



# New Jersey Mission Light



*A message from our president...*

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Dear Sisters in Christ:

What a convention! **“Inseparable from God’s Love”** was the wonderful theme of our NJ District Convention, where many of us gathered on August 2-3 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Edison, NJ. (see convention pictures on p.6 of this newsletter; more on our website at [www.lwmlnj.org](http://www.lwmlnj.org)) Here are just a few convention highlights from our fellowship together:

- Eight new mission grants selected for this biennium... To God be the Glory! (p2)
- Donna Snow, from Artesian Ministries, was our Bible Study Leader and Keynote speaker during Saturday’s Luncheon which honored our Pastors and their wives.
- Kathy Pavelock, our National LWML representative, gave an update from President Eden Keefe on our LWML mission and brought greetings to our NJ District.
- President Stephen Gewecke brought greetings from the LCMS-NJ District and joined us for lunch on Saturday.
- We had a visit from the “Singing Pastors + One” who entertained us during lunch.
- We raised \$600 through our Basket Bonanza for mites; Another \$350 was raised for mites through our Mission Walk pledges; Our offering on Saturday for \$347 went to mites also, for a total of \$1,297 raised for mites. To God be the Glory!
- For our Gifts from the Heart, we gathered 26 bags of groceries for Anchor of Hope; 48 Blessings Bags of hygiene products for Livingston Philanthropies; 24 backpacks with school supplies; and wrote over 75 thank you cards for our active military, veterans, Church Workers, and Pastors.
- A musical note of thanks to Barbara Giaquinto for being our song leader! 
- Special thanks to the MidEastern Zone who did a great job hosting the convention!

God’s Blessings!

*Arlene*





### LWML New Jersey District Mission Grants for the 2024-2026 Biennium

Delegates at our convention voted for a mission goal of \$20,000 (\$14,000 = NJD grants, \$5,000 = Natl. LWML grants, \$1,000 = admin) and selected the following eight new mission grant projects:

LWML New Jersey Mission Grants 2024-2026 Biennium	Church/Organization Sponsor	Amount
1. Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center of Warren County- One-year supplies	LWML Member- Juanita Barna- Providoshin	\$2,000
2. NJ District Annual Retreat for Pastors Wives	NJD- LCMS Pastors Wives Committee	\$3,000
3. Assisting Congregation to Address Addiction, Mental Health Disorders, through Anchor of Hope	Anchor of Hope Alliance LLC with LCMS Congregations	\$1,500
4. Provide Funds to purchase Food For Concordia Seminary Families	Concordia Seminary- St. Louis Re-Sell It Shops and Food Bank	\$2,000
5. Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with Large Print Bibles and Bible Study Materials	Lutheran Braille Workers	\$2,000
6. Playground/Friendship Bench Our Savior Nursery School	Our Savior Lutheran church, Fairlawn, NJ	\$ 850
7. Reprinting Bible Story books and Catechism in Haitian Creole and French Translations for Haiti	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$1,500
8. Update Gym Floor Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND	Ladies Aid- St. Paul's Lutheran Church Closter, NJ	<u>\$1,150</u>
<b>Total Mission Grant Goal</b>		<b>\$14,000</b>

Wow, wasn't that a uplifting convention? Whether participating in servant events, singing in worship, studying God's word, listening to reports, together we are Lutheran Women in Mission. Our mission? To grow in faith and share our faith. Thank you, Arlene, for spear heading this convention, our district VPs for their contributions and all the workers from the Mideastern zone for making the convention inspirational.

Let's now bring this enthusiasm for missions back to our congregations. Most groups will be hosting an LWML Sunday this fall. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce your congregation to the newly voted mission projects and stress the importance of mite giving. Maybe invite a grant recipient to speak about how our mite funding has helped their ministry. The more your congregation knows about these mission projects, the more likely their support. With prayer and planning, we can surely meet and exceed our 2024-2026 mite goal of \$20,000.

I'm both excited and humbled being your new Vice-President of Gospel Outreach. What an awesome position to be the intermediary between you and the missionaries. With last biennium's overage and the convention proceeds, we'll soon be distributing checks for the first mission grants. Check our Facebook page for updates on the mission grants.

God's peace,

*Susan E. Harnos*

V-P – Gospel Outreach



**LWML NJ District Convention: Gifts from the Heart - Servant Events**

**Food Collection for Anchor of Hope**



Our LWML women brought an abundance of food for Anchor of Hope Alliance who will help MC-Men to distribute in September to the Good Shepherd Mission homeless shelter and the needy in the Patterson area.



**26 Bags of Food!!**

**Pastor Brian Handrich, June Hill, and Ginger Starrett shown here filling bags with the groceries.**

**And.... Hygiene Products for Livingston Philanthropies Inc.**



LWML ladies from our NJ churches along with an Action Grant from Thrivent provided the donations of shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, diapers and wipes and women's sanitary products for needy families in the Newark area through Livingston Philanthropies Inc. as well as, donations of jackets and coats. Thank you, Pastor Richard Vossler and his wife Lyn who transported ALL these items to Livingston Philanthropies!!!

I only captured some of you in my photos, but thanks to all who provided donations and helped with the servant events. God Bless those who receive these Gifts from the Heart! Joanne Naumowicz



*LWML NJ District Convention: Gifts from the Heart - Servant Events*

**Thank You to our Active Military and our Veterans!  
Thank you Pastors and Church Workers!!**



**In all women wrote out 55 cards to our active Military and 21 cards to veterans! Quite a few Thank you cards went home to our pastors and church workers!! We serve the Lord with gladness at Convention!**



**Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, organized a Servant Event for YWR women. LWML ladies filled twenty-four backpacks with school supplies and put together 48 Blessing Bags of Hygiene products for Livingston Philanthropies! All possible with a Thrivent Action Grant.**



## How Sweet It Is!

Rev. Brian Handrich  
Sr. District Counselor  
LWML NJ District



To the saints in Christ Jesus in the LWML of the New Jersey District. Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to whom be all glory now and forever. Amen.

I have but recently returned from visiting “my girls” - all 60,000 of them. It was time to see what the girls were up to and “steal” some of their honey. The girls had been busy this spring and the two hives harvested (so far) yielded more than the 4 hives of last year. That’s a lot of sweetness. I did get stung for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, but 3 of those 4 were my own fault from being so busy that I failed to notice what was happening around me.

As I reflect back on the recent District Convention a few weekends ago, I am amazed at all that God is doing in and through our New Jersey District LWML. The conference was a *buzz* with prayer, fellowship, singing, learning, and growing together in Christ. The Lincoln room was a veritable *hive* of activity, as food, clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items were collected and assembled for distribution to those in need. We gathered to *comb* through the Scriptures (please nix the bee puns, *honey*) with Donna Snow as we were reminded that nothing can separate us from God’s love which is ours in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And this is to say nothing of all the work that took place prior to the convention with the ingathering efforts of dozens of congregations, registration and other paperwork, and all the preparations for a wonderful convention. All of this makes my busy bees look like they were in hibernation!

With all that has been done, it would be easy to sit back and congratulate ourselves, but our work is not finished. We selected new mite grant projects and now need to fulfill our pledges. We learned of many others in our own District and around the world who do not (yet) know that God loves them with an everlasting and inseparable love. There are many still hurting in our world and who long for the peace that only Christ can give. We have been busy bees, but our work is far from over.

As we enter the Fall season (now back to our regularly scheduled program), I encourage you to celebrate and promote the LWML in your congregations this October. Talk to your pastor and see if you can set aside one Sunday in October for LWML Sunday - if you’re not already doing so. An order of service, sermon, and children’s message is available for free download at LWML.org so it makes for any easy service. Let’s promote and encourage activity in the LWML so there’ll be more sweetness for everyone.

- Pastor Brian Handrich





# *“Inseparable from God’s Love”*

## *NEW JERSEY DISTRICT Convention Highlights August 2-3, 2024*



**Banner Submissions Should  
Be Sent to:**

Arlene Price, President  
LWML NJ District  
13 Mariner Drive  
Randolph, NJ 07869

[arlenerruthprice@gmail.com](mailto:arlenerruthprice@gmail.com)



**Seeking LWML National Convention  
Banner Design Submissions**

To all you crafty women out there...

Banner designs to represent the LWML NJ District at our upcoming National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska on June 26-29, 2025 are due by February 1, 2025. Designs based on the convention theme, "Growing in God's Grace" based on 2 Peter 3:18 are to be on an 8.5"x11" sheet of paper and include your name and contact information on the back. Designs cannot use the convention logo which is pictured below. The final banner size is to be 3' x 5'. Specifications for the banner will be sent to the person whose design is selected by the LWML NJ District Executive Committee.

The entrant whose design is chosen will be responsible for the construction of the banner, including dowel and cord. The LWML NJ District will reimburse for construction costs. Get those creative juices going and send in your ideas!

*Mark Your Calendars!*

**LWML National  
Convention  
Omaha, Nebraska  
June 26-29, 2025**







## Around the New Jersey District....

### MidEastern Zone Fall Rally: Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at St John's - Clifton

The Fall Rally for the MidEastern Zone will be on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm, hosted by the women at St John's Lutheran Church in Clifton, NJ. Following their business meeting, their program will be a guest speaker from the Wounded Warriors Project. Please R.S.V.P. to Lyn Vossler at [rcvossler@verizon.net](mailto:rcvossler@verizon.net)



## MidEastern Zone Fall Rally

Saturday, October 19, 2024

12:30 PM

St John's Lutheran Church

810 Broad Street, Clifton, NJ 07013



Speaker:

*Don Gallorelli*

*Wounded Warrior Project*

[www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)

Gifts of  the Heart:

A special offering will be collected  
for Wounded Warrior Project



Questions or RSVP to Lyn Vossler: [rcvossler@verizon.net](mailto:rcvossler@verizon.net)





## **Special Focus Ministries Update**

**By Lyn Vossler**

### **You are invited to a “Cultural Carnival Celebration!”**

On Saturday, September 28, 2024, our Heart-to-Heart Sister Committee will be hosting an event celebrating women from all backgrounds and cultures. Our district is made up of a rich diversity of nationalities and cultures and we are planning fun activities, games and opportunities to learn from each other. Come share your traditions and heritage with your Sisters in Christ. Everyone is welcome to attend and to participate. We all have our unique stories and cultures to share. We are asking participants to bring foods to share, as well as information, clothing, artifacts, etc. to display from their own cultures, nationalities, and family backgrounds. The Heart-to-Heart Sisters of All Nations committee is here to welcome and encourage all women of faith and to build understanding between all women, of all backgrounds, who share the same faith and heart to serve. Join us on September 28, 1-4 pm, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Hackettstown as we enjoy sharing our cultural heritages with our Sisters in Christ! For more information, or to sign up to bring items to share, contact our H2H committee members: Lyn Vossler ([rcvossler@verizon.net](mailto:rcvossler@verizon.net)) or Roshay Wilson ([roshay.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:roshay.wilson@gmail.com)) See the attached flyer for more information.



### **YWR Servant Event at District Convention**

Thank you to everyone who helped out at our YWR sponsored servant event at our district convention. With the help of two grants from Thrivent Financial, plus some private donations, we were able to purchase enough supplies to assemble 48 toiletry kits and 24 backpacks of school supplies which were donated to Livingston Philanthropies, Inc. LPI is a non-profit grass roots community-giving organization which, in partnership with local organizations, helps to provide basic life items for families in need, mostly in the Newark community. Jeff Friedman, founder of LPI, expressed his thanks for our “large and special donation” of “much-needed items.” Jeff has reported that our assembled backpacks have been distributed to Temple Rock Church & Community Center (TRCCON). The toiletry kits will be distributed among homeless persons in Newark. In addition to the assembled kits, the 21 bags and boxes of donated toiletries, feminine products, diapers and wipes, plus 6 bags of coats, are being distributed to Newark Emergency Services for Families (NESF), NJ Reentry Corporation (NJRC) Prisoner Reentry, and Willing Heart Community Care Center (WHCCC).



### **Calling All Heart-to-Heart Sisters and Young Women in Mission**

Do you know a multicultural and/or young woman with a heart to serve? We are beginning our search for Young Women Reps and Heart-to-Heart Sisters to attend the national convention in Omaha, NE June 26- 29, 2025. Who can you encourage to attend? 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. Our district has funds to support first-time YWR/H2H attendees with registration, hotel, and travel expenses. Contact Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at [rcvossler@verizon.net](mailto:rcvossler@verizon.net) for more information or for an application.



Heart to Heart  
*Sisters of All Nations*

**Presents:**

**Cultural Carnival.**

**Celebration**

**Celebrating Women from all  
Background and Culture**

**FOOD . DRINK . LIVE MUSIC**  
**FUN ACTIVITIES: GAMES, DANCING AND LEARNING  
ABOUT EACH SISTER'S CULTURE**

**Sept 28th, 2024**

**AT 1:00PM – 4:00PM**

**GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**409 E Baldwin St, Hackettstown, NJ 07840**  
**Phone: (908) 852-2156**

# LWML NJ District Retreat

## Exercise for the Body, Mind and Soul

King of Kings Lutheran Church

145 Rt. 46 West, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

November 2, 2024

10am – 4pm



Join us for our District Retreat on Nov. 2nd at King of Kings in Mountain Lakes for a day of Bible Study, physical exercise and stretching, meditation, and fellowship, Our Pastoral Counselors, Rev. Brian Handrich and Rev. Steve Vera will lead our opening communion worship service and Bible Study, and then Colleen Botcher, Parish Nurse for the LCMS NJ District, will lead our exercise, stretching, and meditation. We will also work on a servant event for Lutheran Disaster Relief for Hurricane Victims.

### Registration:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ LWML Zone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church & City \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with \$25 to LWML District Treasurer Juanita Barna-Providoshin at  
16 Barkers Mill Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840



# Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Sept. 14, 2024	10am – 12noon	LWML NJ District Board Meeting via Zoom invitation
Sept. 28, 2024	1:00pm – 4:00pm	Cultural Carnival Celebration (see flyer) Gethsemane Lutheran Church Hackettstown, NJ
Oct. 2024	Any Sunday in Oct.	Celebrate LWML Sunday at your churches Materials available at <a href="http://www.lwml.org">www.lwml.org</a>
Oct 19, 2024	12:30pm – 2:00pm	LWML Mideast Zone Fall Rally Program: “Wounded Warriors Project” St. John’s – Clifton, NJ
Oct 20, 2024	3pm – 5pm	LWML Lakeland Zone Fall Rally Program: Jesus Christ Above All – Philippians 2:9 Gethsemane – Hackettstown, NJ
Nov.2, 2024	10am – 4pm	LWML NJ District Fall Retreat “Exercise for the Body, Mind and Soul” King of Kings Lutheran Church – Mountain Lakes, NJ
Mar 8, 2025	10am – 12noon	LWML Board Meeting via Zoom invitation
June 26-29, 2025	All Day Programming	LWML National Convention Omaha, Nebraska “Growing in God’s Grace” – 2 Peter 3:18

## 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](http://www.lwmlnj.org) and our national LWML website  
at [www.lwml.org](http://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!





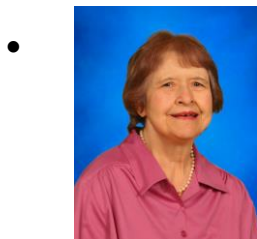
**Prayer Requests:**

Please keep the following people in your prayers. Additional prayer requests can be emailed to [arleneruthprice@gmail.com](mailto:arleneruthprice@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter. These can be prayers of thanksgiving or prayers for physical/spiritual needs. Thank you!

- **A prayer of comfort for the loved ones of Anne Fiechter**, who received her Crown of Life on Aug. 16th. Anne was an active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Stanhope, and a member of the LWML Ladies Guild. We pray for peace and comfort for her family



Anne Fiechter



Jane Moeller

• **A prayer of comfort for the family of Jane Moeller**, who passed away on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jane was an active member of Our Savior -Stanhope, and served as its Music Director for choir and handbells, and as Organist for 50 years. She will join the heavenly throng to sing praises to our King.

- **A prayer of comfort and healing for Eleanor Hoffmann** who is recuperating from heart surgery. May God grant her strength and patience during this time of convalescence.



Eleanor Hoffmann

- **A prayer of healing and strength for Pat Bacon**, Bridgeton, who is dealing with multiple health issues. May God grant her comfort and peace.



Betty Vetter

• **A prayer of comfort for the family of Betty Vetter**, who passed away peacefully on July 18, 2024. Betty was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church and their LWML Ladies Guild in Morris Plains, NJ. She was a woman of great faith and exhibited the fruits of the spirit, especially gentleness. She could always be found with a FROG pendant to remind people to **Fully Rely On God!**

- **A prayer for Teachers and students** as they return to their classrooms: May they respect each other in their interactions. Bless teachers with the ability to inspire students to appreciate the wisdom and beauty of God's creation.

- **A prayer for the men and women** being held hostage around the world, that they would be freed to return home to their families.

- **For the people of the Ukraine**, who continue to suffer from horrific atrocities that violate any norms of human society.



## LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

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