

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Ohio District Edition — ODE



Stitches

My husband Rex, has a favorite pair of pajama bottoms that need some adjustments. So, I got out

the tools: needle, thread, ripper, scissors, elastic, and began ripping out the errant stitches. As the process progressed, my thoughts turned to the "Treasured" verse, Ephesians 2:10, which tells us *we are His workmanship*. Yes, I thought we are, but we are imperfect and need constant adjustment, just like Rex's pajamas. I ripped out the imperfect stitches that developed over time and began remodeling by adding elastic for a better fit.

As God's workmanship, He is always with us and helps us remodel our imperfect lives. We reach Him through prayer, reading the Bible, worshipping with others, all in the hopes that we can improve our imperfections to better *Serve the Lord with Gladness* (Psalm 100:2). The struggle to reach God's goal for us is ongoing, never ceasing. At times we are exhausted by the struggle, and then He shines a light on us and our faith is renewed.

Paul tells us of his struggle in Philippians 3:12, *Not that I have already obtained this [the resurrection from the dead] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me His own*. As with Paul, we strive to do God's will, to be a child of God. Have heart, believe that He is your shield and your strength, shielding us from swirling doubts, giving us strength to move forward.

The ongoing struggle as we rip out the stitches that no longer serve God and weave together ways to help serve God, how do we rejoice and be joyous in the process? We can... *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice* (Philippians 4:4) with our prayers; Bible studies; LWML friendships, events, service, and mission grants. We have so many options and opportunities.

Dear "treasures" of God, as you stitch,
REJOICE!

Karen Shanahan, District President

Thankful

During November we set aside some time to give thanks. The problem is, sometimes there isn't much to be thankful for.

Maybe someone you know has lost their job. People lose family members. Maybe you know children struggling with a new school or homework. Whatever is happening, you are not alone in thinking there is nothing to be thankful for.

When St. Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, they probably thought the same thing about him. After all, Paul was under arrest and in Rome. He reveals this in Philippians 1:7 *It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel*.

If any of us were to find ourselves under arrest, we wouldn't think there would be anything to be thankful for. It is within this very situation where Paul tells his listeners in Philippians 4:4, *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice*.

Just a chapter earlier he gave us a reason to be joyful. *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith - that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may*

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Winter 2024
Volume 61.2

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share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:8-11).

Many of us face suffering in our lives, but we can be reminded that all this suffering fails in comparison to the Gifts of Christ He has given us, like the gift of faith, hope, and eternal life. So yes, this Thanksgiving, we have many things for which to be thankful.

Pastor Stuenkel, Jr. Pastoral Counselor

New Openings!

Greetings from the Nominating Committee!!

We have news to share. Our committee has experienced a change since one of our elected members has accepted another position. Ann (Keller) Presley has agreed to join our committee (per the bylaws). We welcome her aboard!

Ann has shared her feelings as to why she ran for this committee. She wanted to try something new and move out of her comfort zone. I found this to be a refreshing insight on her part. So, when you are thinking about the next convention at St. Paul Westlake in 2026 and the election, our committee would like you to reflect on the open positions and think along the same lines. Is this the time for you to try something new and move out of YOUR comfort zone too?

For those of you who have already "Been there, done that", maybe this is the time for you to mentor a person in your zone who would like to try running for an elected office. Please give thought and prayerful consideration, and have conversations at your rallies, group servant events, and as you meet and greet at church services on Sunday mornings. Will you or someone you know run for one of the following offices?

The offices that will be voted on at the next convention will be:

- † **Vice President of Christian Life**
- † **Vice President of Gospel Outreach**
- † **Recording Secretary**
- † **Treasurer**
- † **Junior Pastoral Counselor**
- † **Nominating Committee**



Please contact one of the nominating committee members for any questions regarding these positions.

The committee members are:

- ♥ Ann Presley: anniekaykeller@yahoo.com (Central)
- ♥ Anne Boerboom: annebrboom@gmail.com (Cincinnati)
- ♥ Karen Robertson: gobucks@rrcol.com (Central)
- ♥ Julie Gresko: juliegresko@gmail.com (Cleveland South West)
- ♥ Nadine Dlugas: nmd1113@bex.net (Toledo)

Nadine Dlugas, Nominating Committee



Influence and Support

Lutheran Women in Mission is an essential arm of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), dedicated to empowering women to engage in mission work both locally and globally. LWML has emerged as a significant force in furthering the church's mission. It offers opportunities for women to grow in faith, serve their communities, and support global missions. Lutheran Women in Mission influence extends far beyond its members. By mobilizing women for mission work, the LWML plays a crucial role in the church's vitality. It encourages engagement in church life and inspires women to take on leadership roles. Moreover, the projects and missions supported by the LWML have a significant positive impact on communities around the globe. This impact addresses needs such as education, healthcare, and disaster relief.

How do I know, you may ask? I know because I have received their dedication and generosity. As President and Founder of the Recognized Service Organization Ministry in Mission, I work closely with the LWML and LCMS to secure grant dollars. This is to support ongoing missions we have funded for over 18 years.

I am grateful and dedicated to working at the district level to further Lutheran Women in Mission. We will focus on the following areas:

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1. Leadership Training: Provide workshops and training sessions to help women develop leadership skills in church settings or community organizations.

2. Mentorship Programs: Where experienced leaders guide young women in spiritual and organizational growth.

3. Networking Opportunities:

Districtwide events and conventions allow women to connect, share ideas, and collaborate on missions, fostering a supportive environment that encourages leadership development.



4. Spiritual Growth: By focusing on Bible study and prayer, Lutheran women strengthen their spiritual foundations, which is essential for effective leadership in both church and community contexts.

Through these initiatives, Lutheran women in Ohio work to create a robust network of female leaders who are empowered to serve and lead effectively within their congregations and beyond. I am blessed to serve alongside you!

Jackie Rychel, Chairman Leadership Development



Serving Others

What kind of servant events are your groups and zones participating in? Maybe you think it's getting too hard to have a servant event. It costs money and time. At my church we ask the congregation for donations toward our project. We ask four to six weeks ahead so that we give the congregation plenty of time to help. On a big project we might apply for a Thrivent Action Team Card; someone in your group will have to be a Thrivent member and apply online.

The member can only do this twice a year, so plan accordingly.

A servant event can be as simple as writing cards to nursing home residents. You can ask organizations in your area if they need help sorting donated items or putting together kits. This way you are donating your time as you serve. If you are having trouble coming up with an idea, you should visit the LWML website. They have lots of great ideas and they have a new one every month.

A few weeks ago the Napoleon and Defiance zones got together for a retreat. We put together baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief and hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train, we wrote cards to the residents of the Filling Home, and we colored cards for Phil's Friends. So in a couple of hours of our time these projects will impact people in the world, people in the United States and people in our community. That's what I love about the LWML. As we "Serve the Lord with gladness" we can show God's love to those we serve no matter where they live.

Deb Volkman, VP Human Care

Serving Those Who Serve

Christian Life. Gospel Outreach. Human Care. These departments have specific functions within LWML for sharing God's love with others. But what does Servant Resources do? In a nutshell, Servant Resources supplies support to the groups and zones of the LWML Ohio District so that they are better able to "Serve the Lord with gladness" in their closer-to-home communities.

The department consists of two committees. The Structure Committee, which this biennium is under the capable leadership of past-president Vivian Nelson, answers any questions about bylaws and assists in keeping them up-to-date. Since bylaws are important to the smooth functioning of any organization, this committee helps keep everything running smoothly.

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Returning God's Blessings

Our estates are full of God's gifts. One of the greatest joys of life God gives us is to give away His gifts and to be able to see the joyful response of those receiving them.

Through it all, we aim to share Jesus with the families we love and the ministries we support.

Putting a plan together to bless both family and ministry is an honor.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started.

Contact Linda Gage at

Linda.Gage@lfnd.org

Phone: 800-741-4138





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The Leader Development Committee will be led by Jackie Rychel, who brings a wide experience of establishing and running businesses and organizations to the role. Leader Development is just what it says: developing and encouraging current and future leaders. If Lutheran Women in Mission is going to continue spreading the Good News, it is essential that we continue to have enthusiastic leaders at all levels of our organization.

And there you have it; Servant Resources exists to support YOU as you witness in your communities. If you have any questions about your group's bylaws (by the way, when was the last time you dusted them off?) or ways to encourage women in your church to step up as leaders (not just YWRs), please contact us. After all, that's what we're here for!

Beth Christopherson, VP Servant Resources

Developing Devotion Time

It seems to me that being Vice President of Christian Life entails some kind of devotion every day to honor our Lord for his wonderful gift of salvation and mercy. So, I decided to begin my

journey. I obtained a "Portals of Prayer" from church, bought a daily devotional ("He Whispers Your Name"), and borrowed a devotional called "Extravagant Grace" by The Women of Faith. I read at bedtime as it relaxes me and allows me to rest more deeply. Each devotional material helped me focus on God's word from different perspectives.

The "Portals of Prayer" has me reading passages from the Bible, which I had downloaded to my phone. "He Whispers Your Name" (which I am still reading) has a message from God for every day. It's like He is talking directly to me about His promises for my life in His love. In each of the 52 topics there are seven messages from God. The Women of Faith book describes grace as a gift and each chapter encompasses a particular aspect of God's gift of grace.

These descriptions provide real-life examples and interpretations in which I always gain a wider understanding. Together they share God's plans for those who love Him and helped me get a better grasp of His promises for my life in Him.

Join me in developing your own journey. There are various resources at the LWML.org website for written and audio devotions as well as the Mustard Seeds collection.

Also, check out the Parables for Your Journey at LWMLOhio.org. It is a list of devotions written by Billie Lelle that come from her life lessons. Hearing others' life lessons provides us with an opportunity for introspection that can lead us closer to a Christian life pleasing to God.

Elizabeth Underwood, VP Christian Life

Be Encouraging

Ways to encourage ladies to be involved in LWML:

1. Pray.
2. Send a card.
3. Take them out for coffee or a meal.
4. Have a fellowship night of crafts and food.
5. Text or call your ladies in the church to encourage and pray for and with them.
6. Promote LWML through technology at your church such as big screens, text in church and bulletins.
7. Have your LWML ladies reach out to other ladies and get to know them and tell them about LWML.



Hope Boring, Public Relations

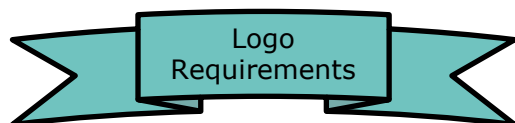




Calling All Creative Ladies

First Opportunity

Submit your design for the LWML Ohio District Convention 2026 logo based on the theme: "Joyful Always" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you.*



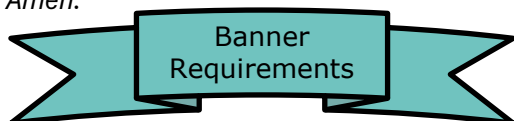
Submit your design in color on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.

1. Provide an explanation of your design.
2. An explanation of your design's inspiration.
3. List the proposed colors and what they represent.
4. Your name and contact information.

Second Opportunity

Submit a design for the LWML Ohio District banner that will represent the Ohio District in the parade of flags at the LWML Convention 2025 in Omaha, NE.

Based on the theme, "Growing in God's Grace" 2 Peter 3:18 *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.*



1. Should be based on the convention theme "Growing in God's Grace."
2. Do not use the convention logo on the banner.
3. Use any color including the convention colors.
4. The finished banner size is to be 3' x 5', not including fringe if used.
5. District name must be on banner front.
6. The creator of the design is responsible for making the banner. Further details will be given to the selected designer.

Deadline for submitting the logo and banner designs is February 2, 2025, to the President's Secretary, Melissa Bauer melissabauer123@gmail.com. At the Board Of Directors meeting on February 8, 2025 the Board will vote on the designs and select the winner. The winner will be notified following the meeting.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a District Website" (With a nod to Francis Pharcellus Church)

What's a webmaster to say that hasn't already been said?

Well, here are a few things worth repeating:

1. You will find the LWML Ohio District website by going to its secure site, <https://www.lwmlohio.org/>
2. While there you will find up to date information that may just answer some of your "who, what, when and where" questions.
3. Do you want to read the ODE in living color, print a Mite Remittance Form, make an online donation? It's all there as well as important information from President Karen Shanahan, Financial Secretary Ruth Mowery and committee chairmen.
4. Do you want to contact a district officer, a zone president, or a committee chairman? Use the "Contact Us" feature under the resources tab to send a secure message.
5. Are you wondering what the zones of our district are doing? Go to the "Our Zones" tab to see recent and upcoming events.
6. Do you want to receive important secure updates sent from the website? Use the "email sign up" link on the left column of the home page.
7. Quick links, grant information, convention news, convention history, events calendar, a Bible verse of the day and more – all there for the looking!

So, YES, there is a district website and YES, I hope you will make use of it.



Billie Lelle, Webmaster



Plans?

What do you have planned for June 19-20, 2026?

Why not “save these dates” to celebrate with your sisters (and a few brothers) in Christ at the LWML Ohio District Convention. It will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westlake, OH. (27993 Detroit Rd. Westlake, OH)

Members of the Cleveland South-West, Lorain-Medina, and Northeast Zones are beginning to form committees which will enable the convention to run smoothly. Julie Gresko and Ann Marie Bollas are excited to serve as co-chairmen for the host committee.

The LWML Ohio District Executive Committee and Board of Directors have chosen the theme “Joyful Always”; based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

In the months ahead we will be choosing a logo, plan interest sessions, select speakers, seek nominations for officers, study mission grant proposals, and so much more.

It will be an event you will not want to miss, so mark your calendar now.

Billie Lelle, Convention 2026 PR Chairman



Memorials

July 2024–September 2024

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| † John Webster Edmunds | † John Mamula III |
| † Sarah Koester | † Elaine Hestermann |
| † Marlis Schmidt | † John Johnson |
| † David Malas | † Nancy Kovacs |
| † Barry Oltmans | † Kim Dailey |
| † Gary Mittendorf | † John (Jack) Schimmelmann |
| † Lauren Pia-Vavra | |



<u>Mites Updates</u>	<u>July-Sept 2024</u>	<u>Biennium Total</u>
Mites Received	\$4014.00	\$24,526.15
Joyful Response	200.00	985.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	0.00	1,163.00
Quarterlies and ODEs	0.00	480.50
Honors/Memorials	907.28	1,657.28
Stamps	0.00	0.00
Total Mission Income	\$5,121.28	\$28,811.93

Budgeted Amount (Inreach and Outreach) – \$95,000
We need \$3,677 for the next 18 months to meet our goal.

Napoleon and Defiance Zone

Women in Northwest Ohio had the opportunity on Saturday September 21, to have Christian fellowship, inspiration, and to do mission outreach at the Napoleon and Defiance LWML Zones Fall Retreat. It was a meaningful way to spend a Saturday. The theme was “Loving God by Serving Others” based on Matthew 25:40. LWML Ohio District President Karen Shanahan attended and shared news about the LWML and LWML Ohio District.



Events for the day included putting together 100 Hygiene kits for Orphan Grain Train, 95 baby layettes for Lutheran World Relief, signing 160 “Thinking of You” cards for Filling Home residents and coloring and writing a message in 67 cards of hope for Phil’s Friends, a mission for cancer patients.

Rev. Sigmon led the assembly in worship, Rev. Bueltman led a Bible Study, Diane Meyer Grieser shared information about the beginnings of Orphan Grain Train and how people in Northwest Ohio have actively been a part of this mission organization from its early days. Collected at the ingathering, were food items for Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank and bath towels for the Orphan Grain Train hygiene kits.



Debbie Wesche, Napoleon Zone



Lima-Van Wert Zone

Eleven ladies attended the LWML Lima-Van Wert Zone fall rally at St. Thomas, Ohio City, on September 28, 2024.

Pastor Hayden Folks led the Bible study about Gospel: Salvation, Justification, and Metaphors. First time convention attendee Heather Davis enthusiastically reported on the LWML Ohio District Convention in Canton, Ohio.

The ingathering of many food items and paper products were later taken to Lima Samaritan House, a shelter for women and children. Following the business meeting, Pastor and the ladies enjoyed a delicious brunch served by the ladies of St. Thomas.

Cathryn Nihiser, Zone President

Northeast Zone

The LWML Northeast Zone's 31st Fall Retreat, "God's Gift of REST", was held at Jordan Creek Park in Concord on Saturday, September 28th. Fifty-one zone members, representing 11 of our groups were present.

Following morning coffee, fellowship, and a few songs, it was time to begin. The keynote speaker, Reverend Steve Hackmann from Shore Haven Lutheran in Euclid, guided us through a session entitled "Sabbath, a Time of Rest".

Our Ingathering offering was dedicated by Jeanne Schimmelmman for the charity, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" collecting \$1,427.00 in donations. Jeanne reminded us of the importance of how to REST with God; Relax-Enjoy-Seek the Lord and Trust in Him. \$562.28 in mites were gathered and will be given in memory of John "Jack" Schimmelmman to support the mission work of the LWML Ohio District.

Throughout the day we enjoyed singing with Erin Cardina and Deb Hoffmann on the keyboard, games with Ann Marie Bollas and skits by various members of the retreat committee. District and Zone news was shared with special reminders of the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha and the 2026 Ohio District Convention in Westlake.

After a delicious and filling lunch, we broke into small groups. Diane Wayner assisted in making 28 winter scarves that will be donated to Painesville Salvation Army. A R.E.S.T.ful walk through the park was led by Billie Lelle and laughs were had in the Bible Trivia game led by Ruth Mowery.

Pastor Steven Berndt led our devotion in the morning and Bible study in the afternoon. His message expanded on the theme verse from Exodus 33:14, The Lord replied, *My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest.*

We closed the day with the singing of the doxology, praising our Triune God for this faith strengthening time together.

Kelly Hines, Northeast Zone PR Director



Central Zone

On September 21, 2024, twenty-six ladies gathered for our Central Zone Fall Fellowship - Prepare to Serve.

Pastor Adam from St. John Dublin led us in Bible study on Prepare to Serve. His text was Mark 5:1-20 on ways to prepare to serve and the fears and obstacles to serve the church and the world.

Beth Marth from Gifts of Love; Ohio District Endowment spoke on how we will serve after we are called home. She gave us information on how to prepare and How Gifts of Love will help LWML in the years to come.

St. John Dublin ladies provided us with a Mexican themed lunch which was delicious! We enjoyed laughter, fellowship, and singing along with being blessed by Jesus and His Holy Spirit.

Come, join us for 2025 Central Zone Rally on January 11 @ St. John's, Marysville and April 26 St. Paul's Ashland, Kentucky.

Save The Dates!



ODE Submissions

Submit news, pictures, and articles for approval to:

Zones: Zone President

District: District President & Sr. Pastoral Counselor

Deadlines for article submissions:

Quarter	Month/Day
Spring	January 5th
Summer	April 5th
Fall	July 5th
Winter	October 5th



Mighty Mites

Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to mites:

To direct funds to LWML Ohio District, select:
LWML Ohio District, Olmsted Twp. Ohio, Cuyahoga Co.

Joyful Response® to Mites: To donate mites directly from your checking account each month contact **Ruth Mowery**, Financial Secretary. She will send you a Joyful Response® form.

Contributions to Mites, Memorials, Honors: Mites Remittance Forms are available on the district website or from **Ruth Mowery**, Financial Secretary. Make checks payable to "LWML Ohio District" and send with completed form to:

Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary
7945 Brentwood Rd. Mentor, OH 44060
Ph: 440-840-9532
Email: jrmowery@sbcglobal.net

NEW INFO



Websites:

District.....lwmlohio.org
National.....lwml.org
Roberts Rules.....robertsrules.org
Concordia Publishing.....cph.org



Changes to the LWML Ohio Website: Calendar Items, Pictures, Zone info, etc. go to:

Billie Lelle, Webmaster: bllelle@roadrunner.com

Quarterly / ODE Subscriptions

Quantity changes and address changes should be submitted to **Janet Pauley**, Subscription Manager.

Annual Subscription Costs:

ODE	All quantities	\$2.50/each
Quarterly	1-9 Copies	\$7.50/each
Quarterly	10+ Copies	\$6.00/each



Payments for the *Quarterly* and *ODE* are due by January 31st each year. If sufficient payment is not received, subscriptions will be reduced to one copy each effective with the summer edition for that year. Payments should be sent with the Mites Remittance Form to Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary.

Contact Information

Ohio District President:

Karen Shanahan

3633 Denise Dr. Toledo, OH 43614

Ph:419-380-0244(H) 419-345-9862(M)

Email: kesjr@att.net

Contributions & Donations for:

- ♥ Mites, Memorials, Honors
- ♥ Joyful Response® to Mites
- ♥ *Quarterly* and *ODE*

Send to:



Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary
7945 Brentwood Rd. Mentor, OH 44060
Ph: 440-840-9532
Email: jrmowery@sbcglobal.net

NEW INFO



Subscription Changes for *Quarterly* & *ODE*:

Janet Pauley, Subscription Manager
Email: janetpauleylwml@gmail.com

NEW INFO



Details & Articles for *ODE*:

Starshine Graziadei, Editor of the *ODE*
Ph: 440-251-2524
Email: lwmlohioode@gmail.com

NEW INFO



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