



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

In this issue:

President's Message

Spotlight on
Mission Grants

Pastor's Corner

Around the NJ
District...

LWML National
Convention –
Lexington KY

Calendar of Events

Prayer Chain

And Much, Much,
More...



Greetings Sisters in Christ,

Well, it has been a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began, but it hasn't stopped the women of New Jersey from carrying on the mission of the LWML! Despite being under lockdown orders, our women have stepped out in faith. Some put their sewing machines to use; others their gift of hospitality. Many of us left our comfort zone to learn Zoom, Google, Facebook and YouTube. Fearlessly but cautiously, we did what we could to continue to grow in faith through prayer, attending online Sunday services & Bible studies. I am so proud of our ladies!

As we welcome spring and the celebration of Christ's resurrection, let's not get weary of our mission – to serve our Lord with Gladness. Take a moment to reflect on how weary Jesus must have been after preaching, teaching and healing for three years, and still, they didn't understand. I can't help but look at a crucifix and think how much willpower Jesus had to stay nailed there. He could have walked away at any time, but chose to stay. He did it out of love for us and we praise Him for it. So, following Jesus' example, let's look toward the future. No matter what it holds, we can face it knowing we're not alone. We have Jesus and we have each other.

So, let's start making plans and living life. To get us out and moving, plans are being made for a "walk in the park" led by parish nurse Colleen Bottcher, RN. This June is our national LWML convention in Lexington, KY. The Central Bank convention center is VERY large and can safely accommodate us. Now is the time to make your reservations to attend what is always an uplifting event. As NJ opens up more events will be planned. So, make sure you attend your zone rallies, check our Facebook page and website to keep up with what's going on around the district.

God's Peace,

Susan

President
LWML- New Jersey District





2019-2021 LWML MISSION GOAL REPORT

February 28, 2021

2019-2021 Biennium

Mission Goal:
\$2,100,000

\$2,137,742.34



Mission Goal Progress
\$37,742.34

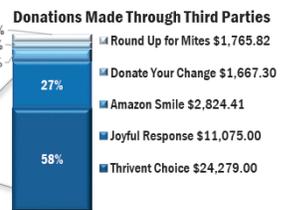
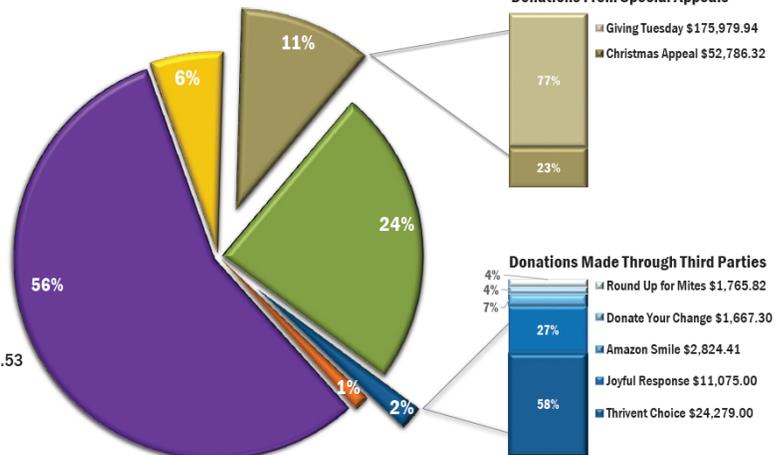
Total Mites Received
\$2,137,742.34

And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins [mites], which make a penny (Mark 12:42).

OVERALL MITE SOURCES

Mite Offerings Through February 2021

- District Mite Offerings \$1,201,686.48
- Donations Made at Convention \$126,583.37
- Donations from Special Appeals \$228,766.26
- Other Direct Donations \$512,052.61
- Donations Made Through Third Parties \$41,611.53
- Donations from Endowments \$27,042.09



MONTHLY GIFTS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION GRANTS

REPORTING PERIOD	MITE OFFERING RECEIVED	OVER/(UNDER) MONTHLY BUDGET OF \$87,500	REPORTING PERIOD	MITE OFFERING RECEIVED	OVER/(UNDER) MONTHLY BUDGET OF \$87,500
Apr 2019	\$79,081.86	(\$8,418.14)	Apr 2020	\$99,578.39	\$12,078.39
May 2019	\$71,873.98	(\$15,626.02)	May 2020	\$58,371.37	(29,128.63)
Jun 2019	\$79,200.13	(\$8,299.87)	Jun 2020	\$45,334.07	(42,165.93)
Jul 2019	\$68,367.22	(\$19,132.78)	Jul 2020	\$54,460.72	(33,039.28)
Aug 2019	\$52,689.80	(\$34,810.20)	Aug 2020	\$74,450.21	(13,049.79)
Sep 2019	\$155,347.63	\$67,847.63	Sep 2020	\$168,376.82	\$80,876.82
Oct 2019	\$69,760.42	(\$17,739.58)	Oct 2020	\$80,758.60	(6,741.40)
Nov 2019	\$86,814.33	(\$685.67)	Nov 2020	\$86,440.98	(1,059.02)
Dec 2019	\$133,585.53	\$46,085.53	Dec 2020	\$200,843.96	\$113,343.96
Jan 2020	\$115,508.67	\$28,008.67	Jan 2021	\$90,952.96	\$3,452.96
Feb 2020	\$91,139.07	\$3,639.07	Feb 2021	\$91,400.65	\$3,900.65
Mar 2020	\$83,404.97	(4,095.03)	Mar 2021		
			Total	\$2,137,742.34	\$125,242.34

For more questions, or to learn more about us
1-800-252-5965 www.lwml.org





NJ District Mission Grants 2020-22 Biennium

Purpose	Sponsoring Ministry	Amount
1. Grace’s Food Pantry, Franklin, NJ	Prince of Peace, Hamburg, NJ <i>Paid</i>	\$2000
2. Christopher Columbus Gardens -Hoboken	Mile Square Church - Hoboken <i>Paid</i>	\$1800
3. Good Shepherd Mission – Paterson, NJ	Our Savior, Fair Lawn, NJ	\$1000
4. Bloomfield College Campus Ministry	St. John, Bloomfield, NJ	\$3000
5. Retaining Wall for Preschool	King of Kings, Mtn. Lakes, NJ	\$750
6. Rebuilding Education Program	Calvary, Medford, NJ	\$1680
7. Gethsemane Preschool STEM Program	Gethsemane, Hackettstown, NJ	\$1200
8. Dr. Kristin Schmaltz – Compassion Evangelical Hospital, Guinea, West Africa	Somerset Hills Lutheran Church Basking Ridge, NJ	\$235
9. Catechisms for Believers in India	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$235
Total of 9 grants to fund for this biennium		\$11,900

First Mite Grant – Grace’s Food Pantry

Right: Caren Vogt presents a mite grant check for \$2000 to Rev. Stephen Vogt for Grace’s Food Pantry which is being administered by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hamburg, NJ.

The funds for this mite grant will help keep this outreach mission open and spread the Gospel message through this community outreach to the less fortunate. The grant will provide non-perishable items, personal items and cleaning supplies. It will provide the ability to purchase a freezer and shelving for storage of the food pantry items. It also will provide tracts and materials containing Gospel messages which will be handed out to the needy in Franklin, New Jersey.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,”
Matthew 25: 35



Second Mite Grant – Christopher Columbus Gardens in Hoboken, NJ



On March 14th, Brenda Breza and Sue Harnos delivered our second mission grant check for \$1800 to Rev. Matt Lytikainen for his outreach at Christopher Columbus Gardens in Hoboken, NJ. Gatherings of the Mile Square Church at the Bow Tie Cinema have been suspended during the pandemic, but Pastor Matt has been holding small group gatherings via Zoom. He is looking forward to once again holding BBQs in the open areas of the park and seeing people face-to-face. Check out their website at www.milesquare.church or go to their Facebook page for more information.

Thank you to all the LWML groups who faithfully filled their Mite boxes to help us with our mite goals. Remember that 25% of the amount you give goes to National Mite projects and 5% to our NJ District for administration. We rejoice that we were able to fund our first two mite grants, and we are now just \$100 short of funding our third mite grant for the Good Shepherd Mission in Paterson, NJ, so keep those mites coming!

As we celebrate Christ's Resurrection during this Easter season, take time to study God's Word and prayerfully reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and victory for us! Check out the monthly Mite calendar which can be found on the LWML website under resources. Remember to say a prayer for our mite projects as you add coins to your mite box. You can also check out our upcoming "Mite Walking" opportunities, as you spring into Spring!

God's Blessings,
and Happy Easter!



By Joanne Naumowicz
VP, Gospel Outreach





“Mite Walking” Opportunities

Get a group together and organize a “Walk for Mites” on **April 24th**. You can ask sponsors to pledge a certain amount of money per mile or per minute. Send you checks to “Walk for Mites” to our treasurer, Brenda Breza.

On Saturday, **May 15th**, Colleen Bottcher is organizing a walk at the Ringwood Botanical Gardens in Ringwood, NJ. Meet at the Pump House at 10am. For more information, contact Colleen at biocolleen@yahoo.com

LWML
Walk for Mites

Who: Women of your Church LWML
What: Walk / Hike as a group
Where: at a Park/ Hiking Trail near you
When: April 24th, 2021
Why: Raise Money for LWML Mite Grants

How: Ask sponsors to pledge \$/mile or \$/minutes walking
 - Or - You can make an individual contribution

* Send your check for “Walk for Mites” to:
 Brenda Breza, LWML NJ District Treasurer
 Indicate on memo line: Walk for Mites

Don't forget to take pictures of your Mite Walk!!!



OSLC walking group “Soles for Jesus” Spring walking event:

Walking, praying, fellowship, and raising money for Mites!

Walk for Mites will take place Saturday, May 15th. We will meet at 10am at the Ringwood Botanical Gardens, Ringwood State Park. Park in Parking Lot A, and we will meet at the Pump House, pictured left.

Sponsored by NJ LWML. Refreshments will be provided!

All COVID-19 safety measures will be followed.

Questions, Please email Colleen Bottcher at biocolleen@yahoo.com

The Lilac Gardens and Botanical Gardens will be part of our tour! There is a \$5 fee for parking. Invite a friend! Visit njbz.org for more info about the Botanical Gardens.

Rev. Matt Haas
District Counselor
LWML NJ District



Greetings!

It was about a year ago when our world was profoundly changed. Restaurants and small businesses were closed as the phrase “flattened the curve” became the resounding chorus upon the lips of our civic leaders. The church also responded. Many churches took time away from the public gatherings of worship and, for a few months, went strictly online. In retrospect, we might look back and ponder how last year was filled with challenges that at times felt overwhelming. Yet, I think it actually revealed a greater blessing that the church during times of adversity was led by the Holy Spirit in getting the Word of God out to the world around us.

Today, many churches in the New Jersey District and across the World are now offering a new opportunity for people to get connected to the ministries of the church. Pastors of all ages were motivated to proclaim the Gospel through online platforms like Facebook and Zoom. While these platforms should not be a permanent replacement of the physical gathering of God’s people, it provides a new window by which people can look through to get a glimpse of the Gospel. As I think about this past year, I cannot help but to consider Saint Paul’s words in 1st Thessalonians, “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*” Even in the midst of adversities, the people of God can and should be thankful. I think how the pandemic last year began in the middle of the Lenten season. Lent and Holy Week draws our attention to the cross of Christ. The place in which the wages of our sins have been paid in full. Easter pulls our eyes to the empty tomb; the place where “death is swallowed up by victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54). When we remember what Christ has done for us along with Christ defeat over sin and death then we can approach any circumstance with thankfulness and praise.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Matthew Haas

Around the New Jersey District....

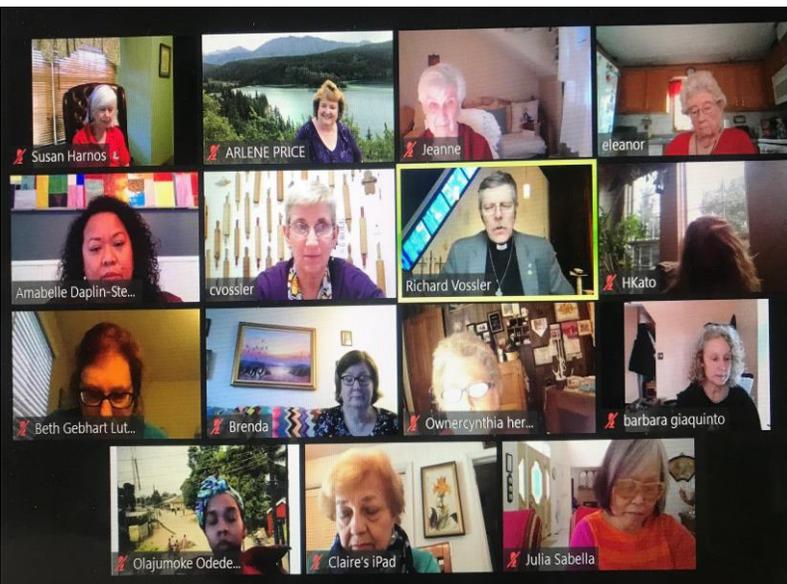


THANK YOU REV. RICK VOSSLER

On behalf of the LWML NJ District, President Susan Harnos presented Rev. Rick Vossler with his very own rolling pin to add to the family collection of rolling pins. This was a small token of our appreciation for his dedicated years of service as the LWML New Jersey District Pastoral Counselor. He has already found a great place on the wall to display his rolling pin among the heirlooms that he and Lyn have collected over the years. Rev. Rick, thank you for your unwavering support of the LWML and for being a wonderful Counselor!!!

Sewing Circle Makes Fidget Blankets

On Feb. 13, ladies of the LWML NJ District gathered via Zoom to hear about the outreach programs of Lutheran Social Ministries. We also made “Fidget Blankets” or “Sensory Mats” for seniors with dementia. These can provide a relaxing activity and engage seniors in sensory stimulation. Blankets took on many shapes, sizes and themes, so our ladies got to express their creativity in make these fidget blankets for seniors.



MidEastern Zone Rally: Hospice Care

The MidEastern Zone held their Winter Rally on Feb. 28, 2021 with the theme, “Finishing the Race,” based on 2 Timothy 4: 6-8. Their guest speaker was Anabelle Daplin-Stech from Lutheran Social Ministries, and she gave a very nice program on their Journey Hospice. The vision statement for Journey Hospice is that every individual’s journey of life should end with dignity, compassion and comfort. Their goal is to increase hospice awareness in the community and they are working with organizations like LWML to accomplish this.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2021

Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention in Lexington, Kentucky

Convention Registration Temporarily Closed

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center, where the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) Convention will be held June 24–27, 2021, can only allow a limited number of people to attend. The arena can hold many but LWML must adhere to their restricted meal seating capacity which, at this time, is at 2,000 seats. Because of these restrictions, **LWML has shut down registrations at this time.** The LWML Board of Directors prayerfully anticipates that the percentage allowed will increase before June. [Please click HERE to be placed on a waitlist.](#) When/if capacity is increased we will supply a link to registration and honor the early registration price for a limited time.

LWML President Debbie Larson states, “We are saddened to have to limit registration and pray it is temporary. Each day brings new challenges and the LWML Board of Directors and the Host Committee continue to “Run the Race . . . Looking to Jesus!” I ask anyone who has not yet registered to not give up hope. Keep checking our [website](#) for updates and continue to communicate with and encourage one other. I ask for your understanding and patience as we work to glorify God in all that we do. Continue to pray boldly, knowing God hears and answers our prayers. God be with you all.”

*The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions,
and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

LWML news releases are available at www.lwml.org

Contact:
Susan Donnelly
Public Relations Director
susan.donnelly@lwml.org

LWML Office
801 Seminary Place Suite L010
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
800-252-5965

National Convention in Lexington, KY!

Registration for the LWML National Convention has currently been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions in the state of KY. You can still get on the wait list to sign up when more space becomes available. You can also live-stream the convention and participate virtually! (see press release on p. 8 for more info).

All of our LWML societies can contribute to the “Gifts from the Heart” found on p.10. We have several cars/vans driving to the convention and we can coordinate a pick-up of your items and get them to Lexington! Contact Sue Harnos for further information.

We want to thank Brenda Pratt, from Our Savior – Stanhope, for her work on our convention banner. (see picture to the right) It’s coming along nicely and beautifully captures the theme of our convention... ”Running the Race... Looking to Jesus!” It depicts a female runner with her eyes on Jesus, and surrounded by a “cloud of witnesses” per our text from Hebrews 12:1-2. This will be our New Jersey District Banner that our President, Sue Harnos, will carry during the Banner Processional at the Convention on Friday morning, June 25th. Be sure to check everything out virtually if you can not attend in person!



LCMS Michigan District's *Heart Issues are Hard Issues* Bible study
Thanks to the Michigan District LWML Heart to Heart Sisters program with over 20 trained members representing variety of ethnic groups including a current Heart to Heart Sisters committee member, the 2013-2015 Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman, and the 2015-2019 LWML VP of Special Focus Ministries.
LCMS Michigan District's Bible study *Heart Issues are Hard Issues* is a new resource to equip LWML members to reach women of different cultures and generations. It features the Bible study text and videos. Use the Bible study individually, with church groups or family. Sign up on their [website](#) to receive the Bible study for free.



Gifts from the Heart



2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky

Gifts from the Heart selected recipients and requested items. Your donations mean the world to them!

Assurance for Life Ministry

“Christ’s love, offered freely, one-on-one, to envision the unique and sacred value of each human being”. Assurance is a specialized health clinic serving Lexington and the surrounding areas providing free medical services, compassionate counsel, and support to individuals facing unplanned and often crisis pregnancies. They also minister to those experiencing issues from past abortions.

Please bring new or gently used items for the Assurance Ministry’s REACH boutique. Items in bold are highest need.

Bed and Bath Items:

- Baby Toiletries—shampoo, soap, lotion, etc.
- Baby Bath Towels
- Baby Wash Cloths
- Burp Cloths
- Crib Sheets

Laundry Baskets (small or collapsible)

Diapers and Clothes:

- Disposable Diapers—size 3**
- Wipes**
- Clothing (New) — Sizes NB-12 months (onesies, sleepers, outfits, gowns, coats, etc.)
- Diaper bags

Books and Toys

- Baby Toys—**Rattles, Teething Rings**, etc.
- Small “First” Christian Books—board books, vinyl books, Arch books*

Concordia Publishing House is offering a special on Arch Books for Convention. Books will be delivered directly to Lexington. **The deadline to place an order is May 23, 2021. Use the promo code “**GFTH**” at checkout to receive the discounted prices. Visit <https://books.cph.org/lwml-gifts-from-the-heart> and click “Order Online” to go directly to the registry and select the books.*

Food Bank Support—Concordia Seminaries Fort Wayne and St. Louis

Gift cards to stores like Walmart and Target in denominations of \$10, \$20, and \$25 are most appreciated.

MOST Ministries provides vision testing and recycled prescription eyeglasses to impoverished people living in developing nations around the world. This eyeglass ministry allows team members to reach out with Christ’s love and engage in sharing the Gospel. **Donations of your used eyeglasses will support this mission outreach.**

Thank you for your support of the 2021 Gifts from the Heart recipients & sharing the love of Christ!



Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Apr 24, 2021	Schedule TBD for each local group	“Walk for Mites” – Schedule time for your society or friends and family to go on a walk and get pledges for time/distance walked and send to LWML Dist. Treasurer
Apr 25, 2021	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Lakeland Zone Virtual Spring Rally “Change is Good for You... You First!” Speaker: Ola Odedele, VP, LWML Lakeland Zone
May 15, 2021	10am – 12noon	“Soles for Jesus” Spring Walking Event – Ringwood Botanical Gardens - contact Colleen Bottcher at biocolleen@yahoo.com
June 24-27, 2021	Daily programming available by livestream at www.lwml.org	National LWML Convention Lexington, KY Theme: “Running the Race... Looking to Jesus” Heb. 12:1-2
Oct 17, 2021	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Lakeland Zone Fall Rally Program TBD
Nov 6, 2021	8:30am – 4:00pm	NJ District Fall Retreat Program TBD

Check out our Website and Facebook Page for LWML NJ District!

Follow us and “Like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/NJLWML!
Check out our website at www.lwmlnj.org

Our website has been updated with the latest version of Word Press with additional security features and new plug-ins. We also have a new YouTube page for supporting video files on our website. Be sure to check out the status of our National and New Jersey district mission grants as you send in your mite money!





Prayer Requests:

Please keep the following people in your prayers. Additional prayer requests can be emailed to arlene.lwml@optimum.net for inclusion in the next newsletter. These can be prayers of thanksgiving or prayers for physical/spiritual needs. Thank you!

- Anna Cornett received her Crown of Life on March 13, 2021. We praise God for her life of loving service to others, through LWML, her church, Our Savior – Fairlawn, and her community of Wykoff, NJ. Ann was a long-time member of LWML and always served her Lord with Gladness! Please keep Ann’s family in your prayers as they mourn her passing.
- We pray for the Koenig family as they mourn the passing of Bertram “Marty” Koenig. Marty was a brother to Kathy and son to Midge, so we ask for God’s comfort during this time, but also the assurance of a reunion in the life to come.
- A prayer of Thanksgiving that Joanne Naumowitz’s health continue to improve after battling COVID. May she continue to regain her strength and continue to serve the Lord with Gladness as our VP of Gospel Outreach!
- Prayers of thanksgiving and celebration for the baptism of Sue Harnos’ granddaughter, Caroline Rose and the confirmation of Ryan Kennedy, the grandson of Joyce Kennedy
- We pray for peace and comfort as Shirley Rupert continues to undergo medical treatments for a recurrence of ovarian cancer. If you’d like to send her a card, her address is 411 Campgaw Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430
- A prayer that everyone get their COVID-19 vaccine so that we can get to “herd immunity” and return to a “new normal” way of living.



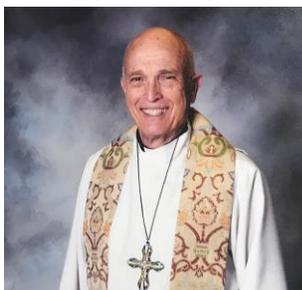
Anna Cornett



Joanne Naumowitz



Shirley Rupert



The Rev. Art Doring entered his heavenly home on Jan. 26, 2021. Art served as the pastor of Our Savior – Stanhope for 54 years and was a tireless servant of the Word and a great supporter of LWML. Just prior to his death, he was serving as the vacancy pastor at Good Shepherd - Blairstown. Art leaves behind his beloved wife of 62 years, Lois, along with 2 children and six grandchildren. Please pray for comfort for Art’s family as they mourn his loss. A “Celebration of Life” service is planned for this summer at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Stanhope, NJ.

LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

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



Leslie Vergallito

10 Brookview Road
Denville, NJ 07834
Email: lvergallito@verizon.net

VP – Christian Life

*cell ph: 732-598-1847



Joanne Naumowicz

16 Dogwood Drive
Newton, NJ 07860
Email: joanne.naumowicz@gmail.com

VP – Gospel Outreach

*Cell ph: 973-383-4793



Barbara Giaquinto

14 Mountain Road
Ledgewood, NJ 07852
Email: barbinmusic@yahoo.com

Secretary

*Cell ph: 201-317-4568



Brenda Breza

20 Chestnut Drive
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
Email: auditraner2@aol.com

Treasurer

Home ph: 609-693-7602
Cell ph: 609-618-4527



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 Tim Drawbaugh

Email: tg_drawbaugh@outloo.com

Pastoral Counselor

Gethsemane – Hackettstown, NJ
Work ph: 908-852-2156
*Cell: 908-736-6208



Rev Matt Hass

703 Western Blvd
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
Email: pastormatt@villagelutheranchurch.net

Pastoral Counselor

Village Lutheran Church
Cell: 203-980-9288



*preferred phone number