



New Jersey Mission Light

A message from our president...



Happy New Year!

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2024 is off to a fast start! On New Year's Day, I watched the Rose Parade on TV, and it brought back many fond memories of being a petal pusher last year in Pasadena. This year, the theme of the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) float was "Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord." There were three banners hanging from the trumpets which said, "Faith Alone," "Grace Alone" and "Scripture Alone." There is a local Pastor in Pasadena who plays Jesus every year on the LHM float, and this year, our new LWML President, Eden Keefe, got to ride on the float and wave to the crowds. (By the way, Eden will be our National LWML Representative at our NJ District Convention in August!)

Speaking of our Convention, the planning phase is in full swing with our MidEastern and Northeastern Zones hosting us at King of Kings in Mountain Lakes, NJ. We will have a room block across the street at the Fairfield Inn to house delegates and attendees. Donna Snow will be our Bible Study Leader and we will be voting on our new mission grants for 2024-26. Please mark Aug 2-3, 2024 on your calendars, and join us for all the fun, networking, and Bible Study! Our theme is "Inseparable from God's Love" based on Romans 8:31-39. See you at the Convention!

In His Service,

Arlene Price, President
LWML NJ District





*A Note from VP of Gospel Outreach.....
Joanne Naumowicz*

I am pleased to share good news! Our LWML NJ District Mission Grants for the 2022-24 Biennium are complete. Grant # 7 -The Lutheran Bible Workers \$1,500 grant, “Bringing Braille Bibles to Central and South America” will spread the Good News of Christ to those who are eager to hear the Gospel. Thank you for your faithfulness. The photos show the joy of receiving the Gospel.



Family who is Blind receiving their first Spanish Braille Bibles. Costa Rican woman receiving a Braille volume from their local Bible Society worker. Volunteers praying with a Spanish Bible recipient.



A young man witnessing in a store through his Spanish Braille Bible.



Nurturing Spiritual care to others.

Our final grant of \$600 Grant for the LCMS- Mission Central Project- “Nurturing Spiritual Care” is just a small part of a larger project to assist pastors and church leaders to help their church members and those in their community who are hurting.

Please continue to send in your mite offerings. Remember 25% of our mites support LWML National Mite Projects and 70% remain in NJ towards our NJ District mission projects for 2024-2026 which we will vote on at our Convention in August. Think of all we have accomplished working together this biennium! Thank you for sharing your mites to help those who need God’s love and compassion. We are God’s servants with willing hearts, hands, and feet to do the Lord’s work sharing His love for us. To God be the Glory!

For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

“Let Your Light Shine”

Rev. Brian Handrich
District Counselor
LWML NJ District



For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. - 2 Corinthians 4:6

As I sit writing this, the snow is softly falling outside. The clouds are keeping the sun shrouded and it is dark and cold just past my door. Within the house, I have been blessed with a fireplace and a goodly store of wood. After a couple of hours it’s pretty well burned down to coals, throwing off lots of heat but little light. But I know that since the coals are “live”, if I throw some new wood on it (especially pine or scrap lumber leftover from projects) it will come roaring back and fill the room with radiant heat and light.

During the season of Advent, for our midweek services, my congregation used the service of Evening Prayer. If you are not familiar with this daily office (found on page 243 of LSB), it begins with a service of light. Many of John’s and Paul’s passages about light begin our service. Then we have the *phos hilaron*, perhaps the oldest chant in our hymnal. The name means “laughing light” and speaks to the joy that is ours in Christ. That is then followed by the Thanksgiving for Light, an appropriate antiphon as the world becomes shrouded in darkness.

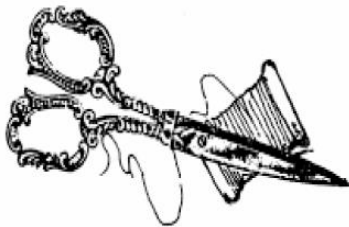
During the Christmas season we read again of the glory of God appearing to the shepherds as the angels sing, and perhaps also the star of Bethlehem pointing the way for the magi from the East. Now as we enter Epiphany (and the days are allegedly getting longer), we focus on light once more. This season is a season of revealing - of seeing what the Light shows and how Paul’s passage above was fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Even in the cold and dark of winter we marvel at and rejoice in God’s gift of light, especially how through the Holy Spirit, working through the means of grace, He shines His light into our hearts and illuminates our minds with His truth.

So what does any of this have to do with LWML? Well, have you seen how faces “light up” when a grant check is presented so that ministries may continue and expand? Have you seen a person “glow” when they realize they are not alone in their struggles and there are others who care about them? Our mites help to “brighten” the days of those struggling with many of the issues of this dark world. Our words of forgiveness, life, and peace “illuminate” minds who once thought God was their enemy instead of their greatest ally in the struggles they are enduring. Through the work of LWML in our District, our nation, and even around the world, we are chasing the darkness back to the shadows and letting the light of God’s love shine forth through the Good News of Jesus Christ, who said, “You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Mt. 5:14, 16). In our New Jersey LWML, the light shines brightly.

Well, it’s time to feed the fireplace - again. As we journey through Epiphany and hail Jesus as the Light that the darkness cannot overcome, may your lights be burning brightly as you gather for worship and study, fellowship and service, and as you present your mites so that the light of Christ may illumine many around us.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian



SERVANT EVENT

sponsored by LWML – NJ District
All are welcome!

Saturday, 2/10/2024

10am – 3pm

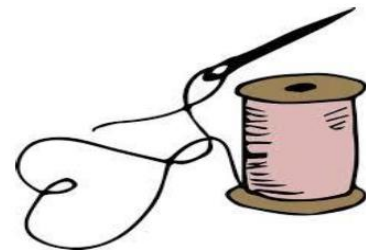
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*King of Kings
Lutheran Church
145 Route 46 West
Mountain Lakes, NJ*

Join us for a Sewing Circle Servant Event where we'll be working on baby quilts. Bring your scissors and sewing machines, along with 10.5 inch squares of juvenile print material. We will be piecing the baby quilts together.

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!

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



*Rallies Around the
New Jersey District*



Serve the Lord with Gladness! Ps 100:2



Special Focus Ministries: Update from Lyn Vossler, our VP of Special Focus Ministries



Calling all Heart to Heart Sisters

The focus of Heart-to-Heart Sisters of All Nations program is to encourage multicultural women in our district to become active in their LWML societies and their churches. It is also to build multicultural relationships, to encourage them in their faith journey, as well as to inspire them to serve the Lord and to provide support and encouragement to each other. Do you know a woman in your church who serves the Lord with joy and passion? Is there someone in your church you could recommend to become involved in multicultural ministry? We would love to get to know her and involve her in our H2H ministry. We are in the process of planning district events to which we are inviting our sisters of all nations. Encourage her to apply as a Heart-to-Heart (H2H) Sister for our NJ District Convention August 2-3. Attendees at all events 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.

To attend as a H2H sister at the convention, there is a H2H Sister application which can be found on our district website under "forms." Or it may be found at lwmlnj.org/h2h-sisters/. Email your applications to Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at rcvossler@verizon.net by June 1, 2024.

Wanted: Young Women In Mission

Do you know a young woman with a heart to serve? The purpose of LWML *Young Women In Mission* is to empower and mentor younger women to connect and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ. It is also there to equip and encourage young women to become more involved in their congregations and the mission of the LWML. Look around your congregation and church community. Is there someone you would like to support in her faith journey? Is there someone you would like to inspire to use her gifts and talents to serve the Lord? Encourage her to apply as a Young Woman Rep (YWR) for our upcoming district convention in August. As *Young Women In Mission*, our YWRs are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each person is different, in Christ, all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents and strengths. The YWR application can be found on our district website under "forms." Or it may be found at lwmlnj.org/ywr-app/. Email your applications to Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at rcvossler@verizon.net by June 1, 2024.

Convention Theme Selected:

The 41st Biennial Convention of the LWML set for June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska has selected the theme, "Growing in God's Grace" based on the following scripture verse: But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)



Mark your calendars for a trip to the Midwest!

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2).



The **2024 Prayer Service**, written by Rev. Michael Mattil, is designed around these first three words of 1 Timothy — those three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior — Grace, Mercy, and Peace. Download this Prayer Service from the LWML website at www.lwml.org

LWQ Update:

The Lutheran Woman's Quarterly yearly subscription orders begin with the **SUMMER** issue and run through **SPRING**. The rates are \$6.00 for 10 copies or more and \$7.50 per yearly subscription when ordering 1-9 copies. Payment is due by **MARCH 1, 2024** for your yearly subscription. If you need to make any adjustments to the number of copies you receive, let Brenda know by **March 15th** so we can get the numbers to the National LWML by **April 1st**. The payment goes to the LWML NJ District Treasurer, Brenda Breza @ 420 Chestnut Drive, Lanka Harbor, NJ 08734.



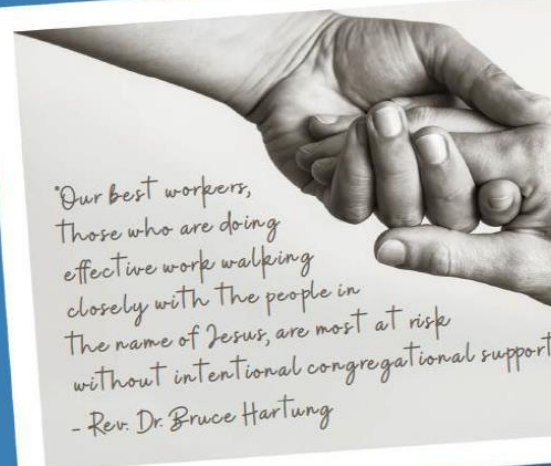


LWML NJD Provides Support for LCMS NJ District Workshop on Nov. 4: Holding Up the Prophet's Hand with Rev. Dr. Bruce Hartung

Ladies of the LWML NJ District provided the breakfast for this workshop and also provided tools to support church workers at their exhibit table. We thank Colleen Bottcher and the Ministerial Health Committee of the LCMS for their organization of this event.

NJ DISTRICT LCMS WORKSHOP

Holding up the Prophet's Hand: Supporting Church Workers



Saturday, November 4, 2023

9:00 - 3:00 pm

Somerset Hills Lutheran Church

350 Lake Road

Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Registration

\$10 per person

\$50 per congregation*

Lunch provided



Register at njdistrict.org or scan above.



*February is
Heart for Mites*



- Get familiar with the current LWML national & NJ mission grants found on the LWMLNJ website,
- Inform your groups & congregations as to where their mite money goes,
- Invite our VP-Gospel Outreach or missionary to speak,
- Hold an event to raise funds to support mites.

Together, with prayer, we can make a difference in our world!

Donate at www.lwmlnj.org

Or mail checks payable to LWML New Jersey District:

Brenda Breza, Treasurer

420 Chestnut Dr

Lanoka Harbor NJ 08734

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 2024-2026 biennium. We are in the process of assembling the candidates for the ballot that will be presented at the District Convention on August 2-3, 2024. Nominations are being requested for the offices below (with brief descriptions):

VP of Gospel Outreach: Member of LWML NJD Executive Committee who provides oversight and review of our Mission Grants. Summarizes all mission grants submitted by deadline for review by the Executive Committee for the convention ballot. Provide updates on mission grant payments and fulfillment throughout the biennium and provide correspondence to grant recipients as appropriate. Seek suggestions for ingatherings and servant events for the District Convention

Secretary: Member of the LWML NJD Executive Committee who keeps a record of the proceedings of the NJ District Convention and all board meetings and executive committee meetings. Provide minutes to the members of the EC and Board of Directors prior to their meetings, and keep a file of all policy motions and standing rules.

Treasurer: Member of the LWML NJD Executive Committee who keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements; receives all monies and deposits them in a bank(s) approved by the EC; make all payments authorized by the EC; make payments on all approved mission grants as authorized by EC; submit regular reports to the EC and Board, and submit a report to the LWML NJD Convention

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.

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, 2024**.
- 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 and its responsibilities.

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.

Send nominations to:

Susan Harnos, Chair
709 Amherst Road
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734
Email: seharnos@verizon.net



Nomination Form for District Office

LWML New Jersey District Convention
Aug. 2-3, 2024
(Bylaws: Article XIII, Section 2)

District position on ballot: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Home Congregation and City: _____

Zone: _____

Signature of consent by nominee:

Send Nomination Form to:

Susan Harnos, Chair
709 Amherst Road
Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

cell: 732-597-6103
email: seharnos@verizon.net

Nominated by: _____

Phone: _____

Zone: _____

Deadline: June 1, 2024 for submission

Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Feb. 10, 2024	10am – 3pm	Sewing Circle to make Baby Quilts for Pregnancy Center King of Kings – Mountain Lakes Bring your own lunch; coffee and tea provided
Mar 2, 2024	10am – 12noon	LWML NJ District Board Meeting at LCMS District Office 1168 Springfield Ave, Mountainside, NJ 07092
Apr 14, 2024	2:30pm	LWML Mideastern Zone Spring Rally St. John’s Lutheran Church – Bloomfield, NJ
Apr 21, 2024	3pm	LWML Lakeland Zone Spring Rally Somerset Hills Lutheran Church – Basking Ridge, NJ Anchor of Hope Alliance – Gerry Cleaves
TBD	2pm	LWML NorthEastern Zone Spring Rally Zion in Westwood, NJ
Aug 2-3, 2024	All day programming	LWML NJ District Convention – King of Kings in Mountain Lakes, NJ/ Fairfield Inn Theme: “Inseparable from God’s Love” Romans 8:31-39
Nov. 2, 2024	10am – 4:00pm	LWML District Fall Retreat – Exercise for the Body, Mind, and Soul King of Kings, Mountain Lakes, NJ

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!

- **Prayers for the family of Gladys Nesko**, who passed away on Jan. 24th at the age of 92. Gladys served with gladness as President of the LWML NJ District from 2002-2006. She was a nurse by profession, retiring from Medford Leas after 20 years. She was the wife and widow of Rev. Dr. Milan “Mike” Nesko, longtime pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Medford. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.lechnerfuneralhome.com. We thank God for Gladys’ faithful years of service to the LWML.




Gladys Nesko

- **A prayer of comfort for Anne Fiechter**, who is in declining health at Merry Heart Nursing Home and has been moved to hospice care. She is in Room 110 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 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.

- **A prayer of healing for Bob Starrett**, Ginger’s husband, who is recovering from surgery complications and undergoing dialysis. We pray that God will provide him strength, comfort, and hope.
- **Prayers for our troops** stationed in the Middle East, who are in harm’s way. Guide and protect them as they defend our freedoms.

LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

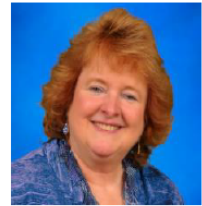
Arlene Price

13 Mariner Drive
Randolph, NJ 07869

Email: aprice8@its.jnj.com

President – NJ District

Cell ph: 973-479-4971



Leslie Vergallito

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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



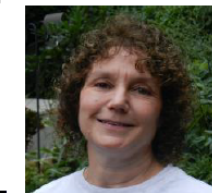
Barbara Giaquinto

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Secretary

Cell ph: 201-317-4568



Brenda Breza

420 Chestnut Drive
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Email: auditranger2@aol.com

Treasurer

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



Lyn Vossler

38 Furnace Ave
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VP- Special Focus Ministries

Home ph: 973-992-2843
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Rev Brian Handrich

21 Elm Street
Newton, NJ 07860

Email: 1540sutherland@gmail.com

Pastoral Counselor

Redeemer - Newton
Cell: 973-220-8303



Rev Steve Vera

Email: pastor@kofkluther.com

Pastoral Counselor

King of Kings – Mtn Lakes
Cell: 608-217-6197

