



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

Petal Power

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Dear Sisters in Christ:

Happy New Year! How many of you make resolutions for the new year? My resolution was to not make any resolutions this year, so I'm doing great so far in 2023!

However, I did have an old resolution from ten years ago to be a "Petal Pusher," which is someone who decorates floats for the Rose Parade, which was held this year in Pasadena, CA on January 2nd. I'm finally able to cross that off my list. My husband, Geoff, and I helped to decorate the float for Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM). The theme of the float was a "A New Day with Jesus." This was the only Christian float in the Rose Parade and it helped to share the Gospel message with millions of viewers throughout the world.

Many volunteer hours go into decorating the floats and covering them in flowers in the week leading up to the Rose Parade. The LHM float won the Director's Award for Best Artistic Design and use of floral and nonfloral materials. You can see the detail and beauty in the design for the LHM float, especially in the stained-glass windows which used organic materials.

If anyone else is thinking about being a "Petal Pusher," I encourage you to go for it! It was a wonderful experience to be a "Petal Pusher" along with so many of our LWML sisters, and to see what goes on behind the scenes at the Rose Parade.

Wishing you all a blessed and healthy New Year!

God's peace,

Arlene





Greetings!

I am pleased to report that since the last newsletter three more of our New Jersey LWML Mite Grants have been paid!!! It has been a busy fall and our LWML members have been faithful with their mite offerings. Thank you, ladies!!!



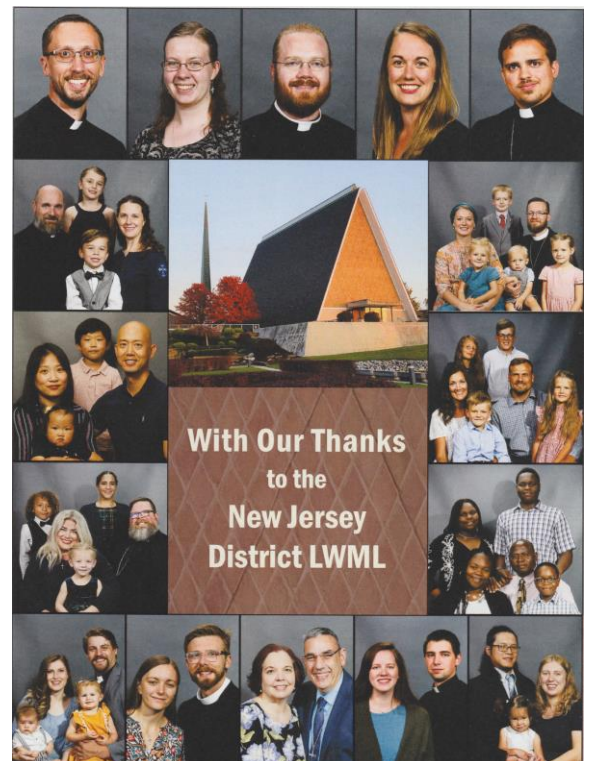
On September 26th, several of the LWML NJ District Board members as well as LWML members of Gethsemane, Hackettstown visited the Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center in Hackettstown to present a \$1,500 check completing Grant #2. The Director, Laura Hanrahan RN, was so pleased to receive the funds which will help support this ministry by providing pregnancy testing for women and educational materials for parents.

Our third Mite grant recipient was the Food-Co-op at CTSFW. Director of the Food- Co-op, Deaconess Katherine Rittner felt blessed to receive the \$1,500 mite grant check which will be used to purchase milk, eggs, fresh produce and cheese and butter for future pastors and deaconesses of the LCMS. Deaconess Rittner sent a Thank you booklet sharing how this was a blessing to the students. She asks our Heavenly Father to continue to bless all the mighty ladies of the LWML NJ District.

Our fourth Mite Grant recipient of a \$1,500 check was Orphan Grain Train Mid-Atlantic Branch. This will provide 5,350 meals to those in greatest need around the world. A shipment of food is scheduled for January. Let me share what Cliff Kraft, Manager of OGT- MAB, said in his letter. "It is a real honor to receive these funds from such a dedicated and spiritually oriented group of ladies endeavoring to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ around the world." Let those words spur us to continue to serve the Lord and share the Gospel through our words, our deeds, and our mite offerings in 2023. Our next Mite Grant is Anchor of Hope to break the cycle of addiction for \$3,000.

Blessings,

Joanne Naumowicz
VP Gospel Outreach



MISSION GOAL REACHED!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



As you may know, the LWML Mission Goal for the 2021–2023 biennium is \$2,150,000.

We have great news!

We are filled with gratitude and joy as we announce that God has worked through your generosity and stewardship to **surpass this goal**.

The Mite offerings you have shared now total \$2,154,511!

Let's break this BIG praise report down into small but mighty details:

Each time you choose to give to LWML Mission Grants, you are directly pouring God's mercy and message into the lives of others – some you may know and others you may never meet. The people you are helping range in age from little children to the elderly, and their homes are located across the globe. Some recipients may be right in your neighborhood, others are men, women, and children living abroad. No matter their age, or how near or far, God knows the needs of every single person.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

We continue to praise God for His provision and for your generosity in stewarding the gifts you have been given. Thank you for coming alongside LWML as together we proclaim Christ, support missions, equip women, and serve others!

If you would like to take a look at the various ministries the 2021–2023 Mission Grants are supporting, please visit our website: www.lwml.org/mission-grants.

LWML — Lutheran Women's Missionary League
801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105

See what's happening on our social sites



Tis the Season for Returns

Rev. Steve Vera
Jr. District Counselor
LWML NJ District



Wrong purchase. Too big. Too tight. Already have it. Doesn't work. Not needed. Not my style. Seriously, what were they thinking?!

For many reasons, the weeks after Christmas are the busiest "return" days of the year. Have you stood in a long return line at Target or Kohl's yet? I was at the UPS store last week, just after they opened, and was still 8-customers deep in the line. Americans return nearly \$90 billion worth of gifts every year. According to the National Retail Federation, more than half of all shoppers will return or exchange unwanted gifts within the first month after Christmas. Despite the best intentions of friends and families, some gifts just don't work out. Returned holiday gifts are a fact of life. Not every gift is a winner.

But did you know that it was actually the raggedy, dirty old shepherds who made the first Christmas return? Luke 2:20 says, "*And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*" Yes, indeed, it was the unlikely first guests of Jesus' birth that found themselves making the first Christmas return. It was not a return rooted in disappointment or dissatisfaction. Quite the contrary! It was an invaluable return; one that changed their lives forever. It was a return that they didn't want to send back. They wanted to keep it; and they shared it with anyone who would listen. After the shepherd's encounter with the heavenly hosts and precious time spent with the holy family, they would never be the same. They were uplifted. They were rejoicing. They were praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Why so? After all they still had to go back to the same unimpressive jobs. It's not like they won the lottery, found new wealth, or even a better profession. So why did these men return to the sheep fields with such a newfound sense of jubilation? As you may expect, the life of a shepherd would never land them on the cover of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous." Though a necessary work, it wasn't the most appreciated and certainly not sought after. And this particular group of shepherds, drew the short straw having to work the night shift—risking their lives for a bunch a sheep against thieves and predators for a menial salary. It is unexpected then, yet very much divinely prescribed, that these are the first to hear "*good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*" The angel squashed their fear and returned their gaze to the heavens, declaring, "*For unto you is born this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*" These poor, stinky shepherds knew immediately that this was not just a gift given for others, but a gift given for them also! Rather than announcing Christ's birth to kings, scholars, or priests, the angels went to "ordinary" persons. And as the shepherds received this good news and found the Gift hand-wrapped by Mary herself, they returned to their lives rejoicing in the love of God shown and given to them.

So, as you are out making your returns this post-Christmas season, may the good news of the Savior born, lead you to **return** to a life filled with praise and thanksgiving in this New Year!

“Prayer and Meditation”

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

Fall Retreat

Nov. 5, 2022



Fall Retreat:
Rev. Brian Handrich led our Bible Study on Prayer and Colleen Botcher led us in Meditation. We had a Prayer Walk which had various stations for “Thank you” cards to Pastors, church workers, and veterans; also cards for the bereaved and sick. Barbara Giaquinto was our song leader and we had a great time in fellowship, singing, and spending time in the Word.



Calling for YWR's & H2H Sisters



Do you know a multicultural and/or young woman with a heart to serve? Encourage her to apply as a Young Woman Rep (YWR) or as a Heart-to-Heart (H2H) Sister for the upcoming convention in Milwaukee, June 22-25. Attendees will be encouraged and supported in their faith, connect with other women, and have the opportunity to build relationships with others who share the same faith and commitment. The YWR and H2H Sister applications can be found on our district website under "forms." Or they may be found at lwmlnj.org/ywr-app/ for YWR's and at lwmlnj.org/h2h-sisters/ for H2H Sisters. Registration, hotel, and travel will be paid by the NJ District or the Zone that each woman is from, and they would only be responsible for their incidental expenses. Email your applications into Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at rcvossler@verizon.net by May 1, 2023.



**LWML National
Convention
Milwaukee, WI**



June 22-25, 2023



SERVANT EVENT

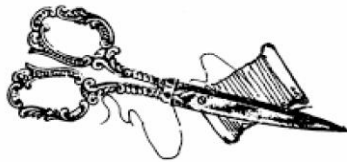
sponsored by LWML – NJ District
All are welcome!

Saturday, 2/11/2023

9am – 3pm

@

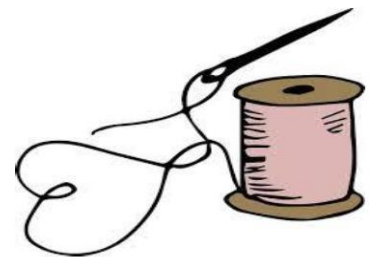
*King of Kings
Lutheran Church
145 Route 46 West
Mountain Lakes, NJ*



Join us for a Sewing Circle Servant Event where we'll be working on pillow case dresses for the Orphan Grain Train. Bring your scissors and sewing machines, along with pretty pillow cases, trim, lace and binding.

Bring your own brown-bag lunch, and coffee and tea will be provided by the Ladies of King of Kings. Join us for this special event and hear about the work of the Orphan Grain Train!

*Please RSVP to Leslie Vergallito
by text or phone to 732-598-1847. Thanks!*



Assembly of Leaders: Adventures in Equipping Leaders



New Jersey was well-represented at the Assembly of Leaders on Oct. 19-22 in St. Louis, MO by Rev. Brian Handrich, Arlene Price, Brenda Breza, Lyn Vossler, and Sue Donnelly. The theme was “Adventures in Equipping Leaders” based on Heb. 13:20-21.

Leadership training included 12 plenary sessions and 8 breakout sessions to equip us in presentation skills, effective meeting planning, use of social media, and knowing your strengths while working within a team.

Some of the topics that we can bring back to the New Jersey District for upcoming meetings and zone rallies include:

- What’s LWML? What’s your Why?
- Strength Finders: Know Your Strengths (March 11th Board Meeting in person at District Office)
- Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources
- Mission Grants: A Global Adventure
- The Quest to Broaden our Cultural Understanding
- Gifts of Love: Your LWML Legacy



Talk to one of us if you’d like a program at your next church meeting or zone meeting. We’re equipped!

Archivist Update

As 2022 comes to a close, it is time to sort, organize and catalog the events of the past year. If your group has any reports, clippings or pictures that you would like included in the LWML NJ District’s archives, please send them to me as soon as possible.

Events could include but not limited to zone rallies, prayer breakfasts, a Thrivent action activity. Before sending items, any newspaper clippings should be photocopied (copy paper preserves better) and pictures are only saved if the people are identified. The report could be as simple as a typed page naming the event, date, who attended, and a brief writeup of what occurred. Doesn’t have to be lengthy.

Do any of our zones/societies have archivists? I would like to plan a time when we get together and go over the latest information on archiving materials. In the meantime, you can go to the LWML.org website and search “archivist” for more information.

Susan Harnos, LWML NJD Archivist
(609) 971-9786
709 Amherst Rd, Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734





Around the New Jersey District....

**LWML
LAKELAND ZONE
FALL RALLY**

OCTOBER 23, 2022 @ 3:00PM
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
37 NEWTON-SPARTA ROAD, NEWTON, NJ

Celebrate The Lord of All Nations!

Guest Speaker:
President Stephen Gewecke,
LCMS – NJ District
"Revitalization of the New Jersey District"

Lakeland Zone Fall Rally: Oct.23 at Redeemer-Newto..

The Women of Redeemer hosted the Lakeland Zone Fall Rally on Oct. 23 with the theme of "Celebrate the Lord of All Nations." The guest speaker was President Rev. Stephen Gewecke, presenting on "Revitalization of the LCMS-NJ District." Rev. Brian Handrich led the opening worship service, followed by a brief business meeting and then the program. A light supper followed. Gifts of the Heart included clothing items, such as socks, underwear, and T-shirts, for the homeless through the Market Street Mission in Morristown, NJ.



Mideastern Zone Fall Rally: Oct 9th at St. John's - Bloomfield *Mission and Ministry in Ukraine*

The Fall Rally for the Mideastern Zone was hosted by the women at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield, NJ on Oct. 9th. Following their business meeting, their program was on *Missions and Ministry to Ukraine*. Gifts of the Heart included donations for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation program to supply Bible Story Books to refugee families.

You are invited to the
**LWML Mideastern Zone
Fall Rally**
October 9, 2022
2:30 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
216 Liberty Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Program:
**"Mission and Ministry
in Ukraine"**

Gifts from the Heart:
donations will be collected for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation
program: **Bible Books for Families in Ukraine**

For more information: Lyn Vossler lvossler@lutheran.net



NE Zone: Fall Rally: Oct. 30th at Zion - Westwood *Running the Race... Looking to Jesus*

The ladies of Zion Lutheran, Westwood, hosted the Northeastern Zone Fall Rally on Oct. 30th. Following their business meeting, Arlene Price presented highlights from the LWML NJ District Convention and the new Mission Grants that were selected for this biennium.



Around the New Jersey District....

Raritan Valley Zone

Village LC, Lanoka Harbor Christmas Party:



Live Nativity at King of Kings – Mtn Lakes, NJ

The Ladies Guild held their annual Christmas party, December 18. We began with Pastor Matt Hass reading the Christmas story from St. Luke while the ladies sang hymns in between verses. A catered lunch followed with games and the traditional singing of the 12 Days of Christmas. The afternoon ended with each women filling a box with cookies to take home through a cookie exchange. Our gratitude goes to Joan Kramer, who put together our time-honored devotion.



**Susan Donnelly, Heather Scanlon,
Charlotte Dunphy, Joan Kramer**



Anchor of Hope Program at Village LC:

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023 @ 6pm, the Ladies Guild of VLC will host a meet and greet with Gerry Cleaves to learn more about the **Anchor of Hope Alliance @ Pillar College**. Gerry will enlighten us on the grim addiction statistics (Ocean County being the worst) then challenge the congregation to find their role in reaching out to the community. At 7, we'll go into the sanctuary for devotions. Anyone is invited to attend. The presentation is to motivate participants to acknowledge the problem and then look for how their congregation can best reach out to their community. Each congregation's response would be different. Can't make Gerry is willing to speak at your event! Plans are to live stream over the VLC Facebook page. Anchor of Hope is the next mite grant that the LWML NJ District is working on.



Gerry Cleaves

Birthday Party for Jesus: Our Savior – Stanhope, NJ on Dec. 5, 2022



Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event
Jan 25, 2023	6pm	Gerry Cleaves, Director, Anchor of Hope Presentation Village Lutheran Church – Lanoka Harbor
Feb 11, 2023	9:30am	Sewing Circle at King of Kings – Mtn Lakes Making Pillow Case Dresses for Orphan Grain Train
Mar 11, 2023	10am	LWML NJD Board Meeting – Leadership Strengths and LWML Resources/Your LWML Elevator Speech
Mar 13, 2023	7pm	Raritan Zone Spring Rally at Village Lutheran Church – Lanoka Harbor “Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources and Mission Grants: A Global Adventure”
Apr 15, 2023	3pm	MidEastern Zone Spring Rally at St. John’s - Clifton “Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources and Mission Grants: A Global Adventure”
Apr 16, 2023	2pm	NorthEastern Zone Spring Rally at Zion – Westwood “Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources and Mission Grants”
Apr 23, 2023	3pm	Lakeland Zone Spring Rally at Holy Faith – Oak Ridge “Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources & Mission Grants” – Heb 13:20-21
June 22-25, 2023	All day programming	National LWML Convention Milwaukee, WI Theme: Celebrate the Lord of All Nations – Psalm 33:12-13
Oct 15, 2023	3pm	Lakeland Zone Fall Rally at Our Savior – Stanhope, NJ Theme: TBD
Nov 4, 2023	8:30am – 4pm	LWML Fall District Retreat – theme TBD King of Kings – Mtn Lakes
Nov. 15, 2023	12 midnight	NJ District Mission Grant Applications due for 2024 District Convention

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 and our national LWML website
at www.lwml.org for Bible Studies and networking resources.

Be sure to check out the status of our National and New Jersey district mission grants as
you send in your mite money! February is “Hearts for Mites” Month!!!





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!

- **A prayer of healing for Kyle Chedister**, who underwent major back surgery, and is now going through rehab/physical therapy to regain function and mobility. Pray for God’s healing hand to be with Kyle, and give her strength and patience.
- **Rev. Alan Mercer**, Peace Lutheran, Galloway, NJ. Pastor Mercer has had to step down from his pastoral duties due to Parkinson’s disease. Along with Pastor Mercer, please keep Peace Lutheran in prayer as they begin the call process for a new pastor.
- **Dolores “Dee” Hoffman**, past president Eleanor Hoffman’s daughter. Dee is scheduled for several surgeries so prayers for success and healing would be appreciated.
- **A prayer of healing for Kathy Koenig**, Mahwah, as she continues to recuperate at home.
- **A prayer of comfort for Anne Fiechter**, who is in declining health at Merry Heart Nursing Home. She is in Room 314 at 200 Rt. 10 West, Succasunna, NJ 07876. She would appreciate cards and visits.
- **For President Rev. Steve Gewecke** as he works to restore the LC-MS New Jersey district through the Small Church Clarity Initiative, and for our New Jersey churches with pastor vacancies, may the Lord provide wise, godly leadership through this waiting period.
- **For the people of the Ukraine**, who continue to suffer from horrific atrocities that violate any norms of human society.
- **A prayer of thanks for Arlene Price’s nephew, Caleb**, who had a kidney transplant, and a recent biopsy shows no signs of rejection.
- **A prayer of comfort for the loved ones of Eileen Izzard**, who received her Crown of Life on Dec. 21, 2022. We pray for peace and comfort for husband, Rev. Richard Izzard, and her family. Send sympathy cards to The Izzard Family, 102 Brink Rd, Wantage, NJ 07461



Kyle Chedister



Anne Fiechter



Eileen Izzard

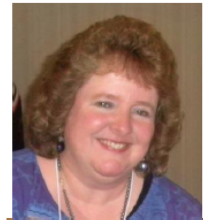
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President – NJ District

Cell ph: 973-479-4971

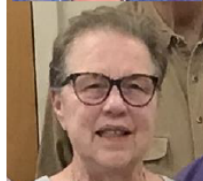


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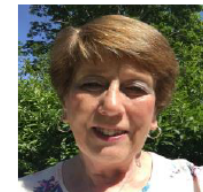


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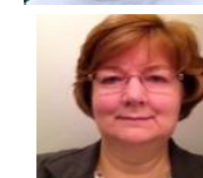


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