

# CAROLINAS CROSS CONNECTION

#### Volume 79 Issue 1

February 2024

#### Upcoming Events:

- April 13, 2024—Joy Event, Charlotte, N.C.
- August, 16-18, 2024— Retreat Camp Linn Haven
- Sept. 20-21, 2024—Carolinas Dist. Conv., Cary, NC
- June 26-29,2025—Nat'l Conv.

Omaha, Ne.



Dist. Convention Logo

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# JOY EVENT LOVE=MISSIONS=JOY

Matthew 25:40 When you have done it unto the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto Me.

Come join us for the 2024 Joy Event on Saturday, April 13, 2024

Hosted by the Metrolina Zone Where: Messiah Lutheran Church 8300 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28277

#### Guest speakers: Rev. Paul Nielsen & amp; Roberta Hillhouse Keynote speaker: Deaconess Katherine Rittner, Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne

Registration Fee: \$35.00 covers coffee hour and catered lunch Registration and coffee hour 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Mail registration forms and checks to Registrar: Sophia Wilkerson 314 Esther Circle, Kannapolis, NC 28083 Registration form can be found on page **15** of this publication.

> LWML Carolinas District Join us for fun, friends, and fellowship.

Hotel Hyatt House Charlotte/Rea Farms 9930 Sandy Rock Place Charlotte, NC, 28277 PH: 980-339-4900 See registration page for further information.

Gifts from the Heart will benefit students at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

<u>Gift cards</u>: Shell, BP, Marathon, Speedway, and Walmart Gas or Walmart, Target, Burger King, Panera, Subway, Taco Bell, and Starbucks are all appreciated.

### News from Carolinas District LWML President

Greetings Women & Men of faith,

This is an exciting year! You have many wonderful opportunities to guide the Carolinas District in our mission to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Our Joy Event is Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. The Carolinas District Convention will be September 20 & 21,2024 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, NC. At this year's convention we will be setting new mission goals, electing new officers and updating our bylaws. Each active LWML society or group is encouraged to send a delegate to the convention in September to cast their votes. Each LWML society or group is encouraged to nominate women for the offices of Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Vice President Special Focus Ministries/YWR, Vice President of Human Care, and for pastors for the office of Pastoral Counsel.

I have just returned from the President Assembly meeting in St. Louis. I would like to share some of the information I learned.

2024 Prayer Service is designed around three words — Grace, Mercy, and Peace. Those three words are three gifts that come to us from our gracious Father and our Savior — Grace, Mercy, and Peace. Check it out on lwml.org website.

Church Workers in Mission - Identify new church workers to the Carolinas District and tell them about the LWML Carolinas District. I would like to have <u>at least one person</u> from each Zone to send greetings to new or new to her Zone, church workers. If you are interested please let me or your Zone President know.

• Are you getting 2-Minute Tuesday, eNews, Leadership Tips, LWML General News Mailing List, Mustard Seed Devotions, or Shop LWML Specials, sent to your email? You can sign up for any or all and be blessed by the wonderful devotions, and informed about LWML happenings. Please sign-up today!

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Growing in God's Grace - 2 Peter 3:18 is the Convention theme for June 26–29, 2025 in Omaha, NE.

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2023–2025 Primary Focus is Proclaiming Christ, Supporting Missions, Equipping Women, and Serving Others.

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#### Thanks for all that each of you do to share the gospel!

God's Blessings,

*Paula R. Daniels* Carolinas District President

For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. Isaiah 41:13





## Sr. Pastoral Counselor—Rev. Willsea

Charlie Brown's young friend Linus made the mistake of confessing to his big sister Lucy that he wanted to be a doctor when he grew up. Lucy was astounded at her brother's declaration. "You, a doctor!" That's a laugh! You could never be a doctor! You know why? Because you don't love humankind!" Young Linus immediately responded, "I do love humankind! It's people I can't stand!"



Linus' comment may give us a chuckle. We find humor in it because we identify with Linus. Apart from the power of God's Spirit working in us, our love for others is weak and shallow at best. But God calls us to love all people and enables us to do so. Whether we are doctors, carpenters, policemen, teachers, secretaries, or plumbers, we are to love those with whom we work with as well as all people. God places us in different vocations where we can share God's love. We are His instruments through which He works. In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him" (1 Corinthians 7:17).

God has a purpose, a plan, in mind for each of us. Like Linus, one might consider being a doctor, but God may have a much different vocation in mind. No vocation is to be viewed higher or lower than another, and we are called, regardless of where we are placed by God, to let His love within us overflow to others.



### Meet our new Jr. Pastoral Counselor

It is with great joy that I announce Reverend David Tessmann as our Junior Pastoral Counselor. Rev. Tessmann is married to Jan. They have three children and four grandchildren. Rev. Tessmann has served as a Pastor at many churches and as an Army Chaplain, he has also served as a Circuit Visitor in the District. He retired from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Burlington but has served as a Vacancy Pastor at Grace Lutheran in Greensboro and a Supply Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran in Winston-Salem. Rev. Tessman is currently the Senior Police Chaplain in Burlington, NC. He is a member at Redeemer Evangelical Luther Church in Burlington, NC. Rev. Tessman is going to be a great addition to the Carolinas District board. Joy Event Newsletter Deadline: March 26, 2024 Delivery Method: Distribute at Joy Event Need information from: Camp Linn Haven Retreat, Gifts from the Heart, Jr. Pastoral Counselor article, Nominating Committee Information, Mission of the Quarter, Mission Grants, Pres., V-P news.

#### Carolinas District LWML webpage: www.lwmlcarolinas.org

Please contact Sherri Marquardt, Web Servant, if you have articles you would like on your zone page. The site offers each Zone a page to display their Zone information and pictures.

## Mite Box

Lutheran Women in Mission

## FEBRUARY

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings. Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from LWML at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!

- 1. For your LWML sisters.
- 2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
- For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
- 4. For your church organist.
- 5. For those fighting cancer.
- For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
- 7. For the country of Botswana.
- 8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
- For the needs of those on the mission field.
- 10. For the country of Brazil.
- 11. For those in the Armed Forces.
- 12. For the President of the United States.
- For love in your heart for your neighbor.
- 14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.

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15. For the country of Cambodia.

- 16. For the LWML Kansas District.
- 17. For those who are caregivers.
- 18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
- 19. For the country of Cameroon.
- 20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
- 21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
- 22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
- 23. For the country of Canada.
- 24. For the LWML Missouri District.
- 25. For your LWML district officers.
- 26. For the country of Chile.
- 27. For your LWML group members.
- 28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
- For God's gift of another year of your life.



This new Mite Box will be

Convention in September.

available at our District





SLWML





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## Catawba Valley Zone



Every year in December, Bethel Lutheran's (Claremont, NC) LWML sponsors a peanut butter and jelly drive for Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry. This year we donated 132 pounds of PB&J to this organization. This was the largest donation we have made.

Co-presidents Jane Isenhour and Revonda Sigmon are pictured with some of the donations.

Submitted by Jane Isenhour

#### Happenings in the Catawba Valley Zone

On January 9th, a tornado hit Catawba and Claremont, NC. There was lots of trees down and much debris but God was with our LWML churches and sisters in the Catawba Valley as they did not have any damage and everyone was safe.

Members of the Catawba Valley Zone met in January for a planning meeting to begin preparing for the retreat at camp in August.

#### Concordia

On December 2nd the LWML at Concordia hosted a Shower for Baby Jesus. Those attending brought gifts for the Pregnancy Care Center listened to a presentation about the Center and enjoyed cake and punch.

#### St. John's

On Sunday November 19th the LWML held a cookie walk to raise money to help fund their mission projects. The GEMS helped the ladies bake and sale the cookies. In December the LWML had their Christmas party and presented to the representative from the Tyndal Center at Sipes Orchard Home with 36 toboggans and matching scarves made by the LWML for the children attending the center.

#### St. John's GEMS

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In December the GEMS put together a Blessing Mix and delivered to the shut ins of St. John's

Kim Cater

## Catawba Valley Zone continued

The Concordia Dorcas Society hosted a shower 12/09/23 in honor of Baby Jesus to benefit the Pregnancy Care Center (PCC). Despite sickness and injury in our ranks, this gathering represents LWML from four churches in the Catawba Valley Zone - Concordia, Immanuel, St. John's, and Trinity Hmong. Do we get the prize for involving the youngest LWML-er? (Fourth from right, first row). Janet Shores from the PCC brought the group up to date on services provided free to expecting mothers and their families. The ladies enjoyed looking at the pretty things collected for the "wee babies and the knee babies." For more information on the Center go to PCC <u>hickory.com</u> or contact the church office.

Submitted by

Ann Marie Blackmon



## **Central Zone**

The Central Zone will hold their Zone Event

on March 16, 2024

at St. John's Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

Registration will start at 9:30 am. We will have a Bible Study,

"You are God's Treasured Possession".

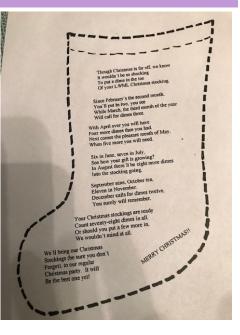
The Event will end after lunch. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## Foothills Zone

#### **Red Stocking Special Christmas Mites Project**

For well over 25 years, the ladies of St. Peter's LWML and supporting circles, located in Conover, NC and part of the Foothills Zone, have been collecting dimes in a small red stocking and turning the money in at Christmas for Mites. Upon inquiry of a few other societies in our area and Paula Daniels, President of the Carolinas District- LWML, it appears that no one is familiar with this program. Evidently, it was a program that began in the Carolinas District, since Intl LWML does not show that it was one of its programs.

Paula asked if I (Jan Sigmon, President of St. Peter's LWML) would submit a write-up about the program to be sent to other societies in case there is an interest in this. The premise of the Mite stocking is to place a dime in it for each month of the year. For example, 1 dime for January, 2 for February, and so on. Personally, I put every dime in my change into the stocking. If you only place a dime for each corresponding month, the total at the end of



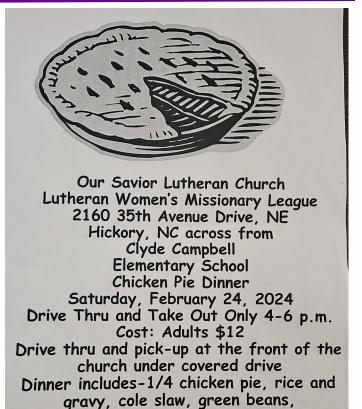
the year will be \$8.70. The combined total of the red stockings is then sent to the Carolinas District which keeps 75% and 25% goes to Intl LWML.

The red stockings can be purchased or handmade from red felt. If you have further questions, please contact Jan Sigmon at 828-256-6512 or email me at <a href="mailto:sigmon6512@charter.net">sigmon6512@charter.net</a>.

God's blessings on your societies as a new year begins.

Our Savior LWML in Hickory will be having our **annual chicken pie dinner** on February 24th. We will be cooking chicken on Wednesday and making pies on Friday. Our congregation is very supportive from donating all the food to helping work days needed. The fun and fellowship we have is great and involves the entire congregation. All of our proceeds go towards funding our mission projects for the year.

> Submitted by Denise Caldwell



## Foothills Zone—continued

In early December, the LWML of St. Stephens LCMS in Hickory, North Carolina sponsored a "Carols and Cookies" event, by sending out groups that included all ages, along with our youth group to brighten the day with Christmas caroling for our home bound members, as well as those in facilities. Faith, our comfort dog, also accompanied this group with her exceptional talents. Six groups and approximately sixty people participated in the caroling on that afternoon, and visited the homes or facilities of thirty people. After returning back to the church, carolers were treated with hot chocolate, cookies, and other treats. It was a great afternoon of fellowship and camaraderie, sharing stories and having fun together.

Submitted by: Doris Sigmon and Regina Propst







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## Metrolina Zone

Prince of Peace women's group hosted a Christmas luncheon on December 16. They had a guest speaker and invited other Societies to join them. It was a good time of fun and fellowship.



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The Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Carolinas District

Serve the Lord with gladness. Psalms 100:2

#### CAROLINAS DISTRICT LWML SCHEDULE OF DUE DATES 2022-2024

1. **Mites**—Due as soon after collection as possible. Please send mites by the end of each month they are collected.

2. LWML Sunday Contributions—Due as soon after collection as possible.

3. Lutheran Women Quarterlies—Due by March 1 each year.

4. Carolinas Cross Connection (CCC)—Due by March 1.

5. LWML Delegate Fund--Due by April 30 each year.

6. Camp Counselors Support—Due by May 31 each year.

7. **Mission of the Quarter**—Payable before the quarter begins, anytime during the quarter, but due no later than 15 days after the end of each quarter.

8. **Registration Fees**—Due as publicized for each District Event. The current biennium runs from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2024.

Please send all your remittances as timely as possible so that grants at the district and national level can be funded promptly. Thank you for your dedication to the Lord's work through LWML.

ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO CAROLINAS DISTRICT LWML and mailed to the address below. However, Registration Fees for Joy Event, Retreat, District Convention, etc., should be mailed to the Registrar for each event but checks are still made payable to Carolinas District LWML. The Financial Secretary's contact information:

Carol Bostick, 1533 Cone Ave., Apex, NC 27502-1515 Email: carolinasfinsec@gmail.com Cell: 919-270-7914

A completed Remittance Form must be submitted with all funds sent to the Financial Secretary. Clearly write the society contact information including the zone. Please include name, contact number and email of person submitting remittance. This will ensure timely processing of remittance, especially if there is a question about the remittance. Your compliance with this request is greatly appreciated. Also note that one check can be sent for the total of funds being submitted. Be sure that the Remittance Form submitted with the check is clearly indicating how the funds should be dispersed. Please do not send cash through the mail.

Zone Presidents, please send a copy of this letter along with the updated Remittance Form to the churches in your zone. The Zone Presidents are responsible for contacting each church and getting the information to the society Treasurer.



Serve the Lord with gladness. Psalms 100:2

#### Remittance Form – 2022-2024

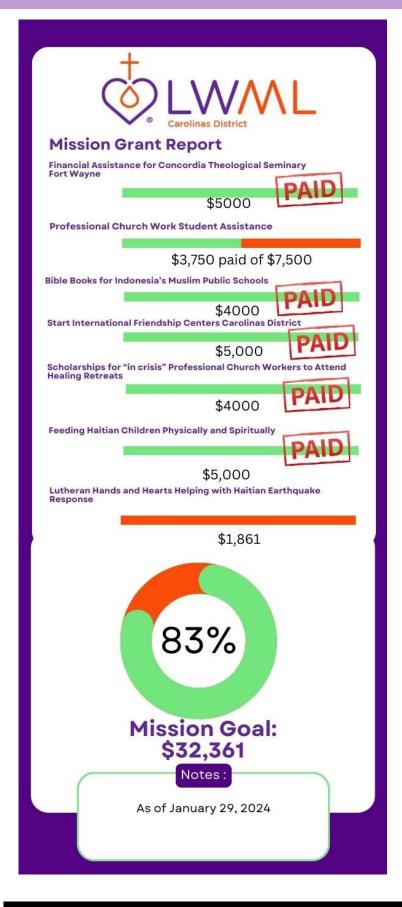
(Please submit this form with all funds and designate the allocation.)

Date:					
Congregation:					
Society:	Zone:				
Address:					
		Mite	s \$		
		LWML Sunday Offerin	g \$		
	Special Offering (	specify)	\$		
		Camp Counselor Fun	d \$		
		LWML Convention Delegate Fund	d \$		
Mission of the O	-				
(must be received	l prior to 15 days af	fter the end of the quarter)			
		MOQ 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter (Jan-Mar	:) \$		
		MOQ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter (Apr-Jur	ı) \$		
		MOQ 3rd Quarter (Jul-Sept	E) \$		
		MOQ 4th Quarter (Oct-Dec	:) \$		
<b>Quarterlies</b> (1-9 subscriptions	s\$7.50/ subscripti	on; 10 or more - \$6.00/ subscription)			
	#	subscriptionsxeach_=	= \$		
Carolina Cross					
(1 copy free; \$3.5	0 each, <u>if mailed</u> )	# copies x \$3.50 each =	= \$		
Other (describe)			\$		
		TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT	C \$		
Submitted by	(please print):		_		
Phone:		Email:			
Checks payable	e to: Carolinas	s District LWML Plo	ease Submit Offerings Regularly		

Mail to Financial Secretary: Carol Bostick, 1533 Cone Ave., Apex, NC 27502-1515

Lutheran Women in Mission

## **VP** Mission Outreach



## Mission of the Quarter

If you have a mission opportunity that takes place in the Carolinas District (NC & SC) that you would like to apply for a Mission of the Quarter, please contact Margaret White, Mission of the Quarter Chairman, at mwhite15@embarqmail.com or call 252-430-4353 for more information. You can find the MOQ form on our Carolinas District website at www.lwmlcarolinas.org.

Please remember the new deadline for MOQ money to be sent in to the financial secretary... **15 Days after the end** of the quarter!

#### We continue to pray for our MOQ projects. Thank you for supporting these mission activities as we seek to be Jesus' hands and feet to those in need of His love and care!

#### January/February/March 2024 Eastern Catawba Cooperative Ministry (ECCM), Newton, NC

ECCM began in 1969 as a crisis ministry funded and operated by local churches, including Concordia Lutheran Church in Conover and the Dorcas Society of Concordia. It has grown through the years: more people live in the area, many jobs were lost or devalued when manufacturing landscape changed, and consequently there is more poverty and hunger. Typical assistance (motto is "A helping hand up, not a hand out") consists of food, clothing, referrals, life skills coaching, and assistance with utility bills. For many years, much of Catawba County was served by a sister organization, Cooperative Christian Ministry of Hickory (CCM), while ECCM ministered to crisis needs in the rest of the county. However, recently CCM closed its food pantry and clothing ministry in order to focus entirely on its medical clinic outreach. This leaves ECCM, still supported by local churches and staffed mostly with volunteers, to respond to the crisis needs of persons throughout Catawba County. It is a recognized 501(c)3 organization with nearly all donations going directly to clients.

Margaret White, Mission of Quarter Chair



## **2025 National Convention**

Date: June 26–29, 2025 Location: Omaha, Nebraska Theme: Growing in God's Grace

Scripture Verse: 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).

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## Nominating Committee

Carolinas District Women in Mission,

We thank every one of you for your support and commitment to our Carolinas District LWML. Thank you for serving in your elected or appointed roles. At this time, our Nominating Committee needs your help in securing nominees



for the following elected positions that will be voted upon next September at the 2024 District Convention.

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries/YWR (4-yr. term) Vice President of Human Care (4-yr. term) Recording Secretary (4-yr. term) Financial Secretary (4-yr. term) Junior Pastoral Counselor (4-yr. term) Nomination Committee (3 to be elected for 2-yr. term)

It is time for all of us to seek Women in Mission to serve in these offices of our Board of Directors. We also need to seek a pastor within our Carolinas District who would serve as Junior Pastoral Counselor.

Please pray about the women, whom you know, who have been given gifts from God, who could serve in these offices. Please personally pursue them, pray with them and for them. Remind them of their God-given talents and that we are to **'Serve the Lord with Gladness'** in using these gifts to serve others. Ask them to consider being nominated for a specific position on our Carolinas District LWML Board of Directors. Share with them that the election of these officers, along with their installation, will occur at the next Carolinas District Convention in September of 2024.

Should you have someone to accept a nomination, please send the completed form to **Denise Johnson**, **Nomination Committee Chair, by email to her at** sddsjohnson@gmail.com. Or the form can be mailed to her at the following address: 10 Maple Ct. Newton, NC 28658. If you have questions, Denise's mobile number is 828.320.5370. If you have questions, feel free to email or call any of the three of us on the Nomination Committee.

## The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.' - Numbers 6:24-26

In His Service,

Denise Johnson. Nominating Committee Chair sddsjohnson@gmail.com or call at 828.320.5370

Sherri Marquardt, Nominating Committee Member smarq73@gmail.com or call at 843.425.0414

Mary Ann Boone, Nominating Committee Member <u>lwmlmaboone2022@gmail.com</u> or call at 336.451.4291

## CAROLINAS DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION

#### SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024

WHO? ALL Lutheran Women in Mission in the Carolinas District!

WHAT? The 2024 Carolinas District LWML Convention

FOCUS? Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God." (More theme information forthcoming.)

WHEN? September 20-21, 2024

WHERE? Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Dr. West, Cary, NC

WHY? Because all Lutheran Women in Mission love God, love serving God and others!

**Please mark your calendars now to attend this event with other Lutheran Women in Mission.** Friday afternoon check-in, dinner on your own, then worship in the sanctuary Friday evening. The President's Reception will follow. Need to spend the night in this area? We'll be sharing hotel information early in 2024 so that you can make your reservation. Saturday will be a full day of praying together, eating together, meeting together, singing together, honoring our God together. There will be voting to elect new Board of Directors officers and then their installation. There will be discussion and voting about updating our by-laws. There will be voting on District Mission Grants. Our guest speaker, Deb Burma, is a renowned author/speaker. Check out her Bible Studies online! Our National Representative will be our LWML National President – Eden Keefe! What a full day of decision-making, fellowship, food and fun in honoring God as His Women in Mission. Please plan to attend!

This District Convention will be hosted by the Eastern Zone and the Central Zone. There will be much to do in making decisions, in planning and making preparations for the Convention in order for it to be a success for all. We need the help of our Zone Women in Mission for leadership roles and teams to support those leaders. Please contact your Zone President to see what you can do to help. Gay Van Etten – Eastern Zone – glvanetten44@gmail.com and Mary Ann Boone – Central Zone – lwmlmaboone2022@gmail.com. Other Zone Presidents, we ask that you spread the word and encourage those in your zones to attend the Convention in 2024. If we send you fliers, please print them and post them at your churches. If we send you announcements, please put them in your Sunday bulletins and church newsletters. THANK YOU! (Much more information will be forthcoming! Stay tuned!)

CAROLINAS DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION Guest Speaker: Deb Burma

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, NC. September 20-21, 2024

Deb has spoken at national and regional conferences across the country, as well as retreats and ministry events. She has led workshops and sectionals for the Best Practices for Ministry (BPM) Conferences, the Women's Leadership



Institute's National Conferences, and more. Her ministry travels have taken her to 27 states and Canada, aboard a Caribbean cruise ship, and continue to lead her down the street to her home church.

#### <u>Carolinas District LWML Joy Event</u> April 13, 2024 Messiah Lutheran Church, 8300 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC 28277 *LOVE=MISSIONS=JOY*

### REGISTRATION

Name			
Street Address			
City		State	Zip
Daytime phone (	)		
Email Address			
Society / Zone			

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Registration must be RECEIVED by Saturday, April 1, 2024
Please make checks payable to LWML Carolinas District.
Registration fee covers coffee hour and catered lunch.
See the front page of this CCC for more information.

Hotel Reservations:

Hyatt House Charlotte/Rea Farms 9930 Sandy Rock Place Charlotte, NC, 28277 PH: 980-339-4900

Ask for the LWML rate. Reserved rate is \$149 plus tax per night - 2 beds Enjoy a meal at the restaurant or snacks in the hotel coffee shop/cafe. Free parking, non-smoking, pet friendly Deadline for reservations is March 30, 2024

## Send the completed registration form

\$35.00

and a check payable to Carolinas District LWML earmarked: Joy Event To: Sophia Wilkerson 314 Esther Circle, Kannapolis, NC 28083 Cell: 980-622-7430 sophiadw1947@yahoo.com

Click on the link to get to the hotel website. www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/CLTXR/G-LWML

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Contact Sara Hanson with questions. Ph. 704-787-9884 kshansonsaj@gmail.com

The church is located 11 minutes from the hotel.

Directions to hotel: Rt 485 to exit 57, Providence Rd. From the north: turn left at the top of the exit ramp onto Providence Rd. to Sandy Rock Rd on the right. (It's just a short distance from Rt. 485) From south: turn right at the top of the exit ramp onto Providence Rd. to Sand Rock Rd on the right.