



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

Spring has Sprung!

Dear Sisters in Christ:

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! What a joyful Easter season to celebrate our Lord's resurrection and the new life that we have in HIM!

Speaking of new life, check out all the beautiful flowers and trees that are blooming this spring! I just got back from a business trip to Washington DC, and the cherry blossom trees were gorgeous around the Tidal Basin at the Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument! But we have our own cherry blossom trees right here in New Jersey! Branch Brook Park in Newark has 5,200 Japanese Cherry Blossom Trees compared to the 3,800 trees in Washington DC! Did you know that? Check them out while they're still blooming!

And be sure to check out our upcoming LWML National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. If you can't join us in person, you can live-stream the convention from the LWML website. We'll be voting on our Mission Goal, Mission Grants for the 2023-25 biennium, and our new officers and servant leaders. The theme of the convention is "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" based on Psalm 33:12-13. Hope to see you there!!!


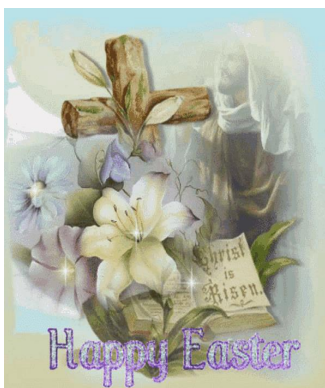
God's peace,

Arlene



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Greetings!

It is always a joy to share how the Lord's work is accomplished with the support of LWML mite offerings.

Orphan Grain Train -Mid-Atlantic Branch Manger Cliff Kraft has some good news for us! "The New Jersey LWML grant for \$1,500 to the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train is finally on its way. After much delay with truckers and shipping organizations the 5,000 nutritious meals were on their way on Wednesday March 8, 2023, to Malawi in Southern Africa. It takes two to three months from loading to delivery in Malawi as it is a landlocked country, and the last portion of delivery is by local truck."

Now we need to keep this shipment in our prayers. The shipment will be received by Bishop Harvey Chimanga for distribution to individuals in Malawi. To read more about Malawi and other OGT mission projects you can go to the OGT website. In the OGT winter 2023 newsletter there is an article about Malawi.

<https://www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/>



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19

Our current Mission Grant project is to provide \$3,000 to **Anchor of Hope** to break the cycle of mental health, homelessness, and addiction. The mission of **Anchor of Hope** is to reach out and save one person at a time to break this cycle. This grant will provide for transportation costs to move addicted and homeless individuals to a safe haven at a Rescue Mission like the Market Street (Morristown), Jersey Shore (Asbury Park), and Market Street Sussex (Newton), and Good Shepherd (Patterson). Also, it will provide funds for a

laptop for administration of the **Anchor of Hope** ministry, and 2 metal anchor sculptures to identify participating organizations.

As of March 1st we are almost a third of the way toward reaching this grant. I encourage you to send in your mite offerings so we can support this ministry and offer hope to those who are struggling and need our help.

Blessings,

Joanne Naumowicz
VP Gospel Outreach



As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others."

“Spring is in the Air”

Rev. Brian Handrich
Sr. District Counselor
LWML NJ District



See! The Winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth, the season of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance.

- Song of Songs 2:11-13a

What a weird winter it has been! The only snowstorm of note came on the last day of February and it wasn't nearly as cold as many other winters. March wasn't much better. On one day we awoke to gloomy chill rain, then it got hot enough for just a t-shirt, then it got dark and cold and we had flurries and frost overnight - all 4 seasons in a single day! (I love NJ)

Of course, we celebrated Jesus' birth, His epiphany, transfiguration, temptation, and the season of Lent - including the feast of St. Patrick on a Friday this year! You might still be recovering from the "Rites of Spring" known as Holy Week where we saw Jesus enter Jerusalem in triumph, celebrate a final meal with His disciples, be arrested, tired, and executed only to rise from death on the third day - all that in one week!

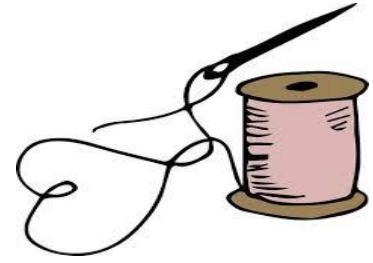
As we enter the season of Easter, even the natural world abounds with the new life that comes from Christ's resurrection. By now, I hope you've seen or heard your first robin of Spring. My daffodils opened up on the vigil of Easter (Easter eve / Saturday) though my tulips are about a week behind. The quiet earth, which never really froze this winter, has thawed and planting season has begun. The forsythia are in full bloom, a pair of red-tailed hawks is nesting in my backyard and raising some chicks, and most of the trees have budded - some even opened. It would seem even the cold and dark of winter cannot keep life contained. It has come bursting forth even as our Risen Savior did.

So, what are we to do with this season of life? Even the most secular, "religion is bunk", agnostic person realizes there is something special about Spring - the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and "feels" of this season where life reemerges. How can we show a world without Christ that the new life of Spring is but a poor shadow of the new life that is ours because He IS Risen! (He is risen indeed, Alleluia!)? We now have a life free from sin and its guilt and shame. A new life free from the fear of death or what comes after death (see I Cor. 15). A new life of freedom, hope, peace, and purpose. How can we help but to rejoice? How can we, like Peter, keep ourselves from speaking of what we have seen and heard about Christ Jesus?

As we enter a new season, both on the calendar and in the church year, it is the season of life. How might you share the abundance of life and life's blessings with your fellow church members, LWML groups, and those who don't yet know why we celebrate the coming of new life? My prayer is that as we marvel at the natural world blooming and blossoming that we will also bloom for Christ and spread the sweet fragrance of salvation to all we meet.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Brian Handrich

“Sewing Circle”
NEW JERSEY DISTRICT
King of Kings – Mtn Lakes
Feb. 11, 2023



Sewing Circle:
Ladies of the LMWL NJ District came together at King of Kings in Mountain Lakes, NJ, to make pillowcase dresses for young girls. We also had a sewing circle from Prince of Peace in Hamburg, NJ join in, and together, we were able to make 101 pillowcase dresses for Orphan Grain Train (OGT). OGT distributes these around the world to young girls in need. We had a great time in putting these dresses together and in serving others.



Call for YWR's & H2H Sisters



Do you know a multicultural and/or young woman (age 22 – 35 years old) 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 in Milwaukee!

The LWML NJ District will have five delegates to the Convention to vote on our National Mission Goal, Mission Grants for the 2023-25 biennium, and officers and servant leaders for the National LWML. Our own Ola Odedele, from the Lakeland Zone, will be on the ballot for the Nominating Committee!

Delegates will be voting electronically on mission grants prior to the convention. You can go to the LWML website under News and Events>Convention Central>Delegate and District Information to find the Mission Grant Proposals that we will be voting on. A video of all mission grant proposals will be available on the LWML Convention webpage the week of May 8th. Check this out and give feedback to your Zone delegate before the voting period of May 21 – 27. Results will be announced during the convention on June 23rd. If you can't join us in Milwaukee, you can watch the convention via a live stream on the LWML website at www.lwml.org



**Registration now open!
Join your sisters in Christ at
the LWML Convention in
Milwaukee, WI (either in
person or via live streaming!)**



Archivist Update

Along with Palm and Easter Sundays, spring is a time to gather for zone rallies. After a zone rally, the zone archivist (or secretary) should send me the following materials:

- * Two signed copies of executive, board and rally meeting minutes
 - * Two copies of zone newsletters that have been produced since the last report
 - * Summary sheet from assemblies of leaders, workshops, prayer services and other special events.
- Sending numbers of attendees is important!**

These items are then sent to the Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis for cataloging and storage. For more information on the duties of a zone archivist, go to the LWML website: www.lwml.360unite.com/archivist-historians and click on the LWML Archivist Boot Camp 2015 link.

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

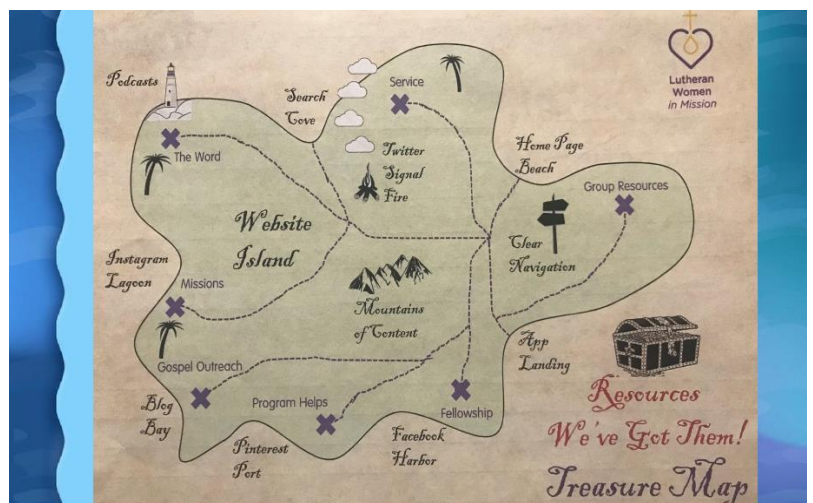
"I remember the days of old, I meditate on all the Thou hast done" (Psalm 143:5)

Lakeland Zone Spring Rally: You're Invited to a Treasure Hunt!

Join us for an LWML Treasure Hunt as the Ladies of Gloria Dei at Holy Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge host our Lakeland Zone Spring Rally on April 23rd at 3:00pm.

Bring your smart phone or I-pad and we'll explore the various resources available to us on the LWML app and website. We'll also check out the Mission Grant Proposals that will be voted on at our upcoming National Convention in Milwaukee.

Join your fellow sisters in Christ for a great afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship!



Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 3:00pm
Holy Faith Lutheran Church
104 Paradise Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438



Around the New Jersey District....

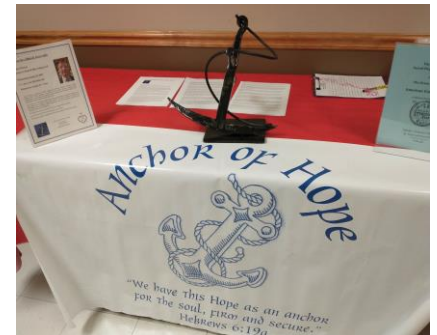
Raritan Valley Zone:

In January, the Ladies Guild hosted a Wednesday evening with Gerry Cleaves from Anchor of Hope Alliance (AOH). Gerry spoke of staggering statistics on addiction and its devastation of today's young adults. Despite graduating from recovery programs, a large percentage return to their addictions. AOH ministry wants to assist those who leave addiction recovery by providing them with marketable skills and counselling. With mentoring after rehab, AOH hopes to keep them on the road to regaining their lives. You can view his presentation at:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/ROgSBXQncpk?feature=share>

Gerry is willing to come to your congregation to educate on the addiction problem. He challenges each congregation to be a part of the solution. No congregation can do it all, but the goal is each congregation doing one thing needed in their specific community. With prayer then action, the church can be a powerful force in defeating this scourge on our youth.

A 2022-2024 LWML NJD Anchor of Hope grant for \$3,000 will help fund building a trade school in Oak Ridge, NJ for recovering addicts.



Lutheran Schools Week:

January 23-27 was declared Lutheran Schools Appreciation Week by the LC-MS. Many of our churches have nursery schools. Thousands of children (and sometimes their parents) have learned of Jesus along with the ABC's. Teachers in our schools usually don't get the same benefits or resources as those in public schools but are just as dedicated. To show their appreciation, the Ladies Guild, Lanoka Harbor, hosted a luncheon for the staff of their nursery school, Littlest Angels. It is our way of acknowledging their contribution in sharing the Good News: Jesus loves you!



You are invited...

LWML

Mideastern Zone Spring Rally



Saturday, April 22, 2023, 1:00 PM
St. John's Lutheran Church
810 Broad Street, Clifton 07013

Program:

*Treasure Hunt for LWML
Resources & Mission
Grants: A Global Adventure*



Gifts from the Heart:

Baby items for CareNet Pregnancy Resource
Center in Hackettstown

Questions? Contact Lyn Vossler
rcvossler@verizon.net

Mark Your LWML Calendars!

| Date | Time | Event |
|------------------|---------------------|---|
| Apr 22, 2023 | 1:00pm | LWML Mideastern Zone Spring Rally “Treasure Hunt and LWML Mission Grants” St. John’s Lutheran Church – Bloomfield, NJ |
| Apr 23, 2023 | 3pm | LWML Lakeland Zone Spring Rally “Treasure Hunt and LWML Mission Grants” Holy Faith Lutheran Church – Oak Ridge, NJ |
| Apr 30, 2023 | 2pm | LWML NorthEastern Zone Spring Rally “Treasure Hunt and LWML Mission Grants” St. John’s in Cloister, NJ |
| June 22-25, 2023 | All day programming | National LWML Convention – Milwaukee, WI Theme: “Celebrate the Lord of All Nations” Psalm 33:12-13 |
| Nov. 4, 2023 | 10am – 4:00pm | LWML District Fall Retreat – Exercise for the Body, Mind, and Soul King of Kings, Mountain Lakes, NJ |
| Nov 15, 2023 | 12 am Midnight | Deadline for submitting Mission Grant Applications for the ballot at the 2024 NJ 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!






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!

- **Continued prayers 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.



Kyle Chedister

-  **Prayers of comfort for the family of Rev. John Welge**, who received his crown of life on March 11, 2023. Rev. Welge was a retired pastor from Blairstown, NJ and was a dedicated servant of the Word. May God give his family peace and comfort during this difficult time.

- **Dolores “Dee” Hoffman**, daughter of past president Eleanor Hoffman, is recuperating from surgery, so continued prayers for her recovery and healing.


- **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.



Anne Fiechter

- **For President Rev. Steve Gewecke** as he works to restore the LC-MS New Jersey district through the Small Church Clarity Initiative.

- **For Pat Bacon**, as she recovers from kidney surgery. Pray for healing and strength.

-  **For the people of the Ukraine**, who continue to suffer from horrific atrocities that violate any norms of human society. Be with the people who have been displaced from their homes by war.

- **Prayers of comfort for Julia Sabella and her family** at the passing of her husband, Jim, from pancreatic cancer. Sympathy cards can be sent to Julia at 18 Philips Court, Hillsborough, NJ 08844.

- **Prayers of healing for Joan Ziegler**, who suffered closed head trauma from a fall, which required brain surgery. Joan is now recuperating in a rehab facility, and you can send get-well cards to her at The Good Shepherd Rehab Facility, 2545 Schoenersville Road, Bethlehem, PA Rm 3016.



Joan Ziegler on the right with Arlene Price

LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

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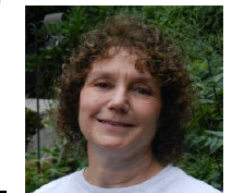
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