



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

Dear Sisters in Christ:

It's that time of year again – leaves are changing, sweaters are back in style and darkness falls a bit earlier each day. I enjoy the change; lazy days of summer replaced by filled calendars, grilled hamburgers replaced by slow roasted stews. Yes, change is in the air. We can look forward to all that autumn has to offer or we can pine for summer. The same can be said for each season of life. Each has its joys as well as challenges. Change is a part of life. We can choose to joyfully embrace the change or cling longingly to the past.

An autumn ritual for Lutherans includes celebrating the reformation. Five hundred plus years ago, Martin Luther boldly challenged to church of his day. As a parish priest, he witnessed firsthand that the religious practices were not meeting the spiritual needs of the people. The church needed change, not change the Gospel (for it is truth) but change the church rituals. No longer was communion only for the priest nor the mass in Latin. Change was good!

The LWML website has many resources to perk up our local LWML groups. Take some time to peruse the different tools already developed and that can easily be adapted to your situation. The Lakeland Zone has been offering “Change is good...You go first” based on the 2018 Assembly of Leaders. This program offers insights on the causes & changes of society from the beginning of the LWML to today. Then makes suggestions as to ways to keep LWML relevant going forward. It's a very interesting program that either Olajumoke Odedele or I can share with you. The best way to keep the LWML active is to stay personally connected to each other. We'll once again be holding our annual district retreat in person. To keep pricing affordable, the retreat will be at King of Kings, Mountain Lakes. From the LWML website, Lesley Vergallito selected the “For Such a Time as This” retreat as a reminder that throughout time, our unchanging God is the source of our peace. Pastor Steve Vera will lead the retreat. Gifts from the Heart will be hygiene supplies for veterans. Yes, there will be singing!

The future has always been uncertain, but our God is unchanging. So, let's continue to live lives of faith and with hope. This is the best way to witness to an unchurched world. God's peace!

Your Sister in Christ,

Susan Harnos

President

LWML- New Jersey District



In this issue:

President's Message

Spotlight on Mission Grants

Pastor's Corner

Nominations for District Officers

What's happening around the district...

LWML NJ District Fall Retreat

Calendar of Events

Prayer Chain

And Much, Much, More...



LWML NJ Fall 2021 Mission Grant Update

By VP of Gospel Outreach, Joanne Naumowicz

The carefree days of summer are over. Fall is here! Time to enjoy the fall activities of life. But God's work is never done. Mission work continues no matter the season. Our faithful LWML members continued to fill their Mite boxes over the summer and the fruits of our labor, the coins and dollar bills, added up.



A check of \$750.00 for Grant #5 to King of Kings Lutheran Preschool in Mountain Lakes was presented in August for the Repair of their Playground Retaining Wall. It is always a pleasure to present a check!

As of September 30th, \$1191.69 in mite offerings has been received by LWML NJ District. Of the total received, LWML National receives 25% and LWML NJ receives 5% for the administrative costs. With much joy, we have been able to pay Mission Grants, 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 for a total of \$7,230.00 being paid out to our Mite

Grant recipients. Grant #4 for the Bloomfield College Campus Ministry is on hold for now until they have time to reassess their outreach in a pandemic world.

We accumulated enough donations to fund Grant #6, "The Rebuilding of the Education Program" at Calvary Lutheran Church in Medford, New Jersey. The Mite Grant check at presentation for \$1,680.00 occurred on October 24th at Calvary, so the Gospel may be shared in their surrounding neighborhood.



Pictured on the Right at Calvary, Medford:
Erica Yost, Brenda Breza, Susan Harnos, Laura Small, Marjorie Haddon, Pastor David Small

Are we there yet? Not yet! Have we finished the race? Not yet! We have passed another mile marker in trying to reach our Mite goal of \$17,000.00 for the 2020-2022 biennium. I encourage you to continue on, placing coins in your mite box, and sending in your Mite offerings so that we may reach our next mile marker- Grant #7 -Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool for \$1,200.00. Running the Race.... Focused on Jesus!

God Bless,
Joanne Naumowicz



LWML NJ Mission Grant Proposals for 2022-2024

LWML NJ Mission Grant Proposal Applications for the 2022-2024 Biennium deadline is fast approaching!!! Grant proposal applications are due November 15th 2021. It is time to send in your Mission Grant proposal application to Joanne Naumowicz, VP of Gospel Outreach for LWML NJ District. The Mission Grant Guidelines and the application can be found on the LWML NJ District website. Remember the Grant focus is to spread the Gospel.

Mission Grant Proposals should be:

- Mission-focused in its overall emphasis
- Offers the ministry of the Word sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Reflects the vision and mission priorities of the LCMS.
- Aligns with LCMS strategic objectives and operational plans.
- Project will be implemented/ funds used during the biennium
- Project is ongoing in nature

*****LWML Gifts of Love Ministry*****



Burt and Sally were simple folks. They worked hard. They raised their family. They were comfortable but never extravagant in their lifestyle. They were shocked when their net assets added up to \$742,000 as they were doing some end-of-life planning.

They had been contributing \$7,500 to their local congregation each year. They were pleased to learn that if they placed \$187,500 in a personal endowment when they were called home to heaven, their church offering would be endowed until Jesus returns. It would be just as if they were still making their faithful contributions to their church each year. With this plan, they would still be able to give over \$225,000 to each of their children as inheritance.

That plan felt right to them. They would be caring for the family they love and supporting the ministry of their congregation which they believed was sharing the Gospel of Jesus with many.

What is the plan the Lord has created for you? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started in constructing your plan. Visit LWMLgiftplan.com & contact Linda Gage, 800-741-4138 x1. Linda would be glad to come to your congregation or zone rally to explain more.



For All the Saints

*Rev. Matt Haas
Pastoral Counselor
LWML NJ District*



Greetings to you all!

I can't help it. Sometimes I have hymns that just get stuck in my head. During Christmas those songs might be hymns like *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* or *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*. But it's not Christmas and so far, I resisted from including those songs in our order of worship. The song that I have replaying in my head right now is "*For All the Saints*". You might look at the church calendar and assume that I am thinking of that song because November 1st is All Saints Day and many churches are observing that day on November 7th. However, that's not the case at all. That song is replaying in my head because this past week I sat at the bedside of a young man in his final days of life. He was a singer and when the organ began to play every Sunday for worship, this young man would make every other voice singing in the sanctuary seem more like a whisper. When he sang the hymns of God, you heard and cherished it.

This past week, this young man breathed his last. Upon learning of his passing, the song "*For All the Saints*" came into my mind. I heard these words. "*For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!*"

Sometimes we view the saints of the church as simply being old people who wrote impressive theology many years ago. Yes, those are the saints, but the saints in Christ are also those in the faith who you sit next to in worship, who you hear singing at the top of their lungs, who attend Sunday School or who go to morning Bible Study. Open your eyes, the saints are the baptized around you. So, this past week, I held the hand of a saint. He struggled to breathe, and he couldn't talk. I sat by his bedside and I made the sign upon his forehead and reminded him of his baptism; I reminded him of the day that he became a saint in Christ. Amen.

Peace in the Lord,
Rev. Matt Haas



Seeking Nominations for LWML New Jersey District Offices:

We are asking your assistance in providing recommendations for the leadership of the New Jersey District LWML for the 2022-2024 biennium. We are in the process of assembling the candidates for the ballot that will be presented at the District Convention in Morristown, NJ on August 5-6, 2022. Nominations are being requested for the offices below (with brief descriptions):

District President: Member of National LWML Board of Directors, provides leadership and coordination for the District, writes articles for the newsletter, assists inactive societies and new groups, leads Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

VP of Christian Life: Develops Christian Life programs and plans retreats to nurture women’s spiritual lives; develops resources and training to assist existing LWML societies and helps to start new LWML societies.

VP of Special Focus Ministries: Chairs the Special Focus Ministries Committee and promote the YWR and H2H Sisters programs within the NJ District; Develop and support young women and leaders in the LWML and in ethnic ministries.

Nominating Committee: (one person from each Zone) Present a slate of nominees for each elective office for the coming biennium and gather their biographical information for presentation at the LWML District Convention.

Jr. Pastoral Counselor: Responsible for worship services at District Conventions and retreats; plans Bible Studies and devotions as requested, writes a Pastor’s Message every other quarter for the District Newsletter, assists Executive Committee and Board in an advisory capacity.

Please prayerfully consider women who have previously served or currently are serving in society, zone or district leadership positions for these offices.

- Submit their name for nomination on the enclosed form before **June 1, 2022**.
- Give a brief description of the individual’s gifts and talents as they relate to the position.
- The nominating committee will contact them and provide more information about the position.

How about you? If you feel called to serve the Lord at the District level, you may submit your own name for nomination and give a synopsis of your gifts and talents as they relate to the office. Fill out the nomination form on the next page, and send to:

Linda Velardi, Chair
15 Union Place
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
phone: 973-338-5858
Email: VelardiLinda@aol.com



shutterstock.com · 1909047175



Nomination Form for District Office

LWML New Jersey District Convention
August 5-6, 2022
Morristown, NJ
(Bylaws: Article XIII, Section 2)

District Position on Ballot: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Home Congregation & Zone: _____

City, State: _____

Signature of consent by nominee: _____

Send Nomination Form to:

Linda Velardi, Chair
15 Union Place
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Phone: 973-338-5858
Email: velardilinda@aol.com

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Zone: _____

Please give this completed form to the person you are nominating and have them sign on the consent line.

Deadline for submitting Nominations is June 1, 2022.

“Around the New Jersey District”

Mideastern Zone Rally



Care packets assembled at MidEastern Zone Fall Rally

The Mideastern Zone met on October 16th at St John’s Lutheran Church in Clifton with the theme “Serving in Love,” based on 1 Peter 3:8. After a devotion, led by pastor Aaron Mol, and a business meeting, the attendees created greeting cards for the victims of Hurricane Ida and put together care packages with their greeting cards, Mustard Seed devotion books, prayer cards and gift cards for purchasing household items. In addition, an ingathering of gift cards was collected for Pastor Dan Fenco, his family and members of his congregation and community. Pastor Fenco (Camino de Fe) and his family lost their house in the aftermath of Ida due to the explosion of their neighbor's house during the hurricane. Their house is completely uninhabitable. Thankfully the family is safe and was able to evacuate in time, but they are in need of our prayers and support.

Happy Birthday St. John’s Bloomfield, NJ

On October 3, 2021, the congregation of St. John L.C. celebrated 125 years of proclaiming the Good News. After a worship service, members and guest enjoyed a time of fellowship and reminiscing over lunch. If you haven’t visited the St. John’s Bloomfield Facebook page, stop by to see postings of the beautiful stain glass windows that adorn the sanctuary. The ladies of St. John’s used this opportunity to celebrate LWML Sunday. The first president of the LWML New Jersey District, Norma Bruns, was from St. John’s. Pictured to the right are members of St. John’s LWML group.



Pictured: Alicea, Cindy, Helen, Linda, and Inga at St. John’s – Bloomfield, NJ

Lakeland Zone Rally

The Lakeland Zone met at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church in Basking Ridge, NJ on Oct. 17th for their Fall Rally. The opening devotion was led by Rev. Tim Drawbaugh, and our gifts of the heart were toiletries for flood victims in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Ola Odedele presented our program, “Change is Good for You... You Go First!” We learned about generational differences in communication and how failures can be great learning experiences.



Around the New Jersey District...



Rev. Jonathan Hodges Welcomed to the New Jersey District



Pastor Jonathan Hodges was installed at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Ringwood on Sunday, October 10, 2021. Pastor Hodges, a Michigan native, is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and comes to NJ most recently by way of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hudson, NY. Pastor Hodges and his wife Kathleen have two daughters, Janet and Audrey. Lyn Vossler, representing the NJ District LWML, welcomed Pastor Hodges and presented him with a copy of *Visitation* as a gift from our LWML New Jersey District.

LWML Welcomes Rev. Andrew Wolfgram to the New Jersey District

Pastor Andrew Wolfgram was installed at Holy Cross Lutheran in Bordentown on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Pastor Wolfgram, a North Dakota native, is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and comes to New Jersey most recently by way of St. John's Lutheran Church of Groton, South Dakota and Zion Lutheran Church of Andover, South Dakota. Pastor Wolfgram and his wife Cassie were welcomed by Carol Beismann, representing the NJ District LWML. He was presented with a copy of *Visitation* as a gift from our LWML district.



Save the Date! Nov. 6th for Fall District Retreat!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 6** for our annual LWML New Jersey District Retreat. It will be someplace new this year: King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mountain Lakes, NJ. We will keep our format of worship service, ice breakers, Bible study (Pastor Vera), and catered lunch! Lesley Vergallito is coordinating with the VA facility in Lyons NJ on a mission project. We'll be collecting toiletries for both men and women residents. The ladies of King of Kings are sewing simple tote bags which we'll fill during the retreat. Call Lesley Vergallito at 732-598-1847 if you have any questions. You can register on site if you have not pre-registered. See next page for further information. See you on Saturday, Nov. 6th!



A Women's Retreat

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



Uncertainty of the future causing anxiety?

Join us for a day of delving into God's word
and learning to trust His promises no matter what!

When: Saturday, November 6, 2021 9am-4pm

Where: King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes

Cost: \$25.00*

Gifts from the Heart: Supplies for Veterans in VA facilities

For more information call Lesley Vergallito (732)598-1847

* Includes materials & light lunch

Babysitting available
upon request



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

Follow us and “Like” us on Facebook at [facebook.com/NJLWML!](https://facebook.com/NJLWML)

Check out our website at www.lwmlnj.org

Be sure to check out the updated Mission Grant application for the 2022-24 biennium on our website. Applications are due by November 15, 2021.



Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Nov. 6, 2021	8:30am – 4pm	LWML District Fall Retreat King of Kings, Mountain Lakes, NJ
Nov. 15, 2021	All day	Mission Grants due for 2022 Convention Submit to Joanne Naumowicz, VP Gospel Outreach
Apr 24, 2022	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Spring Rally for Lakeland Zone Gethsemane Lutheran Church – Hackettstown, NJ
Aug 5-6, 2022	All day	LWML NJ District Convention Hosted by Lakeland Zone at the Hyatt in Morristown, NJ Theme: “Running the Race... Focused on Jesus” Hebrews 12:1-2
Oct 16, 2022	3:00pm – 5:00pm	Fall Rally for Lakeland Zone Redeemer Lutheran Church – Newton, NJ
Nov 5, 2022	9:00am – 4:00pm	LWML New Jersey District Fall Retreat Theme and location TBD



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!

- A prayer of thanksgiving that Julia Sabella's breast cancer is now in remission. If you'd like to send her a card, her address is: 9 Oakmont Lane Far Hills, NJ 07931
- For Roshay Wilson who is caring for her husband who desperately needs kidney transplant surgery. May the Lord's strengthen Roshay as she cares for her family and for healing for her husband.
- Pastors Jon Hodges and Andrew Wolfgram as they begin serving the congregations of Ringwood and Bordentown respectively. May their ministries be blessed and they find joy in serving the Lord here in New Jersey.
- Cheryl Rusiecki, past president of the Raritan Valley Zone, who received her crown of life on 10/25/21. Please pray for comfort for her family, who mourn her passing, but know that she is at peace in the Lord. Sympathy cards can be sent to her family at 120 Ruby Drive, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234.
- Elena R. from St. John's Bloomfield, for complete recovery from a fall. The fall caused massive bruising and currently Elena is in physical therapy. Pray for a complete recovery from this accident.
- A prayer of healing for Margaret G., Lanoka Harbor, who will undergo cataract surgery.
- A prayer of thanksgiving for Thelma Sellmann who celebrates her 92nd birthday on Nov 5th. If you'd like to send Thelma a card, her address is: Boonton Care Center, 199 Powerville Road, Boonton, NJ 07005, Room 110 for Thelma.
- For all those people still recovering from Hurricane Ida, and subsequent flooding. Help them in the cleanup process.



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: 973-919-8144



Barbara Giaquinto

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

Secretary

*Cell ph: 201-317-4568



Brenda Breza

420 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@outlook.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