

# Lutheran Women's Missionary League

## Ohio District Edition — ODE

### Twirling with God

She put her favorite twirly skirt on and with great joy, began to twirl. Around and around, she twirled going faster with each spin. But then, she could twirl no more, the joy passed and she stopped. Dizzy, she stumbled, almost falling. Her mother reached out and caught her, held her, protected her from falling. She again felt the joy of twirling.



As I began the district president tasks for the 2025 convention with joy, with each "twirl" the tasks expanded and grew. The joy of doing God's work in LWML disappeared, doubt caused me to stumble, "It's too much. It's moving too fast. I can't. I just can't. I'm not up to these tasks." I stumbled over and over. But then, a calmness came over me. I felt the comforting arms of God's embrace, reassuring me. I remembered He would not give me more than I could handle (Isaiah 41:10.) He sent help, a phone call from Vivian; an email from Brenda; a post on the Presidents' Assembly blog. Even though I did not know what help I needed, He provided it.

How often we stumble in our service to God, forgetting the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10,) it gives us joy while "twirling." We allow His work to become a burden as we accept more and more tasks. But our faith that God is always with us, that He will provide direction, and help as we stumble while twirling, makes no task too great.

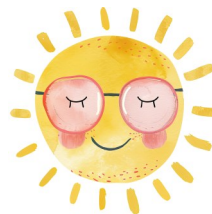


We will be able to *Serve the Lord with joy and gladness* (Psalm 100:2).

*Karen Shanahan, District President*

### Great Princes

I love looking forward to summer. June is often thought of as the first month where it's really summer. There are always a lot of things to celebrate in June. School is over and vacations are starting. Unfortunately, by the time we get to summer our minds move away from Lent and Easter and we think less about church celebrations. In June, the Lutheran Church celebrates a unique day in our history. On June 25 1530, the Augsburg Confession was read to the Emperor. Charles V at the time was the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written in Latin, which was the language of scholars and theologians. It was, however, translated into German, and was read to the Emperor.



This is an important day, because the Augsburg Confession is the first confession of faith coming out of the German Reformation. It was written by Philipp Melancthon. This was the Lutheran Theologian's way of explaining their difficulties with Rome. Here was the Lutheran Doctrine being delivered to the Emperor. We should also remember that the Augsburg Confession was signed by princes. This was Germany's way of telling the Emperor that these Confessions were their Confession.

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Summer 2025  
Volume 61.4

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And that this Confession was worth fighting for. This is not unlike how our Declaration of Independence was signed by our own Founding Fathers. The Augsburg Confession was not however, meant to be seen as a Declaration of Independence.

On this day we should be thankful for Philipp Melancthon's great work. We should also be thankful for those great princes who were willing to say that Bible's truths were worth dying for.

*Jacob Stuenkel, Jr. Pastoral Counselor*

## New Outreach Opportunity



Do you know what LWML does?

Are you looking for new outreach opportunities?

What about LWML do you want everyone to know?

*We want to hear from you!*

Below is a QR Code that will take you to our Survey.



*Beth Dinehart, Leadership Development*

**Postmark Deadline to submit  
request for Mission Grants is  
October 31, 2025**

**Forms can be found here:**

**[LWMLOhio.org/Events/2026 Convention/Convention Forms](http://LWMLOhio.org/Events/2026%20Convention/Convention%20Forms)**

## Serving with Gladness...

Please prayerfully consider serving the Ohio District in one of the following positions in preparation for the LWML Ohio District 2026 Convention at St. Paul's' Lutheran Church, Westlake, Ohio:



- † Vice President of Gospel Outreach
- † Vice President of Christian Life
- † Recording Secretary
- † Treasurer
- † Jr. Pastoral Counselor
- † Nominating Committee

Please reach out to someone on the Nominating Committee:

Ann Presley, [anniekaykeller@yahoo.com](mailto:anniekaykeller@yahoo.com);  
Anne Boerboom, [annebrboom@gmail.com](mailto:annebrboom@gmail.com);  
Karen Robertson, [gobucks@rrcol.com](mailto:gobucks@rrcol.com);  
Julie Gresko, [juliegresko@gmail.com](mailto:juliegresko@gmail.com);  
Chairman Nadine Dlugas, [nmd1113@bex.net](mailto:nmd1113@bex.net)



## Just a Smile

At the Human Care meeting we were asked the question, "How and when did your smile show another human you cared?" What was that person's response or reaction?



Several months ago, I was the greeter at our Church and a lady got out of her car and I met her at the door with a smile and welcomed her to our church. She said that I was the first person in a long time that smiled and made her feel welcome. I introduced myself and sat with her during the service. After the service I introduced her to our Pastor.

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Later, I found out she was homeless and was on her way to stay with a friend until she got back on her feet again. I can't imagine being homeless or what it would be like to sleep in a car or shelter. To not know where or when my next meal would come. Most of us don't ever have to face those situations. Praise GOD for our abundant blessings. Thank You, heavenly Father for blessing us, that we can share with others even if it is only a smile.

*For the needy shall  
not always be forgotten,  
and the hope of the  
poor shall not perish  
forever. (Psalm 9:18)*

*Sara Hale, Human Care  
Committee*



## Developing Devotion Time

It seems to me that being Vice President of Christian Life entails some kind of devotion every day to honor our Lord for His wonderful gift of salvation and mercy. So, I decided to begin my journey.

I obtained a "Portals of Prayer" from church, bought a daily devotional ("He Whispers Your Name"), and borrowed a devotional called "Extravagant Grace" by The Women of Faith. My routine began with reading at bedtime as it relaxes me and then I rest more deeply. Each devotional material helped me focus on God's word from different perspectives.

The "Portals of Prayer" has got me reading passages from the Bible, which I have downloaded to my phone. "He Whispers Your Name" (which I am still

reading) has a message from God for every day. It's like He is talking directly to me about His promises for my life in His love. In each of the 52 topics there are seven (7) messages from God. In The Women of Faith book, grace is described as a gift and each chapter encompasses a particular aspect of God's gift of grace. These descriptions provided real-life examples and interpretations in which I always gain a wider understanding. Together they shared God's plans for those who love Him and helped me get a better grasp of His promises for my life in Him.

Join me in developing your own journey. There are various resources at the [LWML.org](http://LWML.org) website for written and audio devotions as well as the Mustard Seeds collection. Also, check out the "Parables for Your Journey" at [LWMLOhio.org](http://LWMLOhio.org). It is a list of devotions written by Billie Lelle that come from her life lessons. Hearing others' life lessons provides us with an opportunity for introspection that can lead us closer to a Christian Life pleasing to God.

*Elizabeth Underwood, Vice  
President of Christian Life*



## What if.....

My congregation recently started on a journey to refocus our priorities and the vision of where we hoped to be in the next five years. The first part of the journey was a questionnaire, and one of the questions was "What would your community (town, neighborhood) miss if your church was no longer there?" This got me thinking about our Lutheran Women in Mission groups in our district, zones, and congregations.

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**The 2024 District Convention Host Committee** (Akron Youngstown) hosted a transitional meeting with members of the 2026 District Convention Host Committee (Cleveland South-West, Lorain-Medina and Northeast Zones) on January 25 in Kent, Ohio. The exchange of ideas will be a great help as plans are made for the June 19-20, 2026 Convention, "Joyful Always" to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westlake, OH.

On February 8, the LWML Ohio District Board of Directors voted on a logo for the convention. The chosen design by Karen Shanahan is explained:

- ♥ The **J** is a musical note with a cheerful sun
- ♥ The **O** is the nativity
- ♥ On top of the **Y** is a blue-bird of happiness.

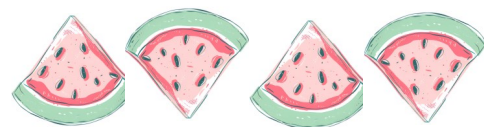
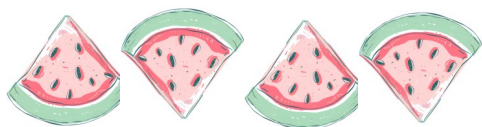
Together they become the word **JOY!**

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

*Billie Lelle, 2026 Convention  
Committee Chairman*







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What if LWML no longer existed? Would our churches miss us? If so, what would they miss? If our leaders finally “burned out” and resigned – all of them – who would “pick up the slack” and take over our mission. What IS our mission?

LWML groups need to be more about potlucks and meetings. Those who have a clear vision are actively working to spread the Gospel in all they say and do. Those who have a vision beyond their congregation are vibrant, living entities in which women are eager to take part. The LWML group in my congregation is starting to search for answers to these questions, and, yes, it is a struggle, but it is the only way to become the LWML of the future. Bible study and prayer – these are where we learn our Lord’s plan for us. I invite you into your groups and zones to take the same journey.

Beth Christopherson, VP Servant Resources



## **LWML 2025 41st Biennium Convention Information:**

Convention Offerings are:

- † Offering #1 - LWML Mission Goal 2025–2027
- † Offering #2 - Camp Linn Haven/Mountainside Lutheran Church, Newland, NC
- † Offering #3 - Grace Point Institute for Relational Help, Lincoln, NE
- † Offering #4 - Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), Oklahoma District

Important Dates for Delegates regarding **ELECTRONIC VOTING** for Mission Grants:

**Tuesday May 6, 2025, 4 p.m. CDT:** Last day to email the LWML Office. If you do not receive an email from LWML and do not contact the LWML Office, you may not receive the information needed to vote electronically. You must watch for this email.

**Thursday May 15, 2025:** All voting members will receive a second email with all the information on how to vote electronically. This is the first day you may vote.

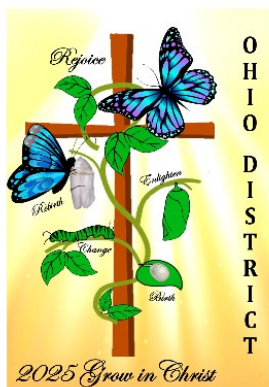
**Wednesday May 21, 2025: 8 p.m. CDT:** This is the deadline for your vote to be counted. All votes received after this date and time will not be included in the results.

As a delegate, you have a great responsibility in advancing the mission of the LWML. Read the mission grant descriptions (online voting is May 15-21) posted under “Convention Central” on the [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) website. Discuss them with your Zone members. Prioritize which grants will receive your vote.

Karen Shanahan, District President



Are you attending the Lutheran Women in Mission 2025 Convention June 26–29, 2025 in Omaha? Registration is open and the excitement is building. Join your LWML sisters at this inspirational event!



At the Feb. 8, 2025 Board of Director meeting, the banner was design by Karen Shanahan, Ohio District President and selected to represent the Ohio District at the 2025 LWML Convention. It is being constructed by Andrea Gernhauser, Ohio District Treasurer.

Watch for it in the parade of flags which is on Saturday, June 28, during the 4th meeting of the 2025 Convention which starts at 8:30 a.m.

Karen Shanahan, District President





## Your Mites at Work

A \$15,000 Mission Grant was awarded to POBLO during our Ohio District Convention in June, supporting POBLO's work in Central Ohio. The mission of **POBLO (People of the Book Lutheran Outreach)** is "to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of Muslims and other immigrants and refugees in the U.S. by sharing the love of Jesus in practical and culturally relevant ways".



Central Ohio churches **hosting POBLO International Friendship Centers (IFCs)** include Beautiful Savior in Powell, St. John's in Dublin, and St. James in Hilliard. Through activities such as English as a Second Language classes, international cooking classes, IFCs, and helping refugees in the resettlement process, POBLO missionaries and volunteers achieve their ultimate purpose of building relationships that earn them the right to share the Gospel message and give hope.

Praise God that through the work of the Holy Spirit and POBLO, 12 individuals have been baptized at Beautiful Savior and Atonement! Please pray for POBLO – Central Ohio as they seek to fill their vacant missionary position. In the meantime, their work continues through dedicated missionary trained volunteers that facilitate POBLO activities in Central Ohio.

A \$7,500 Mission Grant awarded to **Orphan Grain Train – Ohio Division** during our 2024 Convention enables them to continue transporting donated items to families affected by natural disasters.

In 2024 our LWML Mission Grant monies helped ship 3,135 boxes filled with donated clothing, shoes, household items, bedding, and hygiene items. In addition, we shipped 1,471 items such as furniture, medical equipment, and appliances to people in need. Donated items are received, sorted, and packed by volunteers at Orphan Grain Train's warehouse in Napoleon, Ohio. They are then distributed by trailer to locations including those

affected by hurricanes and flooding in North Carolina, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

By the grace of God and with the help of LWML's Mission Grant monies, The Orphan Grain Train – Ohio Division has been helping those in need for over 30 years.

*Cindy Deering, Mission Grants Committee*



## Spring Is Springing

By the time you receive your summer ODE, Easter has come and spring is springing! Jesus is risen, giving us new life, and continues to give us grace when we don't deserve it.

Hopefully, many of you are going to Omaha, Nebraska. Register at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) home page. Lots of information on the LWML 41st Biennial Convention and the city of Omaha! Growing in God's Grace - 2nd Peter 3:18 may we grow deeper this Easter and Spring season!

Share your Omaha and Spring Rally memories and photos on Ohio District Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/448516448565644>

*Hope Boring-Public Relations Director*



## **Honors/Memorials January 2025 – March 2025**

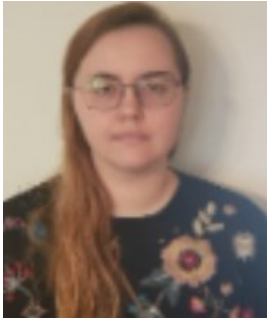


- † Lois Branson
- † John Webster Edmunds
- † Mary Greig
- † Edgar Horn
- † Elaine Mahnke
- † Nancy Ray
- † Fred Steffans
- † Mary Anne Stottlemeyer
- † Pastor George Zoebl



## YWR

Please welcome the LWML Ohio District Young Woman Representatives for the 2025 LWML 41st Biennium Convention:



Madelyn Underwood is a Software Developer, lives in Columbus, and is a member of Zion Lutheran Church. As a YWR, Madelyn wants to meet more people in the Christian Community as she hasn't had the opportunity to do so in the past.



Anna Grimenstein is a Research Senior Entomology Technician, lives in Columbus, and is a member of Zion Lutheran Church. As a YWR, Anna wants to play a more active role in the church community especially at the national Level, and learn more about the work LWML does.



Briana McCrudden is a homemaker, lives in Middlefield, and is a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church. Briana is interested in how LWML reaches out to others.



## Don't Miss Out on Omaha!

Are you planning to attend the LWML Convention in Omaha?

Go to Convention Central at <https://www.lwml.org/> to

register and to get all the details you will need for the exciting June 26-29 convention.



Not going to Omaha? Go to [lwml.org](https://www.lwml.org/) and find out how you can be a part of the ingathering and convention offerings. A link for live streaming of convention events will be available on the lwml.org site as well as our district site: <https://www.lwmlohio.org/>

As district webmaster, I will be making convention updates to our Ohio District website as information is received as well as during the convention itself. If you are attending the convention and wish to share photos you may email them to [bllelle@lwmlohio.org](mailto:bllelle@lwmlohio.org).

Whether attending or not, may you continue to grow in God's grace. *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)

Billie Lelle, LWML Ohio District Webmaster



## Napoleon Zone

The Napoleon Zone Rally took place April 5, 2025, at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Wauseon, Ohio. Thirty-four women, three pastors, and one seminarian attended. Highlights included a skit by Deb Volkman, elections of new officers, and a message from seminarian Rowan Turner. The morning closed with a devotion by Reverend Jacob Stuenkel. Everyone left refreshed and inspired.

Deb Volkman, Napoleon Zone

### Mites Update

	Jan – March 2025	2024-2026 biennium
Mites Received	\$17,996.13	\$65,484.99
Joyful Response	1,013.13	3,140.60
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,017.00	2,322.00
LWQs and ODEs	3,487.50	4,333.00
Honors/Memorials	490.00	3,121.28
Stamps	0.00	0.00
Other Income (Convention, Endowment, Motel Reimbursement, Conv. 24 overage)	385.00	10,671.15
<b>Total Mission Income</b>	<b>\$24,388.76</b>	<b>\$89,073.02</b>

*We will need to collect \$6860.58 per month for the next 12 months to meet the \$171,400 budget for the biennium*





## Lorain-Medina Zone

The women of Lorain-Medina Zone enjoyed a Sunday afternoon at our LWML Prayer Service “Blessed are they...”. Our members decided to look into Visual Faith Ministry for our Fall Event. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 4 at Faith, Avon. Committee members for the 2026 “Joyful Always” convention are being requested and info is being given to all.

*Ethel Schiemann, Lorain-Medina Zone President*



## Central Zone

Twenty-two women gathered for “Willing to Serve” on January 11, 2025, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Marysville, Ohio. Jon Stricklin from Atonement Lutheran Church shared his inspiring testimony of living with 90% blindness and a deep faith.

Pastor Jack led a challenging small-group Bible study on the theme of willingness to serve. We enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the ladies of St. John’s. Due to weather, Rachel Potts from Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry, joined us via Zoom, offering valuable insight into this ministry work.

An in-gathering of \$550 was donated to Lutheran Braille Ministry, along with several pairs of glasses for the local Lions Club. Blessings and see you in OMAHA!

*Hope Boring, Central Zone*



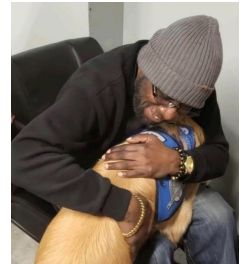
## Cleveland South-West Zone

Bethany Lutheran Church in Parma was blessed with an anonymous donation in 2022 to obtain a comfort dog. In July 2024, our team traveled to Lutheran Church

Charities in Chicago to meet Saul. After three days of training there and six additional weeks at home, Saul officially joined our ministry.

By September, we began taking Saul on visits to nursing homes, hospitals, schools, libraries, senior centers, church events, and even funerals.

Saul quickly became a comforting presence, especially after the loss of our beloved Pastor Rick Sweeney. He often serves as a bridge to conversations about Jesus and prayer, offering comfort when it’s needed most.



One special moment came during a hospital rehab visit, where a patient expressed deep appreciation for Saul’s visit, leading to a heartfelt time of prayer. Moments like these remind us how God uses Saul to share His love and bring people closer to Him.

Now in our seventh month of serving with Saul, we look forward to the many new places and people God will call us to serve.

*Julie Gresko, Cleveland South-West*



## Northeast Zone

Fifty-six women and men braved the snow and cold to be blessed at the Northeast Zone Prayer Service, “Blessed are They” held on Saturday, February 15 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Chesterland. Nine of our 15 zone churches were represented. To God’s glory \$557.45 was collected for mites. Unnumbered blessings were showered upon all in attendance. God is good.

*Kelly Hines, Northeast Zone*



## ODE Submissions

Submit news, pictures, and articles for approval to:  
District President and Sr. Pastoral Counselor



Deadlines for article submissions:

Quarter	Month/Day
Spring	January 5th
Summer	April 5th
Fall	July 5th
Winter	October 5th

## Mighty Mites

### Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to mites:

To direct funds to LWML Ohio District, select:  
LWML Ohio District, Olmsted Twp. Ohio, Cuyahoga Co.

**Joyful Response® to Mites:** To donate mites directly from your checking account each month contact **Ruth Mowery**, Financial Secretary. She will send you a Joyful Response® form.

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

**Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary**

7945 Brentwood Rd. Mentor, OH 44060

Ph: 440-840-9532

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



## Websites:

District.....[lwmlohio.org](http://lwmlohio.org)

National.....[lwml.org](http://lwml.org)

Roberts Rules.....[robertsrules.org](http://robertsrules.org)

Concordia Publishing.....[cph.org](http://cph.org)



**Changes to the LWML Ohio Website:** Calendar Items, Pictures, Zone info, etc. go to:

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



## Quarterly / ODE Subscriptions

Quantity changes and address changes should be submitted to **Janet Pauley**, Subscription Manager.



### Annual Subscription Costs:

<b>ODE</b>	All quantities	\$2.50/each
<b>Quarterly</b>	1-9 Copies	\$7.50/each
<b>Quarterly</b>	10+ Copies	\$6.00/each

Payments for the *Quarterly* and *ODE* are due by January 31st each year. If sufficient payment is not received, subscriptions will be reduced to one copy each effective with the summer edition for that year. Payments should be sent with the Mites Remittance Form to Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary.

## Contact Information

### Ohio District President:

**Karen Shanahan**

3633 Denise Dr. Toledo, OH 43614

Ph:419-380-0244(H) 419-345-9862(M)

Email: [kesjr@att.net](mailto:kesjr@att.net)

### Contributions & Donations for:

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

Send to:

**Ruth Mowery, Financial Secretary**

7945 Brentwood Rd. Mentor, OH 44060

Ph: 440-840-9532

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



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

**Janet Pauley, Subscription Manager**

Email: [janetpauleylwml@gmail.com](mailto:janetpauleylwml@gmail.com)

### Details & Articles for *ODE*:

**Starshine Graziadei, Editor of the *ODE***

Ph: 440-251-2524

Email: [lwmlohioode@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlohioode@gmail.com)



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