



New Jersey Mission Light



A message from our president...

Winter Countdown to Spring!

In this issue:

President's Message

Mission Grants

Pastor's Corner

Sewing Circle

District Retreat

Spring Rallies

National Convention
Omaha, NB

Around the NJ
District...

Calendar of Events

Prayer Chain

And Much, Much,
More...



2025 is off to a fast start! March 21st, the vernal equinox, is just around the corner. This marks the beginning of spring with the hours of daylight equaling the hours of night. Even though Punxutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog's Day and predicted 6 more weeks of winter, I'm hoping that actual spring weather will stick around. We've had some nice spring-like weather recently, but cold weather is back in the forecast, so who knows!

Registration for our National LWML Convention opens on March 1st. Be sure to check this out at www.lwml.org Ladies in purple will be gathering in Omaha, NB on June 26-29, 2025 under the theme of "Growing in God's Grace – 2 Peter 3:18" Delegates will be voting on a new slate of mission grants for the next biennium and electing new officers. If you've never been to a national convention, you really need to check this one out. It's a mountain-top experience with great Bible studies, mission speakers, fun, and networking! Omaha will mark the first time that our Gifts From the Heart (GFTH) are going digital. See page 9 for more information on how to contribute to GFTHs, whether you go to convention virtually or in person. Three ministries have been selected to receive GFTH and their wish lists can be found on Amazon. Let your congregations know about this so that they can contribute too!

We hope you can join the rest of the New Jersey delegation in Omaha for the convention and celebrate "Growing in God's Grace!"

In His Service,

Arlene Price, President
LWML NJ District




41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Omaha, Nebraska
June 26-29, 2025

registration open now!

Click here to get started >

Register Today!



Mission Grant Update

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 PAID
2. NJ District Annual Retreat for Pastors Wives	NJD- LCMS Pastors Wives Committee	\$3,000 PAID
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>
Total Mission Grant Goal		\$14,000

This January, it was my pleasure to have mission grant #2 paid - New Jersey District, Pastors Wives Committee paid. Julie Taylor, committee chairperson, will use this grant to offset the cost of their annual retreats in 2025 & 2026. As the proposal reads: "The pastor's wives of the NJ District are instrumental and unique members of our congregations. They have special qualities and needs, as they support and uplift their husbands, are leaders in the churches, and bring the gospel to their families and others." With Bible study and fellowship, the retreat's objective to strengthen these women in their walk with the Lord while building a comradery with other women in their same role. The LWML NJD will be praying for the success of these retreats. The 2025 Pastors' Wives Retreat is April 25-27. Please encourage your pastor's wife to attend. Watch the NJ District Grapevine for more information.

We have recently received enough mites to pay our third mission grant – Anchor of Hope Alliance LLC. Gerry Cleaves, who heads up this ministry, is always looking for opportunities to visit congregations. Its mission is to help congregations develop strategies to combat the addiction problem unique to their community. You can call me for Gerry's contact information. Please keep your mites coming! I would like to hear if your group raises mite money over and above Mite Box donations. I'll share your ideas in future newsletters.

God's peace,
Susan E. Harnos
V-P Gospel Outreach



“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand”

Matthew 3:2
Rev. Brian Handrich
District Counselor



The season of Lent has arrived and once more we focus on the cross and the reason the crucifixion (and resurrection / ascension) was necessary. During Lent the cry to “Repent” will ring out frequently, but what does it mean to truly repent? Repentance is a multi-step / multi-faceted jewel given to us by God Himself.

Attrition is the first step in repentance. While we often use this word for warfare or business dealings, in scholastic theology it means the fear of the Lord. Even here fear can mean two things; the “Fear of the Lord” or respect for God’s holiness and power, and it also means to be afraid of His “temporal and eternal punishment” for our sins. The fear of punishment is sadly, where many Christians stop in the repentance process.

Contrition, the attitude of “a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” (Psalm 51:17b). Contrition requires empathy. It is the realization that you have not only broken a law, but have caused harm to one you say you love. It’s like blowing a stoplight (attrition) and blowing up at your spouse (contrition). Both are sins, but one had a direct effect on another person. This is true of God as well. As our confessional address states, “I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbor as myself.” It is this sorrow for having caused harm that is contrition.

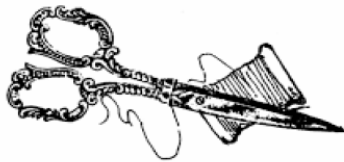
Confession. Realizing we have broken God’s laws and so not lived up to His holiness, and that our actions (or inactions) have hurt others, we then speak what God already knows (con = with, fessio = say). These may be thoughts, words, or deeds. They may be sins of commission or sins of omission. Whatever the sin(s) we lay it before God’s throne of grace and leave those sins at the foot of the cross (though I’d rather stuff them in an empty tomb nearby).

Absolution. Having felt and confessed our sins, we then receive the gift of those (and any we may have forgotten) absolved (ab = from, solve = loosen). Here the shackles of sin are loosened from us and we are set free.

Thanksgiving. The response to this gift of absolution is to thank God for His mercy shown to us in Christ Jesus. It might be a psalm(ody), it might be a prayer, it might be a hymn of praise. Whatever its form, we thank God for His forgiveness.

Repentance. In the broad sense of the word, it refers to the whole process. In its narrower meaning, it is the works which follow (or cease to be followed) that flow from Confession and Absolution. This is what John the Baptist refers to in “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” (Luke 3:8). Acts of repentance are many and varied and uniquely individual.

As we begin Lent, may the call to repentance be embraced as God’s good gift to train us up in all righteousness. Amen.



SERVANT EVENT

sponsored by LWML – NJ District
All are welcome!

Saturday, 4/26/2025

10am – 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 baby quilts for The Women's Research Center in Morristown. Bring your scissors, irons, and sewing machines, We will have squares cut out already to piece together.

Bring your own brown-bag lunch, and coffee and tea will be provided by the Ladies of King of Kings. Join your sisters in Christ for this special servant event.

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



The Journey of the Blessing Bag

Joanne Naumowicz, VP Christian Life



At the **LWML Fall Retreat** the women assembled the 31 Blessing Bags with items provide by our LWML groups in NJ. Then they were transported by Susan Harnos to Gerry Cleaves co-chair of **Anchor of Hope Alliance**.



Gerry and Gwen then packed them in cloth bags and distributed them Nov. 23rd along with Ruby from Ruby's Vision in Paterson. They actually handed out 50 Blessing Bags and 25 Feminine Hygiene Kits. Pictured here- Gwen Cleaves, Anchor of Hope with Ruby at Star of Hope and Ruby's Vision in Paterson distributing the Blessing Bags from **LWML Fall 2024 Retreat**.



And.....

The Journey of the Flood Buckets



Our **LWML NJ District** responded to the flooding in the south by asking our women to bring gallons of Clorox, Pine Sol, and cans of Comet to the Fall Retreat. The **LCMS NJ Disaster Response Team** requested these items to fill Hurricane Flood Buckets. With the help of a **Thrivent Action Grant** the LWML provided forty-one gallons of Clorox Bleach, forty-three bottles of Pine Sol and eighty-nine cans of Comet cleanser and ten rolls of Paper Towels. So, the journey started in shopping carts, to your churches, and to the LWML the Fall Retreat at King of Kings, Mountain Lakes. Arlene Price and Joanne Naumowicz loaded their cars and transported all the items to Holy Trinity, Somerset on November 9th. The Disaster Response Team packed the Flood Buckets and sent them down to North Carolina. **Thank you all** for your generosity in helping others in their time of need. **Thank you** also to **Thrivent** for their support of this servant event.

NJ District LWML Retreat: Exercise for the Body, Mind & Soul

November 2, 2024



Serve the Lord with Gladness! Ps 100:2



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



What is a Heart to Heart Sister?

The *Heart to Heart Sisters of All Nations* program is designed to welcome and encourage women of all cultures to participate and serve in the life of Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML). This may be someone who is from a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic background. It may be someone new to our country, or someone who has lived here for a long time. It may be someone who is new to your church or a long-time member. Heart-to-Heart includes every woman from every culture and language. Although we each have our own culture and background, we are all Sisters in Christ, are a part of H2H, and share a unique relationship based on our common faith and understanding.

How can you reach out and develop friendships with women of other cultures? First, recognize how your own culture and background has influenced your life and shaped your faith. Then, make an effort to learn about the cultures and background of those around you. Ask questions and be open to new thoughts, ideas, and ways of doing things. Find common interests to talk about and share. Ask how their faith has influenced their lives. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations. Be welcoming and encouraging--invite new friends to participate in activities, join in celebrations, and be a part of the life of your church, LWML society and home. Celebrate each other's diversity and uniqueness!

By inviting, welcoming, and nurturing relationships between all women of faith, we can encourage each other in our faith journeys, as well as inspire and assist each other in using our God-given talents to serve the Lord. Do you know a multicultural woman with a heart to serve? Encourage her to apply as a Heart to Heart Sister to attend the national LWML convention in Omaha. Our district has funds to support first-time H2H attendees with registration, hotel, and travel expenses. Attendees at convention 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. Contact Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at rcvossler@verizon.net for more information or for an application.

Young Women
IN MISSION

Young Women in Mission

It's not too late to apply to be a Young Woman Rep at the LWML Convention in Omaha this June. Any young woman, preferably 22-35 years of age**, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously attended a national convention as a Young Woman Representative is eligible to become a YWR.

A YWR candidate should have a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and be able to participate in the full scope of the convention. 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 could encourage to apply? Someone you would like to inspire to use her gifts and talents to serve the Lord? Someone you would like to support in her faith journey? Our district has funds to support first-time YWR attendees of the convention. More information on the YWR program can be found at www.lwml.org/young-women. Contact Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at rcvossler@verizon.net for more information or for an application.

*(**While 22-35 is the suggested age from the LWML, we welcome women who are slightly outside of the age range to apply.)*



Archivist Update

During these cold months, many use this time to sort and purge to make room for the new. This is also a good time to sort through your zone or society files. At convention, archival boxes were distributed to zones. The question was then: what needs to be saved? At the last LWML convention, national's archivist Caroline Honeycutt addressed this and her recommendations are:

- By-laws.
- Meeting minutes.
- Treasurer's reports.
- Any papers documenting IRS correspondence, grants or bequest received or dispersed. Copies are recommended, keeping the originals with the current treasurer.
- Any research done for a particular event (Ei: anniversary celebration).
- Newspaper clippings, publications - e.g.: Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, Orphan Grain Train. The whole publication doesn't need to be saved, just the page referencing your organization.
- Pictures of special events that include dates, places & names. Not every picture needs to be saved just one or two.

Unfortunately, though it is fun to go back through records seeing familiar faces & reminiscing, storage space is at a premium. In fact, the Concordia Historical Society, St. Louis, is currently adding to its storage area. It is there that you can send your material to be archived. Once archived, anyone can access the information by going online or calling CHS.

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)

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 Juanita 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, Juanita Barna-Providoshin @ PO Box 333, Great Meadows, NJ 07833.





Gifts from the Heart IS GOING GREEN!

Gifts From the Heart is getting a Makeover for Omaha!



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Change. Yes, change. Positive and necessary change.

The days of packing and hauling boxes across the country are over!



WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

Utilize Amazon Wish Lists.

- ▶ Shop online and ship directly to our recipients in the months before the convention.
- ▶ Select items from an Amazon Wish List of each recipient's top needs.
- ▶ Use the online link provided.
- ▶ Shop individually, or make it a group event.

WHO ARE THE RECIPIENTS?

Three ministries have been selected as Gifts From the Heart recipients for the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha.



Camp Luther of Nebraska



Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska



The Chapel: The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry

WHAT'S NEXT? Watch for more information in the winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* in the convention section. **Wish List shopping will open in February 2025 and continue through convention weekend.**

The time is now to embrace new options for collecting Gifts from the Heart ingathering items! **Ready? Set. Here we GO!**

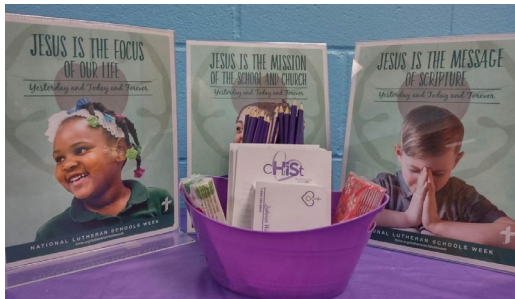


Around the New Jersey District...



Raritan Valley Zone:

The Ladies Guild of Village Lutheran Church, Lanoka Harbor, treated their church’s preschool / daycare staff lunch for Lutheran Schools Week. Lutheran Schools Week is traditionally the last week of January. It is a time to celebrate the contribution of Lutheran schools to literacy and encourage parents to consider these schools for their children. The menu was simple with sandwiches, chips, cookies and drinks. LWML pencils, sticky notes and writing pads were available. Angela L. director of Littlest Angels, says the staff always appreciates these annual lunches. It is a way for the congregation to say thank you to the dedication of the LA staff.



Lakeland Zone:

The Spring Rally for the Lakeland Zone will be held on Sunday, April 27 at 3pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newton, NJ. The theme will be the same as our National Convention theme... “Growing in God’s Grace” based on 2 Peter 3:16.

The program will be Laura Hanrahan from the Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center, and the Gift From the Heart will be maternity clothes and baby items. You can use the Amazon link below to get ideas of their wish list, and then go to your local Target or Walmart to purchase these items.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1GXONGJS26SVK>

See you at our Spring Rally on April 27th in Newton, NJ!

LWML LAKELAND ZONE

Spring Rally

April 27, 2025 @ 3:00 PM

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Newton, NJ



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).

Guest Speaker: Laura Hanrahan

2024-2026 Mission Grant #1

Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center

Gift of the Heart: Maternity Clothes and Baby items

(you can use the link below as a guide for items that you might like to purchase at a local Target or Walmart)

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/1GXONGJS26SVK>



MidEastern Zone Spring Rally

Sunday, May 4, 2025

2:30 PM

Grace Lutheran Church

290 West Hobart Gap Road, Livingston, NJ 07039

“Work in Faith, Labor in
Love, Hope in Jesus”

1 Thess. 1:3

Program:

Lily Comfort Dog



Gifts of ♥ the Heart:

We will be collecting dog treats, dog toys, and poop bags
for Lily and other Comfort Dogs

Questions or RSVP to Lyn Vossler: rcvossler@verizon.net

Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Mar 1, 2025	10am – 12noon	LWML Board Meeting via Zoom invitation
Apr 20, 2025	EASTER Sunday	HE IS RISEN!
Apr 26, 2025	10am – 3pm	Sewing Circle for Baby Quits King of Kings – Mountain Lakes, NJ
Apr 27, 2025	3pm – 5pm	Lakeland Spring Rally Redeemer – Newton
May 4, 2025	1pm – 3pm	MidEastern Spring Rally Grace Lutheran Church – Livingston, NJ
May 4, 2025	2pm – 4pm	NorthEastern Spring Rally St. Paul’s – Closter, NJ
June 12-14, 2025	All Day Programming	LCMS NJ District Convention Crown Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ
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!
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!





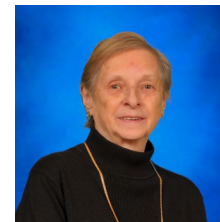
Prayer Requests:

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 of comfort for Barbara Giaquinto and her family** at the passing of her mother-in-law, Collette Attardi. May God grant His peace to them during this difficult time.
- **A prayer for Barbara Mylan** who was diagnosed with cancer and has undergone chemotherapy. Give her strength and patience with these health issues, and may God give her His peace.
- **A prayer for Anita Minnix**, wife of Rev. Roy Minnix, who has been undergoing treatment for a blood cancer. May God be with her doctors and guide them with her treatment. May God's healing hand give her strength and comfort.
- **A prayer of healing for Lesley Vergallito** as she recuperates after a hospitalization for cardioversion for an arrhythmia. Give her strength on her road to recovery.
- **For the people of the Ukraine**, who continue to suffer from the war in their country. Be with the people who have been displaced from their homes. Grant them peace and an end to the fighting.
- **Prayers for our troops** stationed in the Middle East, who are in harm's way. Guide and protect them as they defend our freedoms.
- **Prayers for hurricane victims** who have been displaced from their homes and are still waiting for shelter and basic needs. Give them hope and help, and grant them God's peace.
- **Prayers for the wildfire victims in California** who have lost their home and all of their belongings. Help them to rebuild and give them comfort in their hour of need.



Barbara Giaquinto



Barbara Mylan



Lesley Vergallito



LWML New Jersey District Executive Committee

Arlene Price

13 Mariner Drive
Randolph, NJ 07869
Email: arlenruthprice@gmail.com

President - NJ District

Cell ph: 973-479-4971



Susan Harnos

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

VP - Gospel Outreach

cell: 732-597-6103

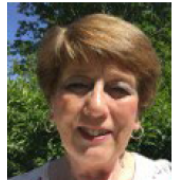


Joanne Naumowicz

16 Dogwood Drive
Newton, NJ 07860
Email: joanne.naumowicz@gmail.com

VP - Christian Life

Cell ph: 973-919-8144



Vacant

Please contact Arlene Price if you are interested in serving as Secretary from now until August, 2026. This is an executive board position.

Secretary

Juanita Barna-Providoshin

16 Barkers Mill Road
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Email: juanita.barna@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Home ph: 908-637-4582
Cell ph: 908-413-3329



Lyn Vossler

38 Furnace Ave
Wanaque, NJ 07465
Email: rcvossler@verizon.net

VP- Special Focus Ministries

Cell: 973-303-8251



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

