



# Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)

Spring 2017  
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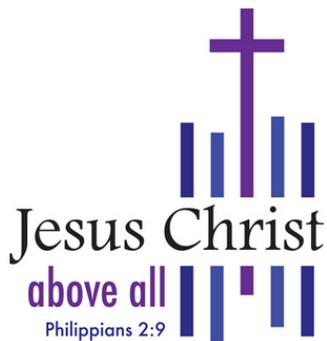
*Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*

*Ohio District Edition — ODE*

3633 Denise Drive, Toledo, Ohio 43614



LWML 37th Biennial Convention



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## Why Did He Come?

By now the excitement of Christmas is over. The tree is either dismantled or thrown out, leaving pine needles to step on for the next month. Decorations have been taken down and stored in the attic or basement, forgotten until next year. Presents have found a place to belong or returned to the store. Life is back to normal. Or is it? Is the wonder, the majesty, the awe of Christmas gone – packed away until next year? What does the birth of Christ really mean to you?

There once was a man who did not believe in God, and he never hesitated to share his disbelief and skepticism with others. However, his wife believed and had raised their children to have faith in the Lord.

One snowy Christmas Eve, the woman and the children were ready to go to church. They again invited the man to join in the celebration of Jesus' birth. The man scoffed at the idea shouting, "That story is ridiculous. Why would God humble Himself to come to Earth to be like us?"

So the wife and children left, and the man stayed home – alone. As the night wore on, the wind picked up and the snow turned into a blizzard. The man sat by the fire, content with himself and his attitude of self-righteousness. Suddenly, he heard a thump against the window, followed by a second thump. The man rushed to the window as he couldn't imagine what had hit the window with such force. As the snow began to let up, the man ventured outside to investigate.

In the field across from his house, the man saw a flock of wild geese.



Apparently, they had been flying south and got caught in the snowstorm. The geese were lost, stranded, hungry and flying blindly and aimlessly. A few of the geese had even flown into the window in search of shelter and warmth.

The man felt sorry for the geese, and he wanted to help them. He knew his barn would provide a place for them to rest and be safe for the night. He walked to the barn, opened the door, and called to the geese. But the geese did not understand the man's voice. The man became desperate as he tried to coax the geese by flapping his arms and shooing them towards the barn. The geese became frightened by all his attempts to help.

The man was frustrated and shouted into the wind, "If only I was a goose, then I could save them." With that thought in mind, he ran into the barn, grabbed his own goose, and released it into the flock of wild geese. Immediately the goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn. One by one, the wild geese followed it to safety.

The man was amazed and thankful that his idea worked, and the geese were saved. He again thought about his words. "If only I were a goose, I could save them."

*Continued on page 2*



## Reformation 500 and Counting

The Reformation began 500 years ago with Martin Luther's rediscovery of the Gospel. You know the Gospel – the righteousness of God. Salvation comes through the righteousness of God. Are you righteous? Do you have the righteousness of God? Each generation, each individual, wrestles with this question of the righteousness of God because through it comes life and salvation. Again I ask you, are you righteous? Do you have the righteousness of God?



If I begin with myself, I would have to conclude as Luther did. I do not have the righteousness of God. I am not righteous. I cannot make myself righteous. I do what I am not to do and I don't do what I am to do. And even when I do what I am to do, I do not do it well enough to make me righteous. So what am I to do? Well, the hard part is done. God's commands have struck terror in my heart, with no hope on my own of escaping His Almighty wrath. I am a poor miserable worm, far from righteous – a sinner who sins. "Oh Lord, have mercy on me," I plead.

And He does! AND HE DOES! And He does.... He comes to me with His forgiveness. He comes to give me with His cross-redeeming, blood-bought forgiveness – the wages for my sins, the payment for me - a sinner. It is through His action He declares me righteous. He gives (gifts) me His righteousness – the righteousness of God. He gives me Himself – the Gospel. Jesus, True God (conceived of the Holy Spirit) and True Man (born of the Virgin Mary), comes to me and makes me His own. I am His. Righteous!

May the Righteousness of God continue to come to you and keep you as His own.

*Rev. Jimmy Riley, Sr. Pastoral Counselor*

*Why Did He Come? Continued from Page 1*

Then he remembered his words to his wife, "Why would God come to Earth to be like us?" Suddenly - it made perfect sense. God became like us so He could save us!

The wonder and amazement of Christmas does not come from the gifts, trees or decorations. The wonderment of Christmas comes from God's plan to save us. God sent His Son to Earth to become like us so He could show us our salvation. His unfathomable, indescribable, infinite love is that special present that never gets packed away until next year. God's love remains in our hearts so that every day we can feel that wonder, that majesty, that awe of Christmas and the miracle of our Savior's birth. Serving our Lord together,

*Jeanne Schimmelmann, President*

## The Meaning of Structure

Have you ever wondered what the official meaning of structure is? Being on the LWML Ohio District Structure Committee got me to wondering. My dictionary (granted an old one) gave four definitions which you can guess basically dealt with building. I felt the fourth definition fit us best: the manner of construction or organization. As a Structure Committee, we review district and zone bylaws. Our job is to make sure our district and zones have a good structure for their LWML organization. Fortunately there are guidelines for us to follow and we can share this information with you if you feel it is time to revise your zone or unit bylaws. One of these guidelines is called K.I.S.S.: keep it short and simple. It has 14 suggestions to help *build* your bylaws so your zone, unit or our district can function effectively and efficiently. As a committee we will be reviewing zone bylaws to be sure we have a final copy of your most recent revisions. If your zone has not looked at your bylaws in the last ten years it is probably time to review them.

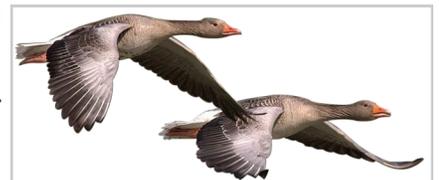
*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV). For every house is built by someone, but 'the builder' of all things is God (Hebrews 3:4 NIV).*

*Deborah Wesche, Chairman, Structure Committee*

## Recording Secretary



We give thanks to our guiding and gracious God as Lillian Keller has agreed to be the Recording Secretary for LWML Ohio District. Lillian has served the LWML in many different capacities for many years. She is a dedicated servant of our Lord.





## Pondering Your Christian Life

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19 NIV). More than likely you heard these words spoken at a Christmas Eve service or one of the many December Sunday morning or mid-week Advent worship services. Mary pondered.



Ponder is an interesting word. It is defined as considering something deeply and thoroughly. Did Mary ponder the changes happening that silent night as well as the changes that were to happen to her, to her son, to the world? Mary was chosen by God. No pondering

there, God chose Mary. How is one to say no to what God has chosen?

It is the same with our Christian life. God chooses us to serve. When presented with a challenge or an opportunity, do we ponder first and agree second? If we're perfectly honest with ourselves, the answer is yes. Why is our faith weak at that moment? Why do we offer excuses such as "I don't think I can do that" or "I don't have time for that." Would God ever ask us to do something He knew we could not accomplish? We should do as Mary did. Ponder and believe that with God, His work will be done. Remember these words, *I am with you always, to the very end of the age* (Matthew 20:28 NIV).

Go in faith and serve.

*Diana Schnack, VP, Christian Life Committee*

## Be on the Lookout!

PRAISE the Lord! Two of our ten Mission Grants have been PAID in FULL!!! They are Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries and Project Hope For the Homeless. Please remember to pray for all ten Mission Grant Grants as you continue to fill your Mite Boxes over the coming months.

Also, "Be On The Lookout!" for applications for 2018-2020 Mission Grants which will be made available after the February 2017 Executive Committee

and Board of Directors meetings. This means it is not too early to use your mission vision to "Be On The Lookout!" for our next mission Grants.

*Karyl VanMeurs-Juergens, VP, Gospel Outreach*



## Caring for the Caregiver



The holidays can come and go like a whirlwind. The role of a woman is often defined by how well she takes care of others such as children, family, neighbors, and church family to name a few. An unanswered rhetorical question is who takes care of her, especially during the often stressful holidays. A caregiver must take care of herself so that she can serve others. Jesus himself took time away to talk to God and rest.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV) *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. A strong, healthy body is essential to those who care for others. Eating well, regular exercise, and sufficient sleep help maintain good health. Additional verses pertaining to health are 2 Corinthians 7:1; and Proverbs 3:7-8.*

The peace of mind that comes from reading God's Word is healthy for the body and soul. *My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart* (Proverbs 3:1 NIV); and, *In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight* (Proverbs 3:6 NIV). Other verses to read are 1 Peter 2:11; and Romans 13:13-14



Christian women need to exercise personal human care to have health in both their bodies and souls, for each is a blessing and gift of God. This enables them to better give of themselves to others while serving their Lord and Savior.

*Charlotte Blumenschein*

*Chairman, Human Care Committee*

## Looking for Zone Information?

Billie Lelle, Webmaster, reminds the LWML Ohio District members to visit the district website. Check out the special section on Zones for information, photos, articles and coming events. Submit your zone items to Billie to include in the site. A great resource for all:

<http://lwmlohio.org> — [blille@roadrunner.com](mailto:blille@roadrunner.com)



## New Year, New Team

As we welcomed in the New Year, the LWML Ohio District also welcomed in some new faces on the Leadership Development Committee. Those faces are Lisa Rhonemus (Cincinnati Zone), Candyce Smith (Northeast Zone), and Shawna Spanel (Central Zone). In November, the committee got together to discuss the goals and duties of the Leadership Development Committee for the next biennium. Applications for Young Women Representatives (YWRs) for the LWML Convention in 2017 were also being collected until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

As a committee we decided that we wanted to increase LWML participation from the younger women in our district. To achieve this we plan on making contact with YWRs before conventions to help establish relationships with them and make their convention experience more meaningful. We also want to engage them at a zone level and organize mission days where YWRs across the state participate in a service event in their zone. Field trips to current LWML Mission Grant recipient organizations was also discussed. Our hope is that seeing the grants at work and helping those organizations will help spark more involvement and/or continued involvement with LWML. We look forward to seeing what this biennium has in store for this new team.

*Lisa Rhonemus, Chairman, Leadership Development*

## Sing to the LORD

These words are found in Psalms 33, 96 and 149. The Study Bible notes suggest that a "new song" might be sung after a time of deliverance.

Today these words make me think, "Serve the Lord in a new way." They ask me, and I ask you, "Are you ready for a new task?"

Soon you will receive information from the Nominating Committee about officers we will elect at our convention in 2018. They include: Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Pastoral Counselor, and Nominating Committee members.

Please prayerfully consider whether you are ready for one of these new challenges. Or perhaps someone you know would be just right for the job. Will you encourage her? We'll be contacting you soon!

*Vivian Nelson, Chairman, Nominating Committee*

## Gifts of Love

### Many Reasons to Give – Many Options for Giving



When two people fall in love and become one in the holy union of marriage, they typically share all that is to come, including material wealth. Most couples hold wealth in joint ownership. A few with considerable property might plan to separate assets in order to conserve taxes or maintain administrative protection. Yet in most cases, people commingle their property because it reflects their attachment and commitment to each other.

There also exists an emotional attachment, especially in connection with "objects of our bounty." Generosity and giving are natural expressions that communicate the message, "I love you. You belong to me." Giving can flow both during life and after.

Those who hear the Call of God's Love through faith, have similar connections that often transcend human ties. For some, generosity steps up from the conviction that all that they have is a gift. For others, the desire to share and give comes from deep within the heart. Sadly, decisions to act on such aspirations often don't get made because of a lack of knowing how to proceed or the resolve to get started.

All of us have more options to structure gifts than is often understood. A relevant question to ask is, "What is the most effective way to give in each circumstance?" Answering this question often requires advisors who understand methods and vehicles that govern economic, tax and legal processes. But we find that many people don't discuss this with their professional advisors. This means they may miss the best ways to match their generous intent with the optimal charitable vehicle.

Have you ever thought about seeking spiritual counsel on these gifting issues as a part of the process? Charitable advisors can help you align your hopes for blessing others with the most effective financial strategy for your particular situation.

(Article provided by LCMS Foundation, St. Louis, MO)

Learn more about charitable gift/estate planning by contacting LWML's Senior Gift Planning Counselor, Patricia Bilow; call 800-741-4138, ext. 2 or email [Patbilow.lwml@gmail.com](mailto:Patbilow.lwml@gmail.com)





## Binding the Wounds of War



Redeemer Lutheran, Austintown, Ohio, recently hosted a seminar by Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, a 2016 LWML grant recipient. As participants of the seminar, my sister and I gained new insights and information about the challenges our military men and women face when they re-enter the civilian world. Wanting to get a perspective from a professional in the field, I approached my sister who is a licensed social worker employed at a nursing home in our area where the VA places veterans. She writes:

"I attended the seminar 'Binding the Wounds of War' and found it to be very educational and enlightening. We Americans do not realize the sacrifices that our military make for the love of our country. This was an eye opening experience, and we should all do our part to

make each soldier's life better when they return to civilian life. As a social worker, it is important to assess and have a good understanding of the needs of our clients. This seminar gave me a better understanding and empathy for the unique challenges that veterans face daily. They have their own "military culture" and have been taught to think, act and live differently as a soldier, in a soldier's world. When returning, their whole world and culture changes. Along with this major change, they deal with many issues which can be very overwhelming: identity issues, family, PTSD, physical, spiritual, emotional, and psychological distress. Some soldiers are deployed multiple times and shifted from one culture to another.

This seminar provided vital information for mental health providers to improve services to help our veterans and their families make healthy transitions back home. We were given tools on counseling tips, barriers to treatments, resource information, and types of services available to veterans who qualify for VA care and for those who don't. We learned effective strategies on how to assess and recognize behaviors indicating a person is having difficulty coping and the reluctance that veterans may have in seeking help from non-military services. The realization is that the military should not carry all the burdens of taking care of our soldiers' needs. We, as a nation, must work together and provide the support, understanding, and services needed to heal hearts and welcome them back into society." Debbie Kascak, LSW

Contact Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc. (LMVFM), to host a seminar to learn how to help our returning Veterans.

Leslie Haines, (Maj.) DM, MA, Executive Director, [www.LMVFM.ORG](http://www.LMVFM.ORG) — 260-755-2239 daytime.

Doreen Inglis, Chairman, Mission Grants Committee

## Resources-Serve One Another

Are you looking for ways to help your church, community, or the world this New Year? *Serve one another in love*, (Galatians 5:13 NIV). How can we do that?

The website, [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) is an excellent resource for outreach opportunities for individuals and societies. It also includes resources to help us in our daily walk with Christ.

Not only do we have the national website but our district website, [www.lwmlohio.org](http://www.lwmlohio.org) also provides many resources for helping on a local level.

Please take time to check out these great sites and you just might discover the perfect way for you to "serve one another in love."

Jennifer Drake, Public Relations Committee

### Event Calendar

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Mar 4</b>     | <b>Toledo Zone</b>   |
|                  | Annual Retreat "Come Christians Join to Sing"<br>Swan Creek Retirement Center Toledo, OH   |
| <b>Mar 25</b>    | <b>Cincinnati Zone</b>   |
|                  | Servent Event "Jesus Loves the Little Children"<br>Immanuel LC Cincinnati, OH              |
| <b>Apr 1</b>     | <b>Central Zone</b>  |
|                  | Spring Rally "Be Constant in Prayer"<br>Zion LC Columbus, OH                               |
| <b>Apr 30</b>    | <b>Cincinnati Zone</b>   |
|                  | Spring Rally "Comfort Dog Ministry"<br>St Mark's LC  |
| <b>Jun 22-25</b> | LWML 37 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention,<br>"Jesus Christ Above All," in Albuquerque, NM |



## Jesus Loves the Little Children

*Peggy Kelm, Cincinnati Zone*



Children's items will be collected and packed at a servant event on March 25 at Immanuel Lutheran, Cincinnati. Titled "Jesus Loves the Little Children," bags will be assembled for children to assist families in their area with physical and spiritual needs. Specific children's items for into age categories: 1-5 years, 6-12 years, 13-18 years will be collected at area churches in February and March to be brought to Immanuel Lutheran to be packed and distributed. This event will start at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast to power up the volunteers. The Executive Board meeting will follow, all are welcome to stay.

The area LCMS churches will be informed about the specific items to be collected before February/March, as well as the collection rotation for each church. All churches will have a chance to contribute, but such items as Bibles, small toiletries, undergarments, school supplies, powdered drinks (Crystal Lite etc), have been suggested.

It will be a busy morning, but worthwhile and fast-moving with many busy hands. All are invited to come and help at Immanuel Lutheran on 544 Rockdale Ave, Cincinnati, Ohio. Guests are always welcome.

## Comfort Dog? Service Dog?

*Anita Kasten, Cincinnati Zone*



Come to the LWML Spring Rally Sunday, April 30 2017, starting at 2 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5849 Buckwheat Road, Milford, Ohio. Find out the difference between a Comfort dog and a Service dog! Who wouldn't be pleased to pet a soft, fuzzy, friendly, English Cream Golden Retriever K-9 dog, and look into eyes of love. Meet Rosie the Comfort Dog. She and her handler will be there to inform and comfort us. After the program, refreshments will be served.

Providing for such a mission is a huge undertaking for Atonement Lutheran Church in Columbus. Rosie is very busy traveling and reminding those in stressful situations (especially children) that God has unconditional love, comfort, and compassion.

Mark your calendar, bring a friend.

## Empower Women through Faith

*Peggy Kelm, Cincinnati Zone*



When Beverly Clayton introduced petite Beth Underhill, the audience didn't realize they were facing a ferocious fighter. Beth is the owner of Bella Fitness on Red Bank Road, a women's fitness center, and is a cancer survivor. Her moving presentation detailed how she fought her own demons before turning back to God for help and for hope.

This event was held at St. Mark's Lutheran in Milford on Saturday, December 3. Before lunch, everyone enjoyed a "mocktail". An added treat for each woman was the hand-crafted jeweled bracelet and bath scrub, as table favors. A drawing was held to give away the flowers and centerpieces. It was delightful to see so many women from the LWML Ohio District Convention hosted in Cincinnati this past summer, and to enjoy being inspired by a fierce fighter and dedicated Christian.

## Northeast & East Cleveland Event

*Mary Skyrm, NE Zone*

On November 1, 2016, a joint servant event hosted by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Solon, Ohio, Northeast Zone and Cleveland East Zone resulted in



32 fleece blankets being made for the Veterans Hospital in Cleveland. A delicious lunch a day of fellowship was enjoyed.

Serve the Lord with gladness!

## Toledo Zone Retreat

*Lillian Keller, Toledo Zone*



The LWML Toledo Zone will hold their annual retreat on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with opening devotion at 9 a.m. Closing is planned for 2:30 p.m. The theme is "Come Christians Join to Sing." Our theme verse is Psalm 96:1-2. The guest presenter is Brian Altevogt, Concordia, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The retreat will be held in the beautiful chapel/conference room of the Ohio Living Swan Creek Retirement Center, Toledo, Ohio.



## Honors - Memorials October 2016–December 2016

### IN HONOR OF:

Pastor Paul Hoffman  
Donna Snyder

### IN MEMORY OF:

Elsie Reith  
Doris West  
Carol Nagle  
For Sisters:  
Dorothy, Ermgard & Lois  
Betty Jean Meyer



## ODES MITES UPDATE

October 2016 thru December 2016

	9/1/16 – 12/31/16	4/1/16 – 12/31/16
Mites Received	\$31,020.80	\$52,360.37
Thrivent Choice Dollars	567.00	2,711.00
Honors/Memorials	450.00	1,740.00
Quarterlies and ODEs	1,336.50	2,398.25
Stamps	<u>87.03</u>	<u>3,370.26</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,374.30</b>	<b>\$62,579.88</b>

The Mission Goal for 2016-2018 was set at \$205,000.  
This leaves us with \$142,420 needed over the next  
15 months, which averages out to \$9,494 a month.



## Are You Going? Will You Be There?

These questions are asked in anticipation of an exciting, stimulating, once-in-a-lifetime celebration. So I ask you again – are you going? Will you be at the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico June 22 through June 25?

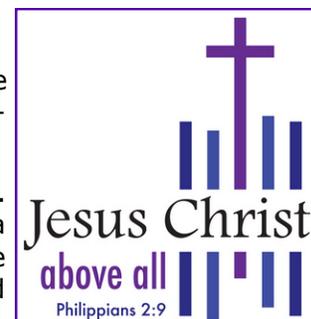
This 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention will be an inspiring, faith-filled event featuring Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison as the Proclaimer for the opening worship service. Past President Ida Mall will be the Keynote Speaker, and Deaconess Betty Knapp will lead us in Bible Study. Jan Struck will provide the laughter and mirth as the very talented humorist, and Wendysue Fluegge will supply the heartfelt music.

Entertainment for the Diamond Dazzle Event on Saturday evening is a closely guarded secret. We do know it will be great fun so bring a noisy "instrument" for the parade and lots of bling to add to the festivities.

Early discounted convention registration is from February 1 – March 14, 2017. Registration for rooms began January 2<sup>nd</sup> at the LWML contracted hotels. Complete convention details and forms are available in the 2016 winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and on the LWML website, [www.lwml.org/2017-convention](http://www.lwml.org/2017-convention).

The theme of the convention is "Jesus Christ Above All" from Philippians 2:9. The convention goal is "that empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, I will proclaim Jesus Christ above all." What a perfect theme and goal to complement the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LWML for LWML has always served and will continue to serve the Lord with gladness.

Our Christ is "rock solid", so come and shine like a diamond as we celebrate and rejoice with our sisters and brothers in Christ. **You don't want to miss this party!**





## Quarterly and ODE Subscriptions

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

**Increases** are processed year-round and will take effect with the edition following the request.

**Reductions** are processed once a year and requests must be received by **March 1** to take effect with the Summer edition of the *ODE* or the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Make the request to **Kim Klein**.

## Did you know?

The 12 page *ODE* costs .28 cents per copy to print and an average of .26 cents to mail. So the average cost per *ODE* is .54 cents each.

### Annual Subscription Costs

Quarterly	1-9 Copies	= \$6.50/each
Quarterly	10+ Copies	= \$5.00/each
ODE	All quantities	= \$2.50/each

Donations toward the cost of the *Quarterly* and *ODE* should be included with your Mites Remittance Form and mailed to **Judy Sonnenberg**, Financial Secretary.

**Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mites:** Direct to LWML Ohio District select Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Mentor, Ohio (not Toledo).

**Joyful Response® to Mites:** To donate mites directly from your checking account each month contact **Judy Sonnenberg**. She will send you a Joyful Response® form. It can be set it up quickly.

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

## ODE Information

Deadlines for article submissions:

Spring	January 5
Summer	April 5
Fall	July 5
Winter	October 5

Send news, pictures and articles to **Karen Shanahan**

### Websites:

- <http://lwmlohio.org>
- [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)
- [www.robertsrules.org](http://www.robertsrules.org)

## Subscription Reductions Due

Does your society or church need to reduce the number of copies of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or the *ODE*? Quantity reductions are processed once a year and must be received by March 1 to take effect with the summer 2017 edition.

Contact Kim Klein at [kimkleinLWML@neo.rr.com](mailto:kimkleinLWML@neo.rr.com) or 330-839-8112 increase or decrease the quantity of printed/mailed copies the *Quarterly* or *ODE*.

A PDF version of the *ODE* is available AT NO COST to everyone, not just print subscribers. PDFs can be "forwarded" by email or printed in your church office. If you want a PDF version, email Kim Klein at [kimkleinLWML@neo.rr.com](mailto:kimkleinLWML@neo.rr.com) to add your name or your church to the email distribution list.



## Contact Information

### Contributions (Mites, Memorials, Honors)

#### Joyful Response® to Mites

#### Quarterly & ODE Donations

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