

# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

## Ohio District Edition — ODE



### Treasures

During the 2024 LWML Toledo Zone Retreat, the zone leaders led a Bible study entitled *Treasures* by Deb Burma. The study cited the Bible verse, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand for us to walk in them.* (Ephesians 2:10)

God gave each of us unique talents to use in bringing others to Him as His treasures.

Having seen my husband of 60 years suffer three life-threatening illnesses and numerous other health concerns over the past five years, I strongly believe God saved him. The fact that he is still alive and doing well has been commented upon by doctors, nurses, and friends more than once. We survived each crisis thanks to the prayers of pastors, friends, and family. The fear was overwhelming; I had no idea how to deal with it, so I prayed. In prayer, I asked God to help me cope, to be strong, and to shield me from tears, fears, and pain. He did.

Despite this, doubt is always lurking in the back of my mind, doubting the prayers will have any effect. Many times, when thinking about the role of Ohio District President, I struggled with doubt, wondering whether I was good enough, worthy, capable, and too old at the age of 78 to serve. Am I still relevant? Will the daily aches and pains I have impede my ability to lead? Dare I take the time away from my husband as his caregiver. Relentless doubts abounded. When I was ready to give up and quit God, the church, LWML, and the thought of serving as president, God prevailed. He told me, "you can do

this," and He gave me talents for "good works created in Christ Jesus." I couldn't ignore Him, so I accepted the nomination of LWML Ohio District President.

In serving as your President, I offer you the talents God has blessed me with. The LWML Ohio District mission 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." With a strong belief in God and the miracles He has provided, I willingly accept the challenges of the position, asking God to help us find ways to increase inclusiveness, and to use

creativity to spread the joy of helping all of us find ways to continue the mission of the LWML Ohio District.

He is our shield and our strength, shielding us from the swirling doubts, and giving us strength to move forward. As President, one of the greatest challenges I embrace is to help every woman believe in the power of the Lord. We are God's

treasures and He is our shield and our strength. He loves our individuality, and our unique talents, which He gave us to *Serve the Lord with Gladness!* (Psalm 100:1)

As President, "I" is really "we and us" not just me. We can accomplish anything. Thank you for giving me the honor to serve you in the 31st Biennium of the LWML Ohio District. I pray that God gives me the wisdom to understand His will and direction.

*Karen Shanahan, District President*



Fall 2024  
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## I am Not Able

*So I asked Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able. Mark 9:18b*

Have you ever been in a situation where you weren't able to do what you needed to do? It is humiliating to fail. It's even worse when people point and laugh. However, the worst thing is when you can't help someone you love when they need you.

This has actually happened several times! Right after Jesus' transfiguration. He came down the mountain to find His disciples arguing and complaining in the middle of a crowd. What a mood-breaker that must have been! A man with a demon-possessed child is thrown forth by the crowd when Jesus asks what's going on; when he brought his son to the disciples to be healed, they were not able to cast out the evil spirit from him. What an embarrassing and unexpected experience for the disciples! With the power Jesus had given them, they had cast out evil spirits before (Mark 6:13). The situation had worsened when some scribes showed up and began arguing with them.

Jesus is exasperated. "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me". It is clear that he is disappointed in someone. Perhaps the scribes and crowd as well.

Suddenly, the boy's father makes a mistake: "If you can help us, please have compassion on us."

Whoops! Faithless again. When Jesus gently confronts him on it, the man immediately reverses course, saying, "I believe; help my unbelief".

Jesus then addresses the demon. 'Come out,' he commands. In the end, it does, though not without a final seizure, and the child appears to be dead. However, he is not. All is well again when Jesus returns the boy to his father. Mark 9:19-29.

This story is full of failures. Despite the disciples' efforts, the crowd is blamed for their lack of faith; the father portrays a similar lack of faith; even Jesus fails for a moment when the child appears dead. It's a mess! It doesn't look like a triumphant victory. Nevertheless, that's what it is. Through these people, God has set a child free from the power of evil. Despite their worst mistakes, God was still able to save them.

Isn't this true for us, too? We make mistakes all the time. It's rare that we are able to perform any act of Christian service with the magnificent grace we wish we had. We trip, fall, and crawl our way to victory. We crawl to Jesus, who turns our defeat into a blessing we could never have imagined.

Do you find yourself in a similar situation? If so, do what the disciples and the father did. Bring it to Jesus. He can redeem our worst mistakes because He has redeemed us.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, when I fail, please help me. Take my failures and redeem them. Bring good out of them according to Your will. Amen.

*Everette Greene, Sr. Pastoral Counselor*

## Giving Thanks

The LWML Ohio District convention was wonderful and inspirational as we studied Psalm 28:7 and other Bible verses. Even if you were unable to attend, perhaps you donated toward the Gifts of Love or lifted up the assembly in prayer.

It was fun visiting with our sisters and brothers in Christ, meeting new people and reuniting with those we know.

The Friday night church service and Pastor Kleimola's sermon helped us focus on Jesus. I had the privilege of attending the Young Woman Representative pinning ceremony on Friday night. It was a joy to see the young women who represented their zones. We had a very inspiring Bible study leader, keynote speaker and mission grant speaker. Later, our keynote speaker Rev. Kris Wittby came back up on stage to make us laugh and lighten up our hearts. He also provided a message about "Serving the Lord with Gladness" that holds up no matter where in the world you are from. We cast our votes and have elected a president, other officers and new mission grants to bless with our mites. We have so much to be thankful for.

I would like to recap and give the final numbers for the servant events and Gifts from the Heart. There were three servant events Friday morning. The first group made 20 Braille books for Lutheran Braille Workers. The second group assembled sanitary kits for The Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank. The ladies packed 78 pad and 68 tampon kits.

You surprised our hostess from Heart of Ohio with your willingness and eagerness to prepare. You showed up to write 136 cards of encouragement to pastors in the Ohio District. We used many of the items donated to make additional kits. Many of you blessed the diaper bank with cute and inspirational notes to pack with the diaper kits.

*(Continue on page 3)*

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The third group wrote messages for seminary students. Eighty-eight students will receive an encouraging card. This group finished writing to all the seminary students before they began writing to the pastors of the Ohio District.

We also had a servant event during interest session on Friday afternoon. Several women showed up to write cards of encouragement to pastors in the Ohio District. In total 136 cards were written to pastors.

We blessed three organizations with our Gifts from the Heart. All together we collected 575 food items for the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank. Jeff Summers from the food bank said that they weighed the items and it was 555 pounds of food equal to 962.5 meals. They also received a \$125 donation. For the Heart of Ohio Diaper Bank we received 159 packages of diapers, 208 packages of period products and an additional \$125 was donated. For Hope Rising we collected 13 canisters of baby formula and 109 bottles of baby wash and lotion. They also received a \$165 donation. All three organizations sent thank you notes and messages, thanking the LWML for our servant hearts and generosity.

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Deb Volkman, VP Human Care*

## Mission Grants Selected at Ohio District Convention

The Mission Grant Committee shared information about 13 mission grant applicants with a PowerPoint presentation on Saturday morning of the 2024 LWML Ohio District Convention.

The convention delegates had a difficult task to select those applicants that will receive an LWML Ohio District grant this biennium. All 13 mission grant applicants play an important role in the mission field, bringing the grace and mercy of Christ to many. Following is the priority listing of the grants that the LWML Ohio District will be funding this biennium.

1. Military Veterans & Family Member Counseling, Care Programs & Services – Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries, Fort Wayne, IN - \$10,000
2. Support for Seminarians - Ohio District LCMS Student Financial Aid Committee - \$15,000
3. Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-Op – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN - \$12,000
4. Comfort Dog Ministry - Atonement Lutheran Church, Columbus - \$7,000
5. Ministry Outreach to Muslims of Greater Columbus - POBLO International - \$12,000
6. Code Blue 24/7 Extended Hours for Extreme Weather - Project Hope for the Homeless - Lake County Ohio - \$8,000
7. Orphan Grain Train – Ohio Division - \$7,000
8. Support for LCMS Church Worker Students - Ohio District LCMS Student Financial Aid Committee - \$12,000
9. Christ-Centered Curriculum - Bethlehem Lutheran School, Fairborn OH - \$10,000
10. Position Cost of New Missionaries in Cincinnati OH - POBLO International - \$2,000 (partial funding)

Regretfully, the three grant applicants not receiving LWML Ohio District funding this biennium are the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, the Lutheran Braille Workers, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

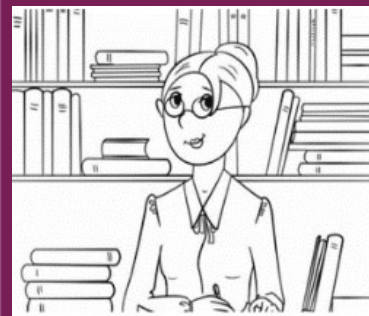
With fewer mite contributions last biennium, we only had \$95,000 available to fund missions for this biennium.

Please consider increasing your mite contributions and encourage others to do the same.

*Dorene Henschen, VP of Gospel Outreach*



## Be on the Lookout!!!



**I tell the story of the LWML Ohio District, the Zones and your Society.**

**I gather and maintain records, printed material, your Rallies, and the Convention.**

**I compile it ALL for the biennium.**

## I'm the Archivist/ Historian!

**Contact Information:**

**Jayne Hurst  
(2024-2026)**

**Email:**  
[ing2byfaith@gmail.com](mailto:ing2byfaith@gmail.com)

**I'll be reaching out to the Zone/Society President or Archivist in your area soon!**





## Convention Wrap-up

The second concise convention was held in a hotel for the first time in 2024. The Convention Host Committee meetings kicked off in March 2023 after the majority of the committee chairs were filled.

We started looking at venues right away. After prayerful consideration the decision was made that the convention would be held at the Holiday Inn in Canton.

At convention two offerings were held. One for mites and a second for Youngstown Blue Coats. We were amazed, but not surprised, at the generosity of the LWML attendees. Ingatherings were also very well supported.



Friday night worship service was wonderful. Several Pastors assisted in the service. Prior to worship service Pastor Esala, who was robed for service, stopped in the restaurant. A group of golfers in the restaurant asked for a blessing for their golf game the next day. Pastor Esala was more than happy to do this for the group. It was a great moment.

Friday after the worship service there was a pinning ceremony for our YWRs. I was fortunate to be able to pin a YWR for the Akron-Youngstown Zone. It was a wonderful way to end the first day of the convention.

The convention flew by on Saturday with voting for new officers as well as grant recipients and before we knew the convention was closed. Susan and I would like to thank all of the Akron-Youngstown women who stepped up to take on a committee for the convention. We could not have done it without their help.

See everyone in 2026. Blessings to all.

*Jeanie Dinehart, Convention Chairman*

*Susan Weiss, Convention Co-Chairman*

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## Convention Reflections

Excitement was the main emotion I experienced while preparing to attend the 30th Biennial LWML Ohio District Convention. As appointed Vice President of Christian Life, I look forward to learning about the store, its set up at the convention, and participating in item sales.

Committee Chairman, Stephanie Petee, trained me.

She did an awesome job selecting stunning items to sell. "Serving the Lord with Gladness" t-shirts of various colors as well as books, cards, and jewelry.

Many women shopped in between sessions and most of the inventory was purchased. What a blessing! As a member of the Executive Committee and also asked to serve on Minutes Review, there were several demands on my time. However, my focus was to reconnect with LWML sisters, meet more of my sisters, and serve with gladness wherever I was needed.

My first assignment was to help set up the store in the Hickory Room. There were many boxes and other paraphernalia involved in this adventure. Regular helpers appeared to assist and before long, everything was in order. The store was ready for customers.

When I was able, I would visit the store and assist with the purchase process. The extensive selection of devotional books and prayer books invited many to select products that filled their Christian life needs. Some purchased written material to give as gifts. I used the Peace cards I had purchased at the national convention to give to everyone at the Board of Directors meeting with a small chocolate bar (courtesy of the store).

My experience at the convention was enhanced by the time I spent in the store. However, the convention itself inspired me with the variety of speakers providing encouraging content focused on God's love for us. Rev. Saleska's Bible study of the Psalms revealed the "Voices in the Laments" through the rich imagery contained in Psalm 28. God's Word is the light. His silence is darkness. The soul and heart travel from trouble to peace.



Rev. Kris Whitby, the Keynote speaker, revealed to us through Luke 10 that in the story of the Good Samaritan, we are represented by the donkey that carried the battered man. Wow! There is always a missionary sharing his or her ministry. Matthew Heise from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation discussed the importance of catechism books to his ministry; he says they are durable, easy to conceal, a luxury in some parts of the world, and an effective teaching tool. The catechism has been translated into over 140 languages.

With so many ways to be encouraged, LWML conventions provide a myriad of opportunities to learn about God's word. It always begins with a large worship service that involves several pastors. Everything speaks of God's praise, love, and journey throughout the world. I am never disappointed!

*Liz Underwood, VP of Christian Life*



# Lutheran Women's Quarterly Ohio District Edition







## Northeast Zone

Several members of the Northeast Zone attended the June LWML Ohio District Convention, including our voting delegation. When the delegates (Two of whom were first time convention attendees) were asked about their favorite memories – comments included: "Being with a large group singing God's praises"; "learning the whole circle that our mites travel from small start to large impact - all work together for good"; "I enjoyed creating and assembling the books in Braille for my interest session"; "Making a new friend"; "The keynote speaker and His explanation of the 'Good Samaritan' ". What a blessing the convention was for all in attendance as we continue to trust in God, our Strength and our Shield.

Our zone will join together at our fall retreat on September 28. Our theme is "God's Gift of Rest" (Relax, Enjoy, Seek, Trust). The theme verse is: *The Lord replied, My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest* (Exodus 33:14).

It will be "all hands on deck" as the Northeast Zone joins with the Lorain-Medina and the Cleveland South-West zones to host the 2026 LWML Ohio District Convention, "Joyful Always". We look forward to this event which will be held June 19-20 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Westlake, OH.

*Billie Lelle, Northeast Zone*



## Napoleon Zone

The Napoleon Zone Spring Rally was held April 13 at St. John Lutheran in Stryker, Ohio. The theme was "Declare His Glory among the Nations" based on Psalm 96:3. Thirty-one women and two pastors attended the rally. Pastor Aaron Bueltmann gave the opening devotion based on the theme Bible verse. He talked about the recent solar eclipse which testified to the majesty and power of God. He reminded us that we all have so many things to be thankful for. Deb Volkman and Debbie Wesche performed a skit called "A Time for Beauty". Judy Kaufman was our guest speaker for the day. She presented pictures of a mission trip she took with other members of her family to Malawi, Africa.

Judy went with an organization called Villages in Partnership and showed us how they had been helping villagers by building churches, schools, houses, digging water wells, and showing the villagers agricultural ideas that will help them make a living and support their families. Pastor Jacob Stuenkel led the closing devotion and reminded us to keep our eyes on Jesus and to remember that Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and we should live in the knowledge that Jesus has indeed risen. For our Gifts from the Heart, we collected socks and underwear for Orphan Grain Train. Eighty-six packages of items were collected. It was a very inspirational morning.

*Deb Volkman, Napoleon Zone*

## Central Zone

We were blessed to participate in the 2024 LWML Ohio District Convention. Special thanks to Ann Presley for making our zone banner. We were blessed to have two YWRs attend the convention. Our presenters Jen, Dorene, Heba, Beth, Karen, Stephanie, Rosie Comfort Dog and her team provided insight and ways to reach the world through the Gospel. We had several Central zone ladies run for LWML Ohio District positions.

Thank you, Janet, for serving as Financial Secretary for many years. Special thanks to Vona who faithfully served our Lord and the Central Zone for the past five years as president.

SAVE the DATE: Central Zone Fall Rally- September 21 at St. John Dublin. Invite a friend! Central Zone has a Facebook Page: [LWML Ohio District Central Zone | Facebook](#)

Come join us on Facebook! God was and is our Strength and Shield!

*Hope Boring, Central Zone*



## Defiance Zone

On Saturday April 20, the LWML Defiance Zone held its Spring Rally. The theme was, "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made". The event was hosted by the ladies of Mt. Calvary LCMS, Antwerp. After a delicious breakfast, an opening devotion was led by Rev. Mark Peters, pastor of Mt. Calvary. Following the opening, an inspiring educational presentation was given by Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

The mission of Safe Haven Baby Boxes is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns through education, raising awareness of the Safe Haven law and offering the only anonymous option of the Baby Box. The Ingathering was diapers, baby wipes, and baby food for the Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center. The Rally ended with a closing devotion by Rev. Daniel Broadus.

*Joyce West, Defiance Zone*



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

Phone: 800-741-4138

Website: [lwmlgiftplan.org](http://lwmlgiftplan.org)



## Joyful Always

"Joyful Always" is the theme for the 2026 LWML Ohio District Convention. It will be hosted by the Cleveland South-West, Lorain-Medina and Northeast Zones on June 19-20, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westlake, OH.



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*, the convention will be a joyful time to gather together.

So, save the date, begin thinking of a logo you would like to submit in February 2025, and pray for the host committee members as plans are being made to facilitate the convention.

*Julie Gresko (Cleveland South-West Zone)*

*Ethel Schiemann (Lorain-Medina)*

*Billie Lelle (Northeast)*



## Website Updates

The LWML Ohio District website ([www.lwmlohio.org/](http://www.lwmlohio.org/)) has been updated since the district convention and will continue to include new information as committees are formed.

Keeping our website current and containing accurate information is a major goal of this webmaster.

Here are ways you can help:

1. Zone Presidents, check your zone pages – Are the officers correctly listed? Are all churches in your zone listed with the current pastor? Are there upcoming events that need to be listed?
2. District officers and committees – What exciting events are being planned? Are there items of interest that you receive from LWML that you would like to include on the site?
3. Finally – if something is not working correctly or you see an error, please contact me at [bllelle@roadrunner.com](mailto:bllelle@roadrunner.com)

I enjoy being the district webmaster and will continue through 2026.

In His Service,

*Billie Lelle, Webmaster*

## Convention Photos

The Lord is my Strength and My Shield at LWML Ohio District Convention was encouraging, Holy, Spirit-filled, and reinforcing to keep going when life gets tough, and the outside world engulfs us.

The convention gave us humor, music, strength through communion, joy through each other and meeting new friends. Our comfort dogs gave us a smile. We witnessed the transition of various leadership roles with grace and calmness. Thank you, Canton, Ohio and local zones, for a wonderful convention! God is our strength and joy!

Remember to stay connected through your zones, social media, and attending zone rallies. The LWML Ohio District picked up three new Instagram followers.



You can follow us below at:

[Instagram.com/ohiodlw](https://www.instagram.com/ohiodlw)

To enjoy convention pictures use the following URLs:

**PC and Google Users:** [//photos.app.goo.gl/gpB1G8DduaoJD9Ur6](https://photos.app.goo.gl/gpB1G8DduaoJD9Ur6)

**Apple and Mac Users:** [www.facebook.com/groups/ohiodistrictlwml](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ohiodistrictlwml)

*Hope Boring, Public Relations Director*

### MITES, HONORS AND MEMORIALS, 2024 - 2026

	Apr.-Jun. 2024	Biennium Total
Mites Received	\$13,414.59	\$13,414.59
Joyful Response	\$485.00	\$485.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$1,103.00	\$1,103.00
Honors/Memorial	\$350.00	\$350.00
Quarterly & ODE	\$309.50	\$309.50
Stamps	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Mission Income</b>	<b>\$15,662.09</b>	<b>\$15,662.09</b>

Total needed to meet the goal: \$103,087.91  
Monthly amount needed to reach Mission Goal \$4,909



#### MEMORIALS April-June

John Webster Edmunds  
Olga Juergens Janice Breitner  
Pauline VanMeurs Patricia Nicol  
Andrew R. Engert Steven Norden  
Alan Gruenhagen

## 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](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)

## Quarterly / ODE Subscriptions

Quantity changes and address changes should be submitted to **Starshine Graziadei**, Temporary 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 Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary.

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**Contributions & Donations for:**

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

Send to:

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7945 Brentwood Rd. Mentor, OH 44060

Ph: 440-840-9532

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**Subscription Changes for *Quarterly* & *ODE*:**



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**Mite Boxes:**

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

**Website:** Calendar Items, Pictures, Zone info, etc.

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