take some time to see what the new website has to offer.

How can you use the website?

1. Keep current on district and zone events.
2. Download and print various district, zone, and local group forms, such as bylaws, roster forms, remittance forms, applications, convention flyers, registration forms, and much more.
3. Read and share information and updates from the various district committees.
4. Print out mission grant posters for your bulletin board.
5. Access the *Evergreen Echoes* newsletter.
6. Contact district officers and board members.
7. Link to the many resources on the LWML (national) website.
8. View archived newsletters and convention information containing numerous photos.
9. Send a prayer request

The website provides an excellent way for everyone to connect with people, resources, and awareness of our community and life in Christ. My favorite website feature is the multitude of photos of our district women and men engaging in fellowship, service, worship, devotion, learning, and leading. Your faces truly reflect our mission statement:

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





Mission Grant Report

Webmaster Joyce Berger has created printable posters for each of our WA-AK District Mission Grants. Thank you, Joyce. You can find the downloadable posters on our district webpage at www.wa-aklwml.org. The Mission Grant posters are colorful with photos and information pertinent to each mission grant; they can be posted on your LWML bulletin boards or excerpted for use in bulletins. Let the posters spark discussion and prayer for a selected mission at your next LWML gathering. Descriptions of each mission grant are also available in text form in a downloadable Word document on the district website. As we get updates on our mission grant recipients, we will post these to the website as well.

Through your mites, as well as donations given directly to fund scholarships:

- Fall semester scholarship payments were made to 2024-2025 LWML WA-AK District Scholarship recipients Justin Chester (Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne), Grace Macduff (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis), Benjamin Oesch (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis), and Isaac Stults (Concordia University, Irvine). We pray that Justin, Grace, Benjamin, and Isaac will be blessed this semester. Strengthen their faith and equip them with the knowledge they will need to serve your church on earth.

Two mission checks were sent through the generosity of your mites:

- The Second Harvest Mobile Food Truck ministry in Republic, Washington was funded in the amount of \$6,000. This mission grant will enable Trinity Lutheran Church in Republic to provide three or four food trucks to feed hungry families in Ferry County, helping many in need of food assistance. We continue to pray for families in need of food in Republic and throughout our district. We pray that you may strengthen and sustain volunteers in the Trinity congregation involved in carrying out this vital ministry.
- The Shepherd's Canyon Retreat ministry in Wickenburg, Arizona was funded in the amount of \$3,000. This mission grant offers hope, help, and healing to pastors, ministry workers, and spouses by offering extra financial assistance scholarships to attend a weeklong counseling retreat for those in full-time ministry who are in various stages of burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, and conflicts of all kinds. We pray that with this help, ministry workers can be renewed in their calling and refreshed in the Lord. We pray for all those in full-time ministry in our district. Even as Christ works to support them through the countless challenges of their work, we pray that we are mindful and compassionate in our words and actions, helping them as they labor in God's vineyard.

The next district mission to be funded by your mites is:

- Lutheran Braille Workers' Seeing Christ Through Dots of Love ministry. Through this mission grant, we will help fund a LBW project to share the Word of God with people in Africa who are blind, through the production and distribution of Braille volumes of Bibles and other Christian Materials in multiple languages. These Braille books may be some people's first experience with the Word of God, a blessing that can enable them to live in the Light of Jesus.

As well as this upcoming mission and others, we will set aside funds for spring semester payments to our 2024-2025 scholarship recipients and for short term missions. Your mite contributions make a difference in all these ministries. Thank you for your faithfulness.

RuthAnn Shimoi, Donna Chow, and Carol Coerber have all accepted the call to serve on the Mission Grants Committee. I know that our WA-AK District will be blessed this biennium with your wisdom and faithful service to the Lord through your work on this committee! Thank you.

New Mission Grant Proposals for the LWML WA-AK District 2026-2028 Biennium will be due October 31, 2025. If you have a ministry to support through LWML WA-AK District Mission Grants in the next biennium, please download the district's Mission Grant Application form on the district website.

A prayer list of all our current 2024-2026 LWML WA-AK District Mission Grants can be found on the [district website](#). Thank you for your prayers; God hears the prayers of His people! Dear God, with thanksgiving and awe, we watched at Christmas as You gave Your only Son into the world for our salvation. In this season of love and light, renew us and equip us to better serve You and tell of Your Glory.



A Letter from the Chair

Sisters in Christ,

This is Ruth Ann Shimoi, the Chair for Gifts from the Heart Committee. This committee, under the umbrella of Gospel Outreach, is my passion. I had sent an email to the Zone presidents asking what their zones had gathered at their Rallies. There are so many organizations and the giving is amazing.

Hood Canal: Peninsula Behavioral Health's Community Outreach Van: gathered anything and everything for the driver of this Van to hand out to those living outside (backpacks, flashlights, tarps, etc.) What an outreach.

Mt. Baker Zone: Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic: All things baby related. From the picture a lot was collected and then given.

Olympic Zone: invited the new Pastor for Trinity Chapel (use to be Chapel on the Ave, University of Washington) and then gifted him with food and monetary donations which he will use for the Wednesday evening meals to which the University students are invited. Please pray for this ministry.

Puget Sound Zone: Snack related items for the Preschool at All Saints.

Rainier Zone: school supplies for the teachers at Concordia Christian Academy across the street from Good Shepherd where the rally was held.

So many places and so much need. Thank you for giving,

If any of your Groups are wanting suggestions, please reach out to me. I am happy to give suggestions.

Blessings,

Ruth Ann Shimoi

Gifts from the Heart Committee Chair



And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2:8-11)





Hard at Work on Retreat

Our Christian Life Committee has been working on our next retreat that is scheduled for September 26-28, 2025. There are still many pieces to put together.

On October 28, 2024 we had a zoom meeting with most of my committee. Assignments were given out so we all have something to work on. Even Pastor Brian was there with his eye patch. We keep praying for him that his double vision gets fixed.

Some of the assignments were for decorations, silent auction, in-gathering, worship service Sunday morning, music and many others. Plan on coming ...It will be a blast.

So far we don't have a price and still waiting on Clover Island for what things will cost. They have new owners so it makes it more difficult.

Keep looking for new things on our Christian Life page on our website. It is www.lwml-wa-ak.org and click on Committee and you will find us.

Christian Life Committee,

MaryLynn Huntwork
Twyla Mitson
Sandi Hall
Jacque Morner
Ruth Zellar, Chair



Young Women Committee
Gracie Holdbrook. Chairman



The Young Women Committee is seeking women ages 22 to 35 to attend the LWML Convention in Omaha, NE June 26 - 29, 2025. Learn more about the mission and ministry of LWML along with the theme "Growing in God's Grace" from 2 Peter 3:18 as you participate in the YWR program along with other young women from across the country. Travel expenses will be covered by the LWML Washington-Alaska District and you will represent the district in the opening processional beside our district president. Please complete the application below and return to the district YW committee by February 15, 2025. If you have questions contact me at gracie.holdbrook@ccatacoma.org.

Guidelines for the Young Woman Representative:

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/young-women-resources/ywr-selection-guidelines>

[Click here](#) for the application for the Young Woman Representative.





Support our Scholarship Recipients

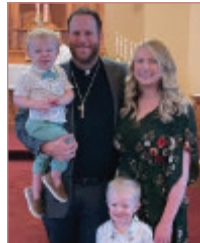
Hello everyone from the Scholarship Committee. It was discussed at the Board Meeting that it would be nice to be able to contact our recipients to encourage them with their studies. We discussed putting their information in the *Evergreen Echoes* but because of privacy laws we are unable to do that. The solution: If you would like to contact one of the recipients email me at kkcollins33@gmail.com or call me at (907) 232-3396.

I feel very blessed to be able to assist them in furthering their education in church work.



Grace Macduff

Grace is in her third year of becoming a deaconess. Her home church is Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kennewick, Wash.



Justin Chester

Justin is doing his Vicarage in Fort Wayne Ind. His home church is Messiah Lutheran Church in Marysville, Wash. He is pictured above with his family.



Benjamin Oesch

Benjamin is doing his last year of school before starting his Vicarage in the fall. His home church is Messiah Lutheran Church in Marysville, Wash.



Short Term Missions Committee
Judy Norton, Chairman



As the Short Term Mission Committee chair, I am just beginning to learn the ins and outs of our responsibilities. Thankfully, my committee of Patrice Cornelius and Sandy Schauer are old hands since they have been active on this committee and in missions. My background of interest in this work stems from working with Alaska Mission Committee in the native communities above Fairbanks and to the northwest coast of Alaska. My work as a teacher in Hawaii also was a chance to work with many cultures. You will soon hear more from us — but for now, pray for our beginnings. May your beginnings include plans for mission opportunities.



Mt. Baker Zone
Judy Peraino, President



Zone Presidents Corner

The Mt. Baker zone Fall Rally was very successfully hosted by the newly reactivated Redeemer Lutheran Church group who were presented with that document. The theme verse for the rally was “I lift my eyes up to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord.” Psalm 121: 1, 2a. We learned not only about those verses, but also information on songs of ascent during Pastor Rex Watt’s informative Bible study. This was his first Fall Rally also. The guest speaker was Sherrie Turner, executive director of Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic, the recipient of the ingathering. Redeemer ladies served a delicious Chef’s salad lunch. Business: Judy Peraino, president, and Traci Willingham, treasurer, both agreed to serve another two years and were installed.

As of November 12th, I will have visited all the societies in my zone. Now to begin again. It is so encouraging as zone president to see how active our LWML members are in reaching out in their church and community in addition to sending in mites for the mission grants.

Plans are underway at Trinity Bellingham for a full year of potlucks, luncheons, and a banquet in May. Pastor Wagner brings his guitar and song books to the Christmas potluck so they “raise the roof in song”. I know other groups are also gearing up for a full year of Bible study, fun, fellowship and collecting our mighty mites. The group at Trinity Mount Vernon plans to continue using resources for Mission Grant devotions found on the LWML website.

Our zone is going to try a zoom board meeting on November 9th. Report will come in the November Zone Presidents zoom meeting.



Pastor Rex Walt



Sherry Turner and Dodie Honrud from Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic



Judy Peraino Zone President presenting reactivation document to Wendy McLeod - president, Tonya Lysne -Secretary/treasurer, Cindy McKay (past vice president), Gail Pappacostas - vice president and Jeanette Stroming - Christian Life.



When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in a manger. (Luke 2:15-16)

Rainier Zone
Edie Noris, President



The LWML Rainier Zone Fall Rally was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tacoma. One of the highlights of the gathering was a tour of Concordia Christian Academy (CCA) formerly Concordia Lutheran Academy, followed by presentation about CCA by Mary Schuldheisz. who also serves as the Administrator of St Lukes School in Federal Way. Mary shared about the quality of excellence in education at CCA emphasizing the ongoing programs of the school, as well as future plans for expansion. Over 650 items of school supplies for Gifts from the Heart were brought by rally attendees.

Edie Norris was elected as zone president, and Marjorie O'Rourke was elected as zone treasurer. Both will be serving their second term in these offices. Colleen Wiley was appointed to fill the position of zone vice president for the remaining one-year vacancy in the term.



North Columbia Zone
Sandi Hall, President

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord. I am Sandi Hall, the newly elected North Columbia Zone president as of September 22, 2024 at our Zone Fall Rally in Republic, WA. Our theme "Count Your Blessings" was based on Genesis 12:1-3. Pastor Brian Bowes began our rally with an inspiring devotion, then Rick Lutz gave a wonderful presentation on blessings even a chicken can bring. Kelsie Ingham provided us with an entirely new insight into the meaning of Heart to Heart Sisters! After a short meeting and report by District President Carolyn Holbrook, a soup, salad and sandwich lunch was enjoyed by all. Our ingathering of school supplies and backpacks was blessed by Pastor Bowes. We were blessed to have 22 in attendance from Immanuel Havilah, Our Savior Okanogan, Trinity Republic, Hope Tonasket and our sisters from Light of Christ in Grand Forks, British Columbia. I am looking forward to serving our Lord in the North Columbia Zone and WA-AK District for the next two years. Blessings to you. Have a great Autumn!



Members visiting



President Carolyn at Rally



Kelsie Ingham



Singing in Harmony



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

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



Two young women from the “Nord Est Haiti Lutheran Mission” (NEHLM) were guest speakers for our Blue Mountain Zone Fall Rally: Sarai Paul and her sister, Whitney. They are living with Pastor Sam Wiseman & his family in LaGrande, Oregon while they attend Eastern Oregon University. Their father is the Reverend Daniel Paul of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti in Ouanaminthe, Haiti. The rally was held on October 5, 2024, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kennewick. Thirty people were in attendance and the presentation was followed by a soup supper.



Sarai giving her presentation and in the video Pastor Wiseman and Pastor Paul.



Alaska Zone **Kim Collins, Zone President**

Alaska Zone had our Rally on October 5 in Kenai Alaska at Star Of The North Lutheran Church. Our District President Carolyn Holbrook joined us. Hopefully she had a wonderful time. We had 33 women attend and 2 Pastors. Kim Collins was reelected President and Megan Paju was elected as Secretary. We also set up a Bylaws committee. Look out Margaret. We had a very ice visit with Carolyn. After the Rally we went to a cabin that belonged to one of our ladies. We discovered that Alaskans love dogs. Three bald eagles were nice to fly nearby so we got a real close to view of them. The weather was cooperative and we had a beautiful weekend.



Olympic Zone **Mary Abdi, Zone President**

The Olympic Zone welcomed guest speaker Pastor Dillon Weber to the Fall Rally on October 6th. Pastor Weber is working with Trinity Lutheran (Seattle) to revive the former Chapel on the Ave. in Seattle's University district. Under its new title-Trinity Chapel, Pastor Weber hopes to spread Jesus' love to UW students by offering meals, fellowship times, and events at the facility. The Olympic Zone really enjoyed his presentation. The in-gathering was grocery items to help Trinity Chapel put together meals for the students. The Fall Rally was hosted by the LWML society of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (Seattle). A fun and informative time was had by all!



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

East Inland Empire Zone Karen Williams, Zone President



Zone Presidents Corner

The East Inland Empire Zone includes 9 active groups with approximately 125 members. We are hoping to encourage our 8 other LCMS churches in the area to have their own LWML groups. The zone includes the Spokane area, Deer Park, Pullman, as well as the Idaho Panhandle. We have two rallies each year in the Spring and Fall. We have been fortunate to have groups from both Eastern Washington and North Idaho hosting rallies.

Our Fall Rally was October 5th at Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Spokane Valley. After a wonderful pre-Rally breakfast provided by the ladies of Redeemer we went into the Sanctuary for our Rally. We had a great turnout with 51 attendees that represented 8 of our 9 active groups plus 2 pastors. The theme for this Rally was Lord of the Harvest, which was based on Matthew 9:37-38 and Galatians 6:9.



Before the meeting part of the Rally, we always have a Bible Study by one of the pastors of the host church. Pastor Drew Bayless is the Associate Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church. His Bible Study was titled, “LORD of the Harvest, Workers in the Harvest Fields”. This was a great topic for Pastor Drew as before coming to Redeemer, he and his wife had served together on the mission field in Kenya for several years.

The business part of the meeting was quite productive. After reports were read, we conducted the final steps to accepting the revision of our Zone By-laws, had election of Secretary and President, and talked about our 2026

WA/AK District Convention which will be in Spokane. We encouraged attendees to consider going to the LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska Summer 2025 and the Summer 2025 Retreat in Kennewick. Ladies from my home church (St. John’s Lutheran Church) performed a skit inviting people to Omaha.

After a sumptuous lunch we were delighted to have the Ingathering Speaker from Partners INW, which is a Christian organization in the Spokane Valley. They have a clothing bank, food bank and diaper bank. Partners INW provides emergency utility assistance to residents in the Spokane Valley. Assistance is also provided to seniors with needs including prescriptions and medical equipment. Their Food for Thought program provides weekend meals for over 500 students from 25 different area schools each week to help improve school performance, academic success and cognitive development.



We then had the installation of newly elected Secretary Carla Scott and President Karen Williams. Our Spring Rally will be at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Coeur d’Alene Idaho.

It was great day with good food, good fellowship, good worship, as well of good singing. We always end with the closing song “Go My Children, With My Blessing” and a closing prayer.



This is my favorite sign leaving a church parking lot.



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Hood Canal Zone Solveig Schick, President



Our Hood Canal Zone women gathered for a warm and wonderful Joyful Jamboree on October 5th at Faith Lutheran Church in Sequim, Washington. There were 24 in attendance and we had a joyful (and sometimes noisy) celebration together!

We began with coffee and treats provided by the women of Faith Lutheran and we chatted, registered, and unloaded items for our PBH Community Outreach Van ingathering. We gathered for a service in the sanctuary centered around our theme “The Lord is my Strength and my Shield” from Psalm 28:7. During the sermon, Pastor Roger Stites encouraged us to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6) and, using superheroes like Batman, reminded us of the resources God has blessed us with to fight against the enemy. We sang hymns and had communion. We then prayed together the LWML Litany for the Ingathering blessing.

We set a 15-minute timer for our zone business meeting. The Hood Canal Zone Board of Directors was introduced, our Treasurer’s report was shared, and the convention scholarship recipients were read. Pastor Roger Stites accepted the role of zone Pastoral Counsellor for another two years.

We then had a discussion of the Hood Canal zone bylaw revisions that had been distributed by email to the groups, with copies handed out upon registration. [Revisions were made using national guidance and conditions “on the ground” in the zone, with the draft approved by WA-AK District Vice President of Structure, Marjorie O’Rourke.] After discussion, the new zone bylaws were approved by the assembled zone members.

The second order of business was the election of zone president and zone secretary treasurer, with zone Vice-President Peggy Streeter presiding. After months of trying to interest others in these positions, and time during the meeting for nominations from the floor, no new nominations were accepted. In the absence of other nominations, Susan Allen Abbe accepted the position of Zone Secretary-Treasurer and Solveig Schick accepted the position of President for another two-year term and were voted in by oral affirmation of our zone members. Both Susan and Solveig promised to work to involve other zone board members and zone members in mentoring toward positions within the zone and district. Pastor Stites installed both Susan and Solveig. We finished the installation as our 15-minute buzzer rang.

After a short break, our Zone’s Christian Life Director Judy Norton led us in fun icebreaker activities, dividing us then into six smaller groups to create artistic tagboard shields centered around groups of Bible verses linked to our theme “The Lord is my Strength and my Shield.” The beautiful shields were then displayed in the fellowship hall and a skit performed by five women entitled, “Stronger in the Lord.” We enjoyed the fall décor and a salad luncheon with lots of yummy desserts. Names were pulled out of a hat and all the lovely fall decorations went home with everyone. We were so thankful for this joyful time of Christian fellowship and thankful for all the hands that helped to make it a special day for all in attendance.

Our Hood Canal Zone LWML women continue to be deeply involved in faith, service, and Christian fellowship, serving the Lord with gladness through: LWML Sundays, mite collection, church bazaars, assembling present bags for both shut-ins and preschoolers, Bible studies, harvest festivals, trunk-or-treating for children, art classes, quilting, cooking community meals, providing laundry assistance for the needy, stamping and scrapbooking cards for shut-ins and church workers.

Our next zone gathering will be a “Coffee with Me and Thee” event on January 15th, 2025 at 12:30 pm at the Chestnut Cottage, Port Angeles. Join us for Christian fellowship with a bunch of fun ladies! Watch for information about our LWML Prayer Service, Saturday, March 1, 2025 at Faith Lutheran Church in Sequim. Blessings in this season of thanksgiving and love and light!



Yours in Christ,
Solveig Schick (with Joyful Jamboree descriptions borrowed from Susan Allen Abbe!)



[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Trinity Lutheran Church, Bellingham, Wash.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellingham, WA, celebrated LWML Sunday on October 6, 2024. The Priscillas participated in both services by collecting offering, ushered and handed out bulletins, read the scriptures, and served coffee hour. Peggy Lohse gave a "ministry minute" for each service and showed a video from LWML explaining who we are and what we do. As per our custom, Pastor Wagner gave a quilt blessing for the 180 quilts made for different local agencies. We displayed many quilts and hung several of our LWML banners from over the years which was a great decorative plus to the sanctuary and narthex.



LWML Welcoming Entrance



LWML Sunday



LWML Sunday



Zion Lutheran, Kennewick, Wash.

Once again, Zion LWML sponsored "Christmas in September" for the Seafarer's Christmas boxes. On Sunday October 13, after a month of collecting items from the members of Zion Lutheran, a fun time was had by all attending as the boxes were filled and wrapped. Everyone then enjoyed a Sloppy Joe Sandwich lunch.

Blessings and congratulations to Kristi Parris, who was elected as president, and Megan Vogus who was elected as secretary of Zion LWML at the meeting held on October 20, 2024.



Putting together the Seafarer's Christmas boxes



Christmas in September





Quarterly Renewal Notices

The letters for the subscription renewal of Quarterlies were mailed out on October 11, 2024. Most are sent to your church so alert the office to watch for this letter. Then please respond with the number of Quarterlies you want to order for 2025. Instructions are on the letter. Please contact Wilma Gardner if you have questions: 509-378-2186 or e-mail at dgardner3783@charter.net.



Gifts from the Heart Board of Directors' Ingathering



YUGM Family Shelter Services

When the LWML WA-AK District Board of Directors met September 27-28, 2024, at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Yakima. We brought gifts from the heart for YUMA Family Services.

The following items were collected for this ministry:

- New pillows - 8
- New twin and queen blankets - 14
- Winter coats for kids of all ages and sizes - 11
- Kids socks for winter – lots!
- Gas cards/money - \$170
- Kids craft items – lots!



The Board of Directors was blessed with a presentation by Theresa Shervey, Director of Family Shelter Services. She described the work they do for women with children, offering them safe secure shelter and loving care. We blessed the gathered items with a litany of praise and thanksgiving.



LWML President 2024 District Greeting



Eden Keefe
President

A short video of President Eden bringing greetings is available on the LWML YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/EWrhJkGHAtI>

[Back to Table of Contents](#)



More Things to Know



LWML Gifts of Love Advocate LWML Washington-Alaska District

Gifts of Love Ministry

Most Christians don't have a charitable plan for when the Lord calls them to heaven and may be unsure where to start. LWML provides free, professional assistance you can trust. You will have joy and peace of mind knowing your instructions will be carried out.



Pam Rafferty is LWML's Gift Planning Advocate for the LWML Washington-Alaska District. She serves with LWML Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage to carry out LWML's Gifts of Love Ministry. Together, they assist LWML women and their families to share their faith, bless their family, and make a lasting impact on ministry.

Pam is excited to be a Gifts of Love advocate for the Washington-Alaska District and looks forward to talking to Lutheran women about the opportunities for charitable gift planning through the Gifts of Love Ministry. She would welcome the opportunity to be a speaker at your congregational, zone, or district event. She is an enthusiastic presenter, speaks from her experience, and will bring LWML planning resources to share with you. Pam can be contacted through the webmaster for the district's website or through your zone president.



Gifts of Love is an official ministry of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League providing free gift planning services to LWML women and their families.

Pam Rafferty, Gifts of Love Advocate



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:1-2)

Young Woman Representative Application

Convention (circle one): National District Date: _____

Convention Location _____

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation

Home Congregation

Phone _____ Email _____

Please answer the following questions. Use a separate sheet of paper if needed. Return your completed form and reference letter to your district president by the deadline set within your district. If you have questions, please ask any member of the Young Woman Committee or your district president.

1) The LWML motto is "Serve the Lord with Gladness" (Psalm 100:2). How do you do this in your life and in your church? (In what groups or activities are you a participant?)

2) What do you know about the LWML? Have you been involved at any level?

3) Why do you desire to be a Young Woman Representative?

2024–2026 LWML Washington-Alaska District Roster



District President Carolyn Holbrook

President

Recording Secretary
Linda Develaar

Treasurer
Marylynn Huntswork

Financial Secretary
Aletha Voges

Archivist-Historian
Emmi Mihalcin

Corresponding Secretary
LeeAnn Tibbals

Meeting Manager
Susan Allen Abbe

**Nominating Committee
Chairman**
Jayne Bowes

**2026 Convention
Chairman**
Carla Scott

Parliamentarian
Carla Scott

Gospel Outreach

Vice President
Solveig Schick

**Mission Servants Committee
Chairman**
Joanne Hopper

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**
Gracie Holdbrook

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 (Junior)
Rev. Roger Stites

East (Senior)
Rev. Brian Bowes