



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

In this issue:

President's Message

Spotlight on Mission Grants

Pastor's Corner

Highlights from NJ District Retreat

2019 National Convention in Mobile, AL

Upcoming Spring Rallies

Calendar of Events

And Much, Much, More...



Greetings to my Sisters in Christ,

It is with joy that I have this opportunity to fill you in on all that is happening with LWML, here in New Jersey and also nationally. I was able to attend three zone rallies which enabled me to meet one on one with those who were not able to attend convention. As a Jersey Shore Girl, it was a treat to visit the urban and mountain regions of the state & to hear the stories of local women working in the mission field. The churches were beautiful having an array of posted events (the most unusual was goat yoga). It is nice to see the church still as a hub of community outreach.

On the national level, Pastor Vossler, Alicia Starrett, Ola Odedele and I attended the Assembly of Leaders training under the banner of "Follow the Leader" (based on Phil 4:9). Here, we learned the value of change, and were challenged to update our district & zone models to appeal across the multi-generations and ethnic cultures in our pews. Did you know that in some cultures the word "society" has a bad connotation? Watch for dates when we will be presenting these new strategies to help foster more involvement.

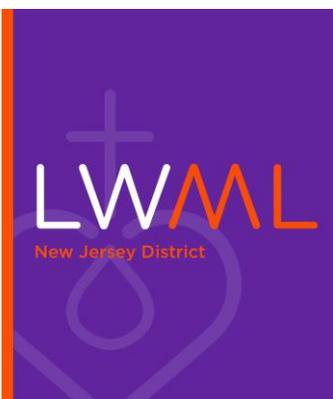
Lastly, the Mobile, AL convention is quickly approaching and you do want to be there! This is the time to unite with your LWML sisters from around the country to praise our awesome God with one voice. You can participate in servant events, view the displays of LCMS missions, enjoy Bible study &/or add your voice to the choir. Be honest, aren't you curious to hear how your mites are furthering God's kingdom by those in the mission field? So pick up the winter Lutheran Woman's Quarterly or go online and make your plans to attend today!

Your fellow servant of Christ,

Susan Harnos

President, LWML- New Jersey District

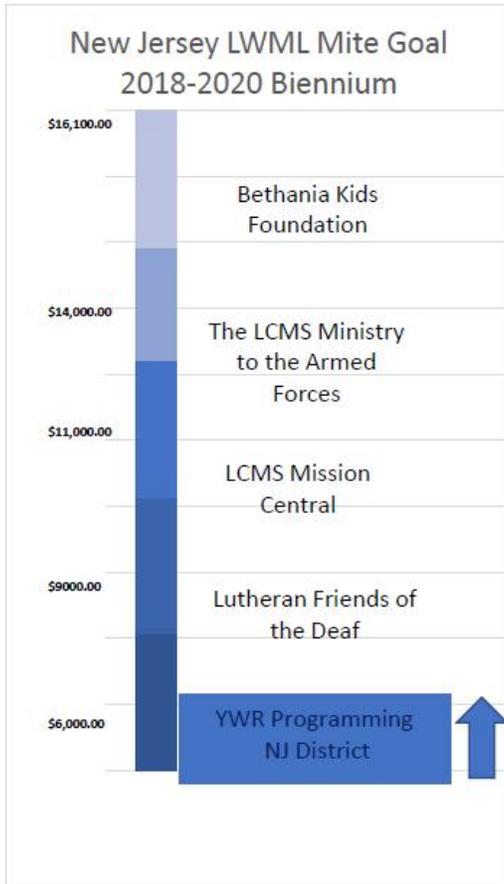
→
New Jersey District Attendees at "The Assembly of Leaders" in St. Louis (L to R): Ola Odedele, Susan Harnos, Alicia Starrett, Susan Donnelly, Ginger Starrett, Rev. Richard Vossler. The theme was "Follow the Leader" based on Phil 4:9.



Gospel Outreach



by Caren Vogt



Gospel Outreach by Caren M. Vogt

Yes, Ladies our first Mite grant has been paid and we are working on Grant #2 Lutheran Friends of the Deaf at Mill Neck Manor. Our God is Awesome and you wonderful ladies of The NJ LWML are amazing.

Besides mites you give generously to the new church plants in Hoboken and Bernardsville. You supported our troops and Chaplains at the Fall retreat with 6 boxes, each 40 lbs. filled with goodies and personal products to two Chaplains overseas. Bill Schmidt, with District funds paid for the shipping of the 6 boxes. Chaplain Boggs responded with joy at the packages and expressed thanks for the wonderful items that helped with morale for the troops. Many of the items they could not get where they are deployed. You also supplied 40 gift cards to be used for Hurricane victims in North Carolina. Proverbs 31:30b-31” but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done” Well done good and faithful servants.

On to the next Grant. **Lutheran Friends for the Deaf.** Can we help them provide resources in Spanish to help families understand their child’s special need and to learn that Jesus loves them through scripture in their own language? I challenge us to complete grant # 2 by Easter so we can truly shout “Alleluia! Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed!” and these children will be able to hear it in their own language.



Let’s us get started and be faithful in our giving. Be creative in raising mites. Share how you raised your mites with others by sending us a short note with how you did it and pictures we can use on our website and Facebook pages Other societies would love to hear how someone else does it. So, get going women of NJ LWML. I have every confidence that we can do this challenge and be successful for the Lord’s Work.

2017-19 National Mission Goal Met!!!



April 1, 2019

It's my extreme delight to announce that the 2017-2019 Mission Goal of LWML- Lutheran Women in Mission has been fully funded! Thanks be to God for His generosity and the generous offerings from men and women all over the United States as they faithfully filled their mission Mite Boxes and gave offerings towards this goal. Twenty-two ministries have received complete grants. To read about those grants click [here](#).



Going forward into our new biennium, delegates will meet in Mobile, Alabama, at the 2019 LWML Convention, June 20-23 to vote on a new Mission Goal and select new grant recipients from a list of 31. What an exciting time in LWML! [Register now](#) to take part in that convention.

It's easy to say, let's not increase our goal and make it not such a push to get the goal funded. However, now more than ever, our families, our church, and our world are in greater need of the saving Gospel message than ever before. We, as Lutheran Women in Mission can and will meet the challenge to make sure that God's Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit, gets shared around the world. Whether that is done by us as individuals, by LWML programming and resources, or by the ministries we support through our grants, we will do it! We are up to the next challenge!



Please join me in the following prayer written by our LWML Counselor, Rev. Robert Mundahl.

Dear gracious heavenly Father, we thank you for your great love to us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Through Him we have forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. As **Lutheran Women in Mission** our goal is to make this truth known all over the world. By the collection of Mite Box offerings over the past two years you have blessed us to raise the funds necessary to meet our Mission Goal of \$2,075,000. **Praise God!** This has allowed us to supply the resources needed for missions and missionaries selected at the 2017 Albuquerque Convention.



As the Psalmist writes: *Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations,* may we always remember God's faithfulness to us and every generation and in great joy, bless His name forever and ever. Amen.

Patti

*Patti Ross,
National LWML President*

Let Your Light Shine!

*Rev. Benjamin A. Dolby
Pastoral Counselor
LWML NJ District*



I recently had a morning devotion that was both striking and inspiring. The devotion began with Psalm 107:4-9. *“Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of men! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.”*

This short passage was striking in its honest assessment of “the sign of the times” in the days of the psalmist. Today we can express the sentiment famously written by King Solomon under the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, “there is nothing new under the sun.” How much of this is true as we observe the world around us and pray for ways to also bring them Word of true comfort in the middle of “times like this.”

People are wandering – many physically, countless hosts of people are spiritually wandering, spiritually starving for Light, Truth, Hope. We have opportunities to be a pleasant aroma in the presence of our neighbors with stories of thankfulness to help them consider, even for a few minutes, the God who truly loves them and cares about their struggles and their wandering.

Not too long ago, Caitlin Dinger used the image and idea of coffee (or hot tea!) and the pleasant aroma many human beings can agree on, no matter where we are coming from as believers or those who may yet believe. We’ve just recently traveled through the season of Epiphany. We are not wanderers, we are redeemed sent out to the wanderers to offer them the same Light we’re clinging to in the dark days of “times like this.” If you are struggling to remember God’s goodness and love as we transition from winter to spring, remember, the days truly are getting longer...the light of Spring, the new life of Easter is getting closer every day!

We may be struggling to remember we are the redeemed, set free to share the Light of Christ. We may be struggling to remember that the many wanderers around us, both the approachable ones and the ones more difficult to love, hunger for the pleasant aroma God’s presence offers in the Light, Truth, and Life of his holy Word. Wherever we find ourselves mentally, emotionally, or physically – God’s Light has been given to us to hope in and to share.

May that bless you and inspire you as you continue to be a pleasant aroma with those you spend your waking hours with as we prepare for spring, which brings Light and Life. Light, Hope, and Life are coming with the Easter Resurrection. This is what we share with the wanderers in our life, so they know how much God loves them. Alleluia and Amen!

NEW JERSEY MISSION LIGHT

"Come to the Vineyard"



NEW JERSEY DISTRICT
Fall Retreat
Nov. 3, 2018





June 20–23, 2019

38th Biennial Convention

Mobile, Alabama

www.lwml.org

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations
(1 Chronicles 16:23–24a).*



Headin' to Mobile, AL... (Live or virtually!)

Be sure to join several thousand of your Sisters in Christ as we head to Mobile, AL for our National LWML Convention on June 20-23, 2019. There will be many opportunities for Bible Study, Christian Fellowship, Servant Events, and Singing! Donna Pyle will be the Bible Study Leader for the Convention as we "Praise the Lord!"

For those of you who can not attend the convention in person, you can join via live stream for convention sessions. (Check for a link at www.lwml.org) You can also participate in our "Gift of the Heart" from the comfort of your own home through these 2 options:

Buy Arch books from Concordia Publishing House for Gifts of the Heart recipients: Women's Resource Center, The Penelope House, Home of Grace and NOLA 4H: Help for the Hungry, Homeless, and Hurting

Be sure to use promo code **GFTH** and buy books for \$1 each

Order books at this link <https://books.cph.org/lwml-gifts-from-the-heart>

Donate money to buy Bibles for NOLA 4H

Donate at this link https://www.continuetogive.com/4851761/donation_prompt

More information on the Gifts of the Heart and the recipients can be found [here](#)

Help us to "Praise the Lord" either virtually or in person!!!!

Heart-2-Heart Sister Events NEW JERSEY DISTRICT



Heart-2-Heart Sisters – On the Go!

Our New Jersey Heart-2-Sisters have been busy so far this year...

A Multi-Cultural Potluck Luncheon was held on February 23rd with members enjoying foods from many different countries and heritages. It was fascinating to hear about the stories and memories that accompanied these dishes. We had representation from North America, South America, Africa, and Europe!

On March 23rd, we had a viewing and discussion of the “First Rosa,” a movie about Rosa Young, known as the “Mother of Black Lutheranism.” Rosa founded many Lutheran schools in Alabama, and also taught at Concordia College in Selma, AL. We reviewed her autobiography, “Light In the Dark Belt” and had a great discussion about the obstacles that she faced in the South in sharing the love of Jesus.

We’re very proud of our own Ola Odedele who was featured in the Spring Lutheran Women’s Quarterly (LWQ) in an article about Young Women Reps in LWML. Ola served as our YWR and H2H Sister at the 2017 National Convention in Albuquerque. Check out the LWQ and read the interview with Ola!



**MULTICULTURAL
POTLUCK
LWML NJ DISTRICT**

Share your culture and heritage through food!
Enjoy food from other cultures and stories!
“For whomever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and neighbor.” Mark 3:35



Bringing a dish?
Let us know what
it is!

RSVP to Christy,
Heart to Heart NJ
District Leader, at
christy@h2h.org
908-352-5540

Bring a friend or
two!

Gifts of the Heart:
Toilet paper and
paper towels for
Christ Assembly
Lutheran Church in
Newark

SOMERSET HILLS
LUTHERAN CHURCH
200 Oak Road
Roseland, NJ 07068
908-982-0100

Saturday, February 23
12pm - 3pm



Ola Odedele

Spring Rallies Around the New Jersey District...



LWML LAKELAND ZONE SPRING RALLY
“GO YE...”
MATT 28: 19-20
MISSIONS IN YOUR BACKYARD



GUEST SPEAKER: REV. MATT LYTIKAINEN
“SHARING CHRIST IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD”

DATE: APRIL 28, 2019
TIME: 2:30PM REGISTRATION
3:00PM OPENING DEVOTION
3:30PM MEETING AND PROGRAM
5:00PM LIGHT SUPPER

LOCATION: SOMERSET HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
350 LAKE ROAD, BASKING RIDGE, NJ

As our Gift of the Heart, please bring gift cards in \$10 increments for CVS/Walgreens/Walmart to distribute to those in need in the Hoboken area serviced by The Mile Square Church. Thank you!

R.S.V.P. to Christy Ndem @ 908-392-554 or csndm@aol.com. Be sure to bring your mite boxes and we'll see you on April 28th in Basking Ridge!

LWML
Mid- East Zone Spring Rally

Sunday May 19, 2019
2:30 pm

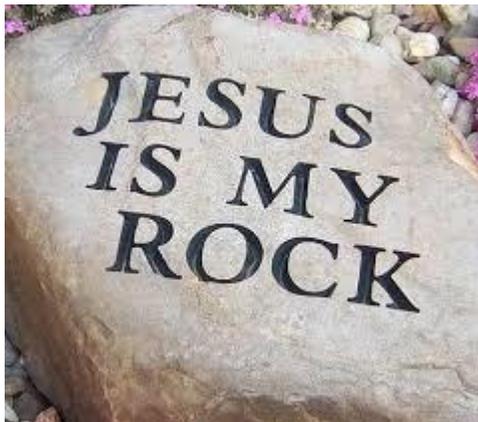
Grace Lutheran Church
304 S. Livingston Ave, Livingston 07039



Speaker : Jeff Friedman
Founder and director of Livingston Philanthropies, Inc.

Jeff, aka "The Coat Guy," will speak about his work through Livingston Philanthropies to aid homeless persons in Essex County through distribution of needed items.

We will also be collecting items to donate:
coats, hats, gloves, men's underwear and socks
(especially size XL and up), and toiletries.



NorthEastern Zone Spring Rally

Date: Sunday, April 28th, 3:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
171 Closter Dock Road
Closter, NJ 07624

“Changes in Generational Communication”
Baby Boomers... Millennials... Gen X'ers... Gen Z'ers...
Do we speak the same language?

Facebook Site for LWML NJ District

Follow us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/NJLWML/](https://www.facebook.com/NJLWML/)!

Send pictures of Spring Zone
Rallies and LWML Sunday to PR
Director at
olajumoke.odedele@gmail.com.
These pictures will be featured
on our Facebook page.



LWML New Jersey District Website Unveiled!

Be sure to check out our new website at
www.lwmlnj.org

The website design and update was funded by a
CHEF (Christian Heritage Endowment Fund) grant
through the LCMS New Jersey District. We are
thankful for this support in helping us with our
technology upgrade.

Send in pictures for the photo gallery or articles and
calendar events for the website by emailing either
Arlene Price at arlene.lwml@optimum.net or Ola
Odedele at olajumoke.odedele@gmail.com.

Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Apr 28, 2019	2:30pm- Registration 3pm – 5pm Program	Lakeland Zone Spring Rally – “Go Ye!” Somerset Hills – Basking Ridge, NJ Program: “Sharing Christ in a Post-Christian World” Guest Speaker: Rev. Matt Lytikainen, Mile Square Church
Apr 28, 2019	2:30pm –Regist. 3pm -5pm Program	Northeastern Zone Spring Rally St. Paul – Closter, NJ Program: “Changes in Generational Communication”
May 16, 2019	8am – Registration 9:35am Shotgun Start of tourney	MC15 Mission Classic Golf Outing Heron Glen Golf Course, Ringoes, NJ To benefit The Kairos Network
May 19, 2019	2:30pm Registration 3pm – 5pm Program	MidEastern Zone Spring Rally Grace Lutheran Church – Livingston, NJ Guest Speaker: Jeff Friedman, Founder of Livingston Philanthropies, Inc.
June 8, 2019	11am– 4pm	NJ District Spring Retreat at a local winery Further information to come!
June 20-23, 2019	All day programming	National LWML Convention – Mobile, AL Theme: “In Praise to the Lord” – 1 Chron. 16:23-24
Nov. 2, 2019	8:30am – 4pm	NJ District Fall Retreat Crane’s Mill in East Caldwell, NJ Program TBD

LWML New Jersey District Board of Directors

Susan Harnos

709 Amherst Road
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
Email: seharnos@verizon.net

President – NJ District

*Home ph: 609-971-9786
Cell ph: 732-597-6103



Gay VanEtten

6 Summit Terrace
Sparta, NJ 07811
Email: glvanetten22@gmail.com

VP – Christian Life

*Home ph: 973-512-3060
cell ph: 973-300-2069



Caren Vogt

251 Wheatsworth Road
Hamburg, NJ 07419
Home Email: seevogt46@yahoo.com

VP – Gospel Outreach

Home ph: 973-827-7437
*Cell ph: 973-222-2152



Alicia Starrett

214 Route 46, P.O. Box 321
Vienna, NJ 07889
Email: aliciastarrett@yahoo.com

Secretary

*Cell ph: 908-500-6395



Sara Hanson

38 Penn Ave
Newton, NJ 07860
Email: hansonks@embarqmail.com

Treasurer

*Home ph: 973-786-6312



Christy Ndem

P.O. Box 272
Peapack, NJ 07977-0272
Email: csndm@aol.com

VP- Special Focus Ministries

*Home ph: 908-719-7762
Cell: 908-392-5549



Rev Rick Vossler

3 Berkeley Terrace
Livingston, NJ 07039
Email: GLCFamilyPastor@gmail.com

Pastoral Counselor

Grace Lutheran– Livingston, NJ
Home ph: 973-992-2843
*Cell: 973-303-8250



Rev Ben Dolby

34 Front Street
Denville, NJ 07834
Email: Bendolby@gmail.com

Pastoral Counselor

King of Kings – Mountain Lakes, NJ
Phone: 973-334-8333



*preferred phone number