



# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

## Ohio District Edition — ODE



### Football, LWML, & God

Football, LWML,  
and God - how do they fit  
together?



As I watched a football game with my husband, I thought of LWML, goals, resolutions, celebrations. How is that possible? As the quarterback throws pass after pass in an effort to score a touchdown, the receiver races to catch the ball. He knows at least one, if not several opposing players will smash into him to prevent a catch. Yet, after every play, the players get up and go again regardless of gain or pain. The players celebrate their accomplishments when they score a touchdown, catch a great pass, or thwart a pass.

A coach encourages his players on the sidelines throughout the game with the playbook in hand. In the skybox the owner watches, cheering on his team.

So you probably wonder, how can football be linked to LWML and God? Like players who form teams, LCMS women form LWML groups (teams) within their churches. The groups then join their LWML zone which becomes their LWML district, and the districts work through the LWML organization.

As the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the goal is to follow God's direction to "Serve the Lord with Gladness." At every level of LWML, each level has its own set of "coaches": presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, committee chairmen, pastoral counselors, etc. Each "coach" is responsible for

providing the structure, advice, guidance, and encouragement to help the LWML women achieve the goals God has helped them establish.

As with the football team owner who watches over his players, God watches over us.

Through prayers, reading the Bible, attending Bible studies and worship services; He gives us strength and resolve. He knows we will accomplish amazing feats through Him. Our pastors are always a resource to guide us through God's word. It is heartwarming to hear stories of how our efforts have helped others. We have made a touchdown or had a successful pass with our efforts. In those moments, celebrate the achievements, and rejoice at what was done in the name of Jesus!



Our personal doubts, fears, illnesses, etc., weaken our resolve. We struggle to keep our eyes on the Lord and do His will. However, through the grace of God, listening to Him through prayers and the help of our "coaches," we can turn back to the direction of the goals we set in His name. When we gather together at LWML events, meetings, and activities, we are God's team ready to fight for victory, ready to celebrate God's greatness.

As you watch the next football game, remember LWML and all the myriad ways God has provided the help we need to succeed. Alone, we can't score; together in Christ, we can be victorious.

*Karen Shanahan, District President*



Spring 2025  
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## Withered

**1** Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
**2** but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
**3** He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
**4** The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
**5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
**6** for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish. (Psalm 1-6)



Does it ever feel like your leaves are withering? I know I feel that way. Why? Well, according to this psalm, it is when my delight is not or is no longer in the law of the Lord. When my delight is in my accomplishments, I wither when I don't achieve what I want or should.

When my delight is in others' approval or praise, I wither when I don't get that approval or praise. When my delight is in my success, I wither when I am not successful - either in my own eyes, or by what the world tells me is success.

When my delight is in anything but the law of the Lord, I am bound - sooner or later - to be disappointed and my leaves wither. And a tree with withered leaves produces no fruit. No good fruit, anyway.

So how can I be renewed? How can I get my strength and energy back? I can delight in the Lord's law. "Law" there doesn't refer to the Ten Commandments, it means the Hebrew word Torah, which means word or instruction; it is what the first five books of the Bible are called - the Torah.

We could say it is a shorthand way of saying God's Word, or the whole Bible. That is where I learn about all God has done for me in His Son Jesus Christ. That is where I discover how valuable I am to God - that He would trade His own Son for me, a sinner, so that I could be saved. That is where I hear of His forgiveness for my failures. That is where I hear that God is working all things for my benefit

- even things I think are wrong, or struggles that are tough.

That is where I hear all of God's promises to me; all that He has for me; more than I could ever imagine. When my delight is in Him and His Word, I have what I need. This will get me through the trials, struggles, and disappointments of this world and life. For through His Word comes the living water of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, to give me life and hope again. Yes, life and strength for a withering man and his withering leaves.

Lord, help me delight in Your Word, and give me the strength, energy, and confidence I need for this day. I need Your Spirit's living water that gives me life now and forever. Amen.

Rev. Everette E. Greene, Senior Pastoral Counselor



In preparation for the LWML Ohio District Convention in 2026 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Westlake, Ohio, the Nominating Committee is asking you to prayerfully consider serving the Ohio District in one of the following positions:

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

God has given each of us gifts to use in His service. In the Bible, there are examples where God has chosen people to serve Him, and they are not truly aware of God's plan for them. God brings us through various seasons to prepare us so we will be ready when He needs us. Is God calling you?





## Ronald McDonald

Not only did LWML Ohio District Interdepartmental representatives greet, meet, and plan on Saturday October 26, 2024, they also donated enough personal care items to make up 52 hygiene bags

to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, \$32 in cash was also donated to RMH.



Four plastic grocery bags filled with extra items were donated to Lutheran Social Services food pantry in Columbus. Thanks to the Human Care Committee for orchestrating this effort. Even Ronald himself can be seen smiling in appreciation. Diana Schnack, Human Care Committee Chairman, is pictured overseeing Ronald's taking in of everything.

*Diana Schnack, Human Care*



## What Can I Do?

Devastation and destruction seem to surround us in real life and/or the media each day. This was very clear for me this fall as our country was hit by 2 hurricanes. With close friends and former church families living in those areas, it was very hard to watch the waters rise and homes and businesses disappear.

In the midst of "what can I do?", I watched organizations that I have supported over the years jump into action. I saw the pictures of the Orphan Grain Train truck leaving the depot and then a friend in Asheville posted a pic of the Orphan Grain Train Truck parked in their local church parking lot. I was sent pictures of the LCMS-LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams)

volunteers serving meals and helping with clean up efforts. It was amazing watching so many organizations jump in and do what they are set up to do.

What is the LWML? What are we set up to do? According to the LWML Ohio District Mission Statement, the mission of the LWML Ohio District is to assist each woman in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. Let's not grow weary, our mites are mighty and our God is more mighty!

As my heart was heavy for those affected by these hurricanes, my prayers slowly began to shift to praise and thanksgiving for the amazing disaster relief organizations we are blessed with. If you have yet to check out these organizations, here are a couple of the websites:

**LCMS-LERT** [lcms-lert.org](https://lcms-lert.org)

**Orphan Grain Train** [ogt.org/](https://ogt.org/)

**Lutheran World Relief** [lwr.org](https://lwr.org)

*Maggie King, Human Care Committee*

## Personal Devotion Growth

In our last *ODE* issue, Liz Underwood, our Christian Life Vice President, wrote about honoring our Lord by spending time with Him in daily devotion. Liz gave us some valuable information about how she started her journey and encouraged us to develop our own.

In November, the Christian Life Committee members discussed ways we could encourage each woman in the LWML Ohio District to grow in her personal relationship with our friend and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(Continued on page 4)

## **Bylaws Anyone?**

Have your bylaws gone by the wayside? Have you changed the way you do things in the wake of the pandemic? As groups struggle to continue meeting and electing officers, bylaws frequently get set aside for "later." I encourage you to look at yours.

In a few cases, unfortunately, it might even be a challenge to know who has a copy of them. After you find them, try to assess whether you are still following them. If they are out of date, consider revising them or just rewriting them!

A first step would be to look at the sample group or zone bylaws that can be found on the LWML website.

The navigation is: lwml.org , About, Structure, Bylaws & then either Zone or Local Group.

See where you are already doing the right things and where you need to make adjustments.

A second step then is to contact your district structure committee for their help. We are ready and willing to get involved.

*Vivian Nelson, Structure Committee Chairman*





(Continued from page 3)

Did you know that our LWML websites are full of wonderful devotional materials too? On the Ohio District website ([lwmlohio.org/](http://lwmlohio.org/)) you can find devotional materials by navigating to the horizontal menu bar and clicking on RESOURCES. In the drop-down, "Parables for Your Journey," contains devotions written by Billie Lelle (our Northeast Zone President).

At the National LWML website ([lwml.org/](http://lwml.org/)) you can find devotional materials by navigating to the horizontal menu bar and clicking on THE WORD. You can find Daily Mustard Seed Devotions and even sign up to receive them in your email (which I personally love)! If you want, you can also listen to them.

Toward the bottom of the dropdown, you can find devotionals under "Program Resources" and "All Spiritual Growth Resources." Within these sections you can find materials by topic, season, Bible studies, and even sketches you can print for use.

I look forward to seeing my Mustard Seed Daily Devotion in my mailbox each day. They encourage and inspire - a great start to the day! Please peruse these varied resources to begin your spiritual journey as the new year begins. May God bless your efforts to strengthen your relationship with our Father in heaven!

*Corrine Sattler, Christian Life*



## Going and Growing

Are you going? Will you be there? These questions are asked in anticipation of an exciting, stimulating, once-in-a-lifetime celebration. Will you be

at the 2025 LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, 26-29?

This 41st Biennial Convention will be an inspiring, faith-filled event featuring: Rev. Richard Snow, Opening Worship Proclaimer; Rev. Kris Whitby, Keynote Speaker; Rev. Cory Burma, Closing Worship Proclaimer; Christina Hergenrader, Bible Study Leader; Jan Struck & Abby

Goehring, Comic Relief Duo; Mark Senechal, Song Leader; Jennie Williamson, Saturday Night Entertainment.

Three ministries were selected to receive Gifts From the Heart (GFTH) ingathering items for the Omaha convention: Camp Luther of Nebraska; Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska; The University of Nebraska at Lincoln Campus Ministry. If you don't travel to Omaha, you can participate through online Gifts From the Heart giving. REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2025.

## **See you in OMAHA!**

### Happy New Year and Happy Spring!

May this time be a new start and allow you to spring into action with Jesus and LWML! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (Paraphrase) "The old is gone and the new is near!" May this year and spring bring new hope, opportunities to grow with God and with LWML by getting to know new ladies and invite younger teens to be a part of your LWML church community. Make a new friend!

Psalm 40:3 (Paraphrase) "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." A good verse as we pray and think about going to LWML Biennial in Omaha Nebraska June 26-29, 2025! Online registration starts March 1! [lwml.org/convention](http://lwml.org/convention)

Support each other through LWML Ohio District Facebook and LWML Ohio District Central Zone Facebook and follow us on Instagram at **ohiodlw!**

Check out this website! [lwmlohio.org](http://lwmlohio.org) Valuable and updated info on LWML Ohio District news and happenings!

Save the date June 19-20, 2026, for the LWML Ohio District Convention!

*Hope Boring, Public Relations Director*





## The HUNGRY HUNGRY Webmaster



The LWML Ohio District Webmaster is on the prowl! She is looking for news and updates for [lwmlohio.org/](http://lwmlohio.org/).

Zone representatives, District Executive Committee members, Committee Chairmen: now is the time to serve up a healthy platter of “goodies” to be added to the website.

What is a healthy diet for a hungry webmaster?

- † INFORMATION (Serve it up with as much detail as possible)
- † CALENDAR EVENTS (Don't forget to add a dash of location and time)
- † PICTURES (Garnish with description, who, what, where)
- † CORRECTIONS (Do you spy something incorrect on the website? The webmaster will gladly scrape off the spoiled and replace it with fresh)

Thanks for taking the time to visit the website and for your willingness to feed the hungry webmaster.

*Billie Lelle, LWML Ohio District Webmaster*

## Getting My Feet Wet

While creating a PowerPoint presentation for my church's women's luncheon, my mind wandered (more often as I get older) as to what I would submit for the next *ODE* publication.

As a fairly new Archivist/Historian for the Ohio District, I am still getting my feet wet, learning the ropes, and getting to know the timeframe in which documents must be kept under my belt.

Great News to all Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers: I have a secure room in my church to store documents. Please bring your documents and photos to the next event.

What I need from you:

- ♥ Handouts from meetings



- ♥ Elected and appointed officer's reports
- ♥ Printed material from special meetings (prayer services, anniversary celebrations, workshops, etc.)
- ♥ Photos (MUST be labeled with names of participants, location, & date)
- ♥ Photocopies of newsletter articles (website articles) relating to your history.

If you aren't attending any events, don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 740-251-8855 or by email at [jng2byfaith@gmail.com](mailto:jng2byfaith@gmail.com) so we can meet and I can receive the documents from your society.

*Jayne Hurst, Archivist/Historian*



## Beacons of Hope

At the 2024 LWML Ohio District Convention in North Canton, Ohio, the Lutheran Women in Mission voted to grant Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries \$10,000, a gesture that expands counseling and care programs for veterans and their families. This act of generosity provides support, particularly through initiatives like the Paws and Effect program, which pairs therapy dogs with veterans to help them cope with emotional and physical challenges. LMVFM is dedicated to offering a welcoming, non-judgmental environment for veterans, regardless of their faith, and provides training and resources to congregations, ensuring that their support extends far beyond their walls.

In addition, the Ohio District granted \$12,000 to LCMS Church Worker Students, helping ease the financial burdens of around 35 students at LCMS Concordia University Systems. This grant not only supports tuition but also serves as a powerful message of encouragement, reminding students that their community believes in them. The support is deeply appreciated, as seen in the grateful responses from students like Miss Hannah Ryan, who has gone on to serve as the Director of Christian Ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. These acts of kindness help foster connections and growth, shaping the next generation of compassionate leaders.

*Janet Nicol, Mission Grants Committee*





## Furthering God's Kingdom

How are our Mite donations used to further God's Kingdom?

Our Mite offerings not only fund our Mission Grant goal, they also fund our district publications, events, and meetings. Twenty-Five percent of our mite offerings are sent to national LWML. Our budget, which was voted on in June 2024 is \$171,400. The Mission Grant Goal is \$95,000 of this budget. LWML Ohio District is a Christ focused, mission minded organization. This means we fund our mission grants first. However, when an update on mite money is needed to make our goal for the biennium and is sent out, it is for the entire budget amount. For example, in December our mites collected since April 1 was \$63,995.38. This means that in order to meet our budget of \$171,400.00, we need to collect \$7,846.05 each month. If we would only use the Mission Grant goal amount, the money needed to collect would be much lower, but then no internal operations would be able to happen, like training, publications, etc.

*Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary*

### Honor Memorials

October – December 2024

† Janet Evans	† Lois Brandson
† James Lindhurst	† Rita Perry
† John Webster Edmunds	† St. Thomas Lutheran
† Beverly Wharton	† John (Jack) Petee
† John (Jack) Schimmelmann	† Violet Clark
† Tomeka Shum	† Rosie the Comfort Dog
† Gloria Schumm	† John Johnson



## Sometimes

Sometimes we worry and we are supposed to give it to God. Sometimes we struggle and we should give that to God. Sometimes we are to just have faith in God, keep believing in God, and praising God. Sometimes we go through life expecting things in return for our good deeds, or sometimes we want the best because we believe we deserve the best. We deserve nothing and we get everything we need from God.

Over the last couple years, I have watched my sister-in-law who has struggled with Polycystic Kidney Disease most of her life, battle the lows of this disease. Even when this disease was knocking her down, she was picking herself up with a smile and trying her best to see the good in this evil. Some may say, "If God loves her so much, why would he allow her to hurt?" They do not realize that the hurt doesn't come from God. God is the strength that carries her through each day. God continues to be by her side.

My sister-in-law experienced nothing short of a miracle this holiday season when she was given a fully functioning new kidney. God continues to be the strength to get her through the impacts of major surgery every day. God continues to lift her spirit. God continues to be by her side.

So I say if you worry, give it to God. If you struggle, give that to God. Have faith in God. Keep believing in God, And always be praising God.

*Starshine Graziadei, ODE Editor*



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](mailto:Linda.Gage@lfnd.org)

Mites Received	\$7485.32	\$46800.58
Joyful Response	200.00	2126.85
Thrivent Choice Dollars	66.00	1305.00
Quarterlies and ODEs	160.50	845.50
Honors/Memorials	300.00	2631.28
Stamps	0.00	0.00
Other Income (Convention, Endowment, motel reimbursement, 2024 Convention overage)	3024.43	\$10286.17
<b>Total Mission Income</b>	<b>\$11236.25</b>	<b>\$63995.38</b>





## Akron-Youngstown

The Akron-Youngstown Zone gathered for their Fall Retreat on October 19, 2024, at Birch Hill Cabin in Mill Creek Park, Youngstown, with the theme "Be Joyful in Hope," based on Romans 12:12. Attendees brought donations of clothing, diapers, and baby wipes for Katharina's Closet, a ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Warren, and heard a speaker share the charity's history. The group enjoyed a beautiful day at the park, walking around the goldfish pond and fellowshiping together. After lunch, a tribute was held for Mimi Shum, remembering her request to share pictures of people eating ice cream, which they were unable to do before her passing. It was a joyful day of fellowship and service.

*Jeanie Dinehart,*  
*Akron-*  
*Youngstown*



## Trinity Lutheran

In the fall of 2024, the LWML women of Trinity, Toledo, hosted two meaningful events. On November 13, they held a brunch for veterans, featuring a patriotic program by Trinity Lutheran School children and a veteran speaker who shared his faith journey. Seventh and eighth graders assisted with the event. On December 1, the LWML women hosted Trinity's annual Advent Gathering, focusing on angels as the theme, with hand-made angels as table centerpieces, followed by a program on the role of angels in Scripture. In addition, the congregation supported seminary students by purchasing gift cards for Concordia Theological Seminary, and during December, a Hat and Mitten tree was placed in the narthex, providing winter essentials to three local charities.



*Lillian Keller*

## Defiance

The Defiance Zone held their Christian Growth Fall Workshop on October 13, 2024, hosted by the LWML of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Defiance, Ohio. The theme, based on Ephesians 5:19b, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord," perfectly complemented Rev. Terry Cripe's presentation on hymns, where participants explored the origins of various hymns from different countries, sang songs, and enjoyed a "Name that Hymn" game. The monetary ingathering supported The Liberian Children's Ministry in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which provides Bibles, hymnals, school supplies, and more to children in Liberia. The day concluded with delicious fall desserts, fellowship, and inspiration among the attendees.

*Cheryl Stromski, Defiance Zone President*

## Toledo

The Winter Retreat and Spring Rally committees of the Toledo Zone have been busy planning several events. The Winter Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Ohio Living Swan Creek (5916 Cresthaven Ln, Toledo, OH), featuring the Bible study "Beautiful Feet" by Deb Burma. The Toledo Zone Spring Rally will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Concordia Lutheran Church (3636 S. Detroit Ave, Toledo, OH), with Deaconess Janet Nicol from Word of Hope as the speaker. The theme, "Word of Hope—Truth to the Brokenhearted," is based on Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to gathering with fellow sisters in Christ!

*Corrine Sattler, Zone President*

## Napoleon

The 2024 LWML Napoleon Zone Christian Life Workshop was held on November 9 at St. Paul Napoleon's Youth Center, with the theme "Sharing Comfort and Hope." Thirty-four women, two pastors, and two guests attended. Rev. Braden Bettcher's devotion highlighted the comfort of God's love and forgiveness, while Kim and Steve Dietrich shared the story of Damascus, St. Paul's comfort dog, who offers support to those in need. Rev. Jacob Stuenkel led a Bible study on comfort and hope, discussing why these are essential in today's world. A skit, "Wearing the Armor of God," was also performed. In-gatherings included cozy socks and puzzle books for Phil's Friends. Monetary donations were collected for Comfort Dog Damascus and mites.

*Deborah Wesche, Napoleon Zone Secretary*

## Central

I've become accustomed to the mild temperatures lately, watching goldfish swim in my small pond, wondering if I'd have enough fish food before the water froze. My pastor, Wes Hromowyk, who loves snowy winters, joked about our mild season, but to his delight, God sent us a light snow on January 3, with more to follow. By the time you read this, our Winter Retreat on January 11 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Marysville would have taken place, featuring John Stricklen, a legally blind teacher from Columbus Blind School, as the speaker. Donations were collected for Lutheran Braille Workers, along with glasses for the Lion's Club. As we reflect on the events of last year, let's also remember the saints in the coming months: February 24 – St. Matthias, Apostle; March 19 – St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus; and April 25 – St. Mark, Evangelist.

*Jayne Hurst, VP Central Zone*

## ODE Submissions

Submit news, pictures, and articles for approval to:  
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:

**NEW INFO**

**Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary**  
7945 Brentwood Rd. Mentor, OH 44060  
Ph: 440-840-9532  
Email: [jrmowery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrmowery@sbcglobal.net)

## Websites:

District.....[lwmlohio.org](http://lwmlohio.org)  
National.....[lwml.org](http://lwml.org)  
Roberts Rules.....[robertsrules.org](http://robertsrules.org)  
Concordia Publishing.....[cph.org](http://cph.org)

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

**Billie Lelle, Webmaster:** [blelle@roadrunner.com](mailto:blelle@roadrunner.com)

## Quarterly / ODE Subscriptions

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

### Annual Subscription Costs:

<b>ODE</b>	All quantities	\$2.50/each
<b>Quarterly</b>	1-9 Copies	\$7.50/each
<b>Quarterly</b>	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 Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary.

## Contact Information

### Ohio District President:

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Email: [kesjr@att.net](mailto:kesjr@att.net)

### Contributions & Donations for:

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

Send to:

**NEW INFO**

**Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary**  
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### Subscription Changes for *Quarterly* & *ODE*:

**NEW INFO**

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### Details & Articles for *ODE*:

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Email: [lwmlohioode@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlohioode@gmail.com)

### Mite Boxes:

Order direct from Concordia Publishing House  
[www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org), or on Home page, click LWML