Lutheran Women's Missionary League Ohio District Edition — ODE

One More Resolution

Did you make any resolutions for this year? Are they broken already, or are you still trying to work toward your goal?

With God, every day is a new day and

a chance to start over again. So, I would like to share my resolution for this year and offer it as a suggestion for you: Let us try to be more tuned in to God's purposes for us as individuals each day. St. Paul wrote, For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

One translation of the word for workmanship is "masterpiece." I want to live up to that description. But if I am depending on my own desires and sense of direction, I will surely not

succeed.

So let us ask God each day to guide us, to show us opportunities for service and witness through eyes that the Spirit opens for us. Psalm 16:11 addresses God saying, You have made known to me the path of life; you fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Let us listen and obey when He shows us the way to go. Then there is the challenge of actually DOING the service or GIVING the

witness when the opportunity arises.

At those times, Isaiah 41:13 assures us, For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right

hand and says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.' So don't be afraid. DO it. SAY it.

Finally, God will be glorified. With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and

you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12).

I want to begin each day with these words. Will you join me?

I am who He created me to be.

I am where He wants me to be.

Today I am looking to Him for guidance.

He will lead me to the opportunities He has planned for me.

He will hold my hand and help me do those beautiful tasks He has prepared for me.

And He will be glorified.

May it be so for each of us! Vivian Nelson, District President



Welcome Starshine!

Do you like our new look? Many thanks to Karen Shanahan for doing a wonderful job as Editor of the *ODE* for the last twelve years. Karen has passed the baton on to Starshine Graziadei. This is Starshine's first issue and I think it looks great!

She is excited to be working with us and she is looking forward to developing relationships with lots of LWML Ohio District ladies. If you want to extend a word of congratulations and welcome. Her contact information can be found on the last page.

Vivian Nelson, District President



Spring 2023 Volume 59.3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastoral Counselor2
Mites at Work2
Structure and Human Care3
Public Relations3
Christian Life3
Leader Development4
Equipping Leaders Form5
Zones6
Honors/Memorials Mites/Gifts of Love7
Webmaster7
Contacts/Submissions



Ohio District Edition

Do We Matter? Yes!

Our first week back to school this year, our memory

verse was, In Christ Jesus we are all sons of God through faith (Galatians

3:26).

To help students see the joyful good news in this verse I shared a story with them. It was a story of a child whose parents died in the months before Christmas. She found herself living with her uncle, aunt, and cousins.

As Christmas approached she was feeling not just the tragic loss of her parents, but also wondering if there would be anything for her on Christmas morning. The uncertainty crippled her to the point she didn't want to get out of bed on Christmas Day. She was called to the family room and was happy to see she had received presents like her cousins. After the final gift was opened, her uncle told her there was one more and handed her an envelope. Inside were adoption papers showing her how important she was to their family, and that she would never be alone.

This story helped the students consider what joy it is to be children of God. We had just gotten back from Christmas break and the glow of Christmas day gift receiving was fresh in the students' minds. In telling the story, the children were shocked when they heard me say that the girl lost her parents. But going on they began to imagine the dreadful uncertainty of not knowing if the orphaned girl was as important as the cousins. Put yourself in the place of a child. Consider this is the reality of our lost condition without God's gifts. Do we matter? Yes! Not only to have our sins forgiven, but only to be with God as a member of His family!

We don't meditate on the simple good news of being God's children enough. There is comfort, confidence, and capability in that relationship that we often neglect. As God's children we are secure in His family and receive all the benefits of His offspring.

When Jesus teaches us to pray, He says, "pray then like this, Our Father." And within those words sits the reality of our family status with God. We have the same Father as Jesus. We share that Father with all of our brothers and sisters around the world. And in the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League we get to let the lost and lonely of the world know that they don't have to be apart from God. In Jesus, they are loved and cherished as God's children. They are sought after by the Father and they have a place in His home, now and forever.

As we approach the convention this coming June, consider the place you have in God's family as His child. Pray for people of all the nations who do not know that assurance. Seek God's guidance that our work would continue to bring this peace. And above all do not forget, you are a child of the Father in heaven. You are seen, safe, and loved in Jesus.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom He has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12-13).

Pastor Ryan Kleimola, Sr. Pastoral Counselor

Mites at Work in the Kingdom

Two mission grant recipients at the Ohio District convention held in June 2022, were **Prince of Peace** Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and POBLO **International**. Since receiving partial funds, we have been eager to hear about the fruits of these labors. Prince of Peace in Cincinnati has been searching for an Outreach Coordinator and will use the mites mission grant funds to pay the position's salary. In the meantime, Pastor John Suguitan will oversee this endeavor. Pastor Suguitan will continue his search and asks for prayers to obtain a coordinator.

Joseph and Heba Beshai lead POBLO International in Central Ohio. Nationalities served by POBLO in Central Ohio include

India, Afghanistan, China, Japan, Kurdistan, Vietnam, Venezuela, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Programs offered are food and clothing distribution which partners with ministries such as Treatment Center, Huckleberry House, Friends of the



Joseph and Heba Beshai

Homeless Men's Shelter, and area churches to provide regular meals, clothing and furniture. POBLO also offers classes for the families such as English as a second language (ESL). Crochet, baking, sewing, and citizenship classes are offered to create opportunities for people to come together to socialize, feel loved, and partake in open conversation about Bible stories and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Social activities and events at area churches such as St. John in Dublin, Beautiful Savior in Powell, and Atonement in Columbus invite the families served through POBLO to events that also provide opportunities to evangelize.

To date, there have been five baptisms including individuals from Iraq, Sudan, Vietnam, and the United States. After baptism, the mission continues its work through Bible studies and fellowship.

In addition, POBLO presents the vision of the ministry to churches and speaks about the great commission. The goal is to encourage more churches and volunteers to start outreach programs to serve the internationals. There is a hope to one day be able to expand the class offerings in the following categories: computers, social skills, art classes, and mental awareness.

Deaconess Janet Nicol, Mission Grants Committee

Ohio District Edition

Resolutions

I am writing this right after New Year's Day, a time for making resolutions. Have you made any?

Perhaps a popular and often broken one; losing 10 pounds (a losing battle for me) or exercising more (another losing battle). Perhaps you want to spend more time in Bible study. Whatever, the start of a new year seems to be a time for new starts of all kinds.

My resolution for the next two years of service to the LWML Ohio District is a simple one, but I need your help. I hope to get all of the district copies of zone bylaws onto a flash drive. Not only will this make it easier to store the copies, it will be easier for those of us on the Structure Committee to help each zone with updates or answering questions. I'm starting with my own zone, Northeast, which is doing a major overhaul of the duties of the elected officers. Once this is complete, I'll go through the bylaws on file and see what needs updating. Where does your help come in? I'm asking each zone to send me an electronic copy of their bylaws, which I will save on the new bylaws flash drive.

So, how about it? Want to help with successfully keeping a resolution?

Beth Christopherson, Structure Committee Chairman

Counting Your Blessings

The daily newspaper arrives on our driveway each morning. My husband delves into the sports section while I check the obituaries to make sure I am not included (a task taught to me by my father), and end by reading selected comic strips which many times contain philosophical, ethical, parental, or just plain laughable food for thought.

Speaking of food for thought, how's

this for a segue?

A recent single-box ZIGGY comic had Ziggy saying grace over his steaming TV dinner. He said, "One nice thing about counting your blessings at mealtime ... in my case I never have to worry about my dinner getting cold." After re-reading the comic, sadness overwhelmed me. Ziggy needed some human care to either show him his blessings or to bless him with human care itself.

The LWML has shared blessings of many varieties over its past 80 years in forms of money, items, service, and prayers. I wondered if the recipients of into them. How fortunate that in many situations, a representative of the LWML personally presents the blessing to the recipient.

Think about it this way: So many examples of human care were shown by Jesus - not just by waving his arm over hundreds of people, but by touching, speaking, caring. Time-consuming, yes. Exhausting, yes. However, because He cared and loved, He set an example of heavenly human care for us.

When the Human Care Committee decides what project to work on at conventions, what items to donate to agencies, or how best to serve the community, it's more than just a physical act. There is a caring that comes from the heart for the love of a person whose meal might not cool off before their blessings are counted.

Diana Schnack, Human Care Committee

Faith Revived

At Prince of Peace in Oregon, Ohio, we are reviving our LWML group. For our first meeting, nine wonderfully faithful women attended. We held a church Christmas party in December to celebrate Jesus' birth with our church family and friends.

In the years that I have been involved in the LWML Ohio District, I have taken on an organizer role. The goals for our group are to help grow in our faith and friendships, as well as focus on servant activities that help others feel His love.

I have been praying for discernment in quiding our group to

grow in faith and numbers. I want the women of my church to know the wonderful benefits of being involved with the LWML. While



searching for meeting ideas, I found that both the LWML Ohio District and the national LWML websites have helpful information including devotions, Bible studies, mission grants and mites updates, program help, information about upcoming events, the LWML store, and so much more. I am inspired by the wonderful resources I discovered on these websites!

With help from these resources and from the LWML Toledo Zone sisters, I am confident our group will thrive!

Corrine Sattler, Christian Life Committee



Happy New Year to the LWML Ohio District!

The Akron-Youngstown Zone will be hosting the 2024 LWML Ohio District Convention on June 21-22, 2024.

Invite your woman friends, women from church and your daughters/ granddaughters to this amazing convention!

Follow the LWML Ohio District on Facebook:

Ohio District LWML | Facebook

This is our group page which includes 151 members!

You can use this to:

- † Post fun things about your zone and share your favorite scripture verses
- † Encourage one another and post pictures of your zone spreading and serving the Lord with gladness

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5-6).

Prayerfully see you in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the LWML Convention being held June 22-25, 2023!

Hope Boring, Public Relations

Coming Soon:

Instagram — Spring 2023

Ohio District Edition

Equipped to Lead

Lead? Me? Jesus is calling me to lead? Yes, treasured sister, beloved of the Lord most high, He is calling you to lead. Lead others to Him. Like close friends telling one



another where to find the best deals or like beggars telling beggars where to find bread, we are called to lead and to be led by others in the journey of the Christian faith.

The team of Assembly of Leaders participants are bursting to share practical ways to serve the Lord as a leader in various aspects of your life. Enjoy a day of laughter, inquiry, variety, and encouragement as you explore leadership in your life and relationships at Adventures in Equipping Leaders on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at St. John Lutheran Church in Dublin.

Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. and the event ends at 3:30 p.m. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch. Bring your Bible, an open heart, a friend along for the ride, and two well-rested arms for collecting hugs.

Topics included are:

- † Me a Leader? How to Share God's Love, What is Your Why?
- † Strategic Brainstorming, Broadening Cultural Understanding
- † Treasure Hunt for LWML Resources
- † Venturing out of Your Comfort Zone
- † Mission Grants—a Global Adventure

You'll leave inspired to share and enthused to see how God uses you to lead others to His throne.

See Registration Form on page 5

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen (Hebrews 13:20-21).

Tomeka M. Shum, Leader Development Committee Chairman



As you know the Akron-Youngstown Zone will be hosting the 2024 LWML Ohio District Convention. The theme is "The Lord is My Strength and My Shield" from Psalm 28:7a.

Committees will start meeting in March to begin preparations. We are narrowing down the hotels for the convention and are waiting on contracts and pricing.

We look forward to welcoming you to our zone!

Jeanie Dinehart, Convention Chair



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) invites you to the 2023 LWML Convention to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023, where participants will "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations."

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty will be the keynote speaker. Previously he served as the Speaker of The Lutheran Hour® radio program. Past LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries (2015-2019) Kaye Wolff will lead Bible study. LWML's Comic Relief Duo Jan Struck and Abby Goehring will entertain the crowd.

There will be early morning Bible studies as well as mission grant recipient speakers.

Zone Activities Recap 2023

February

- 4 / Prayer Service Northeast Zone
- 25 LWML Ohio District BOD Meeting

March

- 4 Donna Snow—Bible Study Cleveland South West
- 5 Prayer/Executive Meeting Miami Valley
- 11 Cincinnati Zone Event
- 25 Assembly of Leaders

April

- 15 Spring Rally Miami Valley
- 22 Spring Rally Lima Van Wert
- 23 Spring Rally Akron-Youngstown
- **30** Missions in Motion

May

6 Spring Rally Northeast Zone

June

22-25 The LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Keep this part for your record:

Adventures in Equipping Leaders

March 25, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Opening devotion at 9:30) St. John Lutheran Church, 6135 Rings Rd, Dublin, OH 43016

Bring: Your Bible A Clipboard

A tote bag (perhaps from an LWML convention)

Peanut butter or canned fruit for the Columbus area LSS food pantry

Name ______ Church ______
Address _____ LWML Zone _____
Email _____

Your Current Role in LWML: (Check all that apply.)
_____ Interested _____ Active member/helper _____ Group Officer _____ Bible study leader _____ Committee Chairman

Registration: _____ \$10 fee enclosed _____ Will pay at door

Mail form and check to: LWML Ohio District c/o Janet Pauley 1535 Bahia Dr.

Volunteer Opportunities

After reading the timeline for the duties of the Nominating Committee, it is not too early to give you this information. Offices to be filled in 2023 are; **President, VP of Human Care, VP of Servant Resources, Financial Secretary** and **Nominating Committee**. All job descriptions can be found in the LWML Ohio District Bylaws, located at www.lwmlohio.org.

Marysville, OH 43040

The Nominating Committee is ready to hear from you:

Sandy Dixon-Chairman: sqtfroond@gmail.com

Stephanie Petee: slpetee@hotmail.com
Doreen Inglis: lwmldoreen@yahoo.com
Beth Marth: bmarth@columbus.rr.com
Lisa Rhonemus: llrhonemus2012@gmail.com

Prayers for all willing to consider this service to our LWML Ohio District, either by asking another to serve or volunteering your name for office is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Doreen Inglis, Nominating Committee

Ohio District Edition

Cincinnati Zone

Our next event will cover the LWML Ohio District being discussed and what it does for us. We'll also have an ingathering of socks, un-



derwear, and T-shirts for children to benefit Immanuel's Kids Church and the Prince of Peace Sunday School.

We are asking women to organize their own church to have an "Undie Sunday" and to bring in this clothing to our LWML event. (Communication will be sent out by email posters and church bulletins.) The event will be on March 11, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran in Milford, at 5849 Buckwheat Rd. There will also be a regular board meeting following, and all are welcome to stay. The publicity for this event will be emailed to all members as well as their churches. **Note:** The snow date will be March 25, same time.

The details for the Missions in Motion (MIM) are to be finalized at the March meeting for this last event of the year. The MIM is being planned by the Vice President Diane Rhonemus for April 30, 2023. This event will include a speaker, a meeting "of the whole organization" including elections of officers, and a reception. Please join us at 2 p.m. at Zion Lutheran, 1175 Birney Ln. As always, we welcome all women joining us.

Peggy Kelm, Cincinnati Zone

Northeast Zone

The members in the 15 groups of the Northeast Zone are excited about the events to be held in 2023. These include:

- † Prayer Service February 4, 2023
- † Spring Rally –May 6, 2023 Guest speaker: Jackie Rychel of Ministry in Mission. The LWML Ohio District President, Vivian Nelson, will join us and share district news.
- † Fall Retreat (Our 30th annual fall "Get Away") Saturday, September 23, 2023 at the Environmental Learning Center/Jordan Creek. Plans include a Bible study, interest sessions, and guest presenter, Ruth Pangrace will re-enact a historical character.

My prayer for 2023 is that these events, along with the many planned activities by individual groups, by God's grace, will be done to His glory as Women in Mission serve Him and others.

Billie Lelle, Northeast Zone President

<u> Akron-Youngstown Zone</u>

For our Fall Retreat on October 29, 2022, we met at Mill Creek Park at the Birch Hill Cabin in Youngstown on a beautiful fall day. Our theme for the day was "Life is like Swiss Cheese."

Pastor Andy Alberts focused on two Bible verses. The first one focused on the blessings in life and trust in

God's faithfulness. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5).

The second passage was a take on Swiss cheese. And they were calling to one another; Holy, holy, holy is the LORD almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory (Isaiah 6:3).

Our day started with a continental breakfast. The ingathering was gathered for an organization called Sleep in Heavenly Peace and included bath towels, washcloths, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and combs.

For our Human Care project we made faith bracelets. Our Spring rally is scheduled for April 22, 2023 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austintown.

Jeanie Dinehart, Akron-Youngstown Zone President

Christian Life Workshop



The ladies of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flatrock graciously hosted the Napoleon Zone Chris-

tian Life Workshop on November 12, 2022. Sixteen ladies and one pastor attended the event. Nancy Gerken welcomed the group. Marge Spencer, Napoleon Zone Vice President, gave a zone welcome. Reverend Jacob



Stuenkel led us in a devotion and in a Bible study called "Given a Purpose." There were two skits. The first showed us why it's important to pray to

God and the second helped us "Exercise in the Scriptures." The ladies brought gift cards for the Fort Wayne Seminary as an ingathering. It was an uplifting day of Bible study, fellowship, and fun.

Deb Volkman, Napoleon Zone President

<u>Central Zone Fall Fellowship</u>

On October 1, 2022, twenty-eight women met at Zion Lutheran Church in Columbus for our fall fellowship. Stephanie Petee led the ladies in a Bible study of Esther, which became our theme for the day. Our guest speaker, Cindy Griner from Alpha Pregnancy Center spoke about the history of abortion in America and the many people the center has helped.

The ladies of the Central Zone collected 108 items including picture books, toys, baby food, bibs, wipes, lotions, diapers, onesie outfits, burp cloths, and a baby blanket. We also provided a monetary gift to our guest speaker. We will be hosting a winter



retreat at Atonement Lutheran on January 28, 2023. The theme is "God's Comfort." Our guest speaker is Mary Ludlum and Rosie the Comfort Dog. Our monetary ingathering will be collected for Comfort Dogs.

Vona Gooding, Central Zone President

Ohio District Edition

Toledo Zone Holiday Events

The LWML ladies of the Toledo Zone were active over the holidays in service to the Lord spreading good cheer and good news through outreach and gracious giving. Here are some of the events that took place.

- † Good Shepherd Toledo—hosted an Advent supper and collected hats, scarves, mittens, and personal care items for the Sylvania Area Family Services Center.
- † Concordia Findlay—Co-Sponsored with Stewardship, a "Harvest Blessings for Lutheran Social Services" The food donations were delivered to Lutheran Social Services. The bales of hay were changed to Christmas themed decorations.
- † Trinity Toledo—A donation drive was held to collect Christmas gift cards to benefit Concordia Theological, Fort Wayne students and their families. Together we provided the seminarians with over \$2,000 worth of Christmas gift cards.
- † On Sunday, November 27, 2022, we sponsored an "Advent by Candlelight" event. Following brunch, a special program was presented and the Trinity choir performed. Friendship and fellowship was joyful and plentiful.
- † Annually, the Trinity members donate hats, mittens, socks, etc. in a Trinity group sponsored event called, "The Giving Tree." This year, they will benefit the Family House Shelter in Toledo. They will certainly help keep the men, women, and children warm this winter!

Karen Shanahan, Toledo Zone President

MITES, HONORS AND MEMORIALS, 2022 - 2024

,		
	OctDec. 2022	Biennium Total
Mites Received Joyful Response Thrivent Choice Dollars Honors/Memorial Quarterly & ODE Stamps	\$21,423.04 \$360.00 \$396.00 \$380.00 \$676.00 \$60.00	\$49,899.47 \$1,100.00 \$1,131.00 \$1,666.95 \$1,485.00 \$935.00
Total Mission Income	\$23,295.04	\$56,217.42

Total needed to meet the goal: \$151,182.58 Monthly amount needed to reach Mission Goal \$10,079

HONORS

October-December

Members of St. Paul, Milford Center that are 80+ years old

MEMORIALS

October-December

Gisela Thiemens Dorothy Morris Ruby Dietrich Noel Benoit Frank Hall Mrs. Rosella "Scotty" Barney

Struck by Lightning

In the 1986 comedy, Short Circuit, an experimental military robot is struck by lightning and gains a human-like intelligence. Robot number five becomes "Johnny 5." He escapes from the military base and is always looking for input. His favorite line is: "Johnny 5 is alive!" The film is delightful to watch and I recommend it.



As webmaster, I feel a little like Johnny 5. I try to keep www.lwmlohio.org alive and updated. In order to do that I need input from our district officers, department chairman, and zone leaders. So, if you have something you want to share on the website, please send it to me at blelle@roadrunner.com. Include the important information like Who, What, Where, When, and Why in a complete article. If you want to include pictures, please send a description.

I look forward to keeping our district website "alive" in 2023 and I hope you visit the site often to learn about the exciting things that are happening with the LWML Ohio District.

Billie Lelle, Webmaster



Returning God's Blessings

Most Christians don't have a charitable plan for when the Lord calls them to heaven. They may be unsure where to start.

The LWML's Gift Planning Counselors, Linda Gage and Carol von Soosten, are ready to help put your wishes on paper, to care for your family, and to impact ministry.

LWML offers this free, professional assistance you can trust. You will have joy and peace of mind knowing your instructions will be carried out.

Contact...The LWML Gift Planning Counselor:

Linda Gage

Linda.Gage@lfnd.org

Phone: 800-741-4138

Website: www.lwmlgiftplan.org

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 **Janet Pauley,** 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 Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary. Make checks payable to "LWML Ohio District" and send with completed form to:

Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary 1535 Bahia Drive Marysville, OH 43040

Ph: 614-746-9855,

Email: jpauley7719@gmail.com



Quarterly / ODE Subscriptions

Quantity changes and address changes should be submitted to **Kim Klein**, Subscription Manager.

Annual Subscription Costs:

ODE All quantities \$2.50/eachQuarterly 1-9 Copies \$7.50/eachQuarterly 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

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Contributions & Donations for:

- Mites, Memorials, Honors
- ▼ Joyful Response[®] to Mites
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Order direct from Concordia Publishing House www.cph.org, or on Home page, click LWML

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

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