



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president... .

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Greetings-

If you missed the national convention in Mobile, you missed a mountain top experience. Over three thousand women (and men) singing praises to our Lord! What a joy it is to meet to celebrate Jesus with others from all walks of life!

But home we must go and now it is up to us to share Jesus' love to our family, friends and neighbors here in New Jersey. At convention we heard from men and women who are missionaries in remote and sometime dangerous places. Here our mission may seem mundane and unexciting. It probably includes things like sitting at the bedside of a sick relative, listening to an elderly neighbor recount the way things were or cooking for VBS. In our eyes these acts seem small, maybe even insignificant, but not to Jesus! Our mission field may not be an exotic faraway place but it is important to Jesus and therefore, should be important to us.

A practical and unassuming way to support mission work in NJ, as well as around the world, is through mites. This biennium our mite money will help supply books about Jesus for deaf children whose families speak Spanish, provide funds for resources for a local church to evangelize unchurched parents of their preschool, to name a few. Nothing bold or exciting, but bringing Jesus to people one at a time. Recently we have collected enough mites to pay our second mission grant. Unfortunately, we are beginning the second year of our biennium and should be further along in funding our \$23,000 mite goal. So I'm asking each society to please consider holding a mite fundraiser or a mission Sunday asking the help of your congregation to help support mites.

I have no doubt that with focus and determination, together, with prayer and help from our Lord Jesus Christ, we will reach our mite goal.

Your fellow servant of Christ,

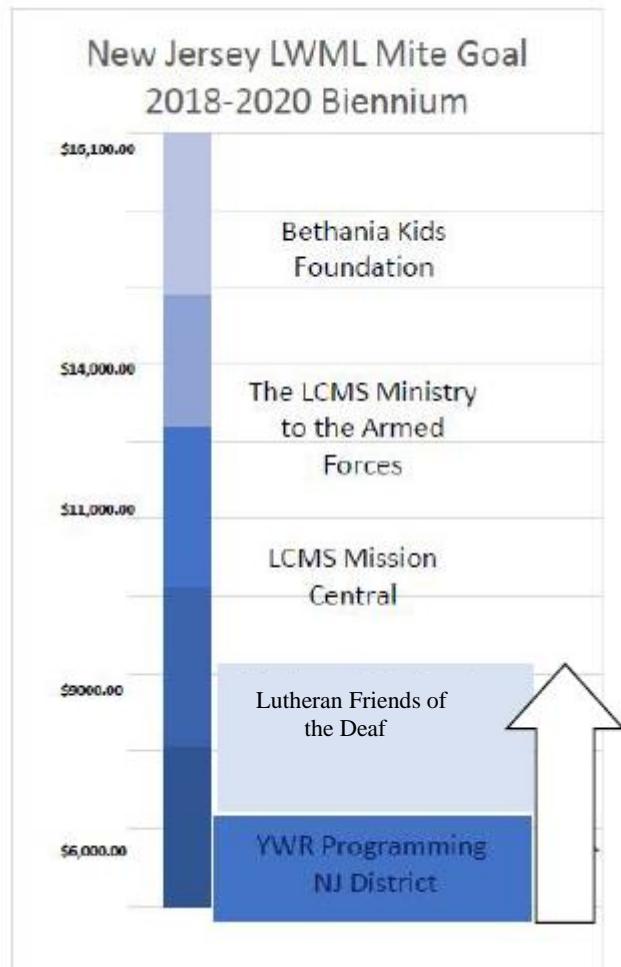
Susan H.



Left: NJ Banner in Processional
Center: Convention Assembly
Right: Jeanne Van Steen, Susan Harnos and Suzanne Wirtz at convention!



Gospel Outreach



Keep Those Mites Coming!

Ladies, we just paid off our second grant of \$3000 which went to Lutheran Friends of the Deaf at Millneck Manor. We are now working on our third grant which goes to the LCMS Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. Please read the letter we received from Pastor Brent Smith of Mission Central who is their Mission Development Counselor. Mission Central funds the work of many of our LCMS missionaries overseas and in the United States. Please keep them in prayer as you gather your mites!

God's Blessings!
Caren Vogt
VP, Gospel Outreach



A LETTER FROM MISSION CENTRAL

Dear coworkers in Christ, sisters of the LWML:

The highlight of this summer was participating in the LWML National Convention in Mobile, Alabama! As keynote speaker, it was a joy for me to speak on your theme "in praise to the Lord." May God give us strength to sing to the Lord, tell of his salvation, and declare his glory among the nations (1 Chron. 16:23-24a) until He comes again!

This email is to provide you information on missionaries that are seeking to build up their network of support so they can tell more people about Jesus in the ends of the earth. Attached is information on some of the newest missionaries.

You may find a longer list at <https://missioncentral.us/missions/all-missionaries/>.

Please note that Mission Central forwards 100% of any donation you provide directly to the Missionary's account. You may also send gifts to Mission Central for the Missionary that needs it the most and we will work with you to get it to that missionary.

It is my prayer that ladies in your LWML group will remember these front-line LCMS missionaries and provide some ongoing support for the Lord's work through them.

Thank you again for partnering with us in the Lord's mission. If you need speakers or any additional information, please write or call anytime.

Brent

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The LWML New Jersey District, in conjunction with Zion Lutheran Church invite you to a seminar by:



Dr. Paul Luther Maier

Professor emeritus, Western Michigan University, noted author and scholar

DEFENDING THE FAITH

Why all the current attacks on Christ and Christianity in our broadcast and print media, our literature (fact or fiction), our magazines and TV specials? Why is Jesus under fire, or being reinvented? This seminar will deal with such questions, and provide new, powerful evidence that the traditional view of Christ is totally historical.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019

Place: Zion Lutheran Church, 155 Second Ave.
Westwood, NJ 07675

Time: 9am – 3pm

Cost: \$10 includes refreshments and lunch

SEMINAR by DR. PAUL MAIER – SEPT. 21, 2019

A first for New Jersey LWML!

For the first time, LWML members around the state are pooling their talents and time to help host a state wide event: **Dr. Paul Maier's seminar, "Defending the Faith", September 21, 2019.** This special seminar will be at Zion Lutheran church, in Westwood. All LCMS churches and those in the English and SELC districts in New Jersey have been invited, as well as various churches in the area. The seminar begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. The Lakeland LWML zone and the ME zone are hosting the breaks in the morning and afternoon and the NE zone is taking care of the lunch.

Perhaps by now, many of you are familiar with Dr. Maier's work in ancient history and archaeology, his books, both fiction and non-fiction, his multiple video resources, his work as vice-president of the LCMS for years and his guest appearances on various national history television shows, especially in the area of early Christianity. He is a wonderful speaker/resource professional and his seminars are always informative, engaging and inspirational with a wonderful sense of humor.

Members of LWML around the state are helping with this seminar with the members of the Zion Lutheran Church. If you are in one of the zones mentioned, please get in touch with your president and volunteer to help make this day go smoothly. We are looking forward to a wonderful day with Dr. Maier!

Suzanne Wirtz, President
Northeast Zone, LWML

Jersey Girls on the BOD

The new Board of Directors (BOD) for LWML visited the LWML office on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO recently. New Jersey is well-represented on the BOD with Susan Donnelly from Lanoka Harbor, NJ being appointed as Director of Public Relations and Ginger Starrett from Hackettstown, NJ as our elected Recording Secretary. Debbie Larson from Florissant, CO is our new National LWML President. God's Blessings on their work as they serve the Lord with Gladness!



Summer Vacation

***Rev. Richard Vossler
Pastoral Counselor
LWML NJ District***



One of the highlights of our summer vacation was going on a boat ride through the Panama Canal. The Canal is an engineering marvel, with locks on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides that raise ships up about 85 feet and on to Gatun Lake at the center of the Canal. The older locks, dating back to the opening of the canal, consist of two lanes that can work independently of each other. The newer, single lane set of locks, designed to accommodate the larger cargo vessels, are 25 percent larger than the older locks, but use seven percent less water than the older counterparts. (This is due to using three catch basins for each lock, so some of the water from the full lock can empty into the catch basin to lower the water level, then flow back into the lock to raise the level. Thus, 60 percent of the water from each cycle is reused.)

The new locks and the old locks work independently of each other, and the two lanes of the older locks also work independently of each other. That was the reason that, when we were in the Atlantic side lock (Gatun Locks), we were going out to the Atlantic while at the same time another ship was coming in from the Atlantic. However, on the Pacific side, the three lanes of locks must work in the same direction. During the daytime the ships go north bound in the morning, south bound in the afternoon. This is all because the Gaillard Cut (now known by its Panamanian name, the Culebra Cut), an eight-mile-long valley that was dug through the continental divide to connect the Gatun Lake to the locks on the Pacific side, is only one lane wide. This creates a bottle neck, as the ships must transverse the whole eight miles in one direction before any ships are allowed to come back the other way.

In our lives, are there habits that we do that cause “bottlenecks” for God’s love to shine through to other people? Do we do things that prevent God’s love from flowing freely to our friends, family members, and other people we meet? As the Culebra Cut was an extraordinary engineering feat that made the Panama Canal possible, so is Jesus’ death on the cross the extraordinary spiritual feat that makes our eternal life with God possible. And yet we do not always appreciate all that God has done for us. Our sinfulness clouds our judgment, and our stubbornness keeps God’s love bottled up within us. We praise God that His Holy Spirit has created and sustained faith in our hearts so that our faith grows as we open our hearts and our lives to the people we meet.

The Panama Canal allows people to go from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, and vice versa, about 18 days faster than going around the tip of South America. The American Society of Civil Engineers calls it one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. However, the transformation of our hearts and lives into loving children of God is the greatest wonder of all time. There is nothing we can do to achieve this. No human feat or ingenuity will accomplish this. It is only by God’s power that we are forgiven. He does this purely out His love for you and for me. I pray that the Holy Spirit opens our hearts and our minds to share God’s love with the people we meet today and every day.

NEW JERSEY MISSION LIGHT

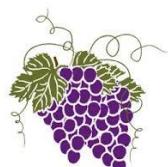


LWML Spring District Retreat Hopewell Valley Vineyards Tank Room Saturday, June 8, 2019

By Olajumoke Odedele



"Come Back to the Vineyard" was our theme as we gathered at Hopewell Valley Vineyard for a Bible Study Retreat on John 15:5. Along with Bible Study, we participated in a wine tasting and enjoyed appetizers and a pizza lunch from their brick oven. Ladies were also able to buy their favorite wines afterwards. Gift cards worth \$180 were contributed as a "Gift of the Heart" and this was added to the National Convention's Gift of the Heart Drive for a total of \$33,680 worth of gift cards collected for the designated recipients in Mobile, AL and New Orleans, LA: Women's Resource Center, The Penelope House, Home of Grace, and NOLA 4H-: Help for the Hungry, Homeless and Hurting. We thank all for their generosity!



"In Praise to the Lord"

*National LWML
Convention
Mobile, AL
June 20-23, 2019*





New Jersey Represented in Mobile, AL:

Our New Jersey Delegation had a wonderful time at the Mobile, AL Convention as we sang “Praise to the Lord!” We joined over 3000 Sisters in Christ and heard an inspiring Bible Study by Donna Pyle on 1 Chronicles 16:23-24. We enjoyed Jan Struck’s alter ego of Gloria Mae, as she entertained us with her humor. We participated in servant events and brought items from New Jersey that were added to the grand total from the Convention for the following Gifts from the Heart:

- 8,436 Arch Books
- 228 Baby kits
- 262 Sheet sets
- 1,161 Hygiene kits
- 926 Bibles
- 214 Quilts
- 43 boxes of misc. supplies
- \$33,630 in Gift Card Donations



We also voted on new mission grants for the coming biennium, 2019-21, which totaled \$2.1M. Check out the list of new grant recipients on the LWML website at www.lwml.org.



YWR & Heart-2-Heart Sister Events

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

**By Christy Ndem
VP, Special Focus Ministries**



The National LWML Convention in Mobile, AL was the highlight of the summer, which as always, was an uplifting, joyful time shared with many other women. Training was held to equip our Heart-2-Heart Sisters and YWR's (Young Woman Representatives) to continue serving the Lord with gladness in a diverse world. At the convention, Roshay Wilson, a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hackettstown in Lakeland Zone, with 13 others were inducted as H2H Sisters District Leaders. She was pinned by District President Susan Harnos with former president Arlene Price, H2H District Leader/VP Special Focus Ministries Christy Ndem, YWR Mariah Jomah, and national Secretary Ginger Starrett present for the ceremony.



Mariah Jomah, a member of Christ Assembly/Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark in our MidEastern Zone, was trained as Young Women Representatives (YWR) with 80 others from around the country. Both herself and Roshay carried the district flag on Friday with President Susan. And on Saturday, Mariah, Olajumoke, and Roshay with other YWRs and H2H Sisters carried the flags of countries where LWML has funded mission grants.

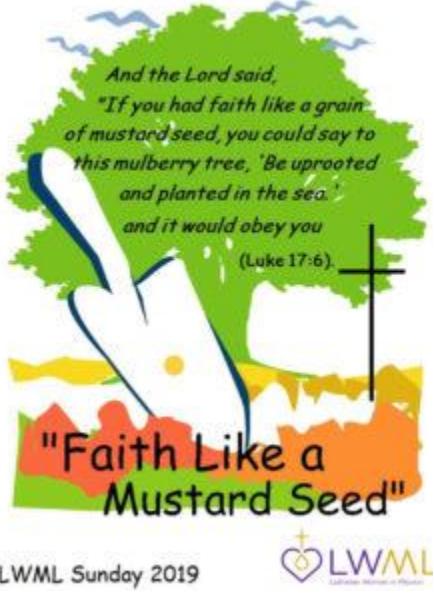


Also, we were honored to meet and engage with some of our international sisters who were guests of the Missions and delegates from the Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN) Women Fellowship (LCNWF). We met with Mrs. Offiong Ekong, wife of the LCN President and Deaconess Uduak Effiong Essien, the secretary, both from my home church in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. On Saturday, they carried the Nigerian flag; in the afternoon, Uduak E. Essien addressed the convention audience with greetings from Nigeria. After the convention they went to St. Louis to visit the LWML headquarters and were interviewed at the KFUO radio station before heading home to Nigeria.



Finally, for your society and zone meetings, you can invite Roshay to present the new Heart to Heart Sisters district program platform and Mariah, our YWR, to talk about her convention experiences. Please begin searching for YWRs and H2H sisters as we prepare for our next New Jersey District Convention in August of 2020.

LWML Sunday:



LWML Sunday 2019



Faith Like a Mustard Seed

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

“Faith Like a Mustard Seed” is the theme for LWML Sunday 2019, based on Jesus’ words in Luke 17:6 that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mulberry tree. We may long for a greater and more heroic faith, but what about the faith we have right now?

LWML Sunday 2019 celebrates the power of a daily walk with Jesus to transform lives and multiply disciples. Little faith or great, there are mulberry trees to be moved! 2019 LWML Sunday materials, authored by Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, are now available at www.lwml.org.

A full worship service is available for download. As many pastors prefer to tailor their services to their congregation’s needs, the sermon, litany and children’s sermon can also be downloaded separately and may be inserted in any worship service wherever needed. All worship and devotional materials have received approval from LCMS Doctrinal Review.

LWML Mission Grant Application Deadline is November 15th!

It's time again for your society to exercise the privilege of submitting mission grant suggestions! There are many needs to be met in our urban and suburban areas and many opportunities for us to assist others in programs that encourage and support them. Completed grant application for the 2020 Convention need to be submitted by Friday, Nov. 15, 2019 to be considered for a grant at the 2020 Convention in August of 2020. Visit our LWML NJ website for more information and download a LWML Mission Grant Application from this link:

https://lwmlnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/mission_grants_2020_lwml.pdf

Beautiful Convention Banner

A big THANK YOU goes to Harriett Harold and Alicia Starrett-Seidel from Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Hackettstown, NJ for designing and creating our beautiful banner that was seen in the banner processional on Friday, June 21st in Mobile, AL. Susan Harnos, our President, along with Mariah Jomah, our YWR, and Roshay Wilson, our H2H Sister, carried the banner during the opening ceremony and then it was displayed with the other banners during the convention in the Exhibit Hall. It beautifully captured the theme of the convention and the jazz music that is associated with Mobile’s Mardi Gras celebrations. Well done!



Facebook Site for LWML NJ District

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

Send pictures of Fall 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

Be sure to check out our 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
Sept 7, 2019	10am – 12 noon 12noon – 2pm	Executive Committee Board Meeting at LCMS NJ District Office
Sept 21, 2019	9am – 3pm	“Defending the Faith” Seminar by Dr. Paul Maier Zion Lutheran Church, 155 2 nd Ave, Westwood, NJ 07675 \$10 fee includes seminar, refreshments, and lunch
Oct 13, 2019	3pm – 5pm	Mideastern Fall Rally at St. John’s – Bloomfield, NJ
Oct 20, 2019	3pm – 5pm	Lakeland Fall Rally at Gethsemane – Hackettstown, NJ
Nov 2, 2019	8:30am – 4pm	LWML NJ District Fall Retreat Crane’s Mill – East Caldwell, NJ
Nov 15, 2019	Deadline for Mission Grant Applications	Mission Grant Application Deadline for consideration at the 2020 LWML NJ District Convention. Obtain application form at www.lwmlnj.org
Jan 11, 2020	10am – 12noon	Executive Committee – LCMS NJ District Office Mission Grant Review
Mar 14, 2020	10am – 12noon 12 noon – 2pm	Executive Committee Board Meeting at LCMS NJ District Office
Aug 28-30, 2020	All-day programming	LWML New Jersey District Convention Harvey Cedars Conference Center 12 Cedars Ave, Harvey Cedars, NJ (Long Beach Island, NJ)

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