

Jesus Christ Above All

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).

God has declared that Jesus is above all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings. Jesus Christ is your God, but is He the Lord of your life? Is Jesus the first person you think of in the morning and the last one at night? Is He more important than your bank account, your home or your family? Would you give up any or all of them for His sake? Is Jesus greater than your success, your pride, or your ambition? Would you humble yourself for Him? How important is Jesus in your life?



There once was a very wealthy man who enjoyed collecting rare and valuable works of art. He and his only son spent years amassing a collection worth millions of dollars. However, as the years passed, their country became entangled in war, and the son was called to serve. In a few short months, the father received the terrible news that his son was killed while saving another man's life. The father was devastated by the news.

One day there was a knock on the door. The father opened the door to find a stranger on his doorstep. The stranger explained that he was the man who had been saved by his son. He

presented the father with a gift – a portrait of his son. It was not a great painting, but the father treasured it until he died.

An auction was held to sell the father's immense and valuable art collection. Collectors from all over the world gathered to bid on the Rembrandts, Van Goughs, the Picassos, and Monets. However, the first item on the block was not a masterpiece, but rather the portrait of the son. The auctioneer began the bidding. No one offered a bid, in fact, they started to grumble that they came for the valuable paintings, not that worthless amateur offering. The auctioneer insisted that this painting had to be sold first. Finally an old man spoke up and offered ten dollars explaining that he had known that man as a child, but all he had was ten dollars to spend. "Sold" declared the auctioneer, and then he closed the sale. The other attendees complained loudly. The auctioneer explained that the father's will was very clear about stating that the person who bought the son's portrait would be awarded the entire collection. The father knew in his heart that his son was the masterpiece, worth more than anything he had ever collected or owned.

Is Jesus the masterpiece of your heart? Is He worth more than anything you have ever possessed? May God strengthen your faith so you can proclaim: "Yes! Jesus is above all in my life. He is my Lord now and forever."

Jeanne Schimmelmanna, President

LWML 37th Biennial Convention



Inside the ODE

- Page 2
 - Pastor's Corner
 - Structure
 - Leadership
- Page 3
 - Christian Life
 - Zones
 - Gospel Outreach
 - Webmaster
- Page 4
 - Gifts of Love
 - Zones
- Page 5
 - Comfort Dog, Rosie
- Page 6
 - Comfort Dog, Anna Marie
 - 2018 Logo
- Page 7
 - Zones
 - Mites
- Page 8
 - Contact & General Information
 - Calendar



It's Still Time to Plant

In this area of the country that we are privileged to live in, I practice the old Midwestern wisdom for gardening, you plant on or after Mother's Day to assure your young plants do not get caught in a late frost. There is a time for planting.



Jesus also discussed the notion of planting in His parable of The Sower which is found in Matthew:13. *A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed... well, you know the parable. The farmer sows the seed in a most unusual way – not in neat and straight rows with the seeds properly and accurately placed, with each row appropriately spaced from the other in a designated plot prepared for planting. He simply goes out and scatters the seed.*

One interesting aspect of this parable of Jesus is there is no mention of the time of year the sower was planting in. It doesn't matter the season for planting the seeds of the Gospel. It's always time to

scatter the Word of God about – among family, friends, coworkers, and acquaintances – to see where it takes root. We know this from Paul's second letter to Timothy when he writes, *Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction* (2 Timothy 4:2).

As in my garden last year, not all I planted grew; and some grew did not survive or even produce a harvest, but you still plant. If the seed is not sown, there will never be even the potential of a harvest. Likewise, if the Word is not planted in the hearts of people through their ears, there will not be the possibility of faith taking root and bearing a harvest of repentance and forgiveness.

The apostle Paul stresses the planting work of God's Word, *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ* (Romans 10:17). You and I are to sow the seed of the Gospel into the ears of others. *Whoever has ears, let them hear* (Matthew 13:9).

Rev. Daniel Herb, Jr. Pastoral Counselor

Guiding to Serve the Lord

For God is not a God of confusion but of peace .
(1 Corinthians 14:33)

Have you ever attended a meeting that got off track? You checked your watch and realized you were not going to be done in time. The meeting dragged on and on, you totally zoned out. At times like these, things can get very confusing, even chaotic. When this happens to a presiding chairman or president, it can be very frustrating. From my first convention in 1978 to the recent one in 2016, I am amazed at how smoothly district and national conventions run. Even when delegates disagree, it is handled in a polite way.



Why do LWML meetings run smoothly? First, we have a common goal to serve our Lord through LWML. Then our bylaws guide us in handling the business, and Roberts Rules of Order help us run our meetings. Sometimes structure can seem a little tedious, but in the long run, it is very important to running an effective organization.

The structure committee thanks all of the zone presidents for sending in the most recent copy of their zone bylaws. This helps keep our records up to date.

Deborah Wesche, Chairman, Structure Committee

Next Adventure!

The next exciting thing coming for the Leadership Development Committee is the national LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM. The Young Women Representatives (YWR) for the Ohio District are Lisa Rhonemus and Candyce Smith. They are elated to be attending the 2017 convention and can't wait to use their experience at the convention to help enrich the experience of those who attend the District Convention in 2018. Candyce and Lisa are extremely grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank the Ohio District.

The theme of the convention is "Jesus Christ Above All." This theme is incredibly important for us to remember as we are pressured to over involve ourselves in society, leaving little time for God. Instead, we must make God a priority in our lives and worship him in every season of our lives.

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9).

Lisa Rhonemus, Chairman, Leadership Development

Did you Know—ODE

Bible verses are presented in italics with the Bible reference in parenthesis using normal text. **Translation** should be noted; however, if not submitted, the Editor does not research to figure out the translation.



The Time Is Near

Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1 GW).

A specific day is coming, designated for a specific activity. We know it, we even celebrate it for many reasons. The day is knock-knock jokes day, the last day of the month for Protecting Your Hearing, World Blindness Awareness, and Right-Brainers Rule! It is Girl Scout Founders Day, the final day of Tackling Hunger Month, Caramel Apple Day, the 304th day of the year. Yes it is Reformation day, the Day of the Dead in Mexico, and lastly it is World Savings Day. So mark your calendars and save the date, Tuesday, October 31, 2017, the deadline for submitting LWML Ohio District Mission Grant Applications.



It's no joke! Open your ears and eyes, tap into the imagination center of your right brain, and scout out ministry needs in your area. Find ways to tackle the cravings of the spiritually hungry - no candy coating the truth. Fewer than 200 days to reform your procrastinating habits. And speaking of dead, it's the specific time for action, it is the DEADLINE for submitting LWML Ohio District Mission Grant Applications. ALL mission grant applications MUST be postmarked by midnight, Tuesday, October 31, 2017, to be considered for the 2018 LWML Ohio District Convention Mission Grants ballot.

Application forms are available from your zone president and are also on the website: www.lwmlohio.org. The link is at the bottom of the home page.

The time is near: October 31, 2017! Take action. Don't miss out!

Karyl VanMeurs-Juergens, VP, Gospel Outreach

Visit Me, Soon

Billie Lelle, Webmaster

The LWML Ohio District website can be found at www.lwmlohio.org. On this site you will find district and zone news, the ODE, Mite grant updates, resources and important links. Stop by for a visit! If you are a zone president, please check your zone tab for changes or additions. Committee chairman are encouraged to send pertinent information to:

Billie Lelle (blelle@roadrunner.com) as well as President, Jeanne Schimmelmanna for approval.

Using Godly Gifts

Starshine Graziadei, Public Relations Committee

Summer - the word alone allows us to feel the sun on our skin and warms our chilly winter bodies from within.

During these summer months when life is thriving and energy is rising, remind yourself, *He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully (Proverbs 10:5).*

Every day this summer will be filled with many hours in which we can use our God given talents to serve, grow, and be godly. Don't let them waste away. Remember the book of Proverbs begins with the command to fear the Lord and it ends with a woman who can do just that. The women who are part of LWML have outstanding abilities, strengths, knowledge and compassion. Continue to use your godly gifts every day to live according to His Word.

For resource information about LWML and all we do and care about, visit the LWML website, www.lwml.org or the LWML District website at www.lwmlohio.org.

Prayer Service

Pat Malas, Miami Valley Zone President

Miami Valley Zone had an ingathering for their Prayer Service March 4th, held at Emmanuel Lutheran in Kettering, OH for The Miami Valley Women's Center.





Gifts of Love



Returning God's Blessing

Gifts of Love: Gifting Savings Bonds through a last will and testament is a thoughtful way to give assets to LWML that otherwise would generate taxable income. For more information on giving U. S. Savings Bonds, contact LWML's Senior Gift Planning Counselor, Patricia Bilow.

Call 800-741-4138, ext. 2 or email Patbilow.lwml@gmail.com

Central Zone

Heidi Day, Central Zone

This year the women of the LWML Central Zone, have been focusing on the number 12. Romans 12:12 to be more specific. In the fall we Rejoiced in Hope. We continued the theme through the Winter Retreat with Patience in Tribulation and finished with Be Constant in Prayer at the Spring Rally.



The Winter Retreat, held at Battelle Darby Creek Cedar Ridge Lodge, focused on Patience in Tribulation. Joe and Bonnie Reilly with Thrivent Builds shared with us what they were doing for Habitat for Humanity. We collected gift cards for Loews and Home Depot.

Joe & Bonnie Reilly with Thrivent Builds
Picture courtesy of Hope Boring

The Spring Rally at Zion Lutheran Church was held on April Fool's Day. The only joke was the weather that day, but inside was full of love and renewing friendships as 53 ladies from 10 different churches gathered together to be constant in prayer. We had our business meeting and elected Phyllis Bouic as President and Janet Pauley as Treasurer. We also learned about Emmy's House. This is a house for homeless mothers and children.



President,
Phyllis Bouic,
Treasurer,
Janet Pauley,
Pastor Kane

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Peggy Kelm, Cincinnati Zone

Items for children (for their physical, emotional and spiritual health) were packed into colorful cloth back packs at the servant event March 25, at Immanuel Lutheran in Avondale. The LWMLers were fueled by a delicious brunch while their donations were sorted on multiple tables. Everyone formed an assembly line to fill the bags. By the end, there were enough items in all 115 bags to make generous gifts to children and their families. Many thanks to all the churches for donating items, to the 34 ladies who assembled the bags, and to Immanuel Lutheran for organizing this event and being hostess!

The bags were given out at the Spring Resource Fair spearheaded by the Greater Cincinnati Urban League on March 29, at Lincoln Park. This fun event for families was packed with information. Our packed, donated bags provided basic needs for children, they fit right in.

Following the packing and boxing of the bags for delivery, Liz Underwood convened the LWML Cincinnati Zone Executive Board Meeting. Numerous items were discussed and voted on, so the planning could continue for the coming Spring Rally, national convention in Albuquerque, and the Fall Retreat!

Event Photos





LCC Comfort Dog

"Comfort Dogs are the bridge that welcome the humans into a person's life. These creatures are welcoming, accepting, non-threatening, friendly and comforting. These are traits that we aspire" (Web).

Comfort My People, Rosie

Letha Chambers, Christian Life

God tells us in Isaiah 40:1, *Comfort, comfort my people.* I usually have no trouble offering comfort to my husband, my daughters, my grandchildren, close family and friends. But when it comes to comforting others who are not in my intimate circle, I become uncomfortable. I don't know what to say or do. We can learn from Rosie and other comfort dogs like her.

Many of you met Rosie at the LWML Ohio District Convention in June 2016. She is one of the 2016-18 Mission Grant recipients. She was trained by Lutheran Church Charities as a K-9 Comfort Dog and a Kare-9 Military Ministry Dog. She belongs to Atonement Lutheran Church in Columbus.

Rosie has comforted many people since you last saw her. Shortly after the convention, she and five other LCC Comfort Dogs were deployed to Kokomo, Indiana, to give comfort to victims of a tornado; in November, she went to the main campus of The Ohio State University to give comfort to those in need after several students and faculty were stabbed during a terrorist attack; and she comforted students and faculty at the Ohio School for the Blind after one of the students and his family were killed when their plane crashed into Lake Erie. Rosie was also at Port Columbus (now John Glenn International) with Anna Comfort Dog from Toledo, for a sendoff of Purple Heart Vietnam War Veterans when they went on an "Honor Flight" to Washington, D.C., and then greeted the Veterans for a "Hero's Welcome" when they returned home. The Honor Flights are an emotional event for the veterans.

Rosie and the other comfort dogs do not say one word to any of the people they comfort. They are quietly there, to touch and be touched, and to listen without answering back. Without saying one word, they make one feel better and maybe even smile. You and I can do this! We too can comfort God's people! First, ask the Holy Spirit to be with you as you comfort someone in need of comforting. If something needs to be said, the person you are comforting will usually give you the opening needed to say what they need to hear. The Holy Spirit will give you the words and actions. Trust Him!



Here Comes Rosie

Mary Ludlum, Top Dog for Rosie

Since July 2014, when Rosie arrived in Columbus, members of Atonement Lutheran Church's Comfort Dog Ministry Team have been on over 850 visits seeing over 7,000 people with 68% of those visits away from Atonement. While the numbers are impressive, it is most important that the ministry is all about Jesus, not Rosie (a beautiful English Crème Golden Retriever).

Team members hear cheers of delight when folks see Rosie. "Rosie's here!" The true excitement is that she and the team members bring the mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are in need or suffering – the mission of the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry.

Members of the Comfort Dog Ministry are humbled to be the feet and hands of Jesus as they meet and greet with folks in schools, hospitals, assisted living and memory care facilities, libraries, churches, homes and wherever she is invited. They bring Jesus with their smiles, kind words and prayers. Rosie's card (given to each person visited) has a reference to a Bible verse, Psalm 86:15 (Rosie's last name), a cross, and her Facebook page address. Folks can read more about God on Rosie's Facebook page.

Prayers are especially important to the residents of the nine assisted living places the team visits. To many of these precious people, Rosie's humans are the only ones who talk to them about Jesus. It is a joy to listen and bring God's hope to them.

Members of Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Powell, have joined Atonement's team to support and expand the ministry.

Folks from other Columbus area churches are invited to join the team. If you feel called to be part of this ministry team, contact Top Dog, Mary Ludlum,

mludlum@columbus.rr.com.



Anna, a Guardian Angel

Nancy Borders, Top Dog for Anna (Toledo Zone)



Anna is a Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog from Toledo, Ohio. Last fall the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office contacted Trinity Lutheran Church and School about helping with a very sensitive, high profile case

involving three children. The children were victims of multiple types of abuse which included child neglect and endangerment as well as sexual improprieties. Making matters even worse for the children, the perpetrators, their stepfather and older stepbrother, would be defending themselves. They would be able to question the children directly. Soon after the assistant prosecutor began meeting with the children in her office, Anna was asked to sit in on their interview sessions. While the oldest girl, age 13, had begun talking a little about her experience, the nine year old girl had been reluctant until Anna was with her. Anna continued to be with each child at every interview thereafter. It was amazing to watch their transformation. The more comfortable they became with Anna, the calmer they were while discussing their trauma and answering questions.

The plan was to have Anna on the stand with the children when they testified, but there had never been an animal used in this way in the Lucas County

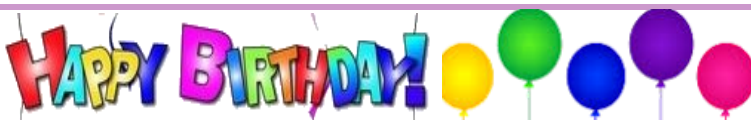
Courts. The defendants objected to the use of a Comfort Dog saying it would prejudice the jury. Fortunately, the judge overruled and allowed Anna's presence. When each child was called to the witness stand, Anna and her handler sat beside them.



The first young girl was 13 and on the stand for a total of six hours over a two-day period. It was grueling for her, but as time went by you could see her self-confidence grow. **At**

one point she said Anna was like having a "guardian angel" sitting beside her. Throughout each child's testimony, they would smile at breaks when they petted Anna. It made my heart melt! Anna was truly a blessing to those three children. Equally, she blessed the court staff, bailiffs, attorneys, deputies, media personnel, and observers as they were all happy to see her each day and took time for some petting during this stressful trial.

Anna has been asked to attend the trial of an alleged arsonist whose actions resulted in the death of two Toledo firefighters. She will sit with the families of these firefighters and others who will view the trial from a remote location. It is an honor to be able to help these families during such an emotional case.



Marie

Sherri Thompson, Secretary, Grace Lutheran

Marie Moeller is a long time (and still active) LWML member and past LWML Ohio District President, 1980-1984 and LWML Zone President. She is a member of Grace Lutheran, Cincinnati. Her 90th birthday was celebrated Jan. 29 at Grace. Marie is a great witness for the Lord and for the LWML! God bless you, Marie, as you are a blessing to so many!"



2018 Convention Logo

Walk in the Light

(1 John 1:7)

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.



Symbolism: Our life is full of sin (black circle), but God, our Father surrounds us with His light (gold circle). He sent his Son (extended hand) so that as we walk in the light of God (gold beam), Jesus blood (red drop) purifies us (white footsteps).



A MUSICAL RETREAT

Lillian Keller, Toledo Zone

The ladies of the LWML Toledo Zone held their annual retreat on a beautiful March day in the chapel/Marsh Center at Ohio Living Swan Creek, Toledo, Ohio. The stained glass windows of the chapel added to the beauty of the day. Our theme was "Come Christians Join to Sing," words found on one of the stained glass windows. Pastoral Counselor Ryan Kleimola led opening devotions based on Psalm 96, "Sing a new song."

Dr. Brian Altevogt, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choirs, Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was our presenter in the morning sessions. Questions answered were: (1) What does the Bible tell us about singing? (2) Why do we continue to sing today? Before lunch, Dr. Altevogt directed Arborsong, Concordia's 10 voice chamber choir in singing several selections.



During the afternoon, Mary Anne Hibbard, Deaconess and Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo, shared information and

thoughts on Martin Luther and Carl Schalk and their influence on our church music. She said that worship and music are the same. As we worship, we also sing to proclaim the Word of God. During Deaconess Hibbard's presentation, several of us were able to play chimes. We closed this session with singing and chiming, "A Mighty Fortress."

We enjoyed the catered lunch and fellowship. President Jeanne Schimmelman brought greetings from LWML Ohio District; Faith and Hope, hand puppets, gave us a "bit of LWML history;" and an ingathering of mites brought \$353 plus change for missions. The ladies donated items for Mom's House. We thank Thrivent for Action Team funds used to purchase additional items for Mom's House. God blessed the retreat in so many ways. We rejoice as "Christians Come Join to Sing."



Collect - Commemorative, Definitive and Foreign Stamps

Stamps should be cut off envelopes leaving a 1/4 inch edge around the stamps.

Postcards are welcome but save the whole card, not just the stamp. Cutting the stamp off postcards makes



Mail stamps to:

Donna Frank (Napoleon Zone)
P.O. BOX 28; Stryker, OH 43557

Or bring stamps to any

LWML Ohio District Event
LWML Zone Event



A time to celebrate!
LWML TURNS 75 IN 2017

2016-2018 Mission Goal - \$205,000.00

	March 2017	Biennium
Mites received	\$17,455.07	\$82,307.86
Stamps for Missions		3,370.26
Thrivent Choice	396.00	3,167.00
Quarterly & ODE	1,540.50	7,308.05
Honors/Memorials	940.51	2,951.51
Total Mission Income	\$20,332.08	\$99,104.68

Needed to reach the Mission Goal: \$105,895.32 which is \$8,824.61 per month for 12 months



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**.

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.

ODE Submission

Deadlines for article submissions:

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



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

Mighty Mites

Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mites: Direct to LWML Ohio District by selecting 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 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 form to Judy.

Website Calendar Items, Pictures, etc.

Billie Lelle, Webmaster
bllelle@roadrunner.com

Websites:

- www.lwmlohio.org
- www.lwml.org
- www.robertsrules.org



Contact Information

Contributions (Mites, Memorials, Honors)

Joyful Response® to Mites

Quarterly & ODE Donations

Judy Sonnenberg, Financial Secretary
16539 US 6, Napoleon, OH 43545
419-592-8191, sonn2@centurylink.net

Quarterly & ODE Subscription Changes

Kim Klein, Subscription Manager
348 Greenbriar Drive, Ravenna, OH 44266
330-839-8112, kimkleinlwml@neo.rr.com

ODE Information

Karen Shanahan, ODE Editor
3633 Denise Drive, Toledo, OH 43614
419-380-0244, kesjr@att.net

Mite Boxes

Helen Schwartz
6891 East 50 South
Decatur, IN 46733



Event Calendar		
Date	Zone - Event	Location
Monthly	Toledo	Ann Arbor, MI
3rd Tuesday	MOST Ministry Volunteer Day	MOST Ministries
May 6	Toledo Spring Rally	Gloria Dei LC Toledo, OH
Jun 22-25	LWML 37 th Biennial Convention	Albuquerque, NM
Aug 26	Akron-Youngstown Fall Retreat	Faith LC Kent, OH
Sep 7	Akron-Youngstown Make A Difference Day	Location, TBA
Sep 14	Miami Valley Board Meeting	Emmanuel LC Kettering, OH
Sep 16	Napoleon Fall Getaway	Location TBA
Sep 16	Northeast Fall Retreat	YMCA Perry, OH
Oct 7	Toledo Fall Rally	Good Shepherd LC Toledo, OH
Oct 14	Central Zone Fall Fellowship	Beautiful Savior LC Powell, OH
Nov 4	Zone Meeting Lorain-Medina	Shepherd of the Ridge LC N. Ridgeville, OH