



LWML Oregon District President Deb Weaver and Bronco

A few weeks ago, as I was listening to the Christian radio channel KLOVE the announcer made the comment "Fireball of Hope." Not sure why, but I had to pull out my notepad that I carry in my truck and write these words down. I did not even pay attention to what the guy was talking about, I just kept repeating these words "fireball of hope."

When I got home, I asked Artificial Intelligence (AI) what a fireball is. Besides "a big ball of fire" AI also showed me what a "fireball personality" looks like. Here we go:

"A "fireball personality" refers to someone who is exceptionally energetic, dynamic, and ambitious. This term is used informally to describe a person who is vigorous and full of life, similar to the literal meaning of a "ball of fire". The personality is characterized by high energy, rapid and effective action, and often a fiery spirit or strong will."

I have been called a lot of things in my life, but a "fireball" has not been one of them. However, I will admit that I tend to get pretty jazzed up about my faith and my God at times. I tend to overwhelm people with my enthusiasm when I talk about the Lord. I think at times I scare my family members when I ramble on about the LWML Oregon District and how we are trying to "ignite" ourselves. My flames can burn pretty hot and pretty out of control at times.

But what does it mean to be a "fireball of hope?"

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When you read this article Christmas will be over. Decorations will have been taken down. The nativity scenes will once again be wrapped in bubble wrap and placed in the garage. The flame of Christmas joy will be extinguished for many.

As women and men of the Oregon District we all have a "fireball of hope" that we carry within us. The flames burn hot at times. The flames are silent at times. Sometimes the flames flicker, sometimes they just smell. And at times, the fireball is gone and tucked away like the Christmas decorations.

Where is your "fireball of hope?"

As we enter 2026, I pray that you will search for the flame you feel inside. Invite the Holy Spirit to ignite your heart and your faith. And I pray that you will develop a “fireball personality” when it comes to sharing the joy and love of our God. Do not let anyone extinguish the flame of your faith.

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28-29).

He has a plan for us, and we trust Him and give Him glory. We look unto Him to guide us as we serve Him faithfully. We look to Him to ignite us!

Blessings in the New Year.

Leaguer Schedule

2026 Leaguer Dates		
Leaguer Issue:	Submissions Due:	Publication Date:
Spring 2026	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026
Special Convention Leaguer	March 15, 2026	April 15, 2026
Summer 2026	June 1, 2026	July 1, 2026
Fall 2026	September 1, 2026	October 1, 2026
Winter 2026-27	December 1, 2026	January 1, 2027



SPECIAL EDITION CONVENTION LEAGUER 2026

Submissions Due: March 15, 2026

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Pastor Westhafer's installation at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Oregon on Saturday November 22, 2025.



Baptized...

As we begin the season of Epiphany, we stand perplexed beside John at the Jordan. “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” (Matthew 3:13). Perplexed because we know, we experienced baptism as a washing away of sin; and yet we confess Jesus to be perfect, the sinless Son of God. And then we hear Jesus’ almost cryptic response. *“Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”* (Matthew 3:15).

What does he mean, “to fulfill all righteousness?” In Matthew’s Gospel, “to fulfill” refers to the completion, the consummation, the conclusion of the Old Testament Scriptures and particularly with regard to God’s plan of salvation. But what is the “righteousness” of which the first testament speaks? Quite simply, God’s righteousness as it becomes evident through his intervention in human history for the benefit of his chosen people. It is his saving hand in action. Take a moment and read Psalm 71; note especially verse 15. *My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.*

As Jesus comes to John at the Jordan, he sets in motion God’s plan of salvation for his people. Jesus submits to the baptism that sinful Israel undergoes for repentance by taking on our sin. It is fitting because it demonstrates “how” Jesus *“will save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). Jesus stands in our place here in the Jordan and ultimately on the cross. There the sinless one will offer up his life as a ransom for many — the full payment for sin.

Stephen Stark captures the movement from the Jordan to Calvary well in his hymn “Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered” (LSB 404.3).

This the baptism that our Savior greatly longed to undergo;

He, the chosen and anointed Son of God, sent to redeem.

This the crimson cleansing needed so the world God’s love might know;

This the mission of Messiah as He stepped from Jordan’s stream,

You and I are redeemed as the pastor sprinkles the water and speaks the Word over us in baptism. Redeemed on account of the “crimson cleansing” of Jesus’ life-blood on the cross. And today, whether a few hours, years, or decades later, we are still redeemed. So, as we begin our Epiphany journey, as we experience the steps and missteps of life we recall — We are still baptized! When Satan rises up to accuse us — We are still baptized! When our conscience assails us — We are still baptized! When death overtakes us — We are still baptized! Thanks be to God the Father who gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

What's Next?



"Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains."
(LSB 368.1) What a beautiful time
of year, the music, the church
services, the choirs, the

decorations, family, friends, and gifts. I could go on and on. We celebrate Christ's birth year after year. Some years are precious and memorable, others seem like a chore and rather like the Grinch, bah humbug.

As Christians, we focus our love and rejoice for the ultimate gift from God: Jesus. "We praise You Jesus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You came to earth. The virgin bears a sinless boy, And all the angels sing for joy Alleluia! (LSB 382.1)

Christmas is over, now what? "What Child is This?" "So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him. The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby, Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!" (LSB 370.3) The wise men from the east come to Bethlehem bringing gifts and to worship the child which was foretold in scriptures of old. These Wise men point to the child as the Promised one. As Epiphany passes by, we often pack away the story and the message along with the last of our decorations.

We can get back to our own routines. Winter is here, a dreary time of year, cold and sad looking. We are not to mope in our mean estate, or to be downcast. This is not why Christ came. His birth, life and death, and resurrection point us to joy. "Wake, awake, for night is flying,' The watchmen on the heights are crying; 'Awake Jerusalem, arise!' Zion hears the watchmen singing And all her heart with joy is springing; She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.

Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Hail! Hosanna! We enter all the wedding hall to eat the supper at Thy call." (LSB 516.1a, 2)

Paul describes his life of faith which we could implement as our own New Year's Resolution. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:8-11).

This is the joy we have in our love of Christ. Our faith and hope of the resurrection given to us through Christ Jesus. A happy and joyous reason to celebrate all year, every year. No humbug here! "Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing, And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free. Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us, Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above." (LSB 375.5,6).

Lynne Beck
LWML Oregon District
Vice President of Christian Life

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Oregon District 35th Biennial Convention



You are *INVITED* to join us in *CONVENTION*

June 26-28, 2026

**St. Paul Lutheran Church and School
Roseburg, OR**

Please join us as we “Fan the flame of the Holy Spirit”

For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control
(2 Timothy 1:6-7).

Registration information will be available in April 2026. Watch for a Special Convention *Leaguer* to be published.

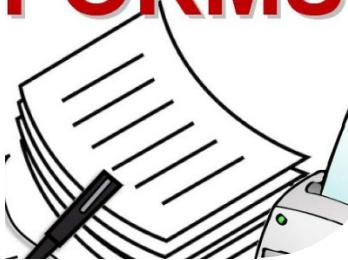
Fran Mueller, Gale Shoemaker, and Delores Feddersen, the Convention Tri-chairs from the Myrtlewood, Southern and Emerald Zones look forward to seeing you there!

NOMINATIONS

The LWML Oregon District is looking for willing volunteers to assist with the administration of the District.

Would **God** be calling you to this endeavor?

NOMINATION FORMS



**are due
January
18, 2026!**



Nominations for the following offices are open until January 18, 2026.

♥ VP of Christian Life	♥ Recording Secretary
♥ VP of Gospel Outreach	♥ Treasurer
♥ VP of Communications	♥ Nominating Committee
♥ Junior Pastoral Counselor	



LWML OREGON DISTRICT

CANDIDATE FORM — PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Page 1 — To be filled out by Nominator (you may nominate yourself).

Offices open for Nomination (check the office that applies to this nomination and provide the name and contact information of nominee)

- Vice President of Christian Life - _____
- Vice President of Gospel Outreach - _____
- Vice President of Communications - _____
- Recording Secretary - _____
- Treasurer - _____
- Junior Pastoral Counselor - _____
- Nominating Committee [3] - _____

Name of Woman submitting Nomination: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email _____

Group/Individual Member: _____

Date: _____

Group Name: _____

Church: _____ Address: _____

The Nominee:

1. May be a member of your group, or another group in your zone of the Oregon District.
2. Should have a deep and active interest in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.
3. Should be willing to devote the time to the office for which she/he is being nominated.
4. Should have basic computer skills and be able to communicate regularly via technology.
5. Should have some knowledge, skill or experience as an officer or committee member in a group, zone, or district.
6. Should be cooperative and agreeable with fellow officers — able to work as a team.

Please have the NOMINEE fill out page 2 and return both page 1 and page 2 by January 18, 2026, to one of the 2022-24 Nominating Committee members:

Carolyn Stucky
2413 SE Chestnut St
Milwaukie, OR 97267
jcstucky@comcast.net
c. 503-349-3669

Joyce Twiss
5711 NE Prescott St
Portland, OR 97218
joyce.twiss@gmail.com
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Carol Reis
PO Box 718
Sublimity, OR 97385
crlwmlor2020@outlook.com
c. 503-979-1127

LWML OREGON DISTRICT — CANDIDATE FORM — PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Page 2 - To be filled out by nominee

Your name as Nominee: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email _____

Member of (Church/City): _____

Name of Group _____

Please list offices held in church, community, group, and briefly share your occupation, education, and family information.

I hereby give my permission to place my name on the ballot of the LWML Oregon District

Convention 2026 for the POSITION OF _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

PHOTO Enclosed: Yes _____ No _____

(A 2x2 thumbnail photo, color, or b/w, will be needed by January 18, for inclusion in our 2026 Convention Manual) Thank you.

MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO ONE OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In addition please have your Pastor email a letter of reference to one of the Nominating Committee members:

Carolyn Stucky

2413 SE Chestnut St

Milwaukie, OR 97267

jcstucky@comcast.net

Joyce Twiss

5711 NE Prescott St

Portland, OR 97218

joyce.twiss@gmail.com

Carol Reis

PO Box 718

Sublimity, OR 97385

crlwmlor2020@outlook.com

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

COMMUNITY NOTES



A special thank you to each person who has contributed to the Special Gifts Fund. The gifts given were for memorials and remembrances. Here are the names of some honored in 2024-2025: Elvira Brandt, MaryAnn Cretin, women of St. Peter the Fisherman Lutheran Church (Lincoln City), Kathy Mager, Carol Drager and Irma Fuerstenau.

These gifts continue to bless women continuing their education to serve in church work within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Priscilla Greig
Chairman Special Gifts Fund
LWML Oregon District
October 25, 2025



Good News!

Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries, a RSO of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is carrying forward the mission of the former Bethesda Auxiliary to share the love of Jesus to people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Now, BLDM exists to help and collaborate with congregations, pastors, parents, families and volunteers to more effectively integrate people with IDD into the life of the congregation.

For donations to Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries, please send to:

BLDM Financial Secretary
Kirsten Whitsitt
4494 E State Road 124
Bluffton, IN 46714
Kirsten.whitsitt@gmail.com

Additional information about Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries is available at <https://bethesdaLDM.org>.
Serving ALL in the name of Jesus!

Carmen Nagel
Information Coordinator, Oregon
Bethesda Lutheran Disability Ministries
cknorlwm@aol.com
503.951.7696

Mission Statement: Reaching forward in FAITH, WORD and DEED by sharing the love of Jesus with people living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD.)

LEADERSHIP THOUGHTS

Me? A Servant Leader?

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The servant leader needs to constantly get strength and instruction from God's Word. The Holy Spirit works through His Word to give the servant leader the confidence and direction for her work.

Each of us finds ourselves in many different leadership positions and roles. The requirements of the leader change depending on the gifts and abilities of the group.

Jesus, our servant leader and example, leads us through His Word to the truths of servant leadership and guides us in actions that follow Him.

God's Word provides answers and direction as the servant leader works with many different personalities and varied gifts and abilities. It can shine light into the darkness of competition and failure. It assures us that we are forgiven in the name and for the sake of Jesus and that forgiveness should be shared with others.

A conscientious servant leader will identify and use daily Bible reading plans and devotions. She will start and close each group time with devotion and prayer. The Word will be her team's guiding light. A servant leader lets the Word shine through her words and actions, as the Holy Spirit guides and directs her actions. She looks to Jesus in faith as her leader. The servant leader trusts her Savior to light the path to help fulfill the team's goals.

Challenge: Join a Bible study group or find a good daily Bible reading plan and immerse yourself in the light of God's Word!



REMINDER: Please send all checks and Remittance Forms to Karen Reed, Financial Secretary of the LWML Oregon District. Remittance forms with Karen's information can be found on the district's website, lwmlor.org

2025 Fall Gatherings



Willamette Zone Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church
Mt. Angel, Oregon
October 11, 2025

Myrtlewood Zone
Gathering
Christ Lutheran Church
Coos Bay, Oregon
October 18, 2025

2025 Fall Gatherings cont.



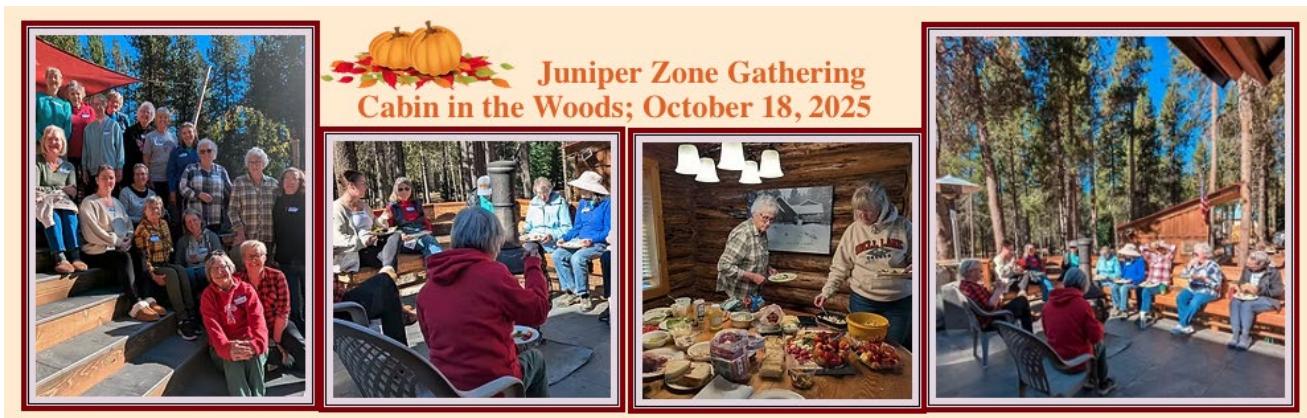
Interstate Zone Gathering ~ October 4, 2025
Grace Lutheran Church in Longview, Washington



West Hills Zone Gathering
Living Savior Lutheran Church
Tualatin, Oregon
October 4, 2025



Pacific Zone Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church;
Hillsboro, Oregon
October 18, 2025



Juniper Zone, once more was invited to share the "Family Kolzow" log home on the banks of Crescent Creek, flowing out of nearby Odell Lake, for their **Fall Zone '25 Retreat!** Many gathered for the four days and three nights; the weather could not have been more perfect! Ladies from Faith, LaPine, pretty much took over the kitchen and we ate like kings! Of course we stayed up late and learned challenging new games. The camaraderie, trust and friendships rekindled to a burst of new energy that was contagious! Two carloads drove in from Bend; Delores Fedderson, Emerald Zone President, was our honored guest for three days!

Our guest speaker (for the third year; she loves us!) was Heather Stueve, Trinity, Bend's Director. of Christian Life & Family Connection. Her Saturdays' 3-part Bible study was on "The Holy Spirit." Host Char Kolzow, on her trusty piano, **enabled us to sing our hearts out!** There were many who read for us & the dialogue dove deep into Scripture. A "smorgasbord" lunch spread on the great oak table was a feast for the eyes. And most of us ate out on the grand half-moon deck!

Women who stayed over to Sunday, breaking camp at 1 p.m., enjoyed a morning service, led by new Zone President, Pat Reck, which Heather prepared for us. It was, once more, a most memorable "hiatus" away from all of today's distractions! To worship and take time for solace and walks to the creek....simply unforgettable, as is the hospitality of Char's large family hosts.



Prayer Chain Email!

Let us pray with you.

lwmlo.or.prayerchain@gmail.com

Blessings on your day, Lynne Beck, Prayer Chain Coordinator



Did you know? The LWML Oregon District has a Facebook page. If you're on social media, particularly Facebook, we welcome you to "like" our page so that you can see what is going on in our district! Here is the link for our Facebook page:

facebook.com/LWMLOregonDistrict/

Thank you,

Janet Schultz, VP of Communication & Carmen Nagel, Leader Development Committee Chairman



LWML Oregon District website:

lwmlor.org

LWML website: *lwmlo.org/home*

View the
Monthly HUG-IN-A-MUG
lwmlor.org/district-news



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Email: grandmakaren_1@charter.net

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Email: lwmlortreasurer@outlook.com

Senior Pastoral Counselor—Rev. J. Wesley Beck

Email: jwesleybeck27@gmail.com

Junior Pastoral Counselor—Rev. John Westhafer

Email: pastorjaw@tlccg.com



LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Oregon District Mission Statement

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, ignite, involve, equip and encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry.

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Emerald Zone—Delores Feddersen

Interstate Zone—Kathy Haas

Juniper Zone Contact—Pat Reck

Mt. Hood Zone—Connie Adams

Myrtlewood Zone—Joan Mahaffy

Pacific Zone—Coleen Gurske

Southern Zone—Barb Northrop

West Hills Zone—Judy Chase

Willamette Zone—Carol Reis

The Communication Team appreciates all the wonderful submissions you send for the LWML Oregon District website, the LWML Oregon District *Leaguer* and other LWML Oregon District publications.

Photos are best sent in jpeg format. Articles for the *Leaguer* are best sent in docx format, in case they need to be edited per the official LWML Style Guide.

For the website, documents and forms that you would like our visitors to be able to download need to be sent to us as a PDF.

If you have questions or need help, you are always welcome to send an email.

Janet Schultz, VP Communication and Webmaster

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