



# The Nor'easter

WINTER EDITION 2025

## Zone Officers

**Pastoral Counselor**

Pastor Steve Berndt

**President**

Billie Lelle

**Vice President**

Ann Marie Bollas

**Secretary**

Sue Matzke

**Treasurer**

Carol Johnson

**Leader Development and Christian Life**

Char LePere

**Human Care**

Jeanne Schimmelmenn

**Structure**

Beth Christopherson

**Public Relations**

Kelly Hines

**LWML Ohio District**<https://www.lwmlohio.org/>**LWML Website**<https://www.lwml.org/>*Billie's Byte*

## My LWML Quilt

Recently, I was looking at a quilt my mom had made years ago. She used squares cut from remnants of material used to create the many pieces of clothing she had sewn for her family. Looking at the quilt and the various squares brought memories to my mind. Some good and some not so good, but in the end – what I held in my hands was a thing of beauty crafted with love.

I wonder what my LWML quilt would look like. I know it had its first stitch when the Pastor at West Point, Nebraska told the new K-1 teacher, "You WILL be a member of the LWML". I had never even heard of the LWML, but a member I became. In those early years I was mentored by Mae, Gwen and Carla. They certainly would be part of my LWML quilt as would recent mentors like Doris and Char. Some of the squares would make me smile – the excitement of national and district conventions, the Christian fellowship of zone events, the growth through Quarterly Bible Studies with my Sisters in Christ at my church, servant events, mites, mission and more.

Some of the squares would make me shake my head – "How did I EVER get through that? – So many responsibilities at national, district, zone and local levels!" Yet, get through them I did! Some of the squares would make me sad as I recall the mistakes I made in my role of follower or leader. Certainly not very pretty at the time. Yet all those fears and shortcomings, along with the mountain top experiences, would be right there on my LWML quilt – stitched together by the Master Quilter! Beautiful because it is being crafted with love. By God's grace my LWML quilt will continue to grow in the years ahead as God provides the opportunity to serve Him and others with gladness.

I hope you have an LWML quilt in the making. I pray that you are using your talents. YES, you DO have talents - "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Timothy 4:10 ESV) As you serve others be assured you are also serving the One who promises to bless the work you do in His name. "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV).

May God bless you as He grows your LWML quilt,

*Billie*

Northeast Zone President



## Northeast Zone Upcoming Events

**2025 Northeast Zone Prayer Service**

"Blessed are they" Matthew 5:1-12

St. Mark – Chesterland

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**2025 Northeast Zone Spring Rally**

"Faith, not Sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7

Our Savior – Mayfield Heights

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**2025 Northeast Zone Fall Retreat**

"It Could Be Worse- but God has a Plan" Romans 8:28

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Jordan Creek Park – Concord



## National and District Upcoming Events

**2025 National LWML Convention**

"Growing in God's Grace"

June 26-29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Omaha, Nebraska

**2026 Ohio District LWML Convention**

"Rejoice Always" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

June 19-20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

St. Paul – Westlake



Aurora: Hope Lutheran  
Chagrin Falls: Valley Lutheran  
Chardon: Peace Lutheran  
Chesterland: St. Mark  
Euclid: Shore Haven  
Madison: Holy Cross  
Mayfield Heights: Our Savior

Mentor: Faith Lutheran  
Painesville: St. Paul's  
Painesville: Zion Lutheran  
Solon: Our Redeemer  
Thompson: Grace  
Willoughby: Trinity  
Willowick: Bethel Lutheran

## Northeast Ohio Zone Churches

### Upcoming Events SAVE THE DATE!



#### 41<sup>st</sup> Biennium National LWML Convention "Growing in God's Grace"

June 26-29, 2025

Omaha, Nebraska

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."  
(2 Peter 3:18)

**REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1st, 2025!**

#### Northeast Zone **Prayer Service**

St. Mark Lutheran - Chesterland

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9:30am Coffee and Fellowship

10:00am Service begins

Register no later than 2/10/25

Mite Offering - \$6 Registration

Contact Ruth Mowery

[jrmowery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrmowery@sbcglobal.net)

440-840-9532



#### 2026 LWML

#### Ohio District Convention

"Joyful Always"

June 19-20, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran

Westlake, Ohio

**How can you get involved?**

**Pg 3 has more information!**

#### Northeast Zone **Fall Retreat**



Jordan Creek Park - Concord

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Returning guest Ruth Pangrace

portraying Molly Pitcher, Mite

Collection, games, activities and

Ingathering collections for "Little

Annie's Hope Train" with Speaker

**\*SAVE THE DATE!\***



#### Northeast Zone **Spring Rally**

Our Savior - Mayfield Heights

Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:00am

"Faith, Not Sight" 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:7



A brief business meeting will be held and include a devotion, election for the zone offices of Secretary and Vice President, and other zone information. Our guest speaker for the Rally is from the Lutheran Braille Workers.

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is committed to helping men, women, and children who are Blind or Visually Impaired know the love of Christ for themselves.

We will learn more about how LBW produces approximately 150,000 volumes a year. Braille, Specialized Large Print, and Audio publications are available free of charge through the dedication of thousands of volunteers in over 115 Ministry Production Centers throughout the United States.

LBW currently has two Ministry Outreach Centers in Toledo and Columbus Ohio. There are also two production centers in Fairlawn and Cincinnati, Ohio.

An offering of donations for this ministry will be taken at the Rally. This will be an informative and interesting presentation about this much needed ministry. One testimonial received by LBW reads: "You're sharing God's love with a lot of people who don't feel loved, in a place where none of us could afford to buy these materials on our own. You're the only ones doing this work. Thank you for what you're doing. It means a lot to me, and it means a lot to every Blind person I talk to and give a book of the Bible to. Thank you all!"

-John R., 51 years old, Detroit, MI

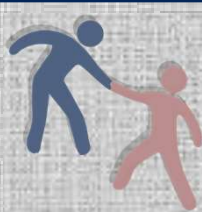
## 2026 LWML

### Ohio District Convention

"Joyful Always"

June 19-20, 2026

**NEWS and HELP NEEDED**



"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for Us?' And I said: 'Here am I. Send me!'  
Isaiah 6:8

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The LWML Ohio District Convention is being held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Westlake, Ohio, scheduled for the dates of June 19-20, 2026! The Theme is "REJOICE ALWAYS" based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice always. Pray Continually. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

The women in our Northeast Zone, along with the ladies in the Cleveland South-West and the Lorain-Medina Zones will be working together as the Host Committee (HC). Volunteers are needed to accomplish the "behind the scene" physical tasks and responsibilities for before and after the convention. **This is our opportunity to serve on the HC.**

The following descriptions for the positions needed to be filled are summaries only. Full job descriptions with duties will be provided upon request:

**Treasurer** – Maintains the bank checking account; receives and distributes convention funds; and works closely with the registration chairman.

**Food Chairman** – Works with a caterer for all meals offered during convention, including the President's Reception, breakfast, and any luncheon and/or dinner meals.

**Housing Chairman** – Meets with well known hotels in as close proximity to the convention site as possible. Makes arrangements for room blocks and obtains a cost per night rate with the hotel(s) based on estimated attendance. Researches each hotel's amenities and policies relating to conventions.

**Tote Bags Chairman** – Oversees the purchase and/or making of the tote bags. Assumes responsibility for the color, design and contents of the tote bags with the assistance of the Host Committee.

**Worship Committee** – Works closely with the Convention Counselor, District Pastoral Counselor, and the Music Chairman in planning the physical details of the worship service. Arranges and prepares for all altar duties before and after worship service with the help of the committee members.

**Exhibits Chairman** – Sends a written invitation to all district standing committee chairmen and other approved organizations in January of the convention year offering space for exhibits. With the District President and HC Chairman/Co-Chairman, determines the location in the Church for exhibits and number of tables to be available to be used. Submits a proposed exhibitor registration form to the HC for approval.

**Music Chairman** - Selects the music for the convention, including songs to be printed in the convention manual. Obtains music copyright permission as needed. Public Domain songs are preferred. Can serve as the choir director or with the choir director. Arranges for the choir practice prior to the opening worship service.

If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the open positions, please contact either Ann Marie Bollas (ambollas47@gmail.com), serving as the Co-Host of the Convention Committee or Zone President Billie Lelle (blelle@roadrunner.com).

Please note also that if there is someone with whom you would like to work with you as a co-chairman, please know that is an option. Also, you may serve as a committee member if you do not want to serve as a chairman. Just let us know!

Please pray for guidance as you consider the information about these positions that are needed to be filled. May the Lord grant you encouragement and enthusiasm for this convention so we can, together, serve the Lord with Gladness!

If you have any events or updates please make sure to have all information emailed to  
Kelly Hines, PR Director no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Khines136@yahoo.com



## Highlighting Past Events

### ❖ St. Mark's - Chesterland:

With the help of several volunteers, we were able to transport our Operation Christmas Child boxes to the Greater CLE East area collection point, Friends Church in Willoughby Hills. This year we collected more than 300 fun, filled, and personalized shoeboxes. This is the most that our congregation has ever collected and is a double-digit increase from our 2023 emphasis. Every box represents a Gospel opportunity. Please continue to pray that the children who receive boxes packed by our congregation will be delighted by the contents and that the Holy Spirit will grant them faith when they hear about the "Greatest Gift" - Jesus!



### ❖ Grace Lutheran - Thompson:

Held a cookie sale over the holidays raising an astounding \$400 for LWML Mites! Mariann VanPelt's granddaughter sold her "Storm Setter" company's shirts and sweatshirts designed with Bible verses as well as handmade Christmas ornaments. Way to go!

### ❖ Fall Retreat 2024 - Jordan Creek:

The LWML Northeast Zone's 31st Fall Retreat, "God's Gift of REST", was held at Jordan Creek Park in Concord on Saturday, September 28th. 51 zone members, representing 11 of our groups were present. The keynote speaker, Reverend Steve Hackmann from Shore Haven Lutheran in Euclid, guided us through a session entitled "Sabbath, a Time of Rest".

Our Ingathering offering was dedicated by Jeanne Schimmelmenn for the charity, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" collecting \$1,427.00 in donations. Jeanne reminded us of the importance of how to REST with God; Relax-Enjoy-Seek the Lord-and Trust in Him. \$562.28 in Mites were gathered and will be given in memory of John "Jack" Schimmelmenn to support the mission work of the LWML Ohio District. With songs, games and skits the day was filled with fellowship and good food. After a delicious and filling lunch, we broke into smaller groups. Diane Wayner assisted some in making 28 winter scarves that will be donated to Painesville Salvation Army; a R.E.S.T.ful walk through the park was led by Billie Lelle and laughs were had in the Bible Trivia game led by Ruth Mowery.

Pastor Steven Berndt led our devotion in the morning and bible study in the afternoon. His message expanded on the theme verse from Exodus 33:14: The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest."



## Northeast Zone Nominations Needed:

Sue Matzke has faithfully served our zone as **Secretary** for the past four years. Her term ends in 2025. We will be electing her successor at the April 26th Spring rally.

The primary responsibility of the secretary is to (Adapted from the zone bylaws):

- a. record the proceedings of the rallies and the meetings of the Executive Board; (1 Rally, 2 Board meetings/year)
- b. provide copies of the minutes of the rallies and meetings
- c. notify Zone groups and pastors of Zone functions as directed by the president

Term of office is two years, but illegible to serve a second term.

**Has God gifted you (or someone you know) to serve in this capacity? Prayerfully consider this question and the opportunity it offers. Nominations can be given to any zone officer.**

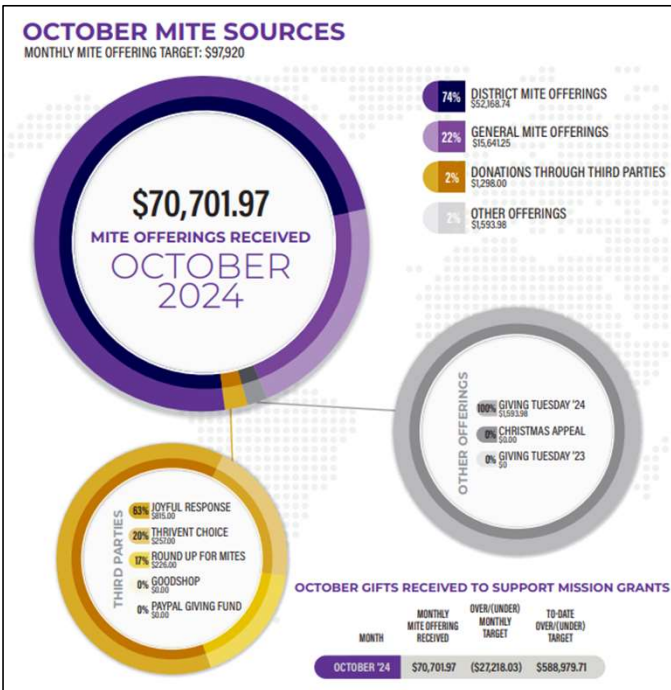
# National LWML News

Mission Goal for 2023-2025

Biennium: \$2,350,000.00

Amount Received: \$2,155,699.71

Total Mite Offerings Still Needed: \$194,300.29



**BIENNIUM TO-DATE MITE OFFERINGS REPORT**  
July 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024

| MITE OFFERINGS COLLECTED         | BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GOAL | PERCENT ALLOCATED TO GRANTS | BALANCE APPLIED TO MISSION GRANTS |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CARRYOVER FROM PREVIOUS PERIODS* | \$445,028.39                    |                             | \$742,739.10                      |
| DISTRICT OFFERINGS               | \$945,795.86                    | 90%                         | \$851,216.27                      |
| JOYFUL RESPONSE                  | \$11,440.00                     | 100%                        | \$11,440.00                       |
| ROUND UP FOR MITES               | \$2,365.51                      | 100%                        | \$2,365.51                        |
| THRIVENT CHOICE                  | \$15,434.00                     | 100%                        | \$15,434.00                       |
| PAYPAL GIVING FUND               | \$5.00                          | 100%                        | \$5.00                            |
| GOODSHOP                         | \$115.10                        | 100%                        | \$115.10                          |
| GIVING TUESDAY-2023              | \$43,042.76                     | 100%                        | \$43,042.76                       |
| GIVING TUESDAY-2024              | \$40,818.41                     | 100%                        | \$40,818.41                       |
| CHRISTMAS APPEAL                 | \$1,582.00                      | 100%                        | \$1,582.00                        |
| MITE OFFERINGS-RESTRICTED        | \$489,023.82 **                 | 100%                        | \$489,023.82                      |
| MITE OFFERINGS-UNRESTRICTED      | \$136,767.12                    | 90%                         | \$123,090.41                      |
| ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS          | \$24,281.74                     | 100%                        | \$24,281.74                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>\$2,155,699.71</b>           |                             | <b>\$2,345,154.12</b>             |

2023-2025 BIENNIUM MISSION GOAL \$2,350,000.00  
AMOUNT (NEEDED)/EXCESS OF MISSION GOAL (\$194,300.29)

\*For details please refer to the Carryover from Previous Periods Report  
\*\* The total includes a \$265,727.50 legacy gift  
\*\*\*Additional distribution approved by BCO 3/26/2024 (original grant request \$90,000)

## Northeast Ohio District News

|  | November        | Biennium         |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Mites Received                               | 6,144.77        | 39,315.26        |
| Joyful Response                              | 200.00          | 1,926.85         |
| Thrivent Choice Dollars                      | 68.00           | 1,239.00         |
| Quarterlies and ODEs                         | 123.50          | 685.00           |
| Honors/Memorials                             | 459.00          | 2,331.28         |
| Stamps                                       | 0.00            | 0.00             |
| Other Income                                 | 102.21          | 7,261.74         |
| (Convention, Endowment, motel reimbursement) |                 |                  |
| <b>Total Mission Income</b>                  | <b>7,097.48</b> | <b>52,759.10</b> |



The new LWML mite boxes which are now being distributed by LWML have a QR code. Scanning this code sends donations directly to the national LWML organization. If you wish to make a donation to national, then use the code but remember It **DOES NOT** separate any mites back to the district. When you give mites to the LWML Ohio District, 25% goes to national and 75% stays in our district. You are already supporting national LWML through the mites that you send to our district financial treasurer using the mite remittance form. If you want to make a direct donation from your checking account to the LWML Ohio District, use the donate button at <https://www.lwmlohio.org/>

"So be creative, enthusiastic, and gather together to "Serve the Lord with Gladness" (Psalm 100:2)

# Creative Opportunities



Do you have a creative LOGO design for Ohio District Convention in 2026? Or how about designing the Ohio District BANNER for the National Convention in June? Look below for requirements and deadlines:

## First Opportunity - LOGO DESIGN

Submit your design for the LWML Ohio District Convention 2026 **logo** based on the theme: "Joyful Always"

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you.

Submit your design in color on 8 1/2 x11-inch paper.

1. Provide an explanation of your design.
2. An explanation of your design's inspiration.
3. List the proposed colors and what they represent.
4. Your name and contact information.



+ JOYFUL ALWAYS!

## Second Opportunity - BANNER DESIGN

Submit a design for the LWML Ohio District **banner** that will represent the Ohio District in the parade of district banners at the LWML Convention 2025 in Omaha, NE.

Based on the theme, "Growing in God's Grace" 2 Peter 3:18  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity Amen."



1. Should be based on the convention theme "Growing in God's Grace."
2. Do not use the convention logo on the banner.
3. Use any color including the convention colors.
4. The finished banner size is to be 3' x 5', not including fringe if used.
5. District name must be on banner front.
6. The creator of the design is responsible for making the banner. Further details will be given to the selected designer.

Deadline for submitting the logo and banner designs is **February 2, 2025**, to the President's Secretary, Melissa Bauer melissabauer123@gmail.com. At the Board Of Directors meeting on February 8, 2025 the Board will vote on the designs and select the winner. The winner will be notified following the meeting.

*Good luck everyone, let's see some creative ideas!*



Did you see Pastor Steve Berndt's article on the LWML Ohio website?!  
Check out **"The Minor Prophets—Roles and Purpose"** that can be found at  
[https://www.lwmlohio.org/ >Our Zones >Northeast>About Us](https://www.lwmlohio.org/OurZones/Northeast/AboutUs)



*Who are the Minor Prophets-their roles?*

Do you have an article or an event you want featured in the Nor'easter? Contact Kelly Hines, PR Director [KHines136@yahoo.com](mailto:KHines136@yahoo.com) no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Summer Edition 2025