



New Jersey Mission Light

A message from our president. . .



Convention Time!

In this Issue:

President's Message

Mission Grants

Pastor's Corner

Christian Life

Spring Rallies

LWML NJ District
Convention

Special Focus Ministries

Around the NJ
District...

Calendar of Events

Prayer Chain



Time flies when you're having fun! My husband and I recently returned from a cruise to Portugal, but we needed a vacation from our vacation when we returned. We were on the "go" the whole time, which was great, but not very relaxing. We definitely covered a lot of ground (and wine/port tasting) in Portugal!

Our LWML NJ District Convention will be here before we know it! Work is well underway with our NorthEastern and MidEastern Zones hosting on August 21-22 in Edison, NJ. (See pages 6-9 for further information or go to our website, www.lwmlnj.org for a registration form. You should be selecting your delegates for the Convention who will vote on new mission grants, officers, and by-law changes on Saturday. Delegate packets will be emailed soon to all delegates. The Convention will be a time for diving into God's Word. Donna Snow will be our Bible Study leader on Psalm 46:10, "Be Still and Know that I am GOD."

Our Gifts from the Heart (GFTH) will include diapers for infants and toddlers and incontinence pads/products for seniors that we will be collecting for the Center for Food Action; We will also collect nonperishable food items for Anchor of Hope which they will distribute to people in need in Paterson, NJ; and we will collect used eyeglasses and sunglasses with soft cases for MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term) ministries. See page 4 for further information on GFTH. You can bring these items to the Lincoln Room at the Crowne Plaza when you arrive on Friday or Saturday.

Our YWRs will be hosting a servant event on Friday afternoon, August 21, from 1pm – 3pm where we will tie lap blankets for veterans. Bring your own scissors for this. We will also have tables set up to write thank-you cards to our pastors, church workers, and veterans.

We hope you can join us for our Mission Walk which will benefit Mites, and our Servant Events on Friday afternoon, August 21st. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Convention for a special time of fun and fellowship!

God's Blessings!
Arlene Price, President
LWML - NJ District





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 PAID
4. Provide Funds to purchase Food For Concordia Seminary Families	Concordia Seminary- St. Louis Re-Sell It Shops and Food Bank	\$2,000 PAID
5. Reaching Visually Impaired Inmates with Large Print Bibles and Bible Study Materials	Lutheran Braille Workers	\$2,000 PAID
6. Playground/Friendship Bench Our Savior Nursery School	Our Savior Lutheran church, Fairlawn, NJ	\$ 850 PAID
7. Reprinting Bible Story books and Catechism in Haitian Creole and French Translations for Haiti	Lutheran Heritage Foundation	\$1,500 PAID
8. Update Gym Floor Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND	Ladies Aid- St. Paul's Lutheran Church Closter, NJ	\$1,150 PAID
Total Mission Grants for NJD		\$14,000

It is with great joy that I can announce that your mites have fully funded each of the 8 mission projects selected last convention. All Glory to God!

Although these grants have been funded, our prayers are still needed to ensure their success in spreading the Gospel. Also, remember that these organizations have speakers willing to come to your rallies or congregations as well as resources to share. Recently, I received a note from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation thanking us for funding the Haiti Project. In 2024, New Jersey's population was 25% foreign born. This means it's probable that someone in your community could benefit from a LHF publication in their own language. From Acholi to Zulu, LHF has a plethora of materials to help evangelize your neighborhood.

At convention, there will be an in gathering of eyeglasses, prescription & non-prescription sunglasses, for MOST Ministries. MOST (Mission Opportunities, short term) will refurbish the glasses and distribute in clinics located mostly throughout central America. Along with a new pair of glasses, won't it be nice to include a case to keep them clean? MOST Ministries' website, <https://www.mostministries.org>, has instructions for sewing cases.

Isn't it amazing how God can take our extra coins & used glasses to help others? Sharing what we may view as insignificant, is magnified when blessed by God! (I think Jesus shared a parable or two about that). I thank God for all you loving women who continually "serve the LORD with gladness" right where you are.

Serving with Joy-

Susan E. Harnos

VP, Gospel Outreach



“Stirring Things Up”

Rev. Brian Handrich
District Counselor



Summer is here! The time of travels, events, and most of all, of get-togethers of all kinds. Conferences and conventions, family vacations to see distant relatives, annual events like Coachella, and the like all happen in late spring and summer. The same is true for us as Lutheran women united in mission. Registration forms for our biennial NJ District LWML convention are now available.

But why is it important that we all gather together and share a couple of days with each other? The answer to that can be found in Hebrews 10:24-25 where the author writes, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” There are at least three reasons (what is it with God and 3’s?) that God wants His people to “meet together”.

First to celebrate. To join with one another in celebration for all that God has done, is doing, and will do in and through His faithful women throughout our New Jersey District. What mission projects have been completed over these last two years through your mites? What is happening in our societies now, and what are the things we, by God’s grace and help, will do in the next two years? Not only the “business” of NJ District LWML, but also to celebrate what God has done for all people in Jesus Christ as we join in worship Friday evening.

The second reason is highlighted in the passage above, to stir up one another. It’s not easy being a missionary and sometimes our spirits can feel drained and maybe even defeated. Perhaps we need some new ideas, some sign that our labor for the Lord is not in vain. We come together to stir one another up to continue in faith and good works. We need to “convene” around the Word and our Bible Study presenter will do just that. We will be stirred to go back into the mission field that is our own neighborhoods and share the Good News of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

The third reason to meet together is to encourage one another. As we share table fellowship, go on mission walks, engage in service projects, laugh, sing, and maybe even cry together, we see we are not alone in missions. Certainly, Jesus goes with us as we bring His love to others, but knowing we have flesh and blood sisters struggling along with us is a powerful motivator. We do this “all the more” as we know Jesus is risen (He is risen indeed!) and will return on the Last Day. We meet to help one another get ready for that Day of all days.

I hope to see all of you August 21-22 in Edison. May we continue to meet together that we might celebrate all God has done, be stirred up to even greater activity, and encouraged by one another. Until we “meet together” in August, may God’s peace be with you all.

- Rev. Brian W. Handrich

Gifts From the Heart for the LWML Convention



Moving Forward Together



The Center for Food Action (CFA), founded in 1976, is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization that provides emergency services to northern New Jersey's poorest and most vulnerable residents. CFA provides food, housing, utility, and heating assistance and offers counseling and advocacy services to low-income individuals and families. We will be collecting diapers & incontinence products for CFA.

Diapers (any size for babies or toddlers) & Baby Wipes

Incontinence pads/products for Seniors



Anchor of Hope Alliance and MC- Men, a group out of Metro Church in North Haledon, will distribute all the food we collect at Convention in the Paterson area in September. **Good Shepherd Mission** will be one of the recipients in the Paterson area. **Good**

Shepherd Mission provides temporary shelter for those facing homelessness.



LWML Ladies: Help us by bringing non-perishable food items to Convention. Need some suggestions? Here is a Food Bank list of Most Needed Items. **No Glass containers please!**

Ready to eat Canned Meals - Chili, Stew, Ravioli (cheese & beef)

Canned Tuna, Chicken

Pancake mix & Syrup

Canned Vegetables (low sodium)

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Canned Fruit in juice or light syrup

Cold Cereal (whole grain)

100% Fruit Juice

Soup (low sodium)

Hot Cereal (Oatmeal, Farina)

AND...

We will be collecting eyeglasses and sunglasses with soft cases for **MOST** ministries to be distributed on their mission trips.



Spring Rallies
LWML
NJ District Rallies



Lutheran Women's Missionary League
New Jersey District - 28th Biennial Convention
August 21-22, 2026

Where:

Crowne Plaza Hotel
2055 Lincoln Hwy
Edison, NJ 08817
Ph: 732-287-3500

What to Bring:

Your Bible & a Friend!
Your Pastor & his wife for the
Saturday Pastors & Wives
Recognition Luncheon;
Themed Basket for Mites
and wear your purple bling!

Guests:

Donna Snow
Bible Study Leader

Rev. Stephen Gewecke
President, LCMS-NJ District

LWML Natl' Representative
Leslie Colligan

Pastors & wives of the
LCMS-NJ District

Mission Speakers,
Exhibitors and Other
Friends of LWML



Donna Snow



**Need more information
or a registration form?**

Go to www.lwmlnj.org



Lily
the
Comfort Dog

Event Highlights:

Friday Afternoon

Servant Events: 1-3pm
Thank You Cards
Gifts From the Heart
Mission Walk – 3pm
Delegate session – 4pm

Friday Evening:

Exhibits open – 5pm
Worship Service – 6pm
Opening Reception 7:30pm

Saturday

Prayer Breakfast – 7am
Exhibits open – 8am
Convention opens -8:30am

Bible Study – 9am
LWML National Speaker

Committee Reports
Voting on Mission Grants
Pastors/Wives Recognition
Lunch – 12:30pm
Keynote Address
Mission Speakers
Election of Officers
Closing – 4:30pm

**See you at
the Convention!**



*LWML New Jersey District
28th Biennial Convention
August 21-22, 2026*

Convention Special Guests:



Rev. Steve Gewecke
President LCMS NJ District



Donna Snow
Bible Study Leader



Leslie Colligan
LWML Board of Director
and Meeting Manager

**Gerry Cleaves, Anchor of
Hope, Mites in Action
Speaker**



Lily the Comfort Dog



Keynote:
**Rev. Tim & Chikako
Drawbaugh**

Check-off List for the LWML NJ District Convention:



Bring:



Yourself, your Bible, and a friend!



Diapers (any size) and Incontinence pads/products for
Center for Food Action



Non-perishable food items for food bank in
Paterson, NJ through Anchor of Hope



Eyeglasses and/or soft cases for MOST ministries



Scissors to work on tie-lap blankets for Veterans



Themed Basket for the Basket Bonanza
from your society or zone for mites



Purple Bling and Purple Convention T-Shirt!





Mission Prayer Walk

at the LWML NJ District Convention



When: Friday, August 21, 3:00 pm

Where: around the grounds of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Edison, NJ, (approximately) one mile

Why: to benefit the newly selected 2026-2028 Mission Grants. This special Mite Offering will be presented and dedicated at the convention.

How:

- Find sponsors for your walk in support of our 2026-2028 Mission Grants. Ask your sponsors to support you **in** your walk rather than to pledge an amount for the distance you walk. Please bring cash or checks made payable to *LWML NJ District* to the registration desk during the convention with the pledge sheet. (Make a note on all check memos: *Mission Prayer Walk*.)
- Look for signs at the convention showing where to meet for the walk. Water and snacks will be provided. Don't forget your walking shoes! Be sure to purchase a purple LWML Convention T-Shirt to show your LWML spirit!

A Wonderful Weekend of Contemplation, Connection and Renewal

Pastors Wives Retreat, Mission Grant # 2

The Pastors Wives Retreat was held April 24-26, 2026 at Harvey Cedars Conference Center, a beautiful setting along the shore of Long Beach Island. Sixteen pastors' wives from all over the state of New Jersey were able to gather and be led by Heidi Goehmann, a pastor's wife and mental health provider from Michigan. They were each bolstered, encouraged, and renewed through God's Word, devotions, song, and fellowship. **We want to thank our LWML Sisters for helping to make this retreat such a meaningful event.**



The 2024 mission grant from our NJ District LWML allowed the Pastors Wives Committee to engage Heidi Goehmann to lead the weekend. Her focus on "Emotions and the Gospel" guided us to understand a new way of looking at and processing our emotions.



Our beautiful setting allowed plenty of time for fellowship, the rekindling of old friendships & the making of new ones, evening camaraderie around the firepit, sharing of news and stories, heartfelt discussions, prayers and singing, as well as laughter, tears and hugs. Our thanks also goes to Pastor John Dunbar who presided over a meaningful communion service. The women ended the weekend with a mission project to make 100 cross necklaces to donate to "Forged By Fire." (for more info on "Crosses for Benny" go to: weservehope.org) Each participant took home a copy of Heidi's book, "Emotions & the Gospel: Created for Connection" to continue devotion and learning after the retreat.



It was a glorious weekend in God's Word and His wonderful creation! **The Pastors Wives Committee thanks you, our Sisters in Christ, for the mission grant which enabled us to engage two incredible Bible Study leaders, Donna Snow and Heidi Goehmann, to lead us for our past two retreats.** Please encourage your pastor's wife to attend the retreat next year. If you are a pastor's wife, mark your calendar now and plan to join us next year, April 23-25, 2027. It is an important opportunity to be in each other's company, receive some respite, to know that others are in similar situations, and to share the love and encouragement with each other that can only be found through God's restoring grace.



Special Focus Ministries:

Lyn Vossler

Young Women
IN MISSION



Calling all Young Women and Heart to Heart Sisters

Do you know a multicultural and/or young woman with a heart to serve? **Encourage her to attend our district convention in August as a Young Woman Rep (YWR) or as a Heart-to-Heart (H2H) Sister.** All 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. There are special opportunities being planned at the convention for our YWRs and H2H sisters to help build those connections. Among their activities, our YWRs will be sponsoring a mission project to tie blankets to donate.

Wondering what the purpose is of these programs? Both programs give the opportunity for fellowship with other women of similar backgrounds and to grow in relationships as sisters in Christ. Our love for God is what binds us together as Lutheran Women in Mission. The Heart-to-Heart Sisters of All Nations program was developed to encourage multicultural women in our district to become active in their LWML societies and their churches, encourage them in their faith journey, and build relationships with other women of faith. As Young Women in Mission, YWRs are encouraged to become more involved in their congregation and the LWML, using their God-given talents, gifts, and strengths. They have the opportunity to meet and connect with other young women of faith, encourage each other, and just have fun! Faith and Sara, our district YWRs at the 2025 National LWML Convention in Omaha were part of a group to write and perform a skit at the convention. Check out their humorous video on YouTube! (see the link below). They had a lot of fun doing it!

For more information or to sign up as YWRs or H2H Sisters, contact Lyn Vossler, VP of Special Focus Ministries, at rcvossler@verizon.net or Sara Vossler, NJ District YWR at sevy694@verizon.net.

YWR Skit:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7w8KlroFZc&list=PLxe1e8efbZI-Vxp0LObSiuqxHQDY76o_w





Around the NJ District...

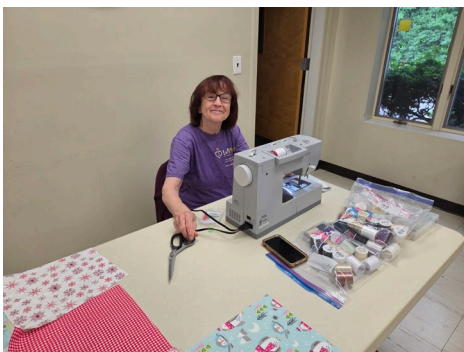


Mission Classic Golf Outing

The LWML NJ District was honored to sponsor a golf hole at the LCMS NJD Mission Classic Golf Outing on May 7, 2026. Pictured to the left, is our LWML NJD Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Steve Vera, posing at our sponsored hole in his LWML purple polo shirt. It looks like it was a great day for golf!.

LWML NJD Sewing Circle

Our LWML NJD Sewing Circle was held on May 30, 2026, at King of Kings in Mountain Lakes, NJ. We worked on baby quilts for the Morristown Women's Resource Center. We were able to piece together a number of quilts, and a fun time was had by all.



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 2026-2028 biennium. We are in the process of assembling the candidates for the ballot that will be presented at the District Convention on August 21-22, 2026. Nominations are being requested for the offices below (with brief descriptions; see Article IX in our bylaws for further details):

President: Presides at all conventions of the District LWML and at all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors and oversees the committee for the endowment fund as an ex-officio member. Represents the NJD at National LWML meetings; prepares the convention booklet for NJD Conventions,

VP of Christian Life: Member of LWML NJD Executive Committee who provides oversight and review of our Retreats and Bible Studies. Encourages active participation in mission inspiration and spiritual development programs, presents suggestions and offers advice for conducting LWML Christian Life programs for the NJD LWML.

VP of Special Focus Ministries: Member of LWML NJD Executive Committee who directs and promotes the Young Woman Representative and the Heart to Heart Sisters programs for the NJ District. Develop and support young women and leaders in the LWML in ethnic ministries.

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 keeps a file of all policy motions and standing rules.

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. The person receiving the most votes serves as chair of the committee.

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 by **August 1, 2026.**
- 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:

Roshay Wilson, Chair
4 Powhatatan Way
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
Email: roshay.wilson@gmail.com
Cell: 347-218-3755

Mark Your LWML Calendars!

Date	Time	Event
Aug 21-22, 2026	All Day Programming	LWML NJ District Convention Crowne Plaza Hotel - Edison, NJ Theme: Be Still and Know that I am God – Psalm 46:10 Donna Snow – Bible Study Leader Gifts of the Heart and Servant Events
Oct. 4, 2026	Sunday Worship Service	LWML Sunday Celebrated
Oct. TBD, 2026	2pm	MidEastern Zone Fall Rally -
Oct. 18, 2026	3pm	Lakeland Fall Rally at Our Savior – Stanhope, NJ
Oct. 25, 2026	2pm	NorthEastern Fall Rally at Our Savior – Fair Lawn, NJ
Nov. 7, 2026	10am – 4pm	LWML NJ District Retreat King of Kings – Mtn Lakes

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 arleneruthprice@gmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter. These can be prayers of thanksgiving or prayers for physical/spiritual needs. Thank you!

- **Prayers of comfort for the Velardi family at the passing of Linda Velardi.**

She received her Crown of Life on February 26, 2026. Linda was a faithful member of LWML and served the Lord with gladness. Condolences can be shared with her family at <https://www.grillofuneralservices.com/obituaries/Linda-Ann-Velardi?obId=47474266>



Linda Velardi

- **A prayer for guidance** as the Northeast and Mideast Zones plan for our upcoming LWML NJ District Convention on August 21-22. May this gathering be a blessing for all attendees and a time of fellowship and Bible Study..

- **A prayer for strength and comfort for Susan Donnelly** as she undergoes cancer treatment. May God be with her and grant her peace.



Susan Donnelly

- **A prayer for healing** for Bill Hergenhan, Cindy's husband, who has an infection in his knee and is currently in rehab. May God grant him a full and speedy recovery.

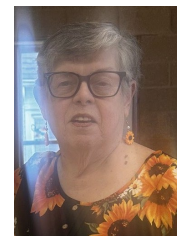
- **Prayers for Arlene Price** as she is scheduled for cataract surgery. Grant her God's comfort and peace, and a speedy recovery.



Arlene Price

- **A prayer for peace** in the world and an end to conflicts in the Middle East.

- **Prayers for Janice Piero** as she undergoes corneal transplant surgery. Guide the hands of her surgeon and grant her improved eyesight.



Janice Piero

- **Prayers for the victims of tornadoes** in the Midwest. Be with them as they clean up and rebuild their homes.

- **A prayer for healing for Kyle Chedister and Kim McDevitt** who were in a serious car accident. We thank God that they are OK and recuperating.

- **A prayer of thanksgiving for the installation of Rev. Jaim Gann at Redeemer-Westfield.** May God bless and guide his ministry to this congregation.



Rev. Jaim Gann