

LWML

New Jersey Mission Light

A message from our president...

Has Spring Sprung?



President's Message

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And Much More...



Arlene Price, Ann Cornet, and Eleanor Hoffmann at the NE Zone Spring Rally on April 10th.

"Spring is just around the corner." How many times have we heard this phrase as we wait for new growth to appear or the chill to leave the air? Our LWML- NJ District Convention is also just around the corner. Mission minded, fun loving, women from around New Jersey will be attending. Their desire is to study God's Word through Bible study and to share the Gospel through prayer and the selection of mission grants. They are also prayer warriors for each other, blessed in their friendships. Many women in our churches desire this too. Take this opportunity and invite someone to experience LWML activities in your congregation and encourage them to attend the LWML-NJ District Convention on Aug. 5-7 in Morristown, NJ!

We have many exciting things planned for you at this year's Convention. Our National LWML President, Patti Ross, will be our honored guest for the convention

be our honored guest for the convention and keynote speaker at the banquet on Saturday night. We will also have Jan Struck as our comedic interrupter and Saturday luncheon speaker. Donna Pyle, noted author and Bible Study Leader will help "unpack" Ephesians 6:11-18 for us. Be sure to bring your walking shoes for our Mission Prayer Walk on the historic Morristown Green on Saturday afternoon. There will be optional historic tours before and after the convention. We're asking each society to cover the banquet costs for their pastors as we honor them for their service during a special recognition program on Saturday night. The early-bird registration rate has been extended through May 31st, so be sure to get your registration in and make your hotel reservations at the Hyatt in Morristown! Final registrations are due by July 1, 2016. Further information can be found on our website at www.lwmlnj.org.

Your Sister in Christ, *Arlene*





August 5 – 7, 2016 Hyatt Morristown

See you at the Convention!

"Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... Eph. 6:11-18



Geoff Price and Stephanie Poegel model their LWML Convention T-Shirts at the NE Zone Rally! Be sure to get one for the convention!

In the Word...

with Rev. Eric Reiker, Pastoral Counselor "The Parable of the Pearl"

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it..." (Matt 13:45-46)



In my scrolling around on social media, I find myself as a pearl merchant searching for fine pearls of wisdom that can help us in our walk of faith with Jesus Christ. Here is one...

An elderly Chinese man had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the man bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imporfaction, and misorable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it passeived

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the man one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."



The old man smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?"
"That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them." "For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaws. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them. So, to all of my crackpot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path.

NEW JERSEY MISSION LIGHT

From this pearl we are reminded that as said in Psalm 139:14... I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Even though we might not think too highly of ourselves or the things we have accomplished, God is still at work in us and through us. Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 also come to mind thinking about this pearl of a story.... But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

Another pearl I have come across is this commentary of Paul Harvey from 1965...

PAUL HARVEY'S 'IF I WERE THE DEVIL'

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.' "To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whoever I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door. "Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle. "If I were the devil I'd take from those who have, and give to those wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing on what he's doing.

Paul Harvey, Good Day."

Its over 50 years old and meant as a warning, but it is amazing how prophetic it was of the world we live in today. I'm sure those that heard this in 1965 thought "this will never be" or "that's not going to happen." But the truth is, it has happened. If this isn't proof of the Devil, I don't know what will open the eyes of the world to his evil existence. We have the answer to the world that is needed, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who has defeated the devil and won us back by His death and resurrection.

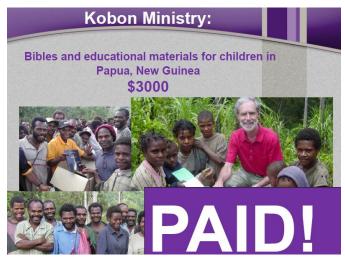
Rev. Eric Rieker Sr. Pastoral Counselor LWML NJ District





Wonderful News! We have just paid off our final two grants for this biennium!!!!... \$1500 to Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool in Hackettstown, NJ for an upgrade of their playground equipment, and \$3000 to the Kobon Ministry in Papua, New Guinea for translation of Bibles into their native language and for Sunday school materials. To God Be the Glory!!!





We thank all of our societies for responding to our "Mite Drive" to close the gap and pay off these grants. God truly works in wondrous ways through our mites!

Our district convention will be here before you know it. Are you planning on coming? We have some great activities planned for you. As part of Gospel Outreach, the Servant Events and Gifts of the Heart are decided. The Gifts of the Heart will be "very gently used" clothing collected for the Barnabas Truck to be distributed in Newark. Pastor Buckman will make arrangements for the Barnabus Truck to be onsite for drop-offs!

As you know our convention is in Morristown at the Hyatt. Just a few blocks away from the Hyatt, is the Market Street Mission, a Christian outreach facility serving meals, supplying toiletries and backpacks, and most importantly sharing the love of Christ with all. Your executive committee decided that this was an opportunity not to be missed to help serve the community and those in need. We are collecting 1" poly-binders that will go in the backpacks that are being stuffed for the "Backpack giveaway" in time for school in the fall. You can participate by bringing your binders to the convention. For those who would like a hands-on experience, there will be two shifts on Friday afternoon to help stuff backpacks with a tour of their facility inbetween. We hope to see you at this servant event at the Market Street Mission!

In this issue you will also find the mission grant proposals for this convention's ballot. Please read them and discuss them and prayerfully consider them with the members of your society. Inform your delegates as to your preferences. Rank them with your choices 1-10.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention!

Susan Donnelly
VP of Gospel Outreach
LWML NJ District



LWML NJ District Mission Grant Proposals for the 2016-2018 Biennium

Grant Proposal	Submitted by:
Bethesda Lutheran Communities is asking for funds for its "Wonderfully Made" project to produce materials designed to equip those who have the "first conversations" with parents of children and/or are expecting children that have or will have disabilities. These materials will be distributed to medical personal, pastroal care staff and families specifically in the NJ District.	\$3000 grant Submitted by Bethesda Lutheran Communities
2. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis request a grant for support of the Food Bank which is critcally important to the students and their families month after month as they answer God's call to prepare for the Holy Ministry. This grant will literally put food on the table of future servanst of Christ.	\$3000 grant Submitted by: Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
3. Christian schools are vital to the growth of the church and the body of Christ worldwide. Zion Evangelical Church, Westwood, NJ is aware of this need and has supported the building of Living Springs Academy, a Christian school in a predominantly Muslim neighborhood of Cape Coast, Ghana. This school is being built through the LC-MS Board for Missions. The members of Zion Evangelical request funds to assist in this construction project.	\$3000 grant Submitted by: Zion Evangelical ChurchWestwood, NJ
4. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fair Lawn, & Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) seek support of this project, Detention Ministry: Sharing the Love of Christ with Detained Immigrants. Through their work, LIRS has seen the need for Bibles for immigrants in detention facilities. Many immigrants are imprisoned while waiting for courts to decide their fate. During that time many rely on their faith and God's grace to sustain their hope. This grant would help to bring 600 Bibles to everyone who wants one.	\$3,000 Grant Submitted by: Our Savior Fair Lawn LWML & LIRS
5. "Loving and Serving Middle Eastern Women in Need". POBLO was founded in 1993 in Dearborn, Michigan—a Detroit suburb with the largest concentration of Muslims in the United States and one of the largest Arab communities outside the Middle East. POBLO was begun as a mission society of the LCMS to bring the Gospel to Muslims, a partnership between the Michigan District, the Dearborn circuit, and the LCMS Board for Mission Services. This grant is focusing on the women with children and no husbands who are trying to survive with few language skills or employment skills. Funds will go towards food (staples), household items (blankets, towels, rugs) and furniture all delivered by Lutheran congregational members sharing the love of Christ.	\$3,000 Grant Submitted by POBLO Ministries Cynthia Khan Michigan
6. New Jersey District LC-MS has recognized and encouraged the work of Urban Missionary Pastor James Buckman. Currently Pr. Buckman is working with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newark (a congregation made up almost entirely of Liberians) to reach out to a community made up almost exclusively of Spanish-English speaking people. Through Pr. Buckman's "iPrayU" app Mission teams reach out to serve by: fatherhood counseling, distribution of information regarding social services and support available in Newark, substance abuse counseling, etc. When these teams reach out, they will ask a simple question, "How can I pray for you?" This discipleship benefits all participants especially the mission worker. This is a unique way to reach out to the community praying for their needs and showing the love and mercy of Christ.	\$3,000 Grant Submitted by Rev. James Buckman Urban Ministry, NJ District

LWML NJ District Mission Grant Proposals for the 2016-2018 Biennium

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bridgeton is seeking funds to help support their \$3,000 Grant Submitted by ministry to the community of feeding their neighbors and showing the love of Christ. Funds will be LWM L society used immediately to purchase stock (staples); fit-up the storage room with cabinets and shelving; St. John's Lutheran Church relocate the freezer and refrigerator from the basement and to purchase transporting equipment such as a wagon or hand truck for shopping/stocking days. St. John's has been sharing the love of Bridgeton, NJ Christ by distributing up to 3 bags of groceries per person to members of the community who are in physical need. Scripture verses are printed on labels for each bag including an invitation to worship. On distribution days, volunteers and their Pastor interact with the community taking prayer requests and carrying bags to their cars and sometimes to their homes. Approximately 1/3 of Bridgeton is living below the poverty level and the need is great. 8. "Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)" provides Bibles for Christians who are often denied such access \$500 Grant due to where they are living and the current political situation. This fund helps VOM to print and Submitted by smuggle Bibles to believers (in their own languages) who would otherwise live their lives without Northeast Zone, ever reading the word of God. Grant request of \$500 to support the VOM program, "Bibles to LWML New Jersey District Captive Nations". 9. "Veterans of the Cross" (VOTC) provides small, periodic stipends and pastoral care for \$2,000 Grant church work retirees (of for their surviving spouses) who struggle to pay for basic living Submitted by VOTC expenses, such as medicine or utility bills. Administered by Concordia Plan Services, the fund relies on donations raised by The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod's (LC-MS) LC-MS Mission Advancement. Those who retired prior to 1965 have pensions so small that even with social security they can't make ends meet. After 1965 LC-MS created a new plan to meet these needs. For a number of years LC-MS donated money for unrestricted funds to supplement these needs. Support for these funds has diminished and the need is critical 10. Vision for Heart-2-Heart Sister programming in the LWML -New Jersey District. Funds would \$3,000 Grant Submitted by go towards support of ethnic women to participate in activities such as district conventions, Christy Ndem, retreats, potlucks, and the purchase of multilingual Christian materials to share with multicultural VP Special Focus Ministries women in order to make them more welcomed and become involved in church activities. The grant would also support viewings of the movie. The First Rosa, which is about the Lutheran New Jersey District LWML Church's entry into the South led by Rosa Young, resulting in Concordia College, Selma, Alabama. This would be educational for all. Finally, this funding would help to create events for multicultural women to share their cultures and learn from each other. From these events, women who are of the majority can also learn from their multicultural sisters.

Make sure to send two delegates from each society so that you have a voice at the convention to vote on these mission grants!







LCMS and LWML are proud to announce screenings of "The First Rosa: Teacher, Confessor, Church Planter." This 42-minute film chronicles the extraordinary life and work of LCMS teacher-missionary Dr. Rosa J. Young (1890-1971), "the mother of black Lutheranism in central Alabama."

Three screenings that have already been scheduled include:

- LCMS-NJ District Screening at the Bow Tie Parsippany Cinema, located at 3165 Rt. 46, Parsippany,
 NJ 07054 on Saturday, May 21st at 10am.
- LWML NJ District screening at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church, located at 350 Lake Road, Basking Ridge, NJ on Friday, June 3, at 7:30pm
- LWML NJ District screening at Redeemer Newark, located at 664 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104 at 12:30pm on Sunday, June 26th immediately following the church service.

'The First Rosa' is simply the incredible story of a rural Alabama farm girl, changing the course of history for thousands of rural Alabama children because she prayed to God for a vocation to educate children in her community. It's based on Rosa's autobiography, "Light in the Dark Belt," which tells the story of the role she played in bringing the Gospel message to rural Alabama and helping to start Concordia College in Selma, Alabama, along with 30 Lutheran elementary schools and congregations. If you'd like to schedule a screening at your church, contact Christy Ndem, our Heart-2-Heart Sisters Coordinator, at csndm@aol.com.



Thank You, Marie!

We bid a fond farewell to Marie Christiano on April 24th at a reception held in her honor at St. John's in Bloomfield. Marie has been very active in the LWML NJ District, having served as VP of Christian Growth and Secretary for the past six years. She has also served as her society President in Bloomfield. We will miss Marie as she moves to Ohio, but we're sure that our paths will cross again at LWML National Conventions!

GodSpeed, Marie!

Prayer Breakfast at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church







Inspirational LWML Prayer Breakfast on March 12th:

SHLC's Women in Mission held a Prayer Breakfast on 3/12/16 with Rev. Jim Buckman as the guest speaker on "Prayer Networking with a Prayer App." Attendees received the second edition of Rev. Buckman's book, "i-Pray." We raised \$400 for our New Jersey Mission Grants and had a great time of prayer, fellowship and fun! Martin Luther said that there is no better way to serve our neighbor, than to pray for them!

NEW JERSEY MISSION LIGHT

NE Zone rally in Fairlawn, NJ

Gay VanEtten and Christy Ndem

at Lakeland Rally in Stanhope

Photo Gallery from Spring Rallies



Arlene and Sue Harnos get manicures at "Spa for the Soul" Spring Rally for Raritan/South Zones



Krista Geisendorfer models convention T-Shirt!



Good Nutrition as part of the "Spa Day" on 4/30.









Raritan/South Zones hosted "Spa for the Soul" as their Spring Rally and had great spa stations set up for manicures, facials, massages, relaxation, and nutrition... A great time was had by all!

Be sure to register for the NJ District Convention and check out some of our Great Guest Speakers!



Convention Personalities

Jan Struck "Struck with Laughter"

Comedic Interrupter and Luncheon Speaker

Jan Struck's earliest memories revolve around her church home in Indianapolis, Indiana where she experienced her elementary education in at two-room, Lutheran school. Her strong Christian background led her to Valparaiso University where she received her theater degree.



Jan's "Life Story" has included the blessing of mothering three children, teaching school, working in secretarial and administrative job positions, and experiencing single parenthood after divorce. Additional "surprises", from a loving and delightful Creator, have brought the joy of a second marriage and a combined family that totals six grown children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. She is delighted to have been given a lifetime of bizarre experiences and an ability to see humor and irony in her journey.

Jan's work career is as a trainer/consultant in the field of healthcare technology. She has assisted clients in Washington, DC, Dallas, and Houston to implement systems of electronic medical recordkeeping systems. Her ministry is the blessing of serving the Lord as a popular speaker leading Bible studies, workshops, and women's retreats, Jan has traveled extensively in the Midwest, as well as far west as Idaho and east as North Carolina. Her involvement with LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) has enabled her to bring the gift of laughter to numerous district national conventions. Mostly recently, Jan was a presenter at the national LWML convention in Tampa and the LWML-Canada convention in Regina, Saskatchewan.

With over 35 years of experience in teaching, motivating, and entertaining her audiences, Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and uses her sense of humor as she shares her life with fellow travelers <u>and</u> leaves them laughing. Her trust and faith in Christ is her reason to make a "joyful noise unto God"!!



Convention Bible Study Leader:

Donna Pyle

Since launching Artesian Ministries in 2007, Donna has authored numerous Bible studies and traveled throughout the U.S. and internationally to teach from Scripture. She has published two books through Concordia Publishing House: *Quenched: Christ's Living Water for a Thirsty Soul* and *The God of All Comfort*. She has authored/recorded two DVD Bible study series in partnership with LWML: *Overflowing Abundance* (based on Jesus feeding the 5,000) and *Your Strong Suit* (based on the armor of God). The LWML has published the "*Donna Pyle Bible Study Series*," which includes eight different downloadable Bible studies for individual or small group study, and "*A Sparrow's Worth*", a devotional journal exploring a woman's value in Christ.



Donna enjoys blogging about faith-based issues and interacting on social media. She is a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX where she serves on the worship team. She is a passionate supporter of **Love146**, which seeks to end child trafficking and exploitation.

Donna is a native, life-long Texan and fuels her creativity with Chick-Fil-A®, Twizzlers®, coffee and chocolate. She enjoys digging for the treasures in Scripture, writing, traveling, spending time with family and friends and torturing her cats with feather toys.



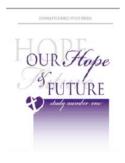


Published in partnership with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (www.lwml.org)



Six-Lesson DVD Bible Study on Jesus Feeding the 5000 (Matthew 14:13-21)

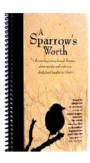
Published by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (www.lwml.org)



DONNA PYLE BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Eight different downloadable Bible studies of four lessons each for individuals or small groups.

Available exclusively through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (www.lwml.org)



NEW! Daily Devotional Journal (Matthew 10:29-31)

Daily opportunity for meditation, chronicling thoughts, and time in the Word, exploring your value as a woman of God.

Published by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (www.lwml.org)



Christian Living Book with interaction for Small Groups and Individuals

(Based on soul-quenching stories from Scripture)

Published by Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org)



Bible Study for Small Groups and Individuals

(2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

Published by Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org)

Mark Your Calendar!			
LWML Upcoming Events			
Date	Time	Event	
May 21, 2016	10am	First Rosa Movie at Bow Tie Parsippany Cinema sponsored by LCMS NJ District 3165 Rt. 46, Parsippany, NJ 07054.	
June 3, 2016	7:30pm	First Rosa Movie at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church 350 Lake Road, Basking Ridge, NJ	
June 11, 2016	10am – 12 noon	LWML Board Meeting at the Hyatt Morristown Review agenda and facilities for District Convention	
June 26, 2016	12:30pm	First Rosa Movie at Redeemer-Newark Lutheran Church 664 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104 (after church service)	
Aug. 5-7, 2016	All day programming	LWML NJ District Convention Hyatt Morristown, Morristown, NJ Theme: Keep Calm and Soldier On! Eph. 6:10-18	
Oct. 16, 2016	3pm -5pm	Lakeland Zone Fall Rally at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church 350 Lake Road, Basking Ridge, NJ	
Oxr 16, 2016	3pm – 5pm	NE Zone Fall Rally at Westwood Westwood, NJ	
Nov. 5, 2016	9am – 4pm	NJ District Fall Retreat Crane's Mill, West Caldwell, NJ	
June 22-25, 2017	All day programming	National LWML Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico Theme: Jesus Christ Above All – Phil 2:9	

"Christians in Peril" Service Sponsored by LWML – NE Zone

Our LWML-NJ District Northeast Zone sponsored a "Christians in Peril" service on November 8, 2015. This moving service highlighted how Christians are being persecuted around the world for their faith. A representative from "Voice of the Martyrs" spoke and also manned a table after the service to distribute information on how we can help Christians in Peril. LCMS-NJ District President, Dr. Tony Steinbronn, gave the homily for the service and spoke on how God uses adversity to build up His Church. The Pastors' Choir, conducted by Joan Holsten, performed several hymns for this inspirational service. The NE Zone plans to host another service like this in the fall of 2016, or early 2017.











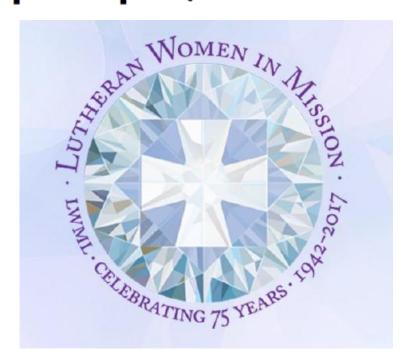
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



37th Biennial Convention

Thursday, June 22 - Sunday, June 25, 2017

Albuquerque, New Mexico



LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

Arlene Price

13 Mariner Drive Randolph, NJ 07869

Wk Email: aprice8@its.ini.com

Home email: arlene.lwml@optimum.net

President - NJ District

Cell ph: 973-479-4971 Home ph: 973-442-7608

Gay VanEtten

24 Stone Bridge Road Newton, NJ 07860

Email: glvanetten22@gmail.com

VP - Christian Life & Organizational Resources Home ph: 908-362-0208

cell ph: 973-300-2069

Susan Donnelly

Marie Christiano

7 Hinrichs Place

125 Sunset Road Manchester, NJ 08759

Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Home Email: rvsjdonn@comcast.net

VP - Gospel Outreach

Cell ph: 732-241-5247 Home ph: 732-350-6545

Secretary

Home ph: 973-743-4419 Cell ph: 802-922-2064 Work ph: 201-507-3238

Sara Hanson

38 Penn Ave Newton, NJ 07860

Email: hansonks@embargmail.com

Email: mchristiano@bssbank.com

Treasurer

Home ph: 973-786-6312

Cell: 973-919-3235

Christy Ndem

P.O. Box 272

Peapack, NJ 07977

Email: csndm@aol.com

VP- Special Focus Ministries

Home ph: 908-719-7762

Cell: 908-392-5549

Rev Eric Rieker

646 Lincoln Ave

Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442

Email: ourcrew@aol.com

Pastoral Counselor

St. Paul's - Pompton Lakes Church ph: 973-835-5537

Cell: 201-362-0891

Rev Jim Buckman **Pastoral Counselor**

108 Prospect Ave Urban Mission Strategist

Bridgewater, NJ 08807 LCMS NJ District Email: jbuckman007@cs.com Cell: 417-844-6989













